

## Banded Tui sighted at Brooklands

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Between August 2003 and July 2006 a team from the Department of Conservation carried out a study of Tui (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*) and New Zealand Pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) in and near New Plymouth, including in Pukekura Park. Some 26 Tui were colour-banded and fitted with small radio transmitters. One was banded at Lake Mangamahoe in October 2004 with a green over white combination on its left leg. The study team mistakenly thought that this bird had later died, so they used the same colour combination on another Tui which they banded at Te Henui Walkway in September 2005. Therefore, a Tui with this colour-band combination which is seen after September 2005 may be either of these birds.

On several occasions between 26 July and 3 August 2006 I observed a Tui with a green band over a white band on its left leg feeding at flowers of a Formosan Cherry (*Prunus campanulata*) in Ambush Gully. It was not wearing a transmitter which may have fallen off. On 6 & 7 December 2011, staff at Brooklands Zoo saw a Tui feeding at flowers of the group of *Phormium cookianum* flax growing near the Otter enclosure. This Tui also bore a green band over a white band on its left leg. Because two Tui were banded with the same colour combination, it is not possible to know if the banded Tui seen at the Zoo in 2011 was the same banded bird that I saw in nearby Ambush Gully in 2006.

It is pleasing that at least one of the Tui banded locally in 2003-2006 was still alive and frequenting the Park in late 2011. Tui may live for 12 or more years so there may be further records of this bird, or of other Tui banded during the study.



Tui feeding at *Prunus campanulata* flowers.