

# Matiu Really Matters

November 2011



*Haere mai ki Matiu*

## Seasons Greetings

From Matiu/Somes Island Charitable Trust

After a fruitful year (see our Annual Report) we look forward to achieving more in 2012, with the return of the Pakaha foremost in our efforts, and with your help as volunteers or financial contributions. It's not a cheap project to helicopter those chicks from Long Island in Marlborough Sounds to Matiu, while the follow-up work to keep their tummies full of sardine smoothies needs steady help. And we are thrilled that two grants have been received (see Stop Press) towards this project.

The Wellington Tenths Trust & Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust are currently working on input into the management plan and through the consultation process have provided insights into how they wish to see the islands develop and how they can interact with activities and support the kaupapa.

The volunteers who look after Whare Mahana continue to bring many whanau to the islands and introduce them to the delight of visiting and staying overnight. We have been involved in working with the Iwi in Marlborough to enable the transfer of Pakaha and look forward to welcoming them culturally from Te Tau Ihu to Te Whanganui A Tara.

Nga mihi o te wa

**Mark Te One**

## Ranger's Ramble for summer 2011-12

Spring has brought some big changes on the island with new robin, fantail and penguin chicks sighted and several tuatara nesting burrows spotted. I was harvesting some spinach from the vegetable garden and discovered a tuatara hiding amongst them! A few days later she laid eggs under the broccoli. To ensure the safety of the eggs and the Rangers, nine eggs were carefully removed to a more appropriate site (p.2). Another has decided that the Whare Mahana lawn is the chosen spot.

The visitors' centre has a new floor and 5 dump trucks of rubbish were removed thanks to a freight run by the Brandy Wine barge – it's a surreal day when the trucks lumber up the beach one after the other (p.2).

Ranger *Matt* had a great send off and his friendly face is sorely missed. After a volunteer stint on the Chathams with Jo and husband Iain, Matt has headed home to convert his van for his trip around New Zealand. Lookout for the hairy one in a street near you.

Trainee ranger *Helen Kelly* has had her work cut out covering the void, but the Island now has a new team on the go. *Emma Dunning* joins us from National Office as new full-time ranger and *Jenny Whyte* will be battling the weeds for the next 5 months. She has started with Tangier Pea!

## Kaitiaki Board

The Kaitiaki Board has contracted Solas Consulting and Raukura Consultants as part of their requirements under the settlement legislation to develop a management plan for the co-management of the islands.

This is new territory for the Board and a robust process was agreed with our consultants to consult with all stakeholders. This process has been ongoing for some months and we have held planning sessions on Matiu so that by 2012 we can have a draft plan to take back to stakeholders. The Board sees this plan as aspirational and looking forward at least 200 years.

This management should give good guidance for our decision making process for the direction of activities to build on the restoration already established.

The Treaty settlement reached with Taranaki Whanui Ki te Upoko O te Ika in 2009 is a landmark and has led to the establishment of a Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board, to govern the 3 harbour islands of Makaro/Ward, Mokopuna and Matiu/Somes.

The Board is made up of 6 members; Mark Te One, Liz Mellish and the Honorable Mahara Okeroa representing Tangata Whenua, and Alan McKenzie (Wgtn Hawkes Bay Conservancy Conservator), Rob Stone (Poneke Area manager) and Dr Nicola Nelson.

**Liz Mellish**

## What's in this issue

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Six volunteers have taken on a new and exciting project to release and care for our "rare" sun-loving trees. The aim is to enable them to thrive and produce seed.

The fine summer weather always tests the island's biosecurity, remaining pest-free is our top priority and the only way to keep our taonga safe. The discovery of stoats on Kapiti and rats on Mana proves we must remain vigilant. "Please help our Treasure Islands" is a new campaign which you might hear on your local radio. Please lead by example when you next visit.

A shoreline bird survey and 5-minute bird counts have been made in preparation for the new power installation. Tenders are about to be submitted for upgrading the water system.

