



# FOMI Newsletter

February 2016

## FRIENDS OF MANA ISLAND INC

FOMI Newsletter 65

P O Box 54101, Mana, Porirua, 5247

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### President's Editorial

Hi

Well what a spell of weather we have been having, almost tropical and calm, what could be better.

We are into our next financial year and about to have our AGM in March, see the notice below. What I would like to reflect on is an incredibly successful year and we are looking forward to sharing that success with you. It seems a long haul since December 1998, but I believe that FOMI has been an outstanding example of a voluntary environmental organisation. Our success has been solely because of the calibre of the people, both those in management and the large number of volunteers who contribute in the field.

The AGM is an opportune time for you to comment and discuss our performance, and even more importantly to contribute. This year we will have a couple of vacancies on the Executive and we would welcome any person who is willing to offer their services. It would be helpful if anyone willing to do so could provide a short resume of their experience and interests. To do so either snail mail to the Secretary at our PO Box 54101, 5247 or email our [contactus@manaisland.org.nz](mailto:contactus@manaisland.org.nz). Nominations can, of course, be taken from the floor.

Cheers

**Brian Paget**  
President.

## 17th Annual General Meeting

To be held at the Mana Cruising Club  
Ngatittoa Domain  
First Floor  
7pm Wednesday 16 March 2016

Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts  
Election of Officers for the 2015-2016 years

Followed by a presentation by

### **Graeme Blick**

From Mt Erebus to the South Pole  
Measuring crustal movements on the Antarctic Continent.

Graeme's first visit to Antarctica was in 1984 when he was working on Mt Erebus. He has made many visits since and is project leader for LINZ's current annual activities in Antarctica.



## MZNM to Jim Campbell

**A Wairarapa man has been given a “big lift” by being made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MZNM). Jim Campbell has been recognised for more than 50 years of service to conservation in the New Year Honours List.**

Mr Campbell said he was humbled by the news. “It’s huge. I’ll get used to it, I suppose. We knew the process was happening, it takes a couple of months. But it was a big lift.” Mr Campbell has had a long involvement in habitat restoration and waterfowl captive breeding and recovery programmes, including whio (blue duck), pateke (brown teal), grey teal and mute white swan.

He has created many wetlands on his property, the largest being a 8ha area covenanted with the QEII National Trust, of which he is a life member.

Mr Campbell joined Ducks Unlimited in 1976, serving as president, board chairman and now co-patron. He has been a trustee of the Masterton Henley Lake Trust since 2003 and has given more than 60 years of support to the New Zealand Forest and Bird Society.

As trustee of the Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre for 25 years, Mr Campbell was instrumental in promoting the building of the classroom facility, and the Sir Edmund Hillary Memorial Lectures.

However, Mr Campbell remained modest about his contribution. “A lot of people do more than I do, but when you start to add up what you’ve done it does get to be quite impressive at times,” he said. “It was a team effort and that goes for a lot of things.” His passion for conservation was sparked as a child, when he took rides on the mail truck and visited the aviaries on Elwyn Welch’s farm.

“I’ve always been interested in that sort of thing, and I was probably encouraged by Elwyn Welch who was one of the pioneers who had a farm where Pukaha Mount Bruce is now.”

Jim has racked up a number of other accolades including a Wellington Regional Council inaugural Ballance Farm Environmental Award.

**Courtesy of Wairarapa Times-Age.**

Alisa Yongalisa.

A footnote from Jason Christensen who was the DOC Ranger on the Island at the time that Jim spent six weeks of his own time helping with the creation of the wetland on Mana island in 1998.

## Visitor Centre or my Dream by Brian Paget

You may have seen a recent article in the Kapi-Mana News where I promoted Mana Island as a tourist attraction. I have, for some time, seen the need to better cater for visitors to our Island now that most of the planting has been done, the endangered species have made it their home along with many introduced species. The Island is a Scientific Reserve and as such is open to the public during the day. The introduction of a suitable boat by a local advocate for educational trips for school children has meant that regular trips of 30 are making it to the Island but there are no adequate facilities to cater for them let alone DOC Staff to brief and monitor them. The solution seems to me to provide a purpose built facility on the mainland to provide an Education area, a display of material gathered over the past 30 years, a suitable bio-security area, information desk, toilet facilities and café. The land owned by Porirua City Council adjacent to the Dolly Varden seems an ideal location, with parking and walking access to the existing wharf under SH1 and the rail bridge. Here are some images of a concept developed by Novak + Middleton, Architects.



## Away with the fairies...by Helen Gummer



One-hundred fairy prion (*Pachyptila turtur*) or titiwaitiui chicks were successfully transferred from Stephens Island/Takapourewa to Mana Island on 17 Jan 2016. This was the second transfer in a 2-year supplementary translocation project initiated by Friends of Mana Island Inc., sponsored by OMV New Zealand Ltd., and supported by Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Toa and Department of Conservation. The project objective is to augment a small population of fairy prions already breeding on Mana Island following initial translocations in 2002–04, in an effort to enhance the island's ecological restoration.

Scientist Graeme Taylor, project manager Brian Bell and the rest of the collection team arrived at the Takapourewa source colony on 13 Jan 2016. They carefully inspected 1547 burrows and found 273 accessible chicks over the next 3 days; from these they selected 100 chicks for transfer on 17 Jan. A veil of foggy cloud cover finally lifted on the day, and the transfer went to plan, with chicks and personnel arriving on Mana in the early afternoon. Here, the fairy prion chicks were housed in artificial burrows at the new colony site. Entrance blockades prevented chicks leaving burrows prematurely and removal of blockades proceeded on an individual basis when each chick was considered ready to fledge. A sound system broadcasting fairy prion calls played nightly while chicks were in residence. All chicks were hand-fed daily (via syringe and crop-tube) according to individual requirements, on a blend of tinned sardines, oil, water and a seabird vitamin/mineral supplement, until they fledged. A dedicated volunteer team put in a tremendous effort feeding all the chicks.

We are pleased to announce that all 100 chicks appeared to fledge successfully from Mana with the last departures on the night of 28 Feb. Weather conditions were mostly warm, overcast but dry, with light to moderate winds when most chicks fledged, and conditions at sea appeared reasonably favourable for all the new fledglings with the only notable weather being gale-force southerly winds on the night of 27 Jan when most chicks had already left the colony site.

Many thanks to DOC staff and all the volunteers involved in this year's project: a great achievement. We look forward to recovering some of these birds as adults in 2 or 3 years time!



Photos by  
Graeme Taylor



## Images of the Fairy Prion Release Day by Destina Munro



## Summer Guided Day Trips to Mana Island

Response to our guided tours has been somewhat overwhelming and shows that there is certainly a market for tourists to our Island. All 4 trips have been booked out and in some cases a wait list has been generated. The weather has co-operated thus far and the feedback has been very positive. This would seem to indicate that more trips should be scheduled for next summer.

### Your Executive for the 2015/16 year is:

Brian Paget, President; Brian Bell, Vice President; Julie Harrison, Secretary; Dick Fernyhough, Treasurer and a Committee of Sue Chesterfield, Jason Christensen, Linda Kerkmeester, Dale Shirliff, Rob Stone or his representative (DoC Rep), Nathan Rei, (IWI representative) and co-opted Membership Officer, Darlene Adams.

To contact any of the above email them at [contactus@manaisland.org.nz](mailto:contactus@manaisland.org.nz)

Editor: Brian Paget

Hon. Solicitor: Roger Hayman, Hon: Auditor: Ian Hoare

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