



APRIL 2014

**FRIENDS OF MANA ISLAND INC**

**FOMI Newsletter 56**

P O Box 54101, Mana, Porirua, 5247

## Special points of interest:

- Editorial
- Annual Report
- Photo points
- Project Report from Brian Bell
- More Photo points
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Subscription Due for 2014
- Committee 2014-2015

## President's Editorial

Hi

We have now had Easter and the wet, excessively so in some places, and look forward to ANZAC Day, which always seems to be wet.

The AGM was held on 25 March and was attended by a number of you who also heard from Matt Barnett, Partnership Ranger from DOC. The election of Officers and Committee was also held and were all re-elected for another term.

As usual the Annual Report and Accounts were presented and the Report follows as this editorial.

“Good evening and welcome to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

This report covers the Year, March to March of the Committee and includes the Financial Report for the Financial Year ending on 31 December 2013.

This year has been a good year, the Team on the committee are to be congratulated on what they have achieved, in particular Brian Bell, Dale Shirliff and Linda Kerkmeester who have all had projects to manage. Dale who is in Japan skiing, reported on his projects in the last Newsletter. Brian Bell has reported on the relocation of the Gannets and progress on the next release of the Fairy Prion scheduled for next January and this will be published in the next Newsletter. Linda will report on the Bio Diversity project shortly.

Congratulations should also go to the Wairarapa Branch of FOMI, Jason and Darlene who have made giant strides in communicating with and extracting subscriptions from our Membership.

It goes without saying that the financial strength we have at the moment is due to our Sponsors, and Brother International NZ Ltd have for 3 years now contributed to the Shore Plover restoration, and it is no fault of theirs that the numbers are still at a very low level.

OMV NZ Limited have contributed for the last 2 years to the planning for the next release of Fairy Prion, and will hopefully continue that support for the next 2 years. As with any sponsorship it is incumbent on the President to keep them up to date and informed which is accomplished by the occasional meeting, a regular Newsletter and for both a trip to our Island to keep them in touch.

One sponsor popped out of the blue late last year interested in supporting the Whitaker Skink project and we have to thank Mike Thorsen of ERA Environment Solutions NZ Ltd and the contributions made by the Richard and Doreen Evans Charitable Trust, the Nikau Foundation and the Endangered Species Foundation of NZ in order to continue the predator control and pit fall trapping.

And lastly on this front early this month we were advised by the Community Trust of Wellington that we had succeeded in our application for funding the first stage of the Bio Diversity Project.

So all in all we have had a very successful year in raising funds as you can see from the Financial Statement, almost double that raised in the previous year, and even more than that in the first 3 months of this year.

You will also see from our accounts, that we have been singularly unsuccessful in spending that money, which has turned what could have been a fantastic year into just a good one.

I do not intend to harp on the impact of the DOC restructure, but it has certainly continued to restrain our ability to get things done and in particular to get volunteers over to Mana to assist in the restoration and maintenance of the Island.

What we have done is use the last year or two to identify and prepare projects which can happen, moving forward, and get the necessary funding and approvals to be able to carry them out.

We have upgraded our Website into a format which makes it easier to update and add information, and we would welcome any volunteer to take on the role of Webmaster or Mistress.

*Ctd. next page*

## Annual Report (continued)

We also took the opportunity to purchase some GPS capability so we can plot and locate things like Gannets, Nesting boxes or burrows and trees of significance, all with a view to the future. I have also been working with Matt and Jeff from DOC to identify projects or work which will provide volunteer opportunities for small specialist groups to stay on Mana for 3 or 4 days and make a real difference. These tasks will be advertised in the next Newsletter and volunteers will be asked to register. There has been no shortage of visitors to Mana Island, with the advent of Eliot Falconer's boat Predator (an inappropriate name I think!) which offers walk on walk off access, and of a quality to handle 40 visitors at a time. We arranged 4 trips in the past month and did not have to cancel any. It does raise the spectre, however, as to how to handle the potential this raises, not only for DOC Staff but also the facilities and in particular bio-security and visitor information. FOMI has a great deal of display material which would provide a useful start to a visitor centre, but no suitable facility to house it. I have asked Jason, with his immense background of knowledge to prepare some solutions to the Interpretation requirements and to provide some basis for training potential guides. In conclusion, I would like to thank the Committee for their support and commitment, and for the continuing support of you, the membership. Let's hope that we can turn this coming year into a fantastic year.

**Brian Paget**  
President

**Allan Sheppard** has continued to take photos from Island photo points since our last Newsletter covering the North end of the Island.

See page 4 for another view.

