

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

A 15 strong team (plus Jane the DOC ranger) departed the Mana Marina fuelling wharf at a slightly delayed 1630 h via Glen Cooper & GoMana onboard the Charmaine Karol. With rain forecast the following morning the call was made to cancel Speckled skink pitfalling this night. Following introductions and a H&S briefing an excellent 1900 h Mana Island potluck dinner (and chocolate self-saucing pudding) was had.

After dinner some of the team went up with Annemieke to the Fluttering Shearwater South Point colony to look for adults on the surface and in specific burrows. While not ideal conditions (full moon) there was sufficient cloud, and the northerly winds meant that the site was well protected. Up the North end Will led a MIQ weevil monitoring expedition. Smaller night walks were had around the houses and wetland loop.

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Started the day optimistically at 0800 h only to discover that it was properly pelting down with rain. However, this did not deter the Beach litter team from trying (John, Nate, Olivia, Jenny, and Rebecca), although with the northerly a smaller litter collection occurred. The seabird team (Annemieke, Richard and Felix) went up to the Petrel Station, but with the rain not letting up even after 40 minutes of waiting, they came back down again. The Weevil monitoring and Gannet painting for Saturday was cancelled due to the poor weather & strong northerlies, and the team redistributed amongst other teams. Will, Robin and John went to the FOMI cupboard to check out the archive material and discovered the island's Beach litter clean up kit there! Jaz, Jay, Gillian, and Janel ventured out to ensure that there were clear tracks to 5MBC stations #19 and #18, and I am sure that the 5MBC team will be particularly appreciate of this next trip! By about 1300 h the weather cleared and became a beautiful sunny afternoon. The Beach litter team (Rebecca, Jay, Nate, Olivia, Jenny, and John) this time successfully got to the McGregor Rock site. Will, Gillian Janel, Mel and others set up the speckled skink pitfalls, and the seabird team (now including Jaz) went to the petrel station. The Fairy Prions seem to be having a good year (10) – with so far 8 chicks fledged, 2 chicks still in burrows, and only 1 casualty. Hopefully these last 2 chicks fledge successfully as hoped. All returned to the Lockwood by 1800 h. Had another great Mana Island potluck dinner (with a Strawberry cobbler – thanks to Rebecca).

A team of night adventurers signed up to go for a Tohu gecko hunt (note that this is the nomenclature change for the Southern Duvaucel's gecko as of October 2022). This team (Annemieke, Janel, Jaz, Nate, Melaine, Felix, and Richard) came across a few individuals including juveniles and possibly also one of the translocated founder geckos. It



D-175913 from AB06 – the larger of the two remaining Fairy Prions.



Juvenile Tohu

might be worth investigating getting a project in place to confirm longevity, so long as the original translocation data still exists on the toe-clip marking regime. Other smaller night walks occurred, and Will surveyed for moths around the Lockwood.

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Most of the team started the day at 0800 h, with the Litter group (John, Nate, Olivia, Jay) starting slightly earlier. Will undertook a coastal walk. Jenny made a start on cleaning up some of the Lockwood. Gillian, Richard, Rebecca, Janel, and Robin went up to the Gannet site and undertook some painting – adding in colour to the faces of gannets. Still a bit to go, but excellent to see some good-looking gannets appearing at the site now!



Left: Janel and Richard painting gannets. Right: Rebecca holding a gannet head – some concrete glue will be needed next trip for cranial reconstructions! Images by Gillian.

The seabird crew (Mel, Felix, Jaz and Annemieke) went to the South Point Futtering Shearwater colony to check on fledging and chick progression. Felix was able to gain some useful bird extraction and handling experience which will contribute towards becoming a bird bander in New Zealand. So far everything is also looking good for the fluttering Shearwaters chicks.



The Sunday seabird team left to right: Mel, Felix, Jaz and Annemieke



FOMI Work Trip 26 – 28 January 2024

After lunch and ensuring that folks had the chance to enjoy the island for an hour or so, (particularly as the team had a strong cohort of first timers), The speckled skinks pitfalls were checked (no success), and the usual Lockwood clean occurred. This was then followed up with a brief look for a McGregor's skink on the beach, and the team photo. Glen picked up the group at 1545 h and we arrived and unpacked the boat by 1630 h.

Overall, despite the wet Saturday start, the team was able to still undertake some excellent work, and it was great to catch up and continue to foster the FOMI team spirit. Thank-you all!

Cheers, Annemieke Hamilton



Friends of Mana Island members, approximately top to bottom, left to right:

Annemieke Hamilton, Richard Nicol, Jay Shields, Robin Chesterfield, Gillian Candler, Jaz Hamilton, Felix Tuff, Melaine Stoneham, Jenny Brash, John McKoy.

Rebecca Chrystal, Nate Rigler, Olivia Rees, Will Brockelsby, Janel Hull

Image taken by Jane.