

# Matiu Really Matters

December 2015



## Rangers' Ramble for December 2015

It is the time of year to reflect on what has been and look forward to the future. As always it has been a busy year out here, with lots of goings on too numerous to mention. But here are a few highlights:

- First Fluttering Shearwater Chick to hatch and successfully fledge
- Confirmed Wellington Green Gecko sighting, that looks like it was born and bred here
- 10 Years of Karobusting celebrated at the Whakawhanautanga day
- 1000 more plants planted
- Tuatara nests hatching – Everyone keep your eyes out for baby tuts!
- Jo and Iain departed the island after 8 years
- New Ranger appointed and starting in the New Year, Welcome to the Team Evan Ward!
- 782 people taken on guided walks
- And over a thousand equivalent days of work completed by volunteers!

Now as Christmas fast approaches, we are in summer mode, our brilliant summer volunteer team plus all the regulars keeping the place ship shape for all to enjoy. The team so far has been Alisha Sheriff, Julia Gibson, Nadine Tupp and Marti Armando Alegne, and joining Di and me in the New Year are Hayden James and Leanne Leelo. With plenty of work and visitors to keep us all busy.

As I have always said this motu is a huge credit to you all our volunteers and supporters. Without you it would be a very different place. Hope to see you out here soon enjoying the fruits of your labour.

Wishing you a safe and happy festive season. Mere Kirihimete  
**Diane Batchelor** and **Emma Dunning**



**Welcome to this newsletter**  
from *the Matiu/Somes Island Charitable Trust*:

*Shane Cotter* Chair, *Liz Mellish*  
Deputy Chair, *Mark Te One*,  
*Fred Allen*, *Mike Rumble*,  
*Erini Shepherd*, *Jan Heine*.

Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board:  
*Kura Moeahu* Chair, *Lee Rauhina-*  
*August*, *Rob Stone*, *Dr Nicola*  
*Nelson*, *Paul McArthur*.

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## **And from Jo**

Hi Matiu/Somes people from a very wet England. Here I am in our pseudo workshop at Ian's Mum's house. It now looks very similar to the one on the Island.

We have been busy catching up with family which is nice and doing things you never get time to do when you have real jobs. Cheese making (the red thing in my hand), beer brewing (on the table, which Iain made), and metal work (Iain's products on the table).

We miss you folks and the island lots and as you can see I wear my T-shirt with pride. Have a great summer – **Jo and Iain**

## Hello from Evan, Matiu's new Ranger

My name is Evan Ward, and I have lived and worked for the last 8 years for DOC in Kaitaia with my partner Lynda (on right). Before that we both worked on Raoul Island and Rangitoto Island. Coming to Matiu Somes will be a big change from the sub tropical north, but hopefully since I was born in Wellington I will acclimatise quickly! I look forward to meeting and working with you all over the next few years.

### **Evan Ward**

*Kai-Ārahi Koiora Rereketanga.*

Ranger - Service Biodiversity, Kaitaia Office



## Ngāti Kahungunu Mau Rakau/Whakawhanaungatanga Waimana

A small mau rakau group from the Wairarapa, led by Frank Te Maari McNally, will be hosted by Terese Mcleod on Matiu Somes Island 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. I think it's awesome to keep working and providing different ways for different people to connect to Matiu Somes Island, and I have always been conscious of the Iwi groups that were on the island before mine. After all, we have place names on the Island still in use today from their time, and their ancestors' bones are also here. The group of approximately 13 will be planning their groups for 2016 and doing some mau rakau work at different island locations.

## The Pete and Pio Show on Matiu Somes Island

Comedy, Cooking and Conservation will be on the menu during the first week of January 2016 when the Pete and Pio presenters and film crew arrive on Matiu Somes Island.

The show features on Māori and Choice TV and will bring a crew of 8 to film this popular tourist and cooking show. The idea came about from long-time islander Terese Mcleod talking to her friend who is the show's researcher/writer Kirsty Babbington. The two developed the idea and producers accepted it.

The focus is showcasing the island in their upcoming series of visiting various small islands around New Zealand and exploring using produce that is available on Matiu Somes Island and from the harbour. Chef Pete will use some island lamb, island honey, go foraging for other island kai, and see what we find in the moana around the island.