Alan has supplied further photos which require a little more work to reduce them to publishable format, but those of you who have participated in the planting program over the past 20 years and have been to Mana Island this year have noticed a huge difference particularly over the past few years.

You may be interested to know that Allan has photographed the Orongoronga Huts which can be seen at [http://www.pbase.com/paure1/orongorongo\\_huts](http://www.pbase.com/paure1/orongorongo_huts)



## FOMI Report for the AGM from Brian Bell

Regrettably Brian Bell was unable to attend the AGM and present his report which now follows:

### FOMI AGM 2014

### Gannet and Fairy Prion project reports

#### Gannets

The outputs of this project have been achieved in that:

- New site chosen, approved and cleared of weeds
- Concrete gannets recovered from old site and damaged birds repaired
- Gannets transferred to new site with help from Ngati Toa Primary School kids
- Solar panel from old site recovered and new sound system installed and operating
- False guano spread around

To date outcomes sought have yet to be achieved as no real gannets have been seen at the new site. Two possible reasons have been suggested for this:

- Not enough guano (white paint) spread around – this will be attended to
- The site is too high as gannets seem to prefer nesting no higher than 60m above sea level

On the second point a new site, a ledge about 2m wide and 20m long lower down and just around to the south east of the present site has been marked out with standards and waits a DOC view on whether to proceed with approval to relocate some birds to this site

#### Fairy Prions

- Planning, budgeting and approvals to translocate 100 Fairy Prion chicks from Stephens Island (Takapourewa) to Mana Island in each of two years over January 2015 and 2016 have been completed
- Total project cost is \$107,800 less in-kind \$41,600 leaves \$76,200 (including GST) to fund
- Key personnel are on-board with Colin Miskelly to lead the translocation team to Stephens Island and Helen Gummer who will supervise the chick feeding on Mana Island. Barry Dent has agreed to build 50 new double nesting boxes this winter. A prototype nesting box has been installed at the agreed site for trial over autumn and winter this year
- Major sponsor, OMV, has agreed to provide \$10,000 (plus GST) per year for 2013 and 2014 after which consideration will be given to further funding of \$25,000 (plus GST) per year for 2015 and 2016. In exchange OMV will have the opportunity to participate in guided day trips, the translocation process, development of a nature trail, and weed and rodent eradication programmes. FOMI will organise these events and ensure OMV are kept up to date with progress. A group of OMV staff visited Mana in February this year, inspected the proposed site and participated in a beach clean-up.

I am pleased to say this project is on track with nesting boxes to be built by July this year.

#### Brian Bell

FOMI Committee  
18 March 2014



## Mana Island Photos taken in 2013 By Allan Sheppard, 1986 and 2013



As mentioned in the Annual Report **Volunteer Opportunities** have been developed in partnership with DOC and the following schedule has been arranged for this year:

**April 28 2014**, Maintenance of the Fluttering Shearwater condominium under supervision of Dale for up to 4 Volunteers from 9 am Monday to midday Thursday 31st, which has been the subject of an email to members recently.

**May date to be confirmed, 2014**, Nursery work to bag on Plants, for up to 6 volunteers and probably 3-4 nights at the Lockwood, transport by DOC. For registration contact Jason, [jasonchristensen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jasonchristensen@xtra.co.nz)

**June date to be confirmed, 2014**, Tree release for up to 6 volunteers and probably 3-4 nights at the Lockwood, transport by DOC. For registration contact Jason, [jasonchristensen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jasonchristensen@xtra.co.nz)

**July date to be confirmed, 2014**, Fairy Prion artificial burrow installation, for up to 6 volunteers and probably 3-4 nights at the Lockwood, transport by DOC. For registration contact Jason, [jasonchristensen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jasonchristensen@xtra.co.nz)

**August date to be confirmed, 2014**, Tree release for up to 6 volunteers and probably 3-4 nights at the Lockwood, transport by DOC. For registration contact Jason, [jasonchristensen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jasonchristensen@xtra.co.nz)

## Subscriptions are due now for the 2014 Calendar Year

You will have received your renewal notice for your Annual Subscription for this year. Financial Members are entitled to vote at the AGM and are given precedence for volunteer opportunities which may be available during the year, see above note.

**Your Committee** for the 2014/15 year is:

Brian Paget, President; Jason Christensen, Vice President; Julie Harrison, Secretary, Dick Fernyhough, Treasurer and a Committee of Brian Bell, Linda Kerkmeester, Dale Shirliff, Irene Swadling, Rob Stone or his representative (DoC Rep), Reina Solomon, (IWI representative ) and a 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