My hope is that all the new island inhabitants thrive over the coming summer months and the mana of this special place continues to heal.

*Jo Greenman*

## **Matiu/Somes Island Charitable Trust Annual Report for 2010–2011**

### **Kia Ora Tatou**

The Matiu/Somes Island Charitable Trust (MSCT) continued its quiet but consistent work on behalf of the island and the recovery of the island's natural environment. This included sponsoring the next major project for the island – the return of the Pakaha (Fluttering Shearwater).

During the last two calendar years just under 20,000 people per year visited Matiu/Somes Island. A large number of School and other groups are included in the total. Matiu/Somes Island has clearly become a very popular place to visit.

The Eastbourne Forest Rangers (EFR) deserves a special 'thank you' for the work of its members on the island. They meet visitors and guide groups around the island, the latter being our largest source of funds to help DOC maintain the island's facilities. Acquiring new uniforms for each EFR volunteer was a tangible way of expressing our appreciation to this group of dedicated volunteers.

Planting native flora remains an ongoing project, with secondary and tertiary planting now under way. Volunteers from Lower Hutt Forest and Bird have made an amazing contribution to the planting programme over the last 25+ years.

Contributing to the cost of repairs and maintenance is the biggest area of expenditure for MSCT. This year the work included repainting the interior of the Caretaker's Cottage (now the island's conference centre), repairing the roof of Education House, and repainting the interior of both Education House and Forest and Bird House. Our thanks to the two volunteers whose efforts over an extended period ensured the costs of this essential work were kept very low.

**Not a usual sight on Matiu: a truck unloads track gravel from the Brandy Wine barge.**



***Where the young ones were, in the spinach patch at first***



***But are now in a safer place***



The Board was pleased to receive a request to establish the project that is expected to result in the re-establishment of the Pakaha on Matiu/Somes Island. This is a big project involving the translocation of up to 80 birds each year for three years, starting in 2012.

The Pakaha project has the support of the Iwi manawhenua, Te Atiawa/ Taranaki Whanui, the Iwi representatives on MSCT, and the Kaitiaki Board. MSCT's support for this important project includes a grant of \$5,330 from its reserves towards the cost of the first translocation.

Board meetings were kept to a minimum during the year as much of its work could be, and was, made out of session. The only exception to this arrangement was the meeting called to consider the proposal to establish the Pakaha project.

MSCT made a small loss for the year, due primarily to increased maintenance costs and the purchase of EFR uniforms. The loss was covered from the Trust's small financial reserve.

The Board offers our sincere thanks to the many volunteers who make things happen on Matiu/Somes Island. Without their dedicated efforts we would not have the facilities that our whanau can use and an island people can enjoy.

**Mark Te One**, Chair



## **STOP PRESS**

**We are very pleased to tell you that the Pakaha project has now received grants The Lion Foundation, Wellington Community Trust, and Pub Charity.**

**This means the 2011 translocation can proceed as planned.**

**A BIG 'thank you' to these organisations for their generous donations to this important project.**

## **Welcome to this newsletter**

*This Newsletter is produced by the Matiu/Somes Island Charitable Trust (a non-profit organisation with one of its purposes being to promote the Island) to let you know what is happening on the Island.*

***The new team on Matiu/Somes: from left to right Emma Dunning, Roger Pope, Helen Kelly, Jenny Whyte, Jo Greenman.***

***It was a rainy day and the WII Predictor in the Quarantine Station needs more press!***

***Sunset from Matiu/Somes***  
*(photo by Mark Rumble)*

## Locked up and Guarded

### "Lest they escaped to help their mortal enemies"

#### Jewish internees in New Zealand during the Second World War

This was the subject of a recent talk by Ann Beaglehole about the confinement of Jews on Somes island (as it was then known). Of the 185 "aliens" interned, at least 8 were Jews who had fled Nazism in Germany and Austria in the 1930s but were considered security risks.

