

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE MOTUORA RESTORATION SOCIETY  
held at Old Library, Silverdale and on Zoom  
on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Present:** John Stewart, Kevin Hawkins, Kay Milton, Karin Gouldstone, Helen Lindsay, Tim Harker, Dave Jenkins, Alex Wilson, Rob Gouldstone, Al Fleming, Suzanne Franklin.

Those attending in person and by Zoom were welcomed to the meeting and business got underway at 8 pm.

**Apologies:** Roger Harker, Nattu Nataraj, Liz Norquay, Nick Harker, Kit Brown, Gwenda Pulham, Chris Green.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 AGM were confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

Kevin Hawkins/Kay Milton: Carried

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**The Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of our Treasurer, Nattu Nataraj, John summarised his report. Copies were available at the meeting and have been posted on the Society's website.

Income for the year was \$266,277 compared to \$16,129 last year. The major item of income was a bequest from the estate of Sheila Coombs of \$241,972. Membership subscriptions totalled \$1,913 and there was \$2,366 in interest.

Total expenses were up from last year but back to a more customary level with the inclusion of weed control costs (not incurred the previous year). The main costs were weed control \$15,760, transport & freight \$9,997, insurance \$3,139, and depreciation \$10,546.

The net gain at year end was \$224,255.

In addition to the Coombs bequest, we had a significant donation during the year from Simon Chamberlin and a grant from Auckland Council's Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grant Programme.

With reserves of just over \$330k in the bank the Society's finances are on a strong footing for the next several years.

Treasurers Report approved.

Helen Lindsay/Kay Milton: Carried

**Chairperson's Annual Report**

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

- The year was scarcely disrupted by the impacts of Covid-19, though there was some disruption from cyclone Gabrielle and heavy rain in early 2023. Regular monthly work trips, now on Saturdays, were successful with good input and engagement from volunteers and members.
- Al Fleming our DOC ranger has now been in post for 17 months and is making a great contribution on the Island, especially on biosecurity measures.
- Work on the cabins is finally complete and our plant nursery has been renovated and is in operation.
- A review of our Restoration Plan (2007) has commenced.
- Since last year's report two of our long-term supporters, Sheila Coombs and Simon Chamberlin have passed away.
- Our thanks go to Emma Kearney, acting operations manager while Kat Lane was away, and to all the DOC team. Kat has returned in May 2023.
- The only translocations during the year were 20 wetapunga arriving from Auckland Zoo and 10 kiwi departing to Tamahunga.
- There has been some localised resurgence of weeds and Al has worked with Helen Lindsay with help from rope work contractor Richard Sharp to increase our control efforts.
- Dotterels had a poor season with perhaps just two chicks from multiple nesting attempts by three or four pairs.
- Only four gannets attended the colony site this season. One pair produced an egg which hatched, and the chick is believed to have fledged.
- Penguins had a poor year. Twelve pairs laid 24 eggs, 20 hatched but only five chicks fledged.
- We had three fluttering shearwater pairs using the nest boxes and three chicks were fledged.
- Thirty-nine individual Pycroft's petrel adults were recorded but there must have been at least four more as only one parent was recorded from four of the breeding attempts. Eighteen eggs were laid, 14 hatched and 13 fledged. 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. Four new birds were recorded: two translocated chicks from 2014; one bird which had hatched and fledged from Motuora in April 2019 and one unbanded bird.
- Regular monitoring of lizards continues. Last June a male Pacific gecko was found which may be the largest of its species on record.
- 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 email, website and membership database

### Sponsors and donors

Simon Chamberlin  
Auckland Council Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grant Programme  
A bequest from the estate of Sheila Coombs

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.

The Chairpersons Report for 22/23 was approved.  
Helen Lindsay/Kevin Hawkins: Carried

There was some discussion following the presentation of the Chairperson's report including questions about predation of dotterels by pukeko and the low success rate of penguins.

### **Election of Officers and Committee Members:**

With the exception of Eva Fernandez, who is stepping down from our committee, all the other officers and committee members were available for re-election. John thanked Eva for her service on the committee.

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, Dave Jenkins and Alex Wilson.

Kevin Hawkins/Kay Milton, Carried

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

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

Karin Gouldstone/Helen Lindsay: Carried

### **General Business**

Karin asked about the potential to charge different water taxi rates for members and non-members to encourage additional membership. It was agreed that this should be discussed by the new committee.

### **Closure**

There being no items of general business the formal part of the meeting closed at 8:50 pm.