

# Welcome to Ngā Manu Nature Reserve – a non-profit charitable trust dedicated to the preservation and conservation of our native species



'**Ngā Manu**' means '**Birds**'. In the early 1970s Ngā Manu's founder, Peter McKenzie, had a dream to re-establish bird populations on the Kāpiti Coast. His vision resulted in the formation of the Ngā Manu Trust in 1974 and then, in 1978, saw the establishment of Ngā Manu Nature Reserve. Our site contains the last remnant of the lowland swamp forest that used to dominate the Kāpiti Coast.

As you walk through the Reserve you will experience a mosaic landscape of ponds, man-made islands, open lawns, intimate clearings and original forest – all of which is alive with the sound of birdsong.

It will take you about 30 minutes to stroll around the forest loop where you will encounter majestic examples of kahikatea, puketea, rimu, and swamp maire. A shorter walk will take you to the Lookout Tower; from this vantage point you'll be able to see that Ngā Manu sits as a precious oasis within the wider landscape.

Our aviaries and enclosures tell of another aspect of Peter McKenzie's original vision. Many of the birds and reptiles which you will encounter are part of breed-for-release programmes in which we are involved. Our walk-through aviaries give you the opportunity to get up-close-and-personal with kākā, kea, kākārīki and whio. In our Nocturnal House you might see kiwi as they forage or rest in their burrows. In warmer months you can see tuatara sunning themselves in their enclosures.

Our wetlands are home to a large number of water-fowl species, as well as our resident tribes of pūkeko. At 2pm each day you can watch eels being fed and learn about their fascinating life history. For a small fee, you can participate in the feeding of the eels.

Ngā Manu's small dedicated staff and its team of willing volunteers ensure that the pioneering vision of conservationist Peter McKenzie lives on: *to increase awareness and appreciation of the natural world, and promote the study and conservation of New Zealand's plants, animals and ecosystems.*

Ngā Manu continues to contribute to local and national conservation through their collaborations with DOC in breed-for-release and species recovery programmes.

For more information on our venues for hire – such as Robin's Nest for a wedding or an event, or Theo's Cottage for an overnight stay – talk to one of our friendly Visitor Centre team or visit our website [www.ngamanu.org.nz](http://www.ngamanu.org.nz)

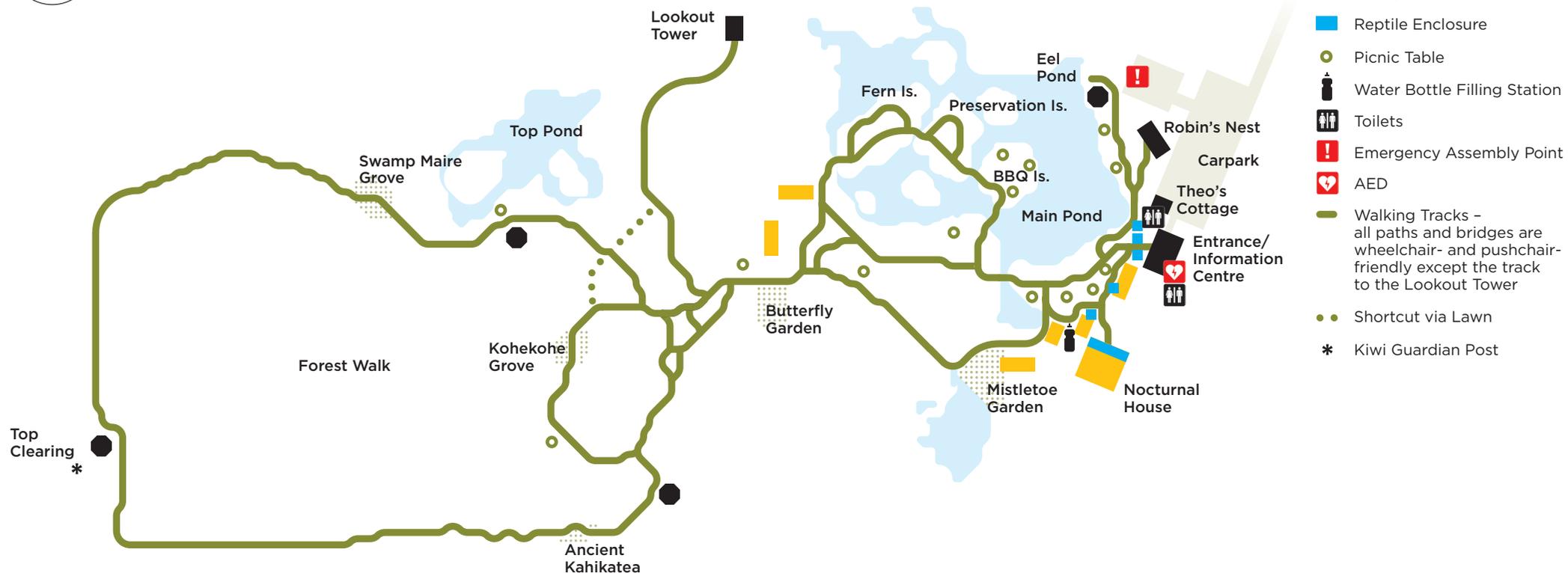
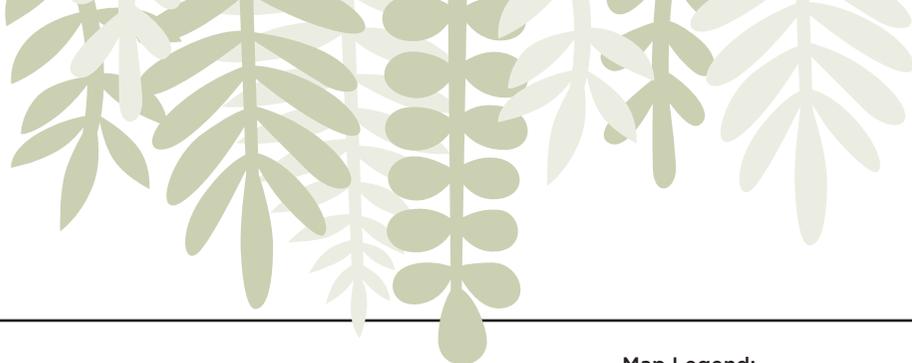
You can also find us on **Instagram**, **Facebook**, and **Trip Advisor**.



Please consider supporting us with a donation. It's easy – just scan the QR to the left.

Ngā Manu Nature Reserve,  
74 Ngā Manu Reserve Road,  
Waikanae 5391.  
We're open every day  
except Christmas Day.





The Reserve covers approximately fifteen hectares. Toilets, drinks and light snacks are available from within the Information Centre, along with duck food and eel feeding tokens.

Enjoy the surroundings and feel free to picnic in the Reserve, but please place your rubbish in the bins provided or take it with you. Please respect the wildlife.

Guardians please keep an eye on your children and be especially careful around the open water. Our staff are happy to answer any questions you may have.