

Matiu Really Matters

October 2013



A Word From The Chair

I recently read the Wellington Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Plan in detail for the first time. I have to say that I found this to be a quite impressive and inspiring document. I won't try to paraphrase it but it is essentially a management plan which states:

- the Kaitiaki Board's vision for the island;
- what principles will guide its management;
- what outcomes are expected; and
- what needs to happen through to 2017 to achieve them.

The Plan has just over forty management objectives with eleven of these been ranked as being "high priority" with action being started in 2012/13 to achieve them. Of course, the Kaitiaki Board will not look to the Trust for assistance with most of these but there are two where the Trustees have already had some involvement.

The first of these relates to the construction of a multifunctional, fit-for-purpose whare manuhiri (visitor centre) to replace the replace the grossly inadequate, under-sized and uncomfortable biodiversity shed. This will incorporate a waharoa (gateway entrance) to reflect the Treaty Settlement and to set the cultural context for visitors.

A concept plan for this facility was drafted over a year ago but because of the recent DOC restructuring, very little has been done to progress it. What is clear, though, is that several hundred thousand dollars will need to be found from other than the public purse, which is where the Trust comes into the mix. I have already met with several people involved in promoting the tourism industry in Wellington and they are very keen to help us move this forward.

The second relates to the identification of innovative and cost-effective options to re-use/recycle existing buildings and sites of historic interest. I mentioned in my last Report that we were discussing with DOC the Trust's possible involvement in the restoration of the Barracks and Caretaker's Cottage. It has since been suggested, and the Trustees agree, that it makes sense for a workshop to look at this issue on a wider, more holistic, basis so we end up a coherent package, rather than an assortment of possibly incongruent "one-offs." Again, I would argue that this matter needs to be addressed with some urgency.

Welcome to this newsletter

from *the Matiu/Somes Island Charitable Trust:*

Colin Ryder Chair, Mark Te One, Liz Mellish, Fred Allen, Shane Cotter, Erini Shepherd, Jan Heine.

Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board:

Mark Te One Chair, Hon Mahara Okeroa, Liz Mellish, Alan McKenzie, Rob Stone, Dr Nicola Nelson.

And from Rangers Jo, Emma, and Tony, thank all of you who are involved in the island for your time and efforts on this jewel in Te Whanganui a Tara.

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At a recent meeting, the Trustees briefed the new DOC regional management team on its views on these potential projects and informed them that we are willing to contribute meaningfully through sourcing community and private funding and facilitating volunteer involvement.

Our ability to do so, however, will be severely constrained unless we take immediate action to resolve our own funding issues. A year or so ago, DOC decided, following the introduction of a new concessions policy, to give the visitor guiding fees directly to the Eastbourne Forest Rangers, thereby depriving the Trust of its main income stream. We consequently lack the means to fund our normal administrative expenses, let alone contribute towards the costs of projects or activities, such as those mentioned above – something that is normally expected by funding agencies.

To buy us a bit of time, we have had to reluctantly, and hopefully temporarily, withhold part of a previously committed contribution to the last of the fluttering shearwater chick translocations. We intend to take a number of actions to restore our cash-flows to levels which can ensure the Trust can continue to support the achievement of the Kaitiaki Board's vision for the island. As a first step, we have set up a membership structure, so that those in the community with an interest in the island can help us to continue to make a meaningful difference to the island and the public's enjoyment and appreciation of its diverse values. You will be receiving an invitation to join us as a member shortly.

Please respond positively to this invitation.

WE AND THE ISLAND NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

Colin Ryder, Chairperson, October 2013

Rangers' Ramble

Today the sun is out, the birds are singing and the next ferry is about to arrive. Summer is on its way and it feels like we have got busier overnight. The boats are filling up with visitors, and our summer staff/volunteers are arriving.