In October 1940 after the outbreak of war, tribunals were set up to classify all resident aliens according to their security risk. There were five categories ranging from Category A who were "persons who were recommended for immediate internment", to category E who were "persons recommended for exemption from all alien restrictions".

At this remove it is difficult to understand why these men were interned. There was paranoia among the authorities about how to classify the "aliens" and later the categories were further broken down into sub-groups. The main targets were those who were openly supportive of the Nazis. However, subjective judgements were made. For example someone was regarded as a security risk because of "their degree of intelligence and education". Others were labelled as "shifty types of Jew". There was the problem of public pressure regarding the danger from "aliens" because they had foreign names and also the perception that they were taking work away from "Britishers".

There were many complaints by the Jews and others that they were being persecuted by the German Nazi supporters who were "arrogant" and wore "Nazi paraphernalia". One Jew was a doctor but was not allowed to practise and so became a nurse-aid. He had a nervous breakdown. Another Jewish internee swam to Petone to escape the Nazis. There were also incidents of internees committing criminal acts so that they would be sent to prison which they considered preferable to remaining on the island.

The official view of these complaints was that they were minor matters and no action was taken. Relationships improved later in the war when it became obvious that Germany was going to be defeated.

Bullying by the Nazis was the main problem on the island otherwise the accommodation, food and facilities were quite good. Visits by families were allowed twice a month.

Eastbourne Forest Rangers conduct guided tours of the island and can relate many other stories about the internment of "enemy aliens" during both World wars.

Contributed by *Derek Sole*

#### EMAIL ADDRESSES PLEASE!

To save paper, reduce printing and postage costs, and minimise handling, we would like send this newsletter by e-mail to as many friends as possible. Please help by sending your email address to [rmsmith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rmsmith@xtra.co.nz)

It will be much appreciated  
Thank you

DO YOUR BIT TO REDUCE WASTE

## How now Eastbourne Forest Rangers?

Winter is behind us and our summer season is in full swing (even if the weather hasn't yet caught up with us!), with two volunteer rangers on duty each weekend and public holiday. Some very large school groups have had guided tours, with more to come.

So far we have been able to meet every request for guides, which is a tribute to those members of the team who have put their hands up for this task. Not everyone is able to come on weekdays, of course, so thanks to all of the team for all they do. I'm forever quietly surprised by the dedication shown by this group of volunteers.

Guiding is very rewarding. Visitors are very appreciative of the explanations we give and the stories we tell them. One lady told me recently that she had visited the island four or five times without a guide and enjoyed each day out thoroughly but after a guided trip her appreciation of the island had increased tenfold or more!

Some of our team have had to drop out this season but we have been fortunate in recruiting some very able folk to replace them. My thanks to those who have helped in the past and those who have stepped up to help this season.

On 9 October we had a training day which was very successful indeed, with almost all the team attending, the best turnout ever! Sadly, we said farewell to Matt that same day. He has been a good friend to the EFR team and will be missed. But the world keeps on turning. Happily we still have Jo to keep an eye on us and we welcome Emma, the new Ranger.

*Ray Smith*

## Penguin Ponderings: November 2011

### *The Teams*

1/11/11: Graeme Taylor, Reg Cotter, Mike Rumble

2-4/11/11: Graeme Taylor, Reg Cotter, Mike Rumble, Eric McCarty, Helen Kelly

16-18/11/11: Reg Cotter, Mike Rumble, Jan Stewart, Fiona McGowan, Angi Buettner, Brent Tandy

### *The Work*

The three trips this month were two bi-monthly surveys and a special visit to trial the installation of GPS and TDR units on pre-selected birds. The weather was fine for all the trips.

While the nesting season will not reach the egg/chick numbers recorded for 2010. The arrival of more chicks in November helped boost the count. One area for concern is the unusually high number of nests (16) with cold eggs during the latest survey.

