

Matiu Really Matters

November 2008



From the Editor of this newsletter – thank you to all contributors – without your input it would not be the interesting read it is. Jan Heine

And seasons greetings to you all from Matiu/Somes Charitable Trust of Mark Te One, Liz Mellish, Fred Allen, Colin Ryder, Ray Smith, Erini Shepherd, Jan Heine, and from the team on Matiu/Somes, Jo & Matt (who follow)

A Ranger's Ramble

Kia Ora all and Haere Mai to summer

Seasons move at great speeds when working 10 days on/four days off, and while we're both big fans of island time, sometimes it seems to pass like 60 knots round a sheep's ears.

Was there an October this year? There must have been, since spring is now in full swing, with early lambs already weaned and spotted shag and penguin chicks up and about doing their seabird thing. Along with these new born islanders, three more Wellington Green Geckos have been released, with 15 more to come soon.

Austin Sutherland with an awesome green gecko



Good news for Matiu/Somes came with the historic signing of the Treaty of Waitangi cultural redress for the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and will be returned to iwi ownership. The Historic and Scientific Reserve will enter into a slightly new phase of combined management.

While winter did its windiest best to try and halt outdoors work and our ferry neighbours from visiting, we continued to get much work done and have a steady flow of island visitors.

Although the Bullock Track is still closed, there are other exciting things happening with a new southern lookout beginning construction and ongoing work with the six Matiu information panels.

Our summer diary is already bulging. Part of this is due to the continuation of camping, which should be bookable online by January (see www.doc.govt.nz).

With a busy summer approaching, it gives us great strength to know we have a wonderful team to assist us, including: Jo's husband Iain; Peter Russell returning on a new weeding contract; trainee ranger Eric in January; two summer volunteers – Caz during October/November, and Alicia from November to March; and the Eastbourne Forest Rangers (EFR).

In October we kicked off the EFR's summer season with an enjoyable and worthwhile training weekend, giving them a BBQ on a sunny day, and a heads up on their duties over the next six months.

Thanks to all the other hardworking island volunteers who have hung in there over winter including those involved in the LEARNZ programme (check out www.learnz.org.nz), our penguin box carpenters, and an extra special thanks to Terese and Alice for all their hard work, passion for Matiu and good kai while redecorating Whare Mahana (Iwi House) to make it cosy for future overnight guests.

Here's to a great summer, **Jo and Matt**

Taputeranga Marine Reserve

The reserve was established on 28th August 2008 after a very lengthy and difficult process. However the need is to raise the public's awareness that the marine reserve is now a reality and to show them where are its boundaries, especially for fishers and divers. See the map below.

DOC is currently developing a Monitoring plan where specific species of marine flora and fauna will be measured and recorded for abundance, size, health and location against which changes to marine organisms and ecosystems can be measured in the future.



This Reserve and the monitoring plan are publicised here as so many of you who visit Matiu/Somes use the harbour and will be interested in Marine reserves.

Marine Reserve Ranger

Penguin Ponderings

News flash received 17th October 2008

Great news: The first chicks for this season have hatched on the Island!! Two found on 16th October, 2 to 3 days old, in box at Lighthouse Area. 17th October, 2 very new chicks, probably just hatched, in natural site, Mokopuna Island in the cave.



This news was followed by the report from Ros Batcheler who, with Reg Cotter, Lysie Kerr, and Bex Wolfe, had an eventful trip to Matiu/Somes Island on 29th-31st October 2008. She relates that they checked the West Coast, Lighthouse (coastal) Area, Wharf Area, North Point, Monument Area, and 2/3 of the East Coast during the day. Both evenings were spent at the Wharf Area.

They found 13 new natural nest sites, and installed and marked 11 new boxes. One penguin they found had green algae growing on the trailing edge of both its flippers (see photo), with a patch on his back and rump.

One flipper had very worn feathers on the trailing edge, almost none left. Otherwise the bird appeared healthy, a good weight, and bright eyed. The algae have been identified as *Enteromorpha* species. Any comments on this would be appreciated, please.



