

EDITORIAL

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart" (Elizabeth Andrews).

"The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers" (Everett Mamor).

Motutapu Restoration Project depends on volunteers. Without them nothing would happen. Some come out to the island every week, some from time to time and others once a year or two. Some come as corporate groups, some as friends and others as individuals. Some are young while others are older.



Some of the wonderful volunteers are young & some are older

The time given up by each volunteer to work on Motutapu, no matter how often or seldom, is highly valued by the Trust.

"Individually we are a drop. Together we are an ocean" (Ryunosake Satora).

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." (Helen Keller)

The success of the Trust's work over the last 30 years is due to the thousands of volunteers who have

participated one way or another. From whacking weeds to collecting, cleaning and sowing native seeds to carefully potting up tiny seedlings; from writing up meeting minutes, to balancing accounts; from applying for funding to writing reports, the list is endless. Everything on the long inventory of tasks undertaken contributes towards the habitat restoration. Every individual matters.

Conservation relies on the generous work of volunteers. On private or public land, throughout the country, thousands of volunteers give their time, energy and knowledge to contribute to restoring New Zealand's special native habitats.

"Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference". (Jane Goodall)

The Motutapu Restoration Trust is truly grateful to everyone who volunteers in some way or other, to progress the restoration project on Motutapu.



A corporate group from Seven Ltd spent the day on the island weeding with core volunteers Stuart, left & Sue, right

VOLUNTEER DAYS

PLEASE NOTE: Public volunteer days take place on some Sundays except public holiday weekends. There are mid-week days as well.

2023/24 Weeding, planting & nursery seasons

Follow our Facebook page for the dates of Sunday volunteer days.

www.facebook.com/ MotutapuRestorationTrust

Alternatively join our email list for public volunteer day notifications by emailing admin@motutapu.org.nz

Numbers are restricted because of limited transport to Motutapu from Rangitoto Wharf. Numbers also depend on the availability of leaders on the day. Because spaces are limited registration is essential. Please register by email or phone:

E: admin@motutapu.org.nz M: 027 516 6416

BE OUR FRIEND!

You don't need to volunteer to make a difference! Be part of this far reaching project by joining the **Friends of Motutapu**.

Through your donation you will be actively contributing to an extraordinary long-term vision – one that will enable future generations to experience what New Zealand might have been like before the arrival of humans.

Contribute to ecological restorationandcarboncapture by supporting the work of the Trust.

Simply fill out the attached form and email admin@ motutapu.org.nz or send to the Motutapu Restoration Trust, PO Box 99

827, Newmarket 1149.

WEEDS, SEEDS OR PLANTS

Volunteers are always needed for weeding, planting or working in the island nursery. For much of the year, the nursery is a hive of activity with plants being pricked out or bagged up. In the winter native trees are planted out in the field. Weed control is arguably the most important part of the restoration programme. It is undertaken to protect the native forest from being smothered by invasive exotic plants. It can be addictive!!

Why not enjoy a day on an island do ing something for conservation?

To ensure a space on the day, volunteers must register at admin@motutapu.org.nz



A group from Auckland Council bagged up lots of native plants

MOTUTAPU

ISLAND INFO

FERRY TIMETABLE

Fx Downtown

Sat, Sun, Public Hols.....9.15am

Mon - Fri......9.30am

Ex Devonport....10 minutes after leaving Downtown

Return to Devonport/Downtown between 4.00pm & 5.00pm

TICKET PRICES

Thanks to sponsorship by Fullers, a special 'Tree planters' fare is available on presentation of a Motutapu volunteer card

Adults: \$30.10 as at Nov 2023 Children: \$15.40 (5-15years inclusive) as at Nov 2023

VOLUNTEER CARD

Collect your volunteer card from the Trust volunteer at the 'meeting place' at least 30 mins before departure

Pre-booking your ferry ticket is essential sue to high demand.

