



## FRIENDS OF MANA ISLAND INC.

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT MANA CRUISING CLUB

#### 1. Welcome

**2. Present:** John McKoy, Linda Kerkmeester, Laurie Smith, Philippa Doig, Dale Shirtliff, Helen Gear, Jan Barnes, Heather Evans, Irene Swadling, Dave Anderson, Phil Hartwick, Tracey Harwood, Judy McKoy, Philippa Sargent, Paula van Wijmen, Tom Kneebone, Nick Ryan, Don Newman, Murray Lee, Anne-Marie Booth, Steve Booth, David Alderman, Ady Woods, Peter Hunt, Richard McKenzie, Jo Cross, Peter Possegger, Peter Simpson, Richard Grasse, Ngapari Nui, Ray Ryman, Janet Ryman, Jeff Hall, Paul Ward, Tracey Dyer, Laura Campbell, Dick Fernyhough, Laurie Smith, Andrea Wilson, Gillian Candler, Olaf Wehr-Candler, Grant Timlin, Jason Christensen, Christine Jacobsen, Robyn Procter, Warrick Procter.

**3. Apologies:** Brian Bell, Kath Bell; Rose McCarthy; Syd Moore, Glynis Denz, Anita Baker, Glynis Denz, Robin Chesterfield, Darlene Shepherd, John Stewart, Kay Milton, Colin Munn, Karen Ross, Jim Cox, Matt Durling, Fred Davey, Joan Corry, Julie Harrison, Allan Sheppard, Glennis Sheppard, Claudia Duncan, Jenny Brash

Proposal: That the apologies be accepted

Proposed: Laurie Smith,; Seconded: Jason Christensen

Accepted

#### 4. Minutes of the AGM held on 29 June 2022

The minutes have been circulated and were taken as read.

Proposal: That the minutes of the AGM held on 29 June 2022 be accepted

Proposed: Linda Kerkmeester; seconded: Dick Fernyhough

Accepted

Matters Arising - none

#### 5. Approval and Adoption of the 2022 Performance Report

Dick Fernyhough: Membership has dropped during the last year.

Dick was thanked for his work over the last ten years

Proposal: That the 2022 Performance Report be accepted

Proposed; Irene Swadling; seconded: Dale Shirtliff

Accepted

## 6. President's Report

2022 has been a quiet year for FOMI – although some significant events have occurred. We have tried to continue as much of our work as possible given the limited access that we now have to the Island and I'd like to briefly outline our activities in this report along with making some observations about the future.

I would like to start, however, by offering my grateful thanks for the support that I and FOMI have received over the last year from the executive and from the wider membership. While things have slowed down a bit over the year we have been able to achieve a number of important outcomes, thanks to the persistence of the executive and supporting members. So thank you Linda, Philippa, Dick (see below), Dale, Julie, Jason, Laurie, Richard, Jim and Hannah for your time, positivity, and commitment to FOMI's vision. I would note that Jason Christensen is standing down from the executive after an amazing period of service. More will be said about Jason later this evening.

A particular mention also for Dick. Dick is stepping down as Treasurer this year after 10 years of service. He has brought the financial management of FOMI into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century over a very busy (financially) period, for which I and other Presidents have and will be eternally grateful. Dick has been more than a Treasurer, however, he has been an active guide and a supporter in many other ways including providing careful and considered advice as an executive member. We will miss your calm and considered input to the Executive Dick.

### Access to the Island

Things have slowed down primarily as a result of the April 2021 loss of the services of the Knuckle Charters vessel *Charmaine Karol* to transport work parties and guided trips to the island. The vessel was sold in early 2022 to Glen and Vicky Cooper, who were enthusiastically promoting a new service under the GO MANA brand. Regrettably, in August 2022 they announced that they would be unable to continue with the service and placed the vessel on the market.

This was a great disappointment to FOMI, Ngāti Toa, and DOC, who were all looking forward to the resumption of the great service provided by this vessel. We are resuming our search for a suitable boat to help, at least with work parties. Very limited access to the island for small groups is available using DOC's vessel and the support of private vessels such as *Sargent Pepper* from Mike and Christine Jacobsen.

### Minister of Conservation Visit

In April 2022 FOMI was pleased to accept an invitation from the Minister of Conservation, Hon Kiritapu Allan, to join in the launch, on Mana Island, of *Te Mana Te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan*. The plan builds on *Te Mana o te Taiao – the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy* which was released in 2021 to set the direction for improving New Zealand's biodiversity over the next 30 years.

The Minister noted that Mana Island was chosen as an appropriate place for this launch owing to its spiritual and physical significance to New Zealand's biodiversity journey. She noted that the history of Mana Island demonstrated what could be achieved in future through restoration activities involving DOC, tāngata whenua, and community groups.