Results from this last trip are:

1. Recaptures: Banded Birds - 24 Transponded Birds - 3

Dual Marking - 2

Total Recaps: 29

2. New Birds: Banded - 6

Transponded - 11

Total new birds: 17

3. Nests: Empty - 70

Nests with 1 egg - 13

Nests with 2 eggs - 16 (2 had cold eggs) and sometimes we couldn't see if 1 or 2 eggs were there.

Total Eggs - 45

Nests with 1 chick - 3

Nests with 2 chicks - 2

Total chicks - 7

This was the latest in a series of trips that took place on 20-22 August, 11-12 September, 30 Sept-2 October, and Reg Cotter, Bex Wolfe, Graeme Taylor, Lysie Kerr, Ros Batcheler, with Jim Hunnewell, Brent Tandy, Frances Gazley, Vince Waanders, Suzi Richards and Allie Cotter. The results of those earlier trips are available from Ros.

from Ros

How Does Revegetation Affect Relict Populations of Skinks?

Ecological restoration is an important strategy in conservation to limit biodiversity declines. However, it has been stated that revegetation in areas with relic species may be detrimental to populations that require habitats associated with the early successional stages of plant communities.

I investigated the effects of revegetation on a community of skinks on Matiu/Somes Island, using mark-recapture methods, vegetation descriptions and GIS mapping. Diversity, abundance and habitat preferences were estimated for three species of skinks during the summer of 2007-2008.

Densities of skinks were highest in scrub and bush habitats and the combined species population estimate for the island came to 80,000. All skink species were absent from pasture and mature forest habitats.

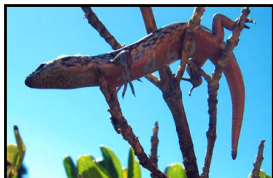


Maybe skinks are carnivorous?

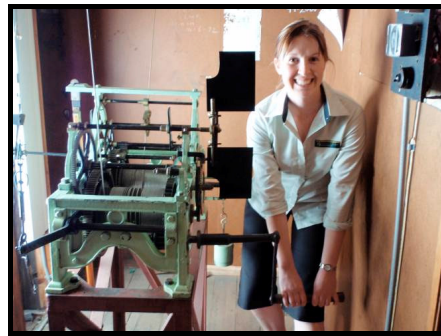
Population sizes have increased over the previous 10 years with the ongoing revegetation project and the removal of mammalian predators. As the succession of vegetation progresses to forest cover on Matiu/Somes Island, the three relict species of skinks are likely to decrease in population size because of reductions in their preferred habitats of scrub and bush. However, based on projected future habitat areas, populations are likely to survive with the current restoration plan for the island because sufficient patches of coastal scrub will remain on cliffs and at historic/cultural sites.

Susie Cooper

Spotted skink



Rolling Up Her Sleeves for Historic Heritage at Matiu/Somes



Winding the clock in the Old Government Buildings

Photo: Richard Nester

Kia ora koutou

I'm Paulette Wallace, the new Historic Ranger for Ponoke Area, and I'm very excited to be a new part of the team who are doing such a fantastic job at Matiu/Somes Island. My core responsibility at DOC is to lift the profile of DOC's historic properties in Wellington, which includes: Matiu/Somes Island, Turnbull House, Old Government Buildings and Dominion Observatory.

My first priority at Matiu/Somes will be opening up the Maximum Security Animal Quarantine Station for visitors to explore and experience. Sound will be the key tool that I'll be utilising to tell the stories of this place, and as part of getting this off the ground I'll be undertaking interviews with key people associated with MAF quarantine on the island. Other areas which I will be concentrating on will be ensuring that all of the historic buildings are structurally in good nick, and also breathing a bit of life back into the tramway down by the lighthouse.

My background is in Museum and Heritage, where I completed a Masters in this subject at the start of 2008. I have worked in the heritage sector at the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, DOC Head Office, Opus International Consultants, for conservation architects and various museums and galleries around Wellington and my home-town province of Otago.

I look forward to meeting you all on the island and elsewhere.

Paulette

New Interpretation Panels for Matiu/Somes

Bex Wolfe reports that designing interpretation panels and the text for them is well underway. They will be placed at these locations:

A human quarantine station – at the Memorial where so many victims of disease contracted on the way to New Zealand in the 19th century are commemorated

The early days of animal quarantine – at the early quarantine building near the sheep paddocks called the Bull pen.

