

Matiu Really Matters

July 2014



**Matiu/Somes Island
Charitable Trust
AGM
6th August 2014**

The MSICT Annual General Meeting
will be held at

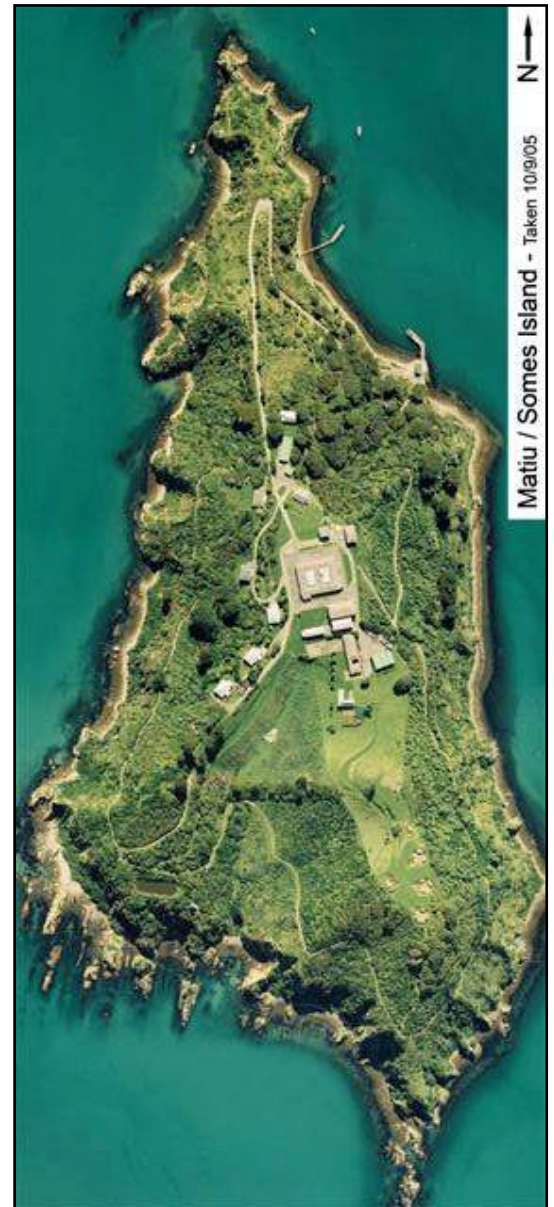
3.00pm, Wednesday 6th August
in the Manaia Room, Hikoikoi, Petone

You are very welcome to attend and
take part in this meeting, especially as
the Trust needs your ideas, and would
like to hear them

Want to volunteer on Matiu/Somes Island?

Our next opportunity for individuals or small
groups to join forces to lend a hand is October.

Sunday 19th and/or Monday 20th October.
Project: Historic heroes and lending a hand.



OBJECTS OF the MSIC TRUST

To help you understand what the **MSICTrust** aims to do, some of its Objects given in the Trust Deed (where you can read them in full, & also objects i, ix, x, xiv), are listed here:

(ii) To support and contribute to the nurturing, by preservation, protection and enhancement, of Matiu Island as a scientific, historical reserve of international importance, in particular by raising funds to support selected projects on the Island where:

endangered threatened or rare species may benefit;

locally or nationally endangered, threatened, rare, declining or extinct biotic communities may benefit or be restored;

restorative work may help to prevent a species or ecological community type from deteriorating to a rare, threatened, endangered or extinct state;

scientific research and survey of the Island may enhance knowledge of the island's ecology;

education and enjoyment of visitors may be assisted.

(iii) To assist in educating the public of New Zealand in: protection of our national heritage;

conservation status of the Island;

protective & restorative acts that best serve these interests;

history of occupation of the Island;

traditional Maori conservation practices ... on the island, ... as recognised under the Treaty of Waitangi;

(iv) To declare support for: conservation in general, ...; the interests of the mana whenua of the Island, ...; constraints on access to the Island ...

(v) To promote & assist in the ... formal recognition for the Island ...;

(vi) To contribute to discussion on possible options . for the management of the Island;

(vii) To promote sustainability of ... fisheries resources;

(viii) To assist in development ... of marine protection strategies for the Island;

(xii) To promote & assist with historical & scientific research on the Island, to increase & apply this knowledge for the education of mana whenua, visitors & New Zealanders generally;

(xiii) To assist in making the islands as a place where spiritual, mental & physical well-being of all peoples is promoted.

Welcome to the AGM

from the Matiu/Somes Island Charitable Trust:

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

Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board:

Mark Te One Chair, Liz Mellish, Kura Moeahu, Rob Stone, Dr Nicola Nelson, Sarah Owen.

District Matiu/Somes Island,
Kapiti Wellington District Area Office
Department of Conservation
PO Box 5086, Wellington
Ph 04 5686555 fax 04 5688688
matiusomes@doc.govt.nz
www.doc.govt.nz

In this issue;

Notice of AGM

Partial list of Objects of Trust

Fluttering Shearwaters report

Membership Form

2014 & a successful translocation

Report on transfer and fledging of fluttering shearwater chicks (*Puffinus gavia*) moved from Long Island to Matiu/Somes Island in 2014

Prepared by Helen Gummer and Shane Cotter for the Matiu/Somes Island Charitable Trust and the Department of Conservation (February 2014)

Seventy-seven fluttering shearwater chicks *Puffinus gavia* were transferred from Long Island to Matiu/Somes Island in a single operation on 10 January 2014. This was the third and final transfer in a translocation project initiated by the Matiu/Somes Island Charitable Trust (MSICT) and supported by the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Transferred chicks were selected from Long Island using wing length and weight criteria developed during previous transfers to Mana Island (Wellington region). Transferred chicks ranging 2–4 weeks from fledging were housed in artificial burrows on Matiu/Somes Island, close to a sound-attraction unit broadcasting fluttering shearwater calls. Blockades prevented chicks leaving burrows prematurely; removal of these proceeded on an individual basis, based on weight, wing length, wing growth rate, and down coverage criteria, to allow chick emergence behaviour prior to fledging.

All chicks were hand-fed on a daily diet of tinned sardines in soy oil blended with water and a seabird vitamin/mineral supplement, via syringe and crop-tube. All chicks were presumed to have fledged successfully from the Matiu/Somes Island colony site with an excellent chance of post-fledging survival. Up to five chicks will have departed at slightly less than the suggested 385 g minimum weight requirement for birds to return as adults.

Chicks fledged at average weights falling between those recorded for the 2012 and 2013 cohorts.

The majority of chicks (at least 82% of fledglings) stayed on Matiu/Somes Island for longer than the suggested minimum period of 18 days at the release site.

Included in the final fledging total are nine chicks considered to have disappeared prematurely from their artificial burrows based on their weight and/or down cover and/or wing length/growth rate. All of these chicks disappeared in good condition and had enough body weight to carry them through to successful fledging within the optimum fledging weight range without further hand feeding prior to their respective estimated departures. At least five of these chicks would have spent >18 days at the release site.

There were no major health concerns with any of the chicks during their stay on Matiu/Somes Island. However, one chick lost some of its tail feathers and fledged when new ones had not emerged. Two chicks were found on the mainland on the second (at Tawa) and third (at Wellington) mornings after they had departed the island. Both were taken to The Nest at Wellington Zoo for care where one chick with pododermatitis died as a result of internal bleeding from physical trauma. The second chick was returned to Matiu/Somes Island on 13 February for its final fledging attempt.

EFRangers 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 Jerry Wellington at matiuguiding@gmail.com

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 & 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

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 later
this year 2014:
Deadline due
01/09/14 or about
then**

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