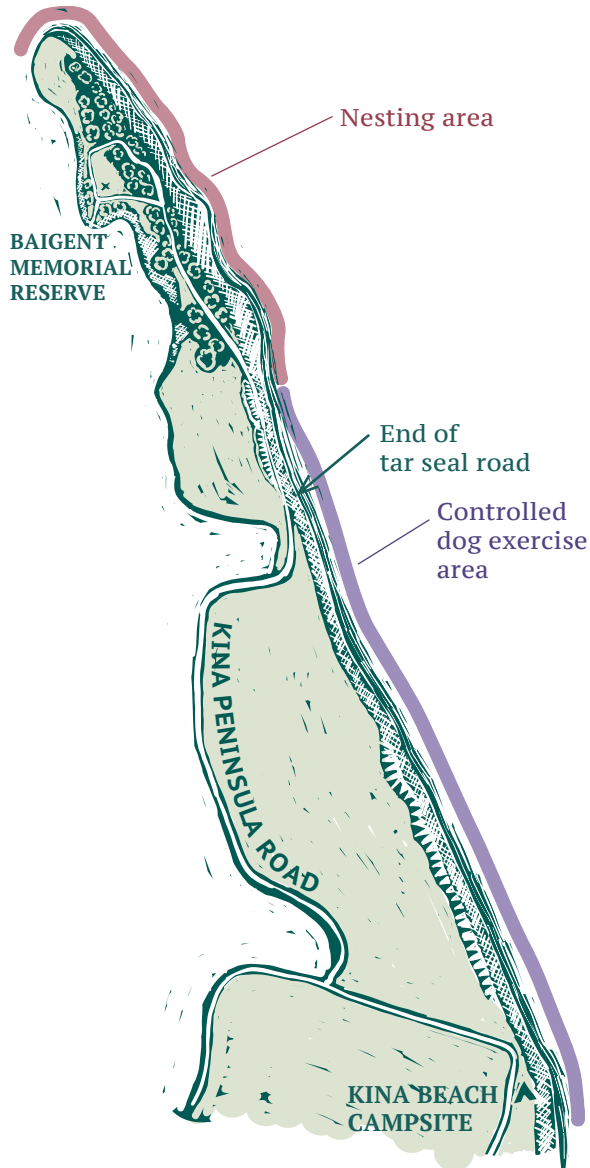


KINA PENINSULA



Kina Bird Song is a local community project set up in 2020 with the aim of creating a habitat where native birds can thrive in the Moutere Inlet area. 'Take the lead' is our initiative to raise awareness the threats dogs pose to our native birds during the nesting season. We need your help in protecting them.

Kina Peninsula is home to many shore-birds including Tōrea/South Island pied oystercatcher, Tōrea pango/Variable oystercatcher, Pohowera/Banded dotterel, Karoro/Black-backed gull, and Kororā/Little penguin. We include the Little penguin as it nests in burrows on the margins of the shore and Baigent Reserve. The numbers of many of these birds are declining



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The threats that dogs pose

The breeding period for the shore birds runs typically from August to December. Nesting birds and their young chicks are vulnerable at this time and perceive dogs as a threat.

- Repeated disturbance of nesting birds causes them to take flight leaving their nests vulnerable for long periods.
- Chicks run for cover when they perceive danger and cease feeding.
- Dogs chasing foraging birds at the water's edge disrupt their feeding resulting in decreased energy reserves.
- Dogs running around the top of the beach above the high tide margin can crush and eat eggs.
- Little penguin on Kina Peninsula have been killed by dogs.

How to reduce these threats

TDC Dog control bylaw states 'Dogs shall be kept under effective control at all times'. We believe this wording is not good enough. However obedient the dog, big or small, nesting birds will perceive every dog as a threat. The best way to reduce this threat is by keeping your dog on a lead.

When on the beach;

keep to the middle area of the beach below the high tide mark,

be vigilant, if you see nesting birds or become aware of their distress signals do not linger.

If this is too restrictive you could exercise your dog in the controlled dog exercise area on Kina Beach (the area from the bluffs of Kina Peninsula Road southwards to Kina Beach campsite - *see map*).

We hope that if we can persuade you to adopt these policies others will follow your example, so ... ***take the lead.***