Winter and spring have put the pressure on with multiple storms and earthquakes. The big storm in June took months to clean up and the trees only just starting to sprout new leaves. Trees were down, broken windows, picnic tables, guttering, the entire southern end was stripped of leaves and penguin boxes were found on Petone Beach. Many thanks to everyone who came out to help deal with the mess, Jo and I would still be going if you hadn't been there. No damage was caused by the earthquakes.

The Power System is 15 months old. Over 95% of the island's power needs are now met by the wind and sun. The turbine is handling windy Wellington very well, no power outages here in storms.

The winter was busy with 1400 plants going in the ground. There has been a big hit on the weeds including some of the

Storm damage on Matiu 20/6/13:

Smashed Penguin boxes,



Brought down trees, and



Salt-burned vegetation especially on south-facing slopes

steep, hard-to-reach cliffs (roped access). The Art and family days at Queens Birthday were a big hit with kids and adults alike, and we hope to host more of these types of events on the island. We undertook a waste audit with the Sustainability Trust. We learnt a few things, and have changed our ways, but were pretty proud of our efforts so far, only 15% of our waste goes to landfill. You can read more about it in the "Rubbish message not a waste" article. The Caretakers floor has been leveled, buildings painted.

As with us the wildlife have been relishing the warmer days, the Tuataras are busy digging, the skinks are out basking, the gulls, oyster catchers, and kakariki readying for nesting, penguins are hatching, and the lambs are now getting big. There have been regular sightings of Kerearea (NZ Falcon), and Kereru.

Volunteers keep coming, helping to ensure that the island experience is something we can all be proud of. We have three days of volunteering coming up in December for individual or small groups to join together and help us out. Jobs will be varied depending on weather over 8-10th December. Some places are still available when you can help for a day or all three. If you are interested please contact us on the Island.

Once again a huge thanks to everyone who supports the island, physically, and from afar. It wouldn't be such a special place with out you.

Island Rangers Jo and Emma

Rubbish message not a waste

Matiu Somes Island already has five compost bins and three worm farms, and all its recycled rubbish is washed. But residents still learnt a lot from a waste audit. ... [Read More](#) from www.stuff.co.nz 1/8/13.

And these keen rubbish recyclers did interesting things with other people's leftovers.



Little Blue Survey

Three of the five surveys of the nest sites on Matiu/Somes in the Stage Two area have been completed.

Cumulative results to date:

- 107 active nests
- 102 adults identified in nests
- 165 eggs sighted in 77 nests
- 37 chicks sighted in 19 nests

This interim result indicates the colony is in a healthy state and another successful breeding season is highly likely.

Wellington Zoo has donated the parts for another 74 nest boxes – a very generous gift that is greatly appreciated!!! The timber has been relocated to Matiu/Somes and work will soon start on building the boxes for distribution around the island early in 2014.

We record the sudden loss of Vince Waanders on p.4. he was so much part of the LBP programme and his willing smile is missed.

Mike Rumble

An appreciation:

Always Vince would keep this Newsletter up to date and on time with his Penguin Ponderings.

Thank you Vince from the MRM compilers



Vincent Waanders

23 March 1970 – 18 August 2013

It is with considerable sadness that we report the sudden and totally unexpected loss of Vince Waanders, a key member of our team and a champion of conservation work in New Zealand.

Vince's first contact with Little Blues on Matiu/Somes Island came in 2007. By 2008 he was heavily involved in the monthly trips. His participation and his total commitment to the project never wavered, and continued until his final visit on 15-16 August 2013.

It was amazing to watch Vince in action – be it using his 'sixth sense' to find new nests, or the way he could transfer his calm and unruffled demeanor to the bird he was checking, or the way he could turn his hand to building or fixing anything and everything. No challenge was too big for Vince.

Vince's willing smile will be missed, as will his desire to help others, his unwavering interest and support for conservation, and especially his substantial contribution to the success of our study during Stage One, and the first two years of Stage Two.