Instructions will be given on registration at admin@motutapu.org.nz

Meeting Place:

Downtown: Under the arch of the Ferry Building, outside gelato shop

Devonport: Ferry departure area at end of wharf

WHAT TO BRING

- · Money for ferry & parking
- · Sturdy footwear
- · Warm clothes, rain coats
- Light loose clothing for weed control to cover arms and legs
- \cdot Lunch and drinking water
- · Any medication required
- · Day backpack (zipped up)
- Clean gardening glovesif you prefer your own

BIOSECURITY CHECKLIST

- Check bags for rodents, insects and other pests prior to boarding ferry
- Carry food in sealed containers
- Bags must be sealed NO PLASTIC BAGS or open top bags
- · Check boots are clean
- · No dogs or domestic animals
- · No plants or seeds

RUBBISH

Pack in, pack out

NO SMOKING OR VAPING

A YEAR OF VOLUNTEER WORK

Weeding: Volunteers have continued to work hard over the past year, dealing with the serious, ever-present, environmental weeds in the Home Bay Forest. The ubiquitous moth plant continues to be the main focus along with rhamnus, woolly nightshade, apple of Sodom, climbing dock, wattle, pampas and blackberry. Over the winter dozens of bags full of moth plant pods have been removed and disposed of in the covered underground pits on the island where they will decompose.

The weed team have been trialling a new phone App to help record where they've been working, sites that need visiting and others that need re-visiting. The weed team has continued the numbering of fence posts around the planted areas using small aluminium tags. These numbered tags will be very useful for identifying places for future reference for weeding, seed collecting and planting.



Nigel, left & Spark volunteers emptying seven bags of moth pods **Planting:** The planting season started with final phase trees such as hinau, matai, puriri, kohekohe, white maire, and tawapou being grounded in amongst the maturing pioneers in Upper Watershed Paddock. Light-welling or clearing spaces for previously planted final phase trees occurred at the same time. After an archaeological survey of Road Loop Paddock, on the western side of the poplar valley cleared the area for planting, pioneer saplings could be grounded in big patches of dying or dead kikuyu from mid-June. These patches were easy to plant in, absorbing 4,000 pioneers. It would be great if more kikuyu dies creating additional spaces to plant in next year! Over 5,000 plants were grounded by the end of the planting season in wetlands and on hillsides.



Volunteers from the Forest Institute planted trees to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III.

Seed Collecting: It hasn't been a great year for collecting seeds with all the rain. Some of the tracks in Auckland where seeds are usually collected have been closed due to kauri dieback or cyclone damage. However, it is pleasing that lots of rewarewa, Knightia excelsa, a favourite of bellbird and tui, has been collected. Griselinia littoralis has been added to the seed stock along with lots of houpara, Pseudopanax lessonii, a very useful pioneer species.

Reid Homestead: On public holiday weekends during the year, volunteers have manned the Homestead

to enable it to be open for campers and boaties for refreshments and for promotion of the restoration work.



Two old pallets provide storage space for nursery equipment

Nursery: Plant production has been the focus in the nursery over the past year. Hundreds of native seedlings have been lovingly pricked out or bagged up. It is exciting to see tiny rimu seedlings from rimu seeds collected in 2021, popping up in a seed tray in the glasshouse. Tiny kahikatea seedlings have also popped up in seed trays.

Maintenance such as gutter clearing, weeding, cleaning, repairing and sorting has also occurred. The Trust is delighted to have some very handy volunteers who have been doing lots of odd jobs around the nursery and beyond. A couple of free pallets have been used to create storage space for equipment such as brooms, rakes, spades etc.

Track Maintenance: Volunteers have worked hard to clear the Loop Track from the end of Watershed Paddock down to the bridge at the bottom of Monument Paddock. They have also maintained the drains along the side.



Volunteers from ASB helping with the Loop Track maintenance

Corporate Volunteer Days: Delta Insurance, Anderson Lloyd, Qrious, Les Mills, ASB, Westpac, Spark, Institute of Forestry, Southern Cross Travel, Metis Consultants, Cognizant, Beca, BNZ, Kauri 2000, Pukekohe Tramping Club, Seven Ltd, Auckland Council

The Trust is extremely grateful to all those individuals, groups and especially our dedicated regular core volunteers who continue to plant, weed, propagate and maintain throughout the year.



