

FRIENDS OF MANA ISLAND (FOMI) STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020



Our Vision

For Mana Island to be a self-sustaining Cook Strait indigenous ecosystem, and a repository for threatened species (not just those endemic to the island.)

Volunteers and visitors

We encourage people to have a role in volunteering and visiting, including:

- Ongoing restoration of the island
- Scientific observation and recording data about the island's restoration
- Education of groups
- Using the island for recreation and enjoyment.

Stakeholder relationships

Our relationships with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Ngati Toa as tangata whanua are key. We will foster these to ensure the island's future is safe-guarded and enhance the visitor experience.

We will work to maintain an effective working relationship with DOC. We will continue to instigate projects and work with DOC to achieve them as part of our management partnership.

We will work to develop a closer working relationship with Ngati Toa, in the best interests of the ongoing restoration of the island.

Other relationships will be explored and fostered including – Greater Wellington Regional Council biodiversity team, Porirua City Council environmental team, and the Conservation Board.

Access to Mana Island

We are very conscious that access to Mana Island is not guaranteed, either on a daily or yearly basis.

We will investigate the feasibility of a concessionaire option, and securing a long term commercial boat operator arrangement.

Aspirational options include – helicopter access for tourists, possible rebuilding of the jetty (noting that it may present a biosecurity risk).

Ecological restoration projects

Our strategy for undertaking flora and fauna restoration projects is guided by the *Ecological Restoration Plan*, C. Miskelly, 2010 (Table 3 - Recommended restoration actions for Mana Island 2010-2020).

Our restoration strategy is to give priority to completing current projects before new ones are begun. (Refer Project List at Appendix A)

Flora projects

Restoring the Waikoko wetland (new project):

- Undertake a wetland restoration project including - constructing a loop walk with bird hides, signage, new planting, repairing House Valley pond blow-out, creating islands with silt/mud cakes, reinstating 'lizard lounge', weed control and culvert maintenance.
- The wetland to be developed as one integrated project, including fernbird introduction and enhanced habitat for aquatic species such as mudfish.

Threatened plants:

- Develop a threatened plant action plan (as per recommendations in 2016 *Floral Diversity* report).
- Prepare a botanical survey/strategy for threatened plants .
- Develop a specialist team dedicated to threatened species of plants.
- Make endemic species a priority (e.g. Cooks Scurvy grass).
- Consider reintroducing a dedicated threatened plant team.

General planting and weed control:

- Undertake seed collection (as per 2016 *Floral Diversity* report).
- Increase the floral diversity through the introduction of eco-sourced plants, including threatened plants and tree ferns, into microhabitats (as per 2016 *Floral Diversity* report).
- Contract out propagation to selected nurseries, with emphasis on biosecurity.
- Continue lightwelling of canopy trees.
- Continue weed control of priority weed species in all habitats.

Fauna projects

These projects include invertebrates and soil biota (projects identified by Graham Taylor and Colin Miskelly). All projects will be subject to DoC approval and Ngati Toa endorsement.

Invertebrates:

- Investigate methods to increase the diversity of invertebrate communities.
- Collect forest duff / organic material from forest floor of selected bush remnants on mainland. Analyse and remove unwanted organisms, and select others. Redistribute these on the island.
- Investigate recommended species/suitability (as per *Ecological Restoration Plan*).

Birds

- Seabirds - carry out a survey using specially-trained dogs. Conduct annual surveys for 5 years (started in November 2016)
- Seabirds – continue efforts to restore and attract burrow nesting seabirds (fairly prion, fluttering shearwater)
- White-faced storm petrels - translocate to island.
- Tui, bellbird - undertake five-minute bird counts to monitor establishment.
- Maintain records of other vagrant and colonizing species (eg kaka, kereru, red-crowned parakeets)
- Fernbirds – translocate to wetland.
- Tomtits – translocate to island.

Reptiles

- Tuatara – investigate process to start breeding in captivity (30 approx.)
- Skinks
 - Robust skink – reintroduce in consultation with the DoC Tag group.
 - Spotted skink – Completed. Survey was carried out in 2006 - confirmed a self-sustaining population was on Mana Island. May need future monitoring.
- Gecko
 - Green gecko – DoC release into Ngahere enclosure, possibly in 2017.
 - Monitoring survey to be undertaken by Ecogecko. This will record all lizard species with specific attention to the speckled skink and green gecko, to contribute to creating a picture of lizard establishment on the island.
 - Second release of ngahere geckos in February 2017, followed by monitoring every 4-6 weeks.

Monitoring and evaluation

We will monitor and communicate the success of ongoing work, for example, five-minute bird counts, seabird counts, reptile monitoring, introduced bird species.

Key indicators we will use –

Planting:

- lightwelling, tree growth, self-seeded plants in understory
- photopoints – a method for monitoring plant growth/extent
- Victoria University planting survivability results

Reptiles:

- Victoria University lizard monitoring data, planted versus non planted study.
- DoC monitoring results (we will collect these)
- Mary Macintyre's weta study data
- Masters and PHD studies already done on Mana Island

Birds:

- five-minute bird counts
- seabird monitoring results (Helen Gummer's Fluttering Shearwater reports; and Graham Taylor and Colin Miskelly reports)

Promotion and community engagement

FOMI will develop a communications strategy which will identify stakeholders, and how best to communicate and engage with them.

We will look at developing interpretative methods and materials to ensure visitors (actual and through the website) gain an appreciation of the ecological and conservation management on Mana Island.

Reaching young people - We will endeavour to involve school children and youth, through:

- developing educational resources
- practical involvement e.g. kakariki boxes, gannet painting
- connections with Kiwi Conservation Club and Kiwi for Kids.

