

11/03/2014

The Waikato  
**Star**  
7

# Birds gain a second chance

CONSERVATION initiatives at Tutira were the focus of the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group's visit recently.

The group attended the Kiwi creche, a predator-free sanctuary of 32ha completely fenced off where young kiwis are given the chance to grow in a safe environment until they are strong enough to be released into the Kaweka ranges.

In the afternoon, the group drove up one of the local maunga to reach the petrel site, another predator-free area where young petrel have been re-introduced to reconstituted burrows with the hope that they will come back for nesting in about five years.

The local iwi is trying to bring back these sea birds as they are part of their identity, the roaring mountains 'Maungaharuru'. This trip was an opportunity to talk about the concept of "New Zealand Pest free" and gave the Whangawehi group some ideas on what could be a