



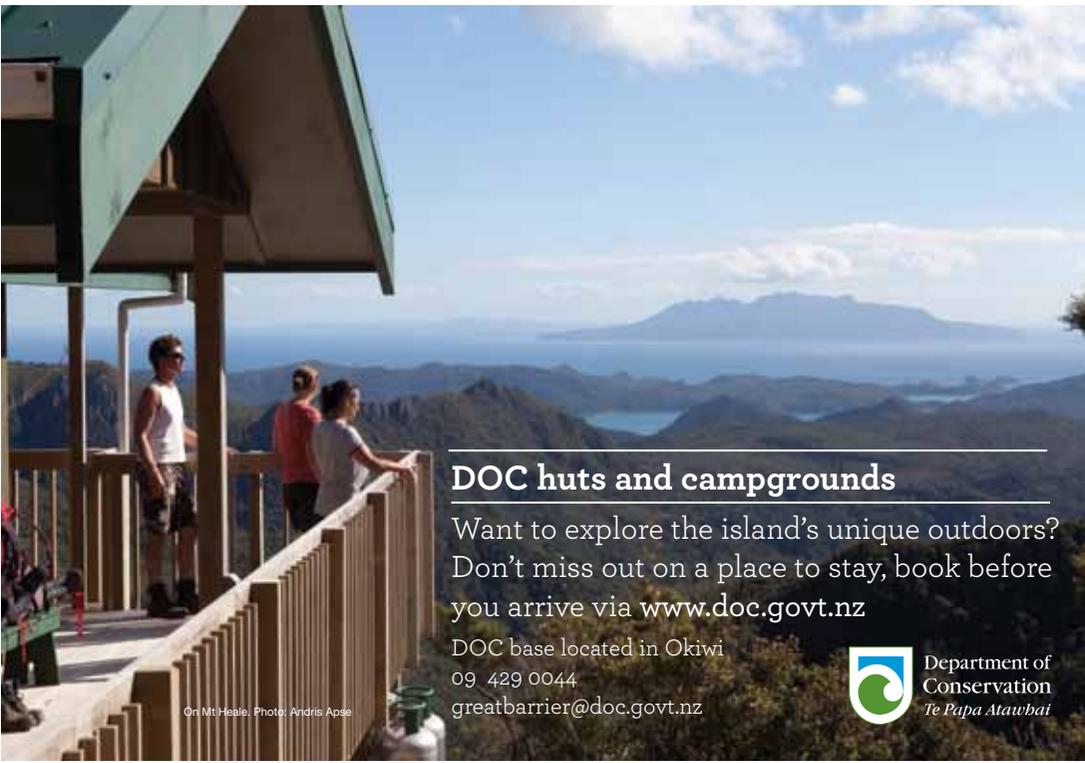
# Hirakimata

## Aotea/Great Barrier Island

Photo: Kaitie Woodhouse



Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai



### DOC huts and campgrounds

Want to explore the island's unique outdoors? Don't miss out on a place to stay, book before you arrive via [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

DOC base located in Okiwi  
09 429 0044  
[greatbarrier@doc.govt.nz](mailto:greatbarrier@doc.govt.nz)



On Mt Heale. Photo: Andris Apse

### Green gold

Matā means obsidian. 'Hirakimata' is the sun shining on the obsidian mountain.

Obsidian is a volcanic glass used as a cutting implement and was an important resource used for trade by the Māori. As you walk along the track consider what resources are important to you.

List these and write a sentence that explains why you value them.

How many other Great Barrier Island names have 'matā' in them? Write them in the space provided

Values:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### Species Spotting

Tick off each as you spot it or hear it. LISTEN at night for morepork and petrels. What else can you hear?

Kererū

Kākā

Kākāriki

Australasian harrier/Kāhu

North Island robin/pītoitoi

Tūī

Wākeke/pīpīpī

# Compass panorama

Black petrels know how to find their burrow after a flight of over 11 000 kilometres.

Can you orient this page and identify the landmarks below? Draw a line to link the landmarks to their correct position on the compass.

Coromandel Peninsula.

Claris Airport. Photo: E Clounh

Tryphena. Photo: Hannah Diverhall

Whangapoua. Photo: Andris Apse

Sky tower.

## Black petrel/taiko

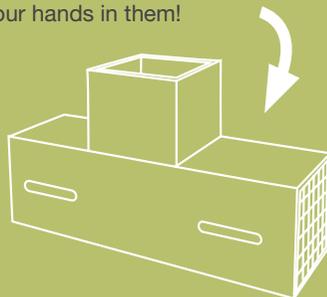
What do seabirds and mountain summits have in common? In the entire world, Great and Little Barrier islands are the ONLY place where black petrels come to breed, with most of them breeding on Hiramakimata.

They fly over 11 000 kilometres from South America to this very location, crash through the forest canopy and find their underground burrow, where they lay a single egg. The parents must incubate the egg and feed the chick until it fledges, which takes over five months!!!

When you get nearer to the summit and under the older forest, look up at the forest canopy, then down at the base of big trees and try to spot burrows (remember to stay on the path).



Photo: JP Winger



Imagine you are a black petrel arriving at Great Barrier Island. How would you get through the trees and find your burrow? What would have to do to survive and raise your chick?

You may see these boxes along the track. They are cat traps which are baited and checked throughout the black petrel breeding season. Don't put your hands in them!

# Windy Canyon

Count the number of steps up to the Windy Canyon lookout.

Can you imagine getting here without steps? That's how Māori and early Europeans explored the region.



Māori used to deposit deceased kaumātua (important people) in caves throughout this region, trying to place them close to the heavens. Can you spot caves in the rocks?

Europeans explored the region prospecting for big kauri to use for timber. Wherever they could gain suitable access, the trees were removed. Find a kauri tree and count the number of spaces between the branches along the trunk – this is the approximate age of the tree, as each season the tree produces new side branches.

4 years  
3 years  
2 years  
1 year



## Over-nighting???

Are you tramping into Mt Heale Hut?

The hut is perched on the ridgeline and has amazing views across Port Fitzroy. What would you need to take with you? Make a list of all the essentials.



Parent birds hunt for fish and squid to feed themselves and their chick, and are hugely at risk from being accidentally hooked and drowned by fishers.

Black petrels used to occur on summits all over the North Island and even the top of the South Island, but their population is in decline.

Find and circle things on this page that may threaten black petrels.