### *The Results*

*Sites Checked:* 1/11/11: 27 nests; 2-4/11/11: 155 nests; 16-18/10/11: 234 nests

*Penguins Captured/Sighted:* 1/11/11: 25 adults in nests, 16 coming in; 2-4/11/11: 91 adults in nests, 38 coming in; 16-18/11/11: 161 adults in nests, 31 coming in

*Natural Nest Sites:* 2-4/11/11: 2 new natural nests found; 16-18/11/11: 6 inactive natural nests deleted

*Boxes:* 19-21/11/11: 1 natural nest replaced with a box

*Evening Captures:* ranged from 14 to 19 over 5 nights:

### *Identification:*

4 transponders were fitted; 82 web tags were put on.

### *Chicks/Eggs (Total to Date):*

175 nests with eggs; 320 eggs; 216 chicks in nest (with or without adults).

Thanks to Reg Cotter (OSNZ), Mike Rumble (EFR), Angi Buettner (VUW), Brent Tandy (DOC), Jan Stewart (Volunteer), Fiona McGowan (Volunteer) and Helen Kelly (DOC) for their contributions to the visits. Thanks also to Helen Kelly and Emma Dunning for their support as DOC Rangers during the visit.

The team would like to take this opportunity to say 'farewell' to Matt Sidaway who has done a great job during his five years as a DOC Ranger on Matiu/Somes Island. He has always been a great supporter of the Little Blue project and the team of volunteers. You will be missed, Matt.

**Mike Rumble**

**Next Visits:** 14-16 December 2011 and final trip for this phase of the project.



**What the Little Blue Penguin project is all about**

Photos by Adam Forbes



**Some of the other bird life on Matiu/Somes**

## Fluttering Shearwater Translocation Project Update

Significant progress has been made since my last update.

Barry Dent has constructed another 60 artificial burrows and these have been installed on Matiu/Somes Island. 93 artificial burrows are now in place ready and waiting for new tenants.

A big thanks to

- \* Nick Quayle of Quayle Construction for selecting and delivering the timber and for supplying butynol free for the nest boxes
- \* Barry Dent for building the nest boxes
- \* Hutt Valley Tramping Club and a group of America college students for their hard work getting these nest boxes into the ground.

A Pinehaven 'Dunstan' shed has been erected on the colony site to be used as the feeding station during the translocation feeding phase. This shed has an internal floor area of approx. 3m<sup>2</sup>. It looks great and is very sturdy. A big thanks to

- \* Mike Bazalo of Fencescape Garden Products ([www.fencescape.co.nz](http://www.fencescape.co.nz)) for supplying the shed at significantly reduced price
- \* Matt and Ian (DOC Matiu/Somes) for constructing a solid and level foundation
- \* Hutt Valley Tramping Club for constructing the floor
- \* the group of America college students (ably led by Mike) for erecting the shed

The feeding roster is full of keen volunteers (a mix of experienced and novice feeders) and I am looking for a couple of people to go on the reserve list in case anyone is unable to complete their week. Thanks to all of those who have agreed to assist with the feeding the chicks when they arrive. I will be sending the feeding roster out shortly to all feeders. I am still looking for some feeders to also put up their hand to be the designated cook for their week on the island during the feeding phase. Any feeders interested???

Accommodation on Matiu/Somes Island has been booked for the feeding team in the F&B house for the entire period of the feeding phase with the exception of Wellington Anniversary weekend. This weekend the island is going to be chocker with people and accommodation will be very tight.

I have been in discussions with Mike Bell from Marlborough OSNZ. He has been studying Fluttering Shearwaters on Long Island as an OSNZ project. He has agreed to allow our project to take suitable chicks from his study burrows. He has also very kindly agreed to help locate other suitable chicks on Long Island for transferring to Matiu/Somes as well as providing boat transport to and from Picton and Long Island during the transfer. Thanks Mike, this will be a huge help.



