

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE MOTUORA RESTORATION SOCIETY  
held at Old Library, Silverdale and on Zoom  
on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Present:** John Stewart, Roger Harker, Nattu Nataraj, Kevin Hawkins, Colin Cordes, Kay Milton, Liz Norquay, Karin Gouldstone, Eva Fernandez, Helen Lindsay, Nick Harker, Tim Harker, Dave Jenkins, Alex Wilson, Kit Brown, Gwenda Pulham and Trevor Lyons  
Those attending in person and by Zoom were welcomed to the meeting and business got underway at 7.30pm.

**Apologies:** Marlene Buckton, Karyn and Tony Hoksbergen, Simon Chamberlin, Simon and Morag Fordham, Wendy John and Murray Faulkner.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 AGM confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

John Stewart/Nattu Nataraj: Carried

**The Treasurer's Report**

Nattu Nataraj summarised his report. Hard copy at the meeting.

Income for the year was \$16,128.70 compared to \$23,674.11 last year. Income received comprising of donations and grants totalling \$14,175.00 plus Membership subscriptions \$1,739.14 which was marginally less than last year, and \$214.56 interest received.

Total expenses were less than previous year as there was no weed control. Main costs were Transport & Freight \$5,303.87, Insurance \$3,046.49 and Depreciation \$12,821.00. The net deficit at year end was \$7,651.86. Major donations during the year from M. Buckton and Chisholm Whitney Charitable Trust.

With reserves of just over \$100k in the bank the Society's finances are on a reasonably strong footing for the next couple of years.

Treasurers Report approved.

Nattu Nataraj /Helen Lindsay: Carried

**Chairperson's Annual Report**

John Stewart's report was available at the meeting and on the Motuora Restoration Website.

- The year was disrupted by the impacts of Covid-19, however when we were able to restart visits to the Island and stay overnight from mid-November, volunteers found the new cabins to be a great success. Our building contractor Craig has installed supporting framework for a roof over the cabins we hope to complete the installation of steel roofing before the end of this year. We now have a cooking space on the deck outside the potting shed thanks to a generous donation of a purpose-built stainless-steel worktop from Cooke Industries.
- During the year we saw a very significant change in personnel arrangements. After several years of lobbying, we were delighted that Kat Lane, DOC Operations Manager, found a way to fund what is essentially a full-time 12-month ranger position on the Island. In winter, when needed, the ranger may help out on Kawau, but we don't expect this to be too disruptive. Vonny Sprey decided that she would like to move to her property in Marlborough so we welcomed new ranger Al Fleming to the Island around Christmas time 2021 and he is settling in well. I'd like to acknowledge the terrific dedication and hard work put in by Vonny during her tenure on the Motuora. We were able to attend our scheduled quarterly meetings, but these were on-line rather than in person. Emma Kearney is Acting Operations Manager during Kat Lane's maternity absence.
- We've been aiming to restart our plant nursery on the Island and the appointment of a full-time ranger is a key element in making progress as the seedlings need daily attention. Another difficulty is the current ban on digging anywhere on the Island to avoid the potential of disturbing archaeological remains. DOC Senior Heritage Ranger Caleb Hamilton visited the island and walked some of our

planting blocks to assess the likelihood of them having been used by the early Māori inhabitants. He reported back to the Society giving indications of areas not to disturb leaving us free to plant in other areas subject to Accidental Discovery Protocol which sets out how to proceed if we find anything.

- Weed control. Vonny, and later, Al worked with Helen Lindsay to plan and execute our weed monitoring and control with help from contractor Richard Sharp. The review of our weeding strategy mentioned in my last report is underway.
- Seabird monitoring. Because of our late start to the monitoring season, we missed most of the first clutches of little penguins. Nine nests in the 21 monitored penguin boxes produced nine chicks
- Dotterels had a reasonable season with perhaps seven chicks from multiple nesting attempts by three or four pairs.
- Only four or five gannets attended the colony site this season. One pair laid produced an egg which hatched and the chick is believed to have fledged.
- We had four fluttering shearwater pairs using the nest boxes and four chicks were fledged
- We were unable to visit the Island during the diving petrel season and so have no records to report. The sound system was moved to a new site on a high cliff north of Still Bay.
- Thirty-nine individual Pycroft's petrel adults were recorded but there must have been at least two more as only one parent was recorded for two of the successful breeding attempts. The previous three years have had 36, 38 and 37 records. Thirteen eggs were laid, 9 hatched and all fledged. This is unusual for Motuora where all the eggs laid in the previous three seasons have led to fledged chicks. In some cases, eggs were found displaced from the nest cup, and even in the entrance tunnel. This may have been due to fighting among birds for occupancy even though there are plenty of unused boxes. Five new birds were recorded: one translocated chick from 2015; two unbanded birds which had hatched and fledged from Motuora in April 2018 and April 2019. These are the first of the chicks hatched on Motuora to return and so is a great milestone to reach, and it will be even better when one of them produces a chick. We had records of birds in 23 of our 101 boxes and signs of entry in about another dozen. For the first time we recorded three birds digging natural burrows.
  
- Lizards. An application to the Department for a Wildlife Handling Permit has been lodged to allow continued monitoring of translocated geckos and skinks. The next project is in the hands of Roger, Nick and Tim Harker who are assessing a potential gecko translocation.
  
- Other notable activities during the year included:
  - three newsletters were published, and other news distributed by e-mail
  - our health and safety plans and programme were updated, and we have had another incident-free year
  - work continues to resolve the problems on- intermittent issues with our website and membership database

#### Sponsors and donors

Marleen Buckton

Foundation North

The Chisholm Whitney Charitable Trust

We thank Kawau Cruises for subsidised cost of water taxis and for their reliable and helpful service to and from the Island.

Thanks are due to your committee, to the staff at DOC, to our funders, contractors, members and last but not least dedicated volunteers who put in many hours of effort to further the restoration of Motuora.

Chairpersons Report for 21/22 was approved.

Questions were put by attendees on the following.

Viewing sites to remain as planned and will be unchanged by succession planting.

Rahui currently in place on moving wildlife to Hauraki Gulf Islands.

Chisholm Whitney donation used for transport. Auckland Council prefer direct their grant at weeding.

Helen Lindsay/Kevin Hawkins: 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: Helen Lindsay, Roger Harker, Kevin Hawkins, Eva Fernandez, Dave Jenkins and Alex Wilson.

Kit Brown/ Kay Milton Carried

**Subscriptions for the 2022/2023 Year:**

John Stewart spoke in favour of retaining a reasonably low subscription and it was proposed that these remain at \$25 for adults, families and groups, and \$5 for students.

Karin Gouldstone/Eva Fernandez: Carried

**General Business**

**Closure**

Thanks to Kay Milton for managing the Zoom meeting arrangements. There being no items of general business the formal part of the meeting closed at 8:15pm.