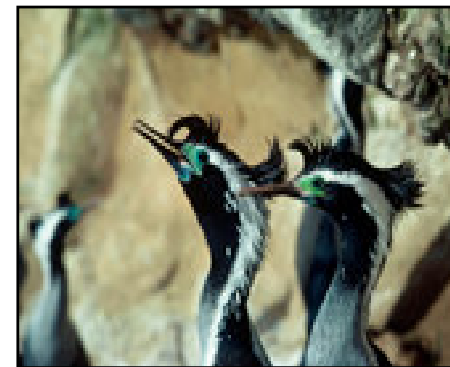
Sentinel in the harbour – at the Lighthouse.

Guns on the summit – at the gun emplacements near the trig.

Restoration of a coastal forest – at the Tony Burgess memorial seat near the Forest & Bird nursery.

Te Papa o Tara – overlooking this rock (also called Shag Rock) about the shags and seals that visit it.

The first drafts have been viewed and commented on. We anticipate getting these signs onto the ground by Christmas, which is very soon. However if you would like a preview of them, contact Bex who could email them to you. bwolfe@doc.govt.nz



Spotted shags on Te Papa o Tara

Ship & Chips Tours

The Museum of Wellington is working in partnership with East by West Ferries to deliver a Ship & Chips Tour, probably starting in December for the summer season.

Here's a brief summary of the trips:

It starts with a guided tour of the Museum after which the group will catch the East by West ferry from Queens Wharf with a fish & chips packed lunch. Arriving on the island for free time or a guided tour if booked in advance. Then returning to Queens Wharf.

As an institution managed by the Wellington Museums Trust, we are a not-for-profit organisation, and our objective is to maximise visitation opportunities for locals, national and international visitors. This combined tour experience; with its insight into the stories of Wellington at the Museum, a scenic harbour trip, and exploration of a wonderful DOC wildlife reserve steeped in history, should have appeal to visitors.

For regular tours (outlined above) we anticipate starting with weekdays and capping the number at 12 participants each day, so we won't put too much stress on our combined resources, and also group tours. The Museum looks forward to working in partnership with DOC and East by West Ferries so we can all increase our visitor numbers!

Angela Varelas

Marketing Coordinator, **Museum of Wellington**
Preserving, presenting and promoting
Wellington's heritage – harbour, city & sea

Forest & Bird Revegetation Programme

Over the last five years there have been 115 midweek work parties on Matiu/Somes, a total of 1944 volunteer days.

Volunteers are less active than earlier years and the nature of the work has changed considerably. From raising and planting over 7,000 plants in 2000 there has been a steady decline of about 1000 plants annually until this year when 1300 plantings took place.

Two years ago the large southern nursery where plants were hardened off prior to planting was dismantled and the adjacent shade nursery closed. The original nursery converted from an old vegetable garden site and developed by Forest & Bird in the mid-1980s is now the focal point for most mid week activity.

Over the years over 100,000 plants have been raised in this nursery.

Interest in the project remains high and at present we have more volunteers keen to work in the nursery

than we can find regular work for. It is hoped many will be employed raising seedlings and propagating required species well into the future.

The Lower Hutt Branch still considers its volunteer work in association with DOC on Matiu/Somes Island of special importance. A significant proportion of money raised from the branch's annual plant sale continues to be directed to island projects.

Nursery building, provision of tools, ferry fares, a drinking fountain for the visitors centre, grant towards the introduction of kakariki to the island and the provision of furniture and half the cost of a gas stove for the F&B House on Matiu/Somes have all been financed from plant sale funds. This year the efforts of those associated with the plant sale many of whom also work on the island, raised \$3,800 our best ever total, due in part to moving to the Waterloo School Hall.

Alex Kettles, Lower Hutt Forest & Bird

Eastbourne Forest Rangers (EFR) Programme 2008

Rangers: We have been fortunate in recruiting a number of new Rangers over the past few months so welcome to Josie, Joanna, Leeann, Daniel and Michelle. Welcome back to Peter Reese, who has missed a couple of seasons because of other commitments.