Plum like taraire fruit was collected in the autumn

NEW TRUSTEE - JENNY MAIDMENT

Since 2017, Jenny has been volunteering regularly on Motutapu, working in the field (weeding, planting and seed collecting) or working in the nursery. She is dedicated to doing what she can to care for New Zealand's special flora and fauna on the pest-free island of Motutapu. Jenny is delighted to be able to participate in a habitat restoration project run by volunteers. With her interest in growing things, she also brings practical skills from previous roles in the plant nursery trade, teaching and running her own business. Jenny enjoys working with and leading the Trust's many volunteers.

The Trust looks forward to continuing to work with Jenny in the conservation project



Jenny Maidment planting a puahou in Road Loop Paddock

NATHALIE MORRIS - NEW TRUSTEE

Long time volunteer and sponsor, Nathalie Morris has joined the Trust. Since planting trees in the Home Bay Forest in the 1990s she has supported the work of the Trust by sponsoring an on-line data base and hosting the first website through her marketing software business, Ubiquity back in 2003. She brings twenty five years of invaluable skills from her business career to the table. Nathalie is keen to get involved in the work of the Trust both on and off the island. As a member of the Institute of Directors she also contributes a governance focus to the Trust.

It has been a great pleasure working with her over the years and the Trust looks forward to her continuing involvement in the restoration project.



New trustee, Nathalie Morris enjoying her day cutting down gorse in a newly planted area in Watershed Paddock

TO THE MOTU AND BACK

Save the Kiwi continues to work on the recovery of Coromandel brown kiwi. Kiwi eggs are lifted from nests in the Hauraki-Coromandel region from September until April and transported by volunteer couriers to The Crombie Lockwood Burrow at Wairakei Golf + Sanctuary in Taupō where they hatch. Once they are one month old they are microchipped and released onto Rotoroa Island where they stay until they are mustered. They are then transferred across to Motutapu as a founder for the Coromandel brown kiwi kōhanga. This is a two-way translocation. The offspring of the founders will be mustered in the future to help supplement the existing population in the Hauraki-Coromandel region with the ultimate aim that kiwi are present across their historic distribution, in abundance.

In March and April of this year, nine adult, two sub-adult and four kiwi chicks were released onto Motutapu after being mustered on Rotoroa. Since the first translocation in 2012, 124 founders have been released on Motutapu. The really good news is that 58 sires are represented in this population – the genetics of which, is wide. To our knowledge, only two of these founders have died - one fell off a cliff

and the other died of poor health. September is the start of the next round of egg and bird movements when volunteer couriers are needed. If anyone is interested in being a kiwi courier, please contact Paula at coromandel@savethekiwi.nz. Big thanks to the individuals and groups who have contributed to this kaupapa thus far, with special acknowledgement of where the birds have come from: Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group, Kapowai Kiwi Group, Project Kiwi Trust, Moehau Environment Group, Thames Coast Kiwi Care Group, Department of Conservation Whitianga and Hauraki Offices and The Rotoroa Island Trust.



Diane Prince, Save the Kiwi, with a kiwi during the Rotoroa muster

MID-WEEK VOLUNTEERING

Free during the week? Why not join our volunteers who work on Motutapu mid-week? Wednesday is the main day but sometimes there are opportunities on other days as well. The work includes propagating native seedlings in the island nursery, planting trees in the winter, or controlling invasive weeds, a potentially addictive pastime for some volunteers! From time-to-time other opportunities crop up such

as maintenance and track clearance. Come out and leave the city behind, enjoy the birdsong while working in the native bush with other like-minded people and achieve something worthwhile with our regular mid-week volunteers.

To join the team email admin@motutapu.org.nz or phone Bridget: 0274 854 173.

IN BRIEF

DONATIONS KAURI 2000

Alison Henry and Rose Morcom from Kauri 2000 organised a group of volunteers from the BNZ to plant trees on Motutapu in August. Alison was involved in the restoration work on the island in the 1990s and noticed huge changes since then. She found it hard to believe the astounding progress after three decades of dedication by hundreds of volunteers. The Trust is very grateful that Kauri 2000 has made a generous donation to the propagation of plants and to support the restoration programme generally.