Vince at work (David Cornick photos)



The youngest EFR

Community, creativity and conservation are **Fenella Fenton's** passions and Matiu Somes Island provides its youngest Eastbourne Forest Ranger with all those things.

Community service and spirit are important to the 21 year-old who comes from Rotorua. When she arranged an island trip for university students none showed. However, Fenella visited, was hooked and signed up to volunteer. She finds the Eastbourne Forest Ranger volunteers an incredibly interesting and diverse group and she is proud to be a member, recently taking on other island roles in the Karobuster group and is a summer ranger this year.

Creativity runs in the family, her uncle created the iconic corrugated car in Te Papa and the duo are creative collaborators, entering this year's World of Wearable Arts (WOW) competition. University studies took her to Tibet and Nepal where she had classes in temples learning the time-consuming stipple technique which produces realistic images from dots. "I was so privileged to visit Tibet, although it was hard seeing and feeling the deep sadness there", said Fenella. Furniture making and painting are other pursuits she enjoys, her dream is to own a studio within a small community. A Bachelor's in Design Innovation (Industrial Design) from Victoria University was awarded to Fenella in May.

Conservation conversations and skinks are island favourites. Ranger duty highlights are the interesting impromptu chats and showing visitors things they would not normally see. The eastern side of the island is peaceful, an area most people bypass and her personal favourite spot, she says. The more challenging aspect of the ranger role she finds is hitting the 'right note' during the island introductory talks. Head Eastbourne Forest Ranger, Ray Smith, says having Fenella is wonderful, she is currently the youngest member in the group, and she has this **Wish List** for the Island: exploring Mokopuna Island and going off-track on Matiu Somes Island.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations Fenella: Winner of World of Wearable Arts (WOW) Open section 2013

Mantilla

Designed by Fenella Fenton and Jeff Thomson
Photo courtesy of WOW Facebook



The Graduate,
And the Matiu Somes Island EFR
Ranger with her favourite: the
skink



Another EFRanger's profile

Johanna Giggenbach's Matiu Somes Island passion is the tuatara.

She thinks they are amazing because they are rare and from such an ancient time. Her tuatara highlights include seeing them unconfined on the island, watching a tuatara egg hatch and holding a mature tuatara at Victoria University, she says they feel soft.

With a view of Matiu Somes Island from her Eastbourne home Johanna decided she wanted to connect with, rather than just look at, the island and was motivated to join the Eastbourne Forest Rangers when her daughter's father-in-law, an Eastbourne Forest Ranger, died. She has been a ranger for 12 years, the last 9 years volunteering specifically on the island.

Bilingual in German and English, Johanna says her fluency is very handy with the increasing numbers of German visitors to the island; other island duties include giving the 'rat house' talks, observing boating activity and guiding school groups, her favourite groups are children from smaller rural schools. A frequent comment she hears from tourists is their surprise there is no fee to visit the island, says Johanna.

Johanna comes from Munich in the region of Bavaria, Germany. She and her husband, the late volcanologist Dr Werner Giggenbach, immigrated to New Zealand 44 years ago. Her husband's professional passion for mountains saw two Arctic mountains and one underwater Kermadec mountain named after him and he was the first and only person that went down the Mt Erebus crater. Dr Giggenbach died on top of a volcano in Papua New Guinea, survived by Johanna, two daughter's and four grandchildren who live locally.

Staying active has been a lifelong pursuit for 71 year-old Johanna and she is especially keen on tramping and cycling. "I've cycled from Coromandel to Bluff in the days when cycling wasn't popular in NZ", she said. Johanna has recently resigned after spending the last 9 years as an after-school caregiver for Muritai School in Eastbourne.



Johanna's Island Wish List

To bring in more seabirds to the island by having lots of research projects to investigate this.

EFR Profiles by
Terese McLeod

EFR News

Ray Smith has handed over the reins of managing the EFR Island roster and Tour Guides to Jerry Wellington. Arranging a six month roster for 21 Rangers to cover every week end and Public Holiday is no easy task, and Ray has been handling this for the past 15 years. After a month's 'apprenticeship' Jerry is now up to speed with the system, and Ray feels as though he is on holiday!

