

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MOTUORA RESTORATION SOCIETY HELD AT  
Red Cross Hall, Silverdale, on 28 May 2017**

**Welcome:** members were welcomed to the meeting.

**Apologies:** Helen Lindsay, Les Buckton, Marlene Buckton, Robin Gardiner-Gee, Kay Milton, Simon and Morag Fordham, Kate Paulin and Wendy John.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the 2016 AGM confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

Kevin Hawkins/Nattu Nataraj : Carried.

**The Treasurer's Report** was circulated. Nattu reported we have had a complete year with no island management income or expenses and that net income was \$11k compared to a loss of \$22k last year. Sponsorship and a generous bequest as well as award prize money had helped maintain a healthy position. Nattu reported that the Society's finances are in a sound condition for the immediate future.

Report approved. Bruce Ross/Ray Lowe : Carried

**Chairman's Annual Report** John spoke on significant upheavals in our partnership with DOC as the department goes through another reorganisation and appointment of new staff. However it had been a welcome period of several months with Dave Jenkins returning as Ranger and the recent appointment of Hvar Jackson.

Trips to the island are now targeted to specific tasks. As the project matures we have had to change the way we organise our volunteer effort to better match the workload on the Island. Nursery and planting management, seabird monitoring and infrastructure work are all now carried out by teams of volunteers each with a dedicated leader. Landing and leaving the island remains a challenge. Many thanks are due to Kawau Water Taxi skippers for their assistance.

*Seabirds*

- First island-born Pycroft's petrel egg and chick. Pycroft's petrel chicks were transferred from Whakau/Red Mercury in 2013, 2014 and 2015. Birds from the March 2013 transfer first returned in December 2015/January 2016 when four birds formed two pairs and occupied two of our artificial nest boxes. This season (2016/17) those four birds were back in the same boxes and one pair produced the chick. Sadly, it perished a week or two before it was due to fledge after a period of very wet weather.  
In 2015/16 we identified six individuals, while this season (2016/17) four of those six were found again together with five new birds from the 2013 transfer and our first two from the 2014 transfer. Eight of these eleven birds were occupying nest boxes.
- For the second successive year we had two nesting pairs of fluttering shearwaters. Two chicks were raised.
- Diving petrels continue to use inaccessible sites down the cliff near to the release site which makes it impossible to monitor.
- At the start of the season possibly 19 pairs of gannets were nesting and from that we had a best count of 12 chicks. Unfortunately, none of the chicks survived to fledge. An unusual and unexplained outcome.

### *Overall achievements*

- Our nursery work and planting programme has suffered a slight hiatus mostly due to the absence of an Island Manager. Thankfully Colin Cordes and Jan Velvin have stepped up to lead this aspect of our work. Kevin Hawkins continues to manage infrastructure aspects.
- Our first Island-born wetapunga from the Pohutukawa Bay release site (from the translocation in April and June 2014)
- An Award for Excellence in the large restoration projects section from the Australasian Society for Environmental Restoration
- The automatic watering system for the nursery was used to ensure adequate watering during periods when there was no Ranger on the Island
- Monitoring of Duvaucel's geckos continued by Manu Barry and her team
- Other reptile monitoring was completed by our members
- Three newsletters were published, our website was regularly updated and news was distributed by e-mails
- Continuation of our weeding control programme, overseen by Helen Lindsay. And once again we were fortunate to have the services of Richard Sharp and his team to do the cliff abseiling.
- Authorisation of a new Wildlife Authority Licence for long-term monitoring of reptiles
- Cyclone Debbie caused a landslip which blocked the main track from Home Bay. It was dug away by volunteers sufficiently to allow access by the quad bike. Later a tractor-digger from Kawau was brought across by barge to finish the job
- Home Bay, including the shore skink monitoring sites, is suffering from tidal erosion.
- Two Water tanks were moved up the hill and relocated to the new site, and two tanks from the top relocated down to the new site.

### *Supporters*

Special thanks are due to principal sponsor Bridgestone New Zealand Ltd and donors Heseltine Trust, Simon Chamberlin, Sheila Coombs and Auckland Council. Also thanks to Kawau Cruises for subsidised cost of water taxis. Lois McCracken, one of our early members who passed away last year, left a generous bequest to Motuora.

Many thanks to our Members and the host of enthusiastic volunteers who gave their time to advance the project.

### *Future*

We are about to apply for a new lease for the nursery area and potentially for new volunteer accommodation.

There is an on-going Treaty Settlement Process between Government and iwi. We are fortunate to have enthusiastic support of iwi for restoration on the island and we believe this is likely to continue.

It is now 10 years since publication of the Motuora Native Species Restoration Plan and we have decided to organise a review of the plan and progress made.

Report approved – Roger Harker/Colin Cordes : carried

**Election of Officers and Committee Members:**

The following were proposed, seconded and elected unopposed for the coming year:

Chairperson – John Stewart

Treasurer – Nattu Nataraj

Secretary – Liz Norquay

Committee: Les Buckton, Colin Cordes, Helen Lindsay, Bruce Ross, Kevin Hawkins and Roger Harker.

**Subscriptions for the 2017/2018 Year:** It was proposed that these remain at \$25 for adults, families and groups, and \$5 for students.

Nattu Nataraj/ Nick Harker: Carried

**General Business**

Our Management Agreement with the Department of Conservation has expired but we have agreed with DOC to continue working as if the relevant parts of the old agreement were still in place.

Some complications have arisen with payment of the DOC CCP Fund grant for weeding in 2016-17. Delays at the Department mean that the work has already been completed before the final agreement is signed off. Negotiations continue in hope of obtaining the promised grant.

Major storm damage and control of the spread of Myrtle rust are taking the attention of DOC region wide.

The meeting concluded at 2.15pm.

Following the formal meeting members enjoyed a presentation from John Stewart on the translocation of Pycroft's Petrels to Motuora and the successes of the project to date.