We now have 25 Rangers on the roster, with a couple of others who can help from time to time.

Training weekend: The weekend of 11/12 October saw a well-attended gathering of the Eastbourne Forest Rangers team on the island. Most arrived on the Saturday and were treated to a lavish roast dinner with all the trimmings. Many thanks to Jerry Wellington, who provided the roasts, the 'domestic goddesses' who prepared the meal and the 'domestic gods' who helped clear up afterwards. Penguin monitoring after dark helped burn off some of the calories!

On the Sunday Jo and Matt briefed us on new arrangements and developments. The topics included the proposed information signs, a family booklet that could be for sale soon, jobs we can do whiling away our time between ferry arrivals, guided walks and spot tours, suggestions on a more formal allocation of duties, how to handle kayakers and private boats, what to do about illegal landings and requests for fishing and so on.

This was followed by a BBQ lunch, hosted by Jo and Matt, again lavish. It was not a weekend for dieters!

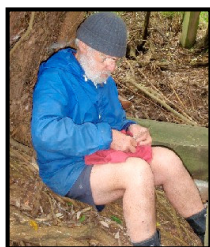
In the afternoon, Holden Hohaia spoke to us about Maori history of the Island and reminded us that water should be available at the Memorial Urupa area.

We also spent time on a working bee on the Rangers' unit, with a lot of washing down of walls, sanding of woodwork and cleaning the rust stains off the bath.

This was one of the few times the Rangers all get together. It was really great to be able to meet and talk with people you might not see again for months. Thank you all for attending and thank you, Jo and Matt, for making us so welcome.

Visitors: Visitor numbers to the Island are increasing, and people seem to want to do more than just walk around it on their own, with requests for guided tours increasing also. All this will mean plenty of work for the Eastbourne Forest Rangers for the foreseeable future!

Ray Smith



Reg at work

Most of the A team girding up to do penguin banding (Graeme Taylor, Ros Batcheler and Reg Cotter)



And it's not just the kids who get an education on Matiu/Somes...

This year DOC has run two residential courses on the island for two of their departments.

The first, held in April, was a three-day course on Managing DOC's Historic Heritage. Eight staff from around the country attended, and were introduced to many of the island's historic features. These included: gun emplacements, middens, hospital and barracks buildings, degaussing station, memorial monuments, the lighthouse and the quarantine facility. Having such a comprehensive range of historic features available to illustrate management issues and generate discussion was invaluable.

In May a workshop for experienced bird banders was held. DOC staff and representatives from external agencies including Massey University, Karori Wildlife Sanctuary and the Ornithological Society of New Zealand spent three days sharing ideas and best practice relating to capture and handling of birds for banding.

Volunteers – from the Eastbourne Forest Rangers in April, and the Ornithological Society in May – assisted with catering and logistics. They did a wonderful job of keeping the participants well fed and watered, contributing significantly to the success of the courses.

Richard Nester explains a fine point about Matiu/Somes Lighthouse.



Matiu/Somes was a fabulous course venue, with great facilities in a very inspiring environment. It's obvious that the educational opportunities don't stop with the school visits!

Sharon Alderson, Historic Heritage, DOC

Makeover Magic on Matiu Island

Makeover magic continues to happen on Matiu/Somes Island to the Wellington Tenth's Trust house, the Whare Mahana.

By Terese Mcleod and Alice Te Punga Somerville,
Wellington Tenth's Trust
Co-project Leaders of the Whare Mahana

Whare Renovations Update

Since the last newsletter in June this year Wellington Tenth's Trust, Whare Mahana (Iwi House) co project leaders Terese Mcleod and Alice Te Punga Somerville and their volunteer support crew have completed the key interior renovations and made a solid start on the exterior renovations and other projects at the whare.

The Driftwood theme in Whare Mahana



For those who didn't see the house before its makeover will find it hard to really appreciate the transformation that has occurred, but it has been dramatic and there has been a sharp and immediate increase in those now using and enjoying the house and the island as a result.

