

FOMI Work Trip report 8 – 10 September 2023

We were blessed with beautiful weather over the work trip weekend. We had a full crew of 16. As in the past we had a shared meal on Friday night which half the group contributed to, leaving plenty of food available for Saturday night.

After the meal and a round-table session, with each person introducing themselves, Colin Miskelly and Annemieke led separate groups to flax weevil MIQ and the speaker system at the “petrel station”. Richard Grasse led a group on a local walk in an attempt to spot kiwi. No luck despite hearing kiwi calling.

Saturday morning – its’ already getting lighter much earlier – this allowed us to assemble post breakfast for assigning to groups and the health and safety reminder session. Colin led Brittany, Jamie, Christopher and Colin Munn to do pitfall trapping at the weevil research site. Annemieke, with new responsibilities for leading the seabird banding this summer, led Deb, Philippa, Richard Nichol and Kate Nolan to do further maintenance at the seabird artificial burrow sites. Richard Grasse and Laurie lead a group to weed the wetland track. Once completed Laurie led David, Karen and Helen to clear overhanging branches on the track south of the wool shed.

Dale managed to hitch a ride with Pat in the quad to the weevil site. Next trip we plan to remove the irrigation setup from the site. Pat needed to see the ‘add on’ to the Takahe pipeline used to keep Takahe water troughs filled. The ‘add on’ pipeline was also used to fill the 4000L tank on the site. Source of water for the irrigation system.

On Saturday night Deb led a team of 5 at Weevil MIQ. Richard led a group not far from the Lockwood and encountered a kiwi which walked around very close to the group. Another group of 4 headed to the petrel station to monitor diving petrels.

On Sunday morning we headed off again in glorious weather. All groups covered the tasks they were assigned. Only one exception – the sound system remained a problem. The solar panel powering the system is around 40 years old. It is important to get this system operating since it is 3 years since the final release of the WFSP chicks. An operating sound system will assist in guiding the birds back to the burrows designed for them.

Next trip runs 8-10 December. It was really positive to see the new faces and the great enthusiasm of this group of volunteers and the absolute joy felt to be in such an amazing spot.

Thanks to Pat especially for his offers of and providing of assistance, and Flora and baby Tess, who made a number of appearances.

Report by Dale Shirtliff



The crew