About the Hamilton Halo project

The Hamilton Halo project aims to bring native birds, starting with tui, back into Hamilton city.

The 'Halo' is a ring drawn around Hamilton, taking in key sites where tui breed. The Halo's radius is 20 km, which is how far tui will fly to feed.

Hamilton Halo has:

- increased the survival rate of tui chicks at key breeding sites surrounding Hamilton through pest control of possums and rats
- improved tui and bellbird feeding and breeding conditions in Hamilton
- recorded tui starting to nest in Hamilton.

Helping tui and bellbirds thrive

If you live in the Hamilton area, by planting the flowering and fruiting native species overleaf in your garden you can help to provide food for tui and bellbirds in the city. Tui and bellbirds love the abundant introduced species available in Hamilton over winter, but by planting the species listed here you are providing them with an urban summer food source. A study has found that honeyeaters such as tui and bellbirds prefer native vegetation over introduced fruit bearing trees. Trees native to the area provide a healthy habitat.

Hamilton area tui and bellbird food guide

Flower nectar is the main food for tui and bellbirds, but they also eat fruit. The species listed overleaf:

- occur naturally in Hamilton, so are ideal for Hamilton's conditions, and will require less care and work from you
- will attract other native birds to your garden, and their fruits and flowers will add both colour and interest to your garden.

Footnotes

Vitex lucens & *Dysoxylum spectabile:* frost tender; can be difficult to grow in Hamilton.

Phormium cookianum: undesirable to grow this species in conjunction with phormium tenax since they hybridise.

Hamilton Halo

Waikato Regional Council
Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato

Project partners: Landcare Research • University of Waikato.
Project supporters: The Department of Conservation • Hamilton City Council • Weedbusters.

Waikato Regional Council's freephone 0800 800 401
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/hamiltonhalo
www.facebook.com/hamiltonhalo

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Gardener's guide

Planting for tui and bellbirds in the Hamilton area

Hamilton Halo

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Hamilton area tui and bellbird food guide

When it flowers/fruits flowers/nectar | fruit | non-nectar bearing flowers, not visited by the birds for a nectar/food source

Names	Size	Conditions	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cabbage tree – Ti kouka *Cordyline australis*	H 8m x W 3m	Full sun and semi-shade. Tolerates wet and dry conditions. Fast growing and hardy.	White-blue berries									White flowers		
Five finger – Whauwhaupaku *Pseudopanax arboreus*	H 5m x W 2m	Semi-shade, fast growing and hardy.				Small purple-black berries								
White pine – Kahikatea *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*	H 20m+ x W 4m	Prefers shelter when young. Tolerates very wet conditions.			Bright red fruit									
Kohekohe* *Dysoxylum spectabile*	H 5-10m	Semi-shade and shade. Requires shelter and rich moist soil. Frost tender when young.					Green fruit with red flesh							
								White flowers						
Kowhai *Sophora microphylla*	H 8m x W 5m	Full sun and semi-shade. Loses its leaves in winter. Quite fast growing and hardy.									Bright yellow flowers			
Lowland flax – Harakeke *Phormium tenax*	H 2m x W 2m	Full sun. Tolerant of wet and dry conditions. Fast growing and hardy.	Brownish-red flowers										Brownish-red flowers	
Whiteywood – Mahoe *Melicytus ramiflorus*	H 5m x W 3m	Slightly frost tender when young. Tolerates damp conditions.		White to purple-black berries							White flowers			
Mountain flax – Whaririki *Phormium cookianum*	H 1m x W 1m	Full sun and semi shade. Tolerates dry conditions, Wind hardy.	Pink-yellow flowers									Pink-yellow flowers		
Seven finger – Pate *Schefflera digitata*	H 3m x W 2m	Shade, requires sheltered position. Tolerates damp conditions and frost.			Purple berries									
Pigeonwood – Porokaiwhiri *Hedycarya arborea*	H 5m x W 3m	Semi shade, sheltered position. Frost tender when young.	Bright orange-red fruit (female plants)										Bright orange-red fruit (female plants)	
Puriri* *Vitex lucens*	H 10m+ x W 6m	Frost tender, wind tolerant.	Pinkish-red flowers most of the year, mostly over winter											
			Bright red berries all year round, mostly over summer											
Rewarewa *Knightia excelsa*	H 12m x W 4m	Full sun and semi-shade. Intolerant of wet.									Brownish-red flowers			
Wineberry – Makomako *Aristotelia serrata*	H 6m x W 4m	Full sun to moderate shade. Wet tolerant, fast growing. Semi-deciduous in colder climates.	Red-black berries									Pale pink to deep red flowers		
Kaikomako *Pennantia corymbosa*	H 10m	Moist, fertile sites. Useful species application in bank stabilisation or wetland habitats.			Dark purple/black fruit									
Karamu, shining karamu *Coprosma robusta*	H 3m	Forest margins, scrubland and stream banks where there is sufficient light.				Orange to red fruit								
Thin-leaved coprosma *Coprosma areolata*	H 4-6m	Well-drained light and medium soils. Can grow in semi or no-shade.			Dark purple/black berries									
Round-leaved coprosma *Coprosma rotundifolia*	H 2.4m	Well-drained light and medium soils. Can grow in semi or no-shade.	Orange-red fruit											
Rigid mikimiki *Coprosma rigida*	H 4m	Shady damp forest in poorly drained soil.		White, yellow or orange fruit										
Karamu *Coprosma rhamnoides*	H 2m	Well-drained light and medium soils. Can grow in semi or no-shade.			Red fruit									
Swamp coprosma/hukihuki *Coprosma tenuicaulis*	H 1-3m	Lowland swamps and boggy ground, shrubland and wet forest.		Dark purple/black fruit , rarely white with blue flecks										

* See footnotes on the back page.