Currently among the various things at the house we are turning our attention towards are: replacing and sanding the window sills, repainting exterior parts of the house, gravelling and planting in the garden beds surrounding the house, purchasing a large BBQ table, dressing the walls of the whare with photographs etc., creating a fantastic library, establishing a compost bin at the house, purchasing a small box and toys for children, removing and replacing the corrugated plastic above the laundry etc....

We want to publicly acknowledge the assistance of the following Whare Mahana volunteers;

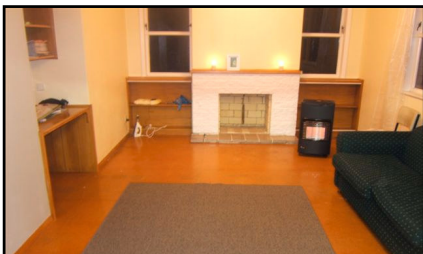
Essie Whanau (Tenth's), Kaye Mcleod (Tenth's), Anne Somerville (Tenth's), Malcolm Somerville, Matiu Somerville (Tenth's), Megan Somerville (Tenth's), Mark Chambers, Sam Kahui (Tenth's), Sharon Morunga, Rose Heinrich (Tenth's), Owen

Calder, Cecilia Tuomanufili (Tenths), Peter Jackson (Tenths), Nadine Atwell, Arini and Tahiwī Loader, Ocean Mercier.

We acknowledge the assistance of Matiu/Somes Island DOC rangers Jo Greenman, Matt Sidaway and island maintenance assistant, Iain Wilson.

And we would also like to thank Bruce Smith and Simon Burney of Waituna Brewing Company, Mojo and Revolution Coffee, Whitakers Chocolates, Resene Manners Mall Wellington, for their support.

The flax room, Whare Mahana



Whakawhanaungatanga and Monthly Maintenance Weekends

Approval from the Wellington Tenths Trust for an open whakawhanaungatanga/maintenance weekend at the house on the last weekend of every month was sought and approved. This means an open invitation to anyone interested to participate at the house, and these weekends will allow the group to keep the house thoroughly cleaned and maintained on a regular basis.

LEARNZ School Guests

For school children who live a long way from Matiu Somes Island, LEARNZ provided them with a chance to learn about and meet the various people who look after Matiu/Somes Island.

LEARNZ is an online education programme for students in New Zealand state, private and integrated schools, offering 20 virtual field trip experiences this year. Students stay at school but visit places they would never otherwise go to and interact with people they would never meet. Students' participation is supported by online background materials and activities, and is enabled using live audio-conferencing, web board and diaries, images and videos uploaded daily.

Alice and Terese were guests on the Matiu/Somes Island LEARNZ trip and were interviewed by a variety of school children from a range of South Island schools on the LEARNZ trip to the island in August.

The Whare Mahana acted as the base to host the LEARNZ crew during the week and the pair were interviewed about various topics ranging from the arrival of Kupe, the whare itself and other topics relating to the island and its inhabitants.

<http://www.learnz.org.nz/index.php>

Victoria University Continuing Education and Executive Development (CEED)

Maori History Trip, Saturday 15th November

As staff at Victoria University and having attended the Maori History of Matiu island trip last year, this year's trip sees some alterations to the one previously offered. Holden Hohaia will lead this trip. Please visit <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/ceed/> for further information.

Writers Block – Writers Retreat on the Island

Terese and Alice belong to a group of artists who write for film, theatre, TV, print etc. This group of talented artists directed by Hone Kouka has now established an annual writer's retreat workshop on the island.

Their second retreat is coming up at the end of November with an overnight stay on the island. The group will be working on various works; many of you will have already seen the work of these artists over the years through various mediums. As a koha to the island, the next retreat will focus on producing a series of work about the island for the island that will be available free at the visitor centre.

DOC Book for Kids – Uncle Don Knows Heaps of Wacky Stuff

Written by Anna Griffiths, illustrated by Ali Teo

Terese and Alice loved this DOC book and have ordered several boxes of this publication. They will give a copy of this fantastic fun and educational book to every child who visits the Whare Mahana.