Website - The website will be updated and made mobile-friendly. Updates will include summary sheets for each species, and the results of projects in a Citizen Science approach.

We will also:

- Create a photo library for promotion purposes.
- Feed into 'Nature Space' data
- Make information available for training for volunteers and school projects

Visitor information centre - FOMI has investigated the feasibility of a Visitor Information Centre at Paremata for Mana Island, with the potential for information and educational features, in conjunction with other agencies. The findings of the feasibility study indicate insufficient support from stakeholders to make it viable at the present time. May revisit this at a later date – with respect to location and management model.

FOMI Executive
Draft
22 February 2017



FRIENDS OF MANA ISLAND Inc.

:
 Summary of recommended tasks to continue the ecological restoration of Mana Island – arising from Strategy Meeting and from **Appendix 5 (p. 34) of Mana Island Restoration Plan – Review 2010**

TASK	Status update	Comment
1. Develop and maintain management partnerships with Ngati Toa as tangata whenua	Ongoing	DoC to facilitate
2. Develop and maintain management partnerships with FOMI	Ongoing	DoC to facilitate
3. Continue suppression of priority weed species in all habitats (see Appendix 2)	Ongoing	DoC contractors/FOMI Volunteers
4. Continue measures to minimise the risk of fire	Ongoing	DoC – mowing tracks to act as firebreaks FOMI - enforce the <i>No Smoking</i> rules on volunteer & guided trips
5. Carry out pest mammal surveillance, contingency and audit requirements as identified in the island biosecurity plan (Brown <i>et al.</i> 2004)	Ongoing	DoC - as required
6. Continue efforts to restore and attract burrow-nesting seabirds	Ongoing – Fairy Prion, Fluttering Shearwater New project – White-faced Storm Petrel	FOMI – Monitoring and burrow maintenance DoC /FOMI/ Ngati Toa –White-faced Storm Petrels translocation 2018
7. Develop and implement a restoration model for Waikoko wetland	Ongoing New project – Wetland enhancement	FOMI / DoC – planting, weeding, silt removal to create island, repair dam DoC / FOMI / Ngati Toa – create walkway, signage, bird hides, clear culverts, dam repair

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	DEVELOP AS AN INTEGRATED PROJECT FOR FUNDING	
8. Increase the floral diversity of forests and wetlands through the introduction of eco-sourced plants (including threatened plants and tree ferns) into appropriate microhabitats.	Ongoing – as outlined in Floral Diversity report Stg 2 (2016)	DoC / FOMI – refer recommended actions including seed collection, propagation and monitoring
9. Investigate methods to increase the diversity of invertebrate communities as forests mature	New project	FOMI to investigate - DoC to provide scientific expertise, FOMI to implement
10. Develop a threatened plant action plan	Ongoing	FOMI to undertake - refer recommended actions in Floral Diversity report – Stg 2
11. Complete translocations of shore plover, whiteheads, bellbirds and rowi	Completed Ongoing monitoring Review	Whiteheads, Bellbirds, ROWI translocations Monitor & undertake 5MBC's Shore Plover removed to Mt Bruce – reintroduce in future?
12. Monitor and confirm establishment of tui and kereru, and maintain records of sightings of other vagrant and colonizing species (e.g. kaka and red-crowned parakeets)	Ongoing	Report sightings & undertake 5MBC's
13. Assess the need for and practicality of further fairy prion chick transfers to Mana Island	Completed	Future review
14. Restore and maintain the decoy gannet colony	Completed	Ongoing maintenance and monitoring
15. Survey for banded rail and crakes around wetlands	Ongoing	Refer item 7
16. Seek support for translocation of Chatham Island snipe	New	FOMI to discuss with Colin Miskelly with Ngati Toa endorsement
17. Develop more efficient methods to survey for green geckos	New	FOMI to seek approval – Eckogecko proposal - Possible next step is to contact the Greens specialists (Dunedin & Northland) about monitoring methods, availability and costs.

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18. Monitor and confirm establishment of Wellington green gecko and speckled skin, and any future reptile translocations	Ongoing	Refer item 17
19. Complete translocations for tuatara, Whitaker's skink and robust skink	New	<p>FOMI to instigate process (with Recovery team) for robust skink</p> <p>FOMI to instigate process to breed Tuatara species from Titi Island to introduce to Mana in 20-30 years or when seabird numbers increase</p> <p>Whitakers not suitable for Mana due to competition from McGregors Skink FOMI to seek final confirmation from DoC that Whitakers won't be introduced.</p>
20. Monitor population spread and contact zones for McGregor's skink, spotted skink and speckled skink	Ongoing	Eckogecko proposal - Seek funding for the project with focus on the speckled and green gecko, but record all species found to build a picture of who lives where. Could be re-worked to include other skinks if needed.
21. Assess the suitability of Waikoko wetland for the introduction of brown mudfish, and introduce if suitable	New	FOMI to seek DoC TAG advice– depends on Wetland restoration success – refer item 7
22. Monitor and confirm establishment of Wellington speargrass weevils	Ongoing	FOMI – Establishment confirmed but need to monitor
23. Translocate flax weevils on Mana to the vicinity of Waikoko wetland	Defer	Requires further research into current effects on flax populations – use of flax propagated from Stephen's Island to be trialled
24. Develop interpretative methods and materials to ensure that visitors (both actual and virtual) gain an appreciation of ecological restoration and conservation management on Mana Island	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Defer & review</p>	<p>FOMI / DoC - Communications Strategy to be developed – Comms Manager on Exec team</p> <p>FOMI/ GOPI / ROTARY/PHT Visitor Information Centre at Paremata. Findings from Business Case feasibility report (January 2017) indicate stakeholder support not forthcoming at this time.</p>