Alison Henry, chair of Kauri 2000 planting trees in Road Loop Paddock

ORIGIN ARCHAEOLOGY

The Trust is very grateful to Origin Archaeology for sponsoring an archaeological survey of Road Loop Paddock (11 hectares) in time for the pioneer planting season in June. Thanks to Charlotte Judge, who has over 20 years of extensive experience as a consultant archaeologist, the area was surveyed and signed off as able to be planted with no evidence of any archaeological sites.

Because Motutapu has over 300 recorded archaeological sites it is necessary to complete a survey before digging in the ground. The Trust is extremely grateful to Charlotte for the survey and for sponsoring it.



Charlotte with her probe checking for any signs of archaeological sites

IN BRIEF

"Plant a tree and get oxygen for free."

Unknown

PUB CHARITY FUNDING

Funding from Pub Charity Ltd (PCL) has made a significant difference to our health and safety practice. Earlier this year, eight core volunteers undertook first aid training funded by PCL. Three AEDs or defibrillators were purchased as well An AFD is now located in each of the two vehicles which transport volunteers across the islands. This means that an AED is more easily accessible if required for those working in the field or in the nursery. Check out the location of the AEDs next time you join a volunteer day. The Trust is hugely grateful to PCL for this funding.



HEAT PUMP

In June, the Trust was very grateful to receive funding from PCL again, to purchase a heat pump for School House to improve the living conditions of this old building.



CLEANING REID HOMESTEAD

After such an unusually damp and windy year the paintwork on the historic Reid Homestead was in need of a thorough clean. With rain and wind blowing in from the east for months on end, there was an unusual amount of mould and dirt on the newly painted exterior of the building. Thanks to volunteers, Susan Thomas and Aeron Baron, who painted the homestead last year, the outside of the house has had a thorough clean.

WEED CONTROL IN CENTRAL GULLY



Bags & bags of moth plant pods were disposed of in the weed pit

With a grant of \$20,000 from the Department of Conservation Community Fund, the Trust arranged for contractors, Free the Tree from Waiheke to spend four days, in April, working in Central Gully, an area adjacent to the main planting area in Home Bay. This high ecological value gully has been plagued by moth plant and other weeds for over thirty years so it is so important that we continue to try and keep them under control. The team of seven worked very hard in difficult terrain dealing with a variety of environmental pest plants with a focus on moth plant, Argentinian pampas grass, rhamnus and woolly nightshade - high impact, invasive, pest plant species.

The object was to remove as many of these invasive pest plant species as possible from a specific area in Central Gully to help protect the Gully, adjacent planting sites established by volunteers over many years and the wider Inner Hauraki Gulf islands from threats to native biodiversity. The dense infestations of moth plant produced between ten and twenty bags of moth plant seed pods daily. The Trust and the contractors selected a worksite of about 15,000 sq m with steep bushy drops on either side of a ridge.

The Trust is very grateful to Free the Tree for their hard work and looks forward to more teams on the island.



Weed contractors dealing with wattle, moth plant & pampas grass

TRUSTEE RETIRES - JANE MOORE

After thirteen years of involvement on the Trust, Jane Moore has retired. She has made a big contribution to the Trust's work particularly through fundraising. In 2012 and 2016 she helped organise two very sucessful fundraising art auctions held at the Northern Club. At each auction a beautiful coloured pencil drawing of a takahe, donated by Don Binney was auctioned along with other beautiful New Zealand art work.

Jane was also responsible for the acquistion of two very practical, new vehicles, a single cab and double cab Amarok through sponsorship by the Giltrap Group. These vehicles have played a major role in the ecological restoration by transporting volunteers, plants, weed seed pods and other gear across the island.

Jane has also been a great supporter of the Trust's major

fundraiser, the DUAL and participated in the event herself. The Trust is very grateful for her very valuable contribution to the Trust's work over many years.



Trustees, Alastair Bell left & Jane Moore took part in the 2013 DUAL

16TH ANNUAL BIRD SURVEY

In early October, in average weather, eight members of the Birds New Zealand (The Ornithological Society of NZ) spent the weekend participating in the 16th annual bird survey on Motutapu. Out of sixty-eight species recorded since the surveys began in 2007, fifty were observed again this year. For unknown reasons the counts of many species were low this time. Maybe the unusually wet weather over the past year or the average weather over the weekend had an effect.

