

# Longbush Titi Colony

**Objective: To establish New Zealand's largest mainland grey faced petrel breeding colony at Longbush Reserve, a part of their former range.**

**Sponsors: J.N. Williams Memorial Trust, H.B. Williams Turanga Trust, World Wildlife Fund**

In 2011, the Longbush Ecological Trust will translocate Grey-faced Petrel (Northern Titi) from Young Nicks Head to the Waikereru reserve. This project will involve the following:

- Construction of an access track to the new colony site in the Waikereru Hills Reserve.
- Construction of 75 artificial burrows at the Waikereru site.
- Banding and monitoring of chicks prior to translocation. Grey-faced petrel are highly philopatric meaning that the correct timing of translocation is essential for imprinting chicks to their new site at Waikereru.
- Transfer of chicks to Waikereru.
- Continued supplementary feeding and monitoring of chicks until fledging, up to four weeks after translocation.
- Radio-tagging of juveniles pre-fledging in order to monitor fledging success.
- Purchase and installation of a solar powered acoustic attraction system at Waikereru to simulate colony attendance. This will be installed in the third year in order to encourage the return of grey-faced petrels for breeding.
- Monitoring of the Waikereru colony site around breeding time (June/July) in the third year for signs of returning birds.

Inland colonies of seabirds were once common in New Zealand, with their guano providing an important source of nutrients for the bush. Such colonies are now rare, and this important initiative will allow the impact on the bush to be monitored.