For further Information

For further information relating to activities at the Whare Mahana please contact Terese Mcleod (04) 970 8400, DDI (04) 463 9786 or Mobile 027 75 33 219 or email Terese.Mcleod@vuw.ac.nz

Storm Strands Volunteers on Matiu/Somes Island

by Owen Calder, Karo Buster

A gale force storm stranded DOC's volunteer Karo Buster group on their most recent trip to the island in June. Island Ranger, Jo said "It's very rare for the ferry company to cancel sailings, the storm was exceptionally severe".

The weekend began with great promise with a stunning day on Saturday. The group managed to clear Houpara (*Pseudopanax lessonii*) or 'Five Finger' and some Karo (*Pittosporum crassifolium*), however, by Sunday the weather was so bad that for safety reasons any work plans were abandoned as gale force winds and torrential rain lashed the island. By midday Sunday it was confirmed that no ferry sailings would happen and the group found they would be 'stranded' on the island for the night.

Filling in their 'day off' on Sunday proved no problem with a tour of the quarantine building, which was a fascinating wet weather treat, with the Karo Busters being joined by another stranded group of Somes Island Military historians. A game of indoor soccer, camping around a gas heater playing cards, chess, doing jigsaws, reading and chatting padded out the rest of the time.

Having enough food was no problem for the unexpected extra night, by combining leftovers from the traditional Saturday night BBQ and adding farm-kill sausages from Ranger Matt's freezer saw the group well provided for. In any event we had access to a well-supplied larder of food in the Iwi House kept by the Iwi renovation crew if it was needed.

A brief break in weather on Sunday saw Matt, Dave and Owen head out to walk around the island to clear broken branches off the tracks, also discovering and clearing a number of the blocked drains under the pathway. They observed stunning views from the southern end of the island witnessing big swells from the harbour entrance with foam being driven in streaks across the water – hurricane strength gusts according to the Beaufort Scale (and the weather bureau the next day).

Thankfully Ranger Matt had got up and turned on the generator on at 6:45am so the groups could pack with the luxury of electric lights. The ferry was expected at 7am but at 6:30am the word came the ferry was arriving early so it was a mad scramble. The first of the group got to the wharf a mere 20 seconds to spare to turn on the wharf lights to help guide the ferry in.

Departing at 6:55am, we headed to Queens Wharf via Days Bay with a few of the passengers taking on a green complexion and heading out the back of the boat. For me it was then a dash to the train to go home, then by car to work. It felt like I had done a full day's work by the time I got to work but on the other hand that I had just been on a week's holiday. I can't wait to get back to the island and hope for another stranding!

A number of new Karo Busters began their volunteering on this trip, they got right into it, dirty, sore from head to foot, and loved every minute of it, just like the rest of the long-term volunteers. The weekend provided an unexpected adventure and a great reason for being late to work on Monday morning!

The Karo Busters group will be running three more overnight trips in the current financial year as follows:

14th and 15th February 2009

4th and 5th April 2009

6th and 7th June 2009

Please contact Dave Cox at coxfamily@paradise.net.nz for further information about the Karo Busters group activities.



A break in their karobusting labours on Mokopuna Island.

Weed Words as the weed control continues

I am delighted to be back on Matiu for a six-month term to continue weed control operations. One of my most important tasks is revisiting sites where we have controlled weeds that we think/hope we have eradicated, just in case they are attempting a comeback, e.g. from seed in the soil.



These include barberry, buddleia, cotoneaster, hawthorn and Japanese honeysuckle. I will also visit sites where we have controlled weeds which are now at very low numbers on Matiu to ensure any regrowth is nipped in the bud. These include agapanthus, **alyssum** (left), blackberry, pampas, periwinkle, Spanish heath and Wandering Willy.

Tangier pea, with its purple flowers (below), will be in full bloom in November and will once again be particularly visible on the lower eastern slopes of the island.

This plant is widespread on Matiu but, although it certainly looks out-of-place and smothers native plants to some extent, it is not considered a major long-term problem. It is not shade-tolerant, dies back completely in winter and generally only thrives in places where



native forest will eventually suppress it. When flowering peaks I will map its distribution so that we can assess its spread/demise more accurately in future. It is

certainly worth controlling Tangier pea in some circumstances, e.g. to prevent it smothering plantings or spreading to new areas of bare ground or low-growing vegetation.