Kereru, kingfisher, NZ dotterel, and tui have increased significantly since 2007. Self-introduced bellbird and kakariki plus translocated saddleback and whitehead have also increased significantly since their arrival. Some native and introduced species haven't increased since 2007 due to a variety of reasons such as competition between species or changing habitat. Two endemic species, NZ dabchick and NZ scaup were observed for the first time on Motutapu in 2022

and the dabchick was seen again in 2023. A special thank you to lan McLean for organising the annual survey, to Eric Spurr for analysing the data and to the rest of the OSNZ members for spending two days counting birds on Motutapu.



A NZ dabchick was seen on Motutapu for the first time in 2022

WILDLIFE NOTES



A young tuturuatu on a beach on the west coast of Motutapu

Tuturuatu (Shore Plover): It has been a very busy year on Motutapu for the nationally critical tuturuatu (shore plover). On arrival at the end of January and early February, thirteen birds were put into an aviary at West Point only to be evacuated just before Cyclone Gabrielle arrived. The aviaries were quickly taken down and secured while the birds were placed in "puppy pens" in one of the houses on Motutapu due to concern with forecast high winds and heavy rain. Several days later they were put back into the aviary again! Sadly, one bird died from a head trauma once back in the aviary. The remaining twelve tuturuatu were vaccinated and transmitters were attached to ten of them. On February 12th the twelve plovers were finally released onto the beach at West Point.

Another seven tuturuatu that arrived in February and March were put into a second aviary where they were vaccinated and four had transmitters attached. These seven birds were released on April 5th. Since then, of the nineteen released, eight have been seen on a regular basis on Motutapu with two of them pairing up. Hopefully they will enjoy their new surroundings and stay on Motutapu, breed, and



A young tuturuatu soon after being released on Motutapu



A kereru eating the eaves of kowhai plants in the nursery

not wander as did one tuturuatu that was released in 2022. In September, she flew to the Manawatū Estuary and back to Motutapu, a journey of 800km! All the birds were raised at the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust Trust except one that was raised at Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre.

A special thank you to Hazel Speed (DOC) for her total dedication to these critically threatened birds. Thank you also to tuturuatu expert, Mireille Hicks for her help with the plovers and to DOC volunteers who helped with the aviaries.

Takahē: Resident on Motutapu currently, are twenty-two takahē made up of nine pairs plus two adults and two chicks that hatched at the end of last year. The birds are often seen in various parts of the island as they forage for food. In April, thirteen takahe were caught and another nine in August so that Auckland Zoo staff and Hazel Speed could put on new transmitters, replace old colour bands, as well as band the chicks and an unbanded adult. The health checks that were also undertaken showed that most were in good health but a few were a bit light in weight.



A takahe seen wandering near the Red Barn in Home Bay

THE JOHN WEST DUAL 2024

After a break in 2022 and 2023, it is great news that the 13th DUAL will be held on April 6th 2024, With a new sponsor, John West, this unique occasion is a great opportunity to participate in an event staged on the scenic islands of Rangitoto and Motutapu. Partaking in this event, organised in partnership with *total sport*, a NZ-based event management company, contributes directly to the ecological restoration of Motutapu. With a range of courses and kids activities, it is a great day out for the whole family. A 6km and 11km run/walk, as well as a 21km and a 31km run/walk. Also there are 22km and 34km mountain bike rides so lots of options. for everyone.

Numbers will be limited, so do mark your diaries now and register at www.thedual.co.nz for the John West DUAL 2024. If competing isn't for you why not volunteer to help run the event either as a marshal or at the "base camp" in Home Bay. This is a great way to be part of this fun day on an Hauraki Gulf island. Just email volunteerdual@motutapu.org.nz.



A cyclist racing on a mountain bike in the 2021 DUAL on Motutapu

IN BRIEF

A SEASON OF CYCLONES

The past year has seen record amounts of rainfall across Motutapu from subtropical lows, atmospheric rivers and ex-tropical cyclones. Fortunately the rainfall damage was not as devastating as Cyclone Debbie's in 2017 but a slip on the Rotary Centennial Walkway has closed the track until it can be fixed and the useful access road through Central Gully has been closed indefinintely due to deep rutting from very heavy rain. It was a shame that the wetlands that were going to be planted in the spring and summer months were too wet due to a high water table from the relentless rain. On a positive note the copious amounts of rain will be helpful for the native plants grounded over the past few years. However, the relentless rain will have benefitted the many environmental weeds growing on the island!