**Ian and Matt contemplate the next move to erect the Shearwater hut.**

Micah Jensen, a Veterinary Resident at the Avian, Zoo and Wildlife Health Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences at Massey University (what a mouthful!!) is researching the difference in natural diets of seabird chicks to the "sardines in oil" that transferred chicks are fed during translocation projects. The same diet "sardines in oil" has so far been used to feed 9 different species of petrels in various translocation projects, in spite of vast species differences in natural feeding behaviour.

Micah is applying to DOC for a permit to join the Long Island chick collection team to collect fresh regurgitations from chicks on Long Island.

These samples of wild diets will then be used to assess how different the artificial hand rearing diets are from parent fed diets. This information can then be used to improve the diet of hand feed chicks to increase the feeding success of future translocation projects.

As you can see planning for a transfer date of 10 January 2012 is progressing well.

**Shane**

See **Stop Press** for the exciting news about grants for this project.



News (& camera) flash – exciting development as adult shearwaters try out the nest burrows on Matiu/Somes.



## Matiu/Somes Planting Programme 2011

During the past four months, groups of ten or so F&B members have had four sessions at work in the plant nursery where some 1,000 plants are at various stages of growth.

Ranger Joe would still welcome enquiries from volunteers about the adopt a plant zone project (see next to refresh your memories).

### Adopt-a-planting zone

DOC is currently mapping all our special trees that need TLC to ensure their survival. The plan is to split the island into zones for the on-going care of these plants.

Then a small number of committed individuals can adopt a zone and come at least once a year or more, depending on the zone, to undertake this work. Access will be easy for this work.

Let me know if you would like to be involved.

**Alex Kettles**, [ma.pa@actrix.co.nz](mailto:ma.pa@actrix.co.nz), or 04-569 6208

## Karobusters

Is a long-established volunteer group removing karo and other undesirable species on Matiu, and doing a range of tasks to assist DOC. They visit the Island about three times a year.

We have trips planned for December 2011-June 2012. If you are interested or would like to find out more,

**contact Dave Cox:**

[coxfamily@paradise.net.nz](mailto:coxfamily@paradise.net.nz)

Dates of these work parties are:

**10-11 December 2011**

**18-19 February 2012**

**17-18 March 2012**

## Overnight stays for Friends

We now have a variety of overnight accommodation available for Friends of Matiu. If interested check out the DOC website [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) for information and bookings.

Forest and Bird Members can get a 25% discount on any Island accommodation contact the DOC Wellington Visitors Centre [wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz)  
04 384 7770

**The next Karobusters trip is on  
10-11 December 2011**

**and for further information please  
contact Dave Cox: [coxfamily@paradise.net.nz](mailto:coxfamily@paradise.net.nz)**

## Guided Walks

*Interested? Check out the doc website  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) or email Jo at  
[matiusomes@doc.govt.nz](mailto:matiusomes@doc.govt.nz)*

## Matiu Really Matters\* – Newsletter

Issued 2-3 times a year, or 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

*Thank you to all contributors – without your input it would not be the interesting read it is. And thanks to the team on Matiu/Somes*  
**Jan Heine**

**Next issue is March 2012:  
Deadline due 01/03/12**



## Would you like to help with projects on Matiu/Somes Island

Please give us details of your name, email address, and phone number and we will send you notices and news of projects, events, and the newsletters. If you do not have email but would like to contribute to conservation projects on the Island, please give your postal address and we will send you newsletters from time to time (about 3 times a year).

Then we can invite you to:

- take part in hands-on conservation projects
- work with like-minded people on Island projects
- receive newsletters
- stay overnight as part of a 'work' weekend

Name: .....

Email address (keeps postage costs down):  
.....

Telephone: .....

Postal address:  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Your donation (tax-deductible) will help the Trust  
initiate projects on the Island**

Donation .....

Please send to:

**Matiu/Somes Island Charitable Trust**  
C/- PO Box 39294  
Lower Hutt 5045

**Do you want to help the  
Trust?**

**Why not fill in this  
form?**





