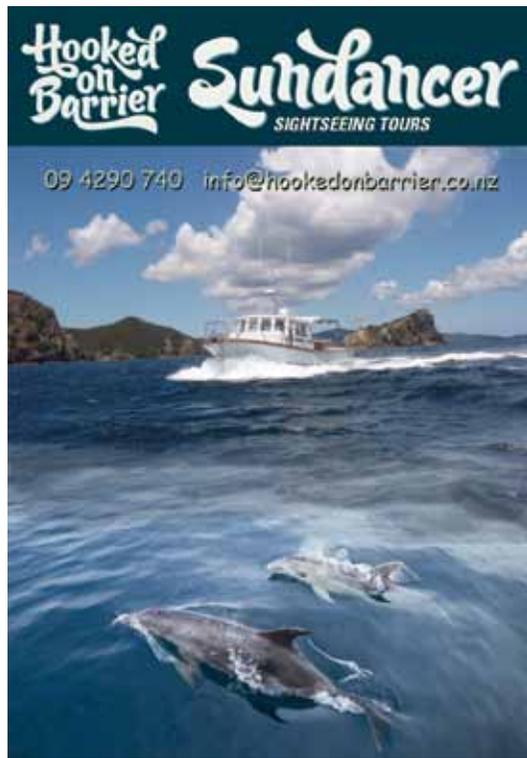




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Kaitoke

Aotea/Great Barrier Island



Photo: Adrienne Kerpoa



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Green mail?

The first mail service on Great Barrier Island used pigeons to carry letters.

What would you do if you had no paper though? Find a rangiora bush, carefully remove a BIG leaf and write a message about your trip to Great Barrier Island. This plant is also known as 'bushman's friend' – do you know why?



Photo: Auckland Weekly News 1898

Do you know what the creature is outside the art gallery at Claris (you can sit on it)? How many 'hands' can you count on the path? Whose is the largest? Whose is the smallest? What other things can you find along the path? Perhaps you can make your own handprint when you get home.



Photo: Emma Cronin



Club moss. Photo: John Ogden

Primitive plants and woody weeds

Along the Hot Springs walk you can find some plant species that have been around since well before the dinosaurs.

Plants such as club mosses and ferns were common during the Carboniferous Period (over 3.5 million years ago). They became the main coal deposits found in the world today.

Search for mosses and lichens. Feel them. Decide why they occur where they do. Club mosses once reached the size of trees – but today they are much smaller – can you find them?

How many different fern species can you see? Make rubbings of the ferns you find.



Fern. Photo: John Ogden

Plants that arrive from different countries can spread quickly and compete with native species. One such weed species common on Great Barrier Island is the Australian import, prickly hakea (*Hakea sericea*).

Find and examine a hakea plant. Why do you think it is such a successful invader? Draw or write your reasons below.



Hakea. Photo: Emma Cronin

Fire! Fire!

In 2013 a bush fire wiped out a large section of scrub north of Claris.

You can see the burnt regions or areas of fresh new growth to the eastern side of the road north of Claris or from the road descending south from Awana. The fire was started from a spark from a cooker.

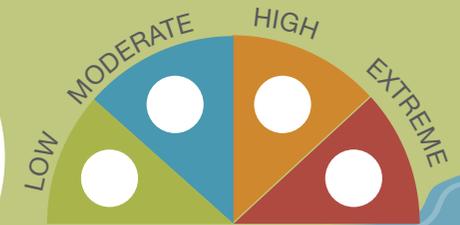
What weather conditions make fire more likely?

If you want to make a campfire, what should you do?



Photo: John Ogden

What is the fire risk today? (Check the sign near the airport and tick the circle below.)



Describe today's weather

Species spotting

Collect something in each of these colours that occurs naturally.

Do you know what they DO in the bush? (Don't pick or harm anything living.)



Silver and gold

Silver and gold were discovered on the slopes of Te Ahumata in 1892.

Explore the remains of the Oreville stamping battery (ore crusher) and compare what's left with this photo.



Photo: C. Young collection DOC

Find the answers at www.doc.govt.nz/gbi-answers

Which is the hottest pool?

Carefully feel the water as you explore Kaitoke Creek.

Feel different spots within a pool. Score the temperature from **1 (hottest)** to **4 (coolest)** on the diagram. What causes the differences in temperature?