## Moving Home: Skink Translocation from the Island to Zealandia

A team from Zealandia have applied to move approximately 100 skinks from Matiu Somes Island to Zealandia in late January 2016. The Zealandia crew have already placed covers so the skinks start locating themselves and a team will start collecting them in January. Terese Mcleod from the island is working with Zealandia to get children's groups involved as an educational opportunity.

## F&B News

We are sad to report that **Alex Kettles** passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

He was the stalwart in the revegetation programme and the nursery on Matiu/Somes. But he did know that F&B's work there was almost completed, and that gave him peace. He had a quiet way of getting on with the jobs in hand.

Our deep sympathies to Jane and his family. He was loved by many.

## The Matiu Somes Island Quilt – Farewell gift to Jo Greenman

Terese and Ranger Emma worked tirelessly to create the Matiu Somes Island quilt as the main Matiu Somes Island community gift for Ranger Jo Greenman's farewell. It was presented to her on her official last day on the island during an island community lunch hosted by Terese, Ranger Emma and Fenella. Members from a cross-island community attended this informal lunch including members of the Eastbourne Forest Rangers, the Matiu Somes Island Charitable Trust, the East by West Ferry staff and other island stalwarts.

The quilt required a lot of work, Ranger Emma used island sheep wool and handmade the wool batting for the quilt fill, the image from Ranger Jo's favourite Island art work which was part of the Solander Art Gallery Matiu Somes Island exhibition several years ago got sign off from the artist and gallery. The image was professionally photographed in Wellington, requiring a secret operation to get the art work on/off the island without Jo noticing! The image was then sent to a fabric printer in Tawa to be printed onto material. The final stage was getting the Busy Bee Quilters to pull it all together.

Thank you to the Matiu Somes Island community members for their koha to this gift.

**Terese Mcleod**



**THE quilt**

**& more of its detail**



**After-Lunch photo shoot, cold enough for Jo to use her quilt**

### **And goodbye to the Newsletter in its old format**

With the creation of the Website and eNewsletter, this is the last time the old format is used. An editorial team will take on the development and production of the eNewsletter which will mean you will be provided with more frequent updates on Island news. Thanks to Mike Rumble and Jane Byrne for developing the Website and all that it contains. And au revoir from me, **Jan**

## Comings & Goings of the Fluttering Shearwaters

I have just returned from spending two nights on the island doing my monthly overnight visit. As I know birds like rough weather I extended my stay one night to catch 12/12/15's gales.

### The results;

One very healthy chick in burrow 15. This is the same burrow (and parents) that raised one last year.

Birds are still sitting on an egg in burrow 16. This won't hatch now as it has been incubated way too long to be successful. All other eggs have been expelled from burrows.

A kakariki is nesting in burrow 76, and it has 6 eggs.

On Friday night I caught 9 birds which is about the average now. They were all regulars.

Nine burrows are regularly being visited.

I found what appeared to be a natural shearwater burrow under the flax bushes to the west of the Wellington speaker.

It was a different story on Saturday night. Nadine (volunteer ranger) and I went to the colony in very blustery winds arriving just before 10pm. Birds were everywhere, calling from the ground, calling in the air, calling from behind the flax outside the shed door etc. We caught 27 different birds and there were others we couldn't get as they were on the inaccessible cliffs below the colony and others to the west of the colony.

The natural burrow was confirmed with a shearwater inside it.

Of the 27 birds, 5 were new 2012 chicks, 8 were new 2013 chicks and one was a 2013 Long Island non-transferred chick!!!

We have now had 14 2012 chicks return. The 2013 chicks were the first recorded as returning. The Long Island chick was not transferred from there as it was too big on transfer day.

The most birds previous caught in a single night was 14.

Over the two nights 33 different shearwaters were caught and measured. Numbers are certainly building up. And it all looks very promising.

Thanks for your on-going support. Have a great Christmas, enjoy spending time with loved ones, and I hope you get a chance to relax.

Cheers,

**Shane Cotter**

A Pakaha is set in stone, on an Eastbourne Village pavement



## Eastbourne Forest Rangers

Have been really busy at the end of the school year with many groups coming over for tours which mean a bit of fun thrown in.

As the Rangers aim to provide one Guide for each 15 persons on Guided parties, we can be 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

[matiuguiding@gmail.com](mailto:matiuguiding@gmail.com)

c/- **Jerry Wellington**

## Matu website!

Just letting you know that the MSICT Website is now live. Go to [www.matusomestrust.org.nz](http://www.matusomestrust.org.nz)