Ray is still the Chief Ranger and will continue to handle recruiting and training.

We are getting more requests for guided tours from schools. We aim to have one Guide for maximum of 15 children. Some groups have had more than 60 pupils which needs 4 guides. As they are school groups they will invariably be mid-week tours which means that many EFR Rangers will not be available. We urgently need more members who would be available mid-week. If you are interested, contact

Ray Smith, 562 8587 or RMSmith@xtra.co.nz

to find out more about what is involved. This is a satisfying retirement project with physical and mental exercise and an opportunity to meet people from all over the world.

2013, a successful translocation

A quick update from the Fluttering Shearwater project.

Some good news and some sad news from Matiu/Somes:

- I was there recently for my monthly visit and found 2 birds on eggs (Burrow 9 and 47) and 2 eggs alone in separate burrows (16 and 23). I did not disturb these birds once they were seen inside the burrows so I am unsure exactly who they were but have a good idea from previous visits. The photo on the right is of the egg in burrow 23.
- Chick X-17556 burrow 5 from 2013 has been recovered beachwashed, dead in Great Ocean Road, Princetown, Victoria, Australia on 3rd October. This makes number 2 over the last 2 years recovered in Victoria.

No new birds, and just the usual suspects coming in. Of the 11 birds that have visited the colony, 8 have now been sexed using DNA: 7 are females and only 1 is a male.

Planning is well underway for the 2014 season with all feeder teams fully staffed and rostered for their respective weeks.

Thanks everyone

Again I thank everyone who have put their names down and your enthusiasm and willingness to do the jobs has been outstanding. We have made fantastic progress, better than could be expected.

Shane Cotter

Forest & Bird Report

The F&B nursery support team has made five trips to the island this year and interest in the work remains high so there has been no difficulty in maintaining a regular team.

Over July and August most of the team was out planting while others bagged up remaining plants. The nursery is in tidy condition and we are on standby awaiting the arrival of a new batch of seedlings.

Alex Kettles



THE egg in burrow 23

EFRangers always welcome Recruits

The Rangers aim to provide one Guide for each 15 persons on Guided parties. But we are stretched to provide this number of Guides at times.

As the number of tours continues to increase, we will be stretched even more and we need to recruit Rangers to act as Guides, especially those available mid-week.

Anyone interested should contact Ray Smith at **562 8587** or at **rsmith@xtra.co.nz** and chat about what is involved.

Ray Smith

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 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
04 384 7770

Karobusters for 2014

done and dusted for 2013, but for 2014 trips to come, please contact Dave Cox:
dave08.cox@gmail.com

Guided Walks

Interested? Check out the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz or email Jo or Emma at matiusomes@doc.govt.nz

Matiu Really Matters* – Newsletter

Issued c.2-3 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

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 of Jo, Emma & all.

To have your say, why not email janheine@xtra.co.nz

Jan Heine NL compiler



**Next issue is next year 2014:
Deadline due 01/02/14 or some time**

Would you like to be a member of Matiu/Somes Island Charitable Trust & help with projects on the Island?

If so, send in your

Name:

Email address:

Postal address:

Phone :

and please tick the appropriate boxes:

Annual Membership

	Life individual	\$200
	Individual	\$20
	Family	\$30
	Unwaged	\$10
	Organisation	\$100
	Donation (Tax deductible)	\$
	TOTAL	\$

Method of payment:

	Please send me an invoice
	I have paid by direct credit into MSICT bank account (01-0542-0011679-00)
	Cheque enclosed
	Yes, I would like a receipt

Please send this form to:

Treasurer

Matiu/Somes Island Charitable Trust

PO Box 39 294

Wellington Mail Centre

We will send you notices and news of projects and events, by email, and newsletters from time to time. 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

