Nga Manu Nature Reserve

Highlight
A beacon for mother nature on the Kāpiti Coast, Nga Manu offers a unique hands on experience. Visit the kiwi house, or get hands on with an eel or a kaka and see other very rare species.

Description, values & significance
Nga Manu covers approximately 13 hectares and contains the largest remnant of original lowland coastal swamp forest on the Kāpiti Coast. Nga Manu has a diverse range of native animals with a mix of both wild and captive species. The reserve provides a wealth of educational opportunities and resources for school age, undergraduate and postgraduate study. A cottage is available for research students to stay in and there is a schoolroom.

Accessibility/How to get there/particular time of year to visit
Nga Manu is located on Ngarara Road, Waikanae on the Kāpiti Coast. Waikanae is located on State Highway 1 approximately 50 minutes drive north of Wellington or approximately 70 minutes south of Palmerston North. Bus and rail services also connect with Waikanae. Nga Manu is open daily from 10am to 5pm every day of the year excluding Christmas Day.

Threatened species/species of interest
Over 56 different bird species live in and around the wetlands, bush and surroundings including kiwi, kaka, morepork, tui, kereru (wood pigeon), fantail, scaup, whio (blue duck), kakariki, paradise duck, teal, and dabchick. There is also a healthy reptile community including tuatara, gecko, and skinks. Nga Manu has a range of over 700 different plant species, ranging from native grasses, ferns, and mistletoe through to 400 year old kahikatea. Many of the 700 species are on the threatened species list.

Key threats
The reserve is surrounded with native forest on two sides and farmland on the remainder. Combined with the surrounding forest, the reserve forms a corridor between the ranges and Kāpiti Island. The surrounding farmland can increase pressure from pests like weeds and rabbits. Greater Wellington helps manage pests in the reserve and surrounding bush.

Facilities
- Public transport*
- Parking
- Toilets
- Information
- Wheelchair accessible
- Pram accessible
- Walking tracks
- Bird watching
- Look out
- Water fountain
- BBQ ($)
- Cafés (snack foods)
- Picnic table
- Accommodation (on site self contained cottage)

Cost: Entry fee
*Rail link Wellington to Waikanae, then catch a local bus to Waikanae swimming pool then a 3km walk to the Reserve
Walks (length)
Walks vary from short walks of approximately 500 metres to longer walks of about 3kms

Walks (grade)
Flat

Manager
Nga Manu Trust

Protection status
Nature Reserve

Community Involvement
Volunteers welcome

How to get there