The Minister was accompanied by local MPs and representatives from DOC, MPI, Ministry for the Environment, Greater Wellington Regional Council, NZ Conservation Authority, Forest and Bird, and the media. The group was welcomed on to Mana by Ngāti Toa as tāngata whenua. Ngāti Toa CEO Helmut Modlik spoke about the significance of the occasion, their support for the principles of the plan, and how Ngāti Toa saw work on the island proceeding in the future.

## Department of Conservation

FOMI's role is to support the DOC management of the Island and we were pleased to sign a "community agreement" in 2021 which outlined the relationship between us and DOC. As a part of the agreement we spent some time in 2022 developing a work plan to describe our proposed activities and discussing this with DOC. Both parties have acknowledged the restrictions on our activities posed by the very limited access to the Island. Another frustration is the absence of any kind of strategic or management plan for the Island. We were pleased to learn recently that development of such a document is on DOC's work programme and we look forward to contributing as much as we can.

FOMI's main point of contact with DOC is the ranger on the Island Pat Elliott (supported by Flora and now Tess) and I would like to acknowledge his enthusiastic and knowledgeable support for our activities. An important milestone for FOMI was the departure ( to Maud Island) of Rangers Nick and Gen, These two (and sundry additions to the family) were amazingly hardworking and welcoming and were a pleasure to deal with

## Seabird Monitoring

Colin Miskelly and Annemieke Hendriks visited Mana Island for eight days in October to monitor seabird species and came back with good news. They reported the discovery of the first returnee white-faced storm petrels - from the 2019 and 2020 translocations. Three white-faced storm petrels were found, from the 2019 and 2020 translocations. FOMI is pleased to see that the white-faced storm petrels are returning to Mana Island and hopes this trend continues. A subsequent visit in late November did not show any further sign of these birds.

Annemieke and Colin's main activity was monitoring the numbers of fluttering shearwaters. Similar numbers to last year were seen despite a local fluttering shearwater "wreck" in the winter of 2022. The fluttering Shearwater translocations have been a particularly successful programme. Monitoring of fairy prion and diving petrel populations has also continued where possible.

## Working Party Visits

A successful working party of 13 volunteers was completed in mid-June 2022 utilising the *Charmaine Karol*, the first such trip in 18 months. We managed another small working party trip travelling on DOC's vessel in early December. We have been advised that access to the island for working parties using this vessel is to be limited to 4 people every 2 months. In the context of past access this is constrained, and we will be seeking out other opportunities to extend our contribution to the restoration of Mana Island in 2023.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the passing in 2022 of three particularly active members of FOMI, Cathye Haddock, Alan Corry and Dave Alcock. Details of the service of these three can be found in the Newsletter.

Proposal – that the president's report be accepted  
Proposed: John McKoy; seconded: Linda Kerkmeester  
Accepted

## 7. Annual Subscriptions

The Executive recommends annual subscriptions remain at current levels (GST inclusive)  
i.e. Family \$30.00 / Adult \$20.00 / Student \$5.00 / Corporates and Clubs  
\$50.00

Proposed; Jason Christensen; seconded Dick Fernyhough

Accepted

## **8. Election of Officers and Executive**

Call for nominations for the positions of: President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer

Most of the exec are happy to stand again with the exception of Jason and Dick

Nick Ryan was nominated for FOMI treasurer by Dick Fernyhough, seconded by Laurie Smith

Nick Ryan and existing FOMI executive members were elected (John McKoy, Linda Kerkmeester, Philippa Doig, Dale Shirliff, Laurie Smith)

## **9. General Business**

- Call for volunteers who are needed for Litter Monitoring project near Paremata Station. Contact Philippa Doig if interested
- Memorial for Colin Ryder? Committee decided on two donations which have been actioned and a scholarship which has not been actioned as yet.
- Sooty Shearwaters. Annemieke. Banded sooty shearwater chicks 30 chicks last year, knowing that not all were located. There are probably 90-100 chicks this year.
- Life memberships. On behalf of the exec John nominated Dick Fernyhough, Colin Miskelly, and Jason Christensen as Life Members of FOMI.

John spoke in support of Dick's nomination.

Linda spoke in support of Jason's nomination.

John spoke in support of Colin's nomination.

The meeting confirmed nomination of Colin Miskelly, Dick Fernyhough and Jason Christensen as life members.

Meeting ended 8.20pm

We listened to a fascinating presentation by Paul Ward and Jeff Hall of the Capital Kiwi Project and enjoyed light refreshments afterwards.