The slip on the Rotary Walkway Motutapu Restoration Trust PO Box 99 827,

Newmarket, Auckland 1149

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MotutapuRestorationTrust



VOLUNTEERS @ WORK"If our hopes of building a better & safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever". Koffi Annan



A hard-working group of volunteers from Kauri 2000 planted trees in Road Loop Paddock above the Poplar Valley wetland



Long-term volunteer, Neil Lorimer helping deliver plants ready to be grounded in Road Loop Paddock on a planting day



Trust Chair, Patrick Conor planting an akeake during the winter



Organised by volunteer, Phillip La Roche, far right, this group from Beca planted trees in the Road Loop Paddock in August



One of many groups of volunteers from the ASB who joined us on volunteer days. This group planted in Road Loop.



Richard Hall, left & Geoff Williams with a large sack full of moth plant pods



From left, regular volunteers Graeme, Leone, Jenny, Geoff, Louise, Bridget & Rick after a day of planting & weeding



A group of volunteers from Trust sponsor Qrious, spent the day planting and weeding in Watershed Paddock



Phillip La Roche deals with gorse in a planting area in Watershed Paddock



Tracey & Reza Alai planted trees on the slopes above the Poplar Wetland and below the Road Loop Paddock in the winter



Mid-weeker volunteer, Christina Chan, enjoys working in the nursery bagging up little seedlings along with lots of other jobs



Volunteers Gaynor, left & Nigel, right with moth plant pods ready for the pit



From left, Annette, Richard, Dani & Peter planted pioneer trees on the slopes below Road Loop Paddock in August



From left, Nigel, Stuart, Leone, Gary, Trish, Bill & Sue with a big pile of seed pods collected from big moth plant infestations



Volunteers from Les Mills holding plants they have bagged up in the nursery

MOTUTAPU RESTORATION TRUST

FRIEND & VOLUNTEER FORM

You can also join as a Friend or register as a volunteer on the website www.motutapu.org.nz

CONTACT DETAILS

Name: (Mr/Mrs/Ms/other)			Date:
Address (please include post cod	e)		
Email:			
Telephone:			
Telephone number of next of kin:			
Do you want to receive E-News?	Yes No		
How did you hear about us?			
VOLUNTEER: IT'S	FUN AND YOU'L	L BE HELPING TO MAK	E A HUGE DIFFERENCE
Planting trees	Working in the nurse	ry Fundraising	
Weed busting	Volunteer/marshal a	t the Dual Fencing	
Property maintenance	Helping at Reid Home	estead	
When?	Sundays	Midweek	
How often?	Regularly	From time to time	Once a year
When can we contact you?	Monthly	Start of each season	Never
BECOME OUR FRI	END		
ANNUAL DONATION: (Receipts wi	ll be issued for all donations. A	All donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible	9)
Single @ \$35 per year	\$		
Double/Family/Group @ \$45	per year \$		
DONATE \$10 A TR	FF		
HOW MANY TREES?	TOTAL \$		
ADDITIONAL DONATION	\$		
GRAND TOTAL	\$		
PAYMENT:			
INTERNET BANKING: ASB Bank Ac	count No. 12 3017 0515442 00 (Surname and phone no. in reference field)	
CREDIT CARD: Visa Card / Ma	astercard Card		
Card No:			
Valid from:	(mm/yy) Valid til:	(mm/yy)	
Cardholder name:			
Signature:			

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO:

Motutapu Restoration Trust, PO Box 99 827, Newmarket, Auckland 1149

or email admin@motutapu.org.nz

For further information about the Friends or volunteering please email to: admin@motutapu.org.nz

SPONSORS

The Trust's Strategic Partners and Sponors

The Motutapu Restoration Trust's partners and sponsors are our enablers. We sincerely thank them all for supporting the restoration project. The Trust is enormously appreciative of the funding and in-kind support it receives from its sponsors and partners. They are all incredibly generous.































Auckland City Toyota

