I am continuing the battle against houpara (coastal five-finger) and hybrids between this species and horoeka (lancewood) which appear to be just as invasive as that other weedy northern North Island native karo.

Houpara has highly variable leaves (often with three or five leaflets) and when it hybridises with horoeka it usually produces long narrow leaves (often with three or five leaflets) which are often mistaken for horoeka (which is never divided into leaflets). I am looking forward to the Karobusters next visit and may propose a name-change to "Karo and Houpara Busters", although it is a bit of a mouthful!

I will continue systematically searching the island with a fine-toothed comb and removing all the weeds I find. Exceptions will include selected pohutukawa trees which we will remove in a more gradual manner to minimise the creation of eyesores. Felling trees and mulching the debris will not always be possible because of steep terrain, so some karo and pohutukawa trees will need to be poisoned where they stand. This will result in the appearance of scattered dead trees, but within a year or so they will become much less visible. An advantage of this method is that less damage is caused to adjacent plants, which soon benefit from increased sunlight and are able to replace the dead trees rapidly.

The area north of the memorial is a high priority for weed control because it is almost "weed free" and will eventually provide a buffer zone that will reduce the likelihood of weeds spreading to Mokopuna. Large, inland pohutukawa trees will be retained for the foreseeable future because they are less likely to result in seedlings colonising the exposed coastal sites in which this species thrives and out-competes local natives. Rata seedlings are growing well at the trackside site near the lighthouse where several pohutukawa were removed earlier this year.

Don't forget, you can do your bit to prevent weeds spreading to Matiu and other natural areas by controlling weeds in your backyard and by informing your family and friends about them. And when you come onto the island, wipe your footwear on the brushes on the floor of the Whare kiore.

For general information on weeds see www.doc.govt.nz. To join or start a group to tackle weeds in your local area see www.weedbusters.org.nz.

Peter Russell, prussell@doc.govt.nz



Overnight stays for Friends

We now have a variety of overnight accommodation available for Friends of Matiu including **camping**. Are you interested? Why not drop the Island an email: matiusomes@doc.govt.nz

camping \$10 adult, \$5 child per night, access to kitchen, toilets

Forest & Bird house is again available for Conservation groups to stay overnight. Contact the Accommodation Officer, PO Box 31 194, Lower Hutt.

Charge is \$20/person/night or \$40 minimum.

Karobusters – a volunteer group removing karo and other undesirable species on Matiu, and doing a range of tasks to assist DoC – goes to the Island about three times a year.

New volunteers are sought as changes in members' lives mean some can no longer attend. So a few spaces in the group have opened up. If you are interested or would like to find out more, see below.

**The next Karobusters trips are on
14 – 15 February 2009**

4 – 5 April 2009

6 – 7 June 2009

**So for further information please
contact Dave Cox: coxfamily@paradise.net.nz**

Matiu Really Matters*: Newsletter of Friends of Matiu & Matiu/Somes Charitable Trust

Issued c.3 times a year, and as required
*Name based on that used in Wellington Botanical Society Newsletter, by kind permission of Stan Butcher, Lower Hutt Branch Forest & Bird, Wellington Botanical Society

**Next issue is March 2009:
Deadline due 01/02/09**



Friends of Matiu/Somes Island Become a member

The Friends of Matiu/Somes would love to hear from you. To join, please fill in the form and send to the address below.

- As a Friend, you will be invited to take part:
- in hands-on conservation projects
 - have fun and learn new skills
 - receive newsletters
 - be able to stay overnight as part of a 'work' weekend

Name:.....
Address
.....
.....

Telephone:
Email (for newsletters)

Annual membership (Jan-Dec), please tick:

Adult	\$20
Corporate/Club	\$50
Life member	\$200
Family	\$30
School/Library	\$25
Donation

Please send to:
Matiu/Somes Charitable trust
C/- Wellington Tenth Trust
PO Box 536
Wellington

Do you want to become a Friend of Matiu, or update your sub? Subs are due now (at end of calendar year)

Why not use this form?

