

MAUNGAREI SPRINGS WETLAND – STONEFIELDS

AN OASIS IN THE HEART OF SUBURBIA

Maungarei Springs Wetland is great for bird watching and discovering native plants.

In fact, the name Maungarei means 'watchful mountain' or 'mountain of Reipae'. Reipae is a Tainui ancestress who travelled to Northland in the form of a bird.

The wetland lies in the heart of an old quarry excavated for the basalt rock that was laid down about 10,000 years ago when the Maungarei/Mount Wellington volcano erupted. Much of the rock from the lava field was used to build roads and Auckland Airport's runways.



ACTIVITY IDEAS



- Take a box to collect some natural treasures from your walk e.g. seed pods, small rocks, feathers, dead leaves and flowers.
- Stand under a cloud of gnats and watch the Welcome Swallows dip and dive above you trying to catch them!
- Look carefully at the large basalt rocks along the path. Can you spot the holes in them caused by bubbling hot lava as it cooled?
- Take birdseed to feed the ducks and pukekos - it's much healthier for them than bread.
- Use binoculars to see how many different species of bird you can spot - tick them off overleaf and add to the list if you can - www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz is a great online tool.



TOP TIPS + FACILITIES



- The paths are fine for strollers and bikes (just a few steps near the Kauriki Terrace entrance).
- There's not much shade so take sunscreen and hats.
- Visit the playgrounds nearby next to Fynes Ave and Garin Way.
- Grab coffee and cake at Charlie & George - a lovely child friendly café on Stonefields Ave.
- Walk along the Heritage Trail from Magma Crescent for a bird's eye view of the wetland.



WHICH PLANTS AND ANIMALS DID YOU SPOT TODAY?



Manuka / Tea Tree



Harakeke / Flax



Whau / Cork Tree



Ti kouka / Cabbage Tree



White-faced Heron



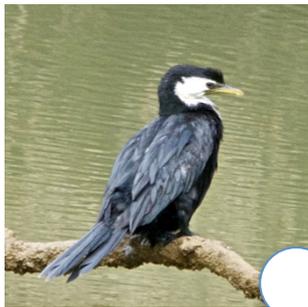
Black Swan



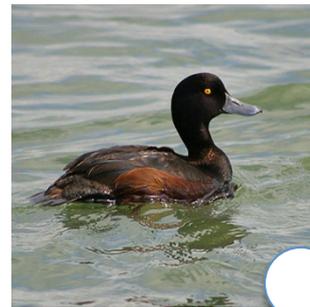
Pukeko



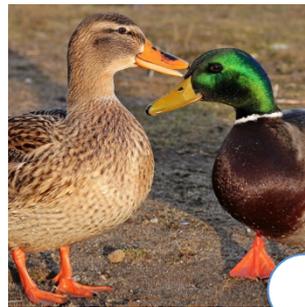
Various types of Gull



Little Shag



NZ Scaup / Diving Duck



Mallard Ducks



Welcome Swallow

I ALSO SPOTTED: _____



FOLLOW LITTLE FERNS ON FACEBOOK

I'm always adding resources and activity ideas and would love to see photos of your trip to the Maungarei Springs Wetland if you'd like to share them 😊