

Motuihe reopens after the war

Herald 16 November 1945

Motuihe Island which has been a prohibited place under the Defence Emergency Regulations since June 1941, will now be open to the public, for in a special supplementary Gazette issued tonight this order has been revoked.

Auckland Star

Open to Public Motuihe Island Popular Holiday Resort

After nearly five years' occupation by the Royal New Zealand Navy, Motuihi Island, popular before the war as a resort for Auckland holiday-makers, is to be open once more to the public. Advice that a Gazette notice to this effect would be issued to-day was received in Auckland this morning.

Information forwarded to the City Council indicates that restrictions on the entry of the public to the island will be lifted subject to certain provisions. One of these is that the naval establishment, roughly that occupied by the Health Department's quarantine station, is to be reserved for the training ship Tamaki.

Another provision is that the children's sports ground is to be available for drills and organized games for naval personnel, although it will be open to the public for sports functions. Naval personnel will also have use of the recreation field.

Memo from Commanding officer HMNZS Tamaki to Naval officer in charge Auckland with copy to Auckland City Town Clerk 16 October 1946

If effect is to be given to the decision to admit the public to Motuihe Island on and after 19 October it is requested that urgent steps may be taken to make arrangements for their reception on the lines of my report. Though the matter has been under discussion since early August and a letter was addressed by you to His Worship the Mayor on 17th August, indicating the likelihood of restrictions being removed, nothing apparently has been done by the city council to give effect to the suggestions I made in my report of 10th August. There are now only 3 days left, no workmen are here, and if any arrangements have been made for beach and litter control and for providing a man for that work, and the hot water service, I have not been informed of them.

I am interested because a Junior Chamber of Commerce picnic on 7th October showed clearly that there is no policy. That picnic was authorized by some one unknown to me. We did our best for their comfort and made arrangements for an advance party to come in our boat two hours ahead of the picnic boat. They borrowed a Naval truck, they were lent a shed as the weather was showery, they asked for tables and stools (which could not be lent). They asked for a truck to return their impediments to the boat, but they did not leave the shed clean, it was not even swept out, nor were the doors closed. The litter outside the hut was very bad, but it was not cleared up as a picnic ground should be ie ready for the next as they themselves had found it.

No Transport Yet Offering Appeal by the Mayor Auckland Star article

Holiday makers who planned on spending Labour Day at Motuihe Island will be disappointed unless they are able to obtain private yacht or launch transport to the Island. Though the lifting of restrictions on the public's entry to the island was announced on Monday there has been insufficient time to finalise official transport and catering arrangements.

The City Council, which has taken over the administration of the island after three years' occupation by the Navy, has appointed a caterer but hot water and refreshments will not be available next Monday.

This is an appropriate opportunity to appeal to the public to help in keeping the beaches on the island clear of broken glass and other litter, said the Mayor Mr Allum this morning. The City Council will do its best to maintain the island in a clean and tidy state but it must have the co-operation of citizens. In the near future transport and catering facilities will be made available to the general public.

Prior to the war Sunday excursion trips to the island were organised by the Northern Steam Ship Company but the vessel making the trips the Rangitoto, was sold to the Government in 1940 and later broken up. The matter of providing transport is at present under consideration by the Devonport Steam Ferry Company.