



MOTUIHE PROJECT RESTORATION

August 2009

MOTUIHE DEPARTURE:

After many years living on Motuihe and supporting the Trust, Michael Harrison has retired to Te Aroha. Michael has been of huge assistance to the Trust & Volunteers. He has watched over the nursery for those pesky Pukekos, watered our beloved plants, carefully planted hundreds of plants, met every ferry with the tractor, transported weed teams and planting groups, dealt with wasp nests, met the Hauturu for our many bags of potting mix, gas bottles, general supplies, mowed tracks, assisted with many bbqs for volunteers plus many other tasks. We wish Michael well in his new home and on behalf of all volunteers, thank him for all his work over the years.

KIWI UPDATE:

Little Spotted Kiwi can be heard around the island at night. Sounds like they've well and truly settled in. Rumour has it that a little female has taken up residence under a shed near the Ranger's house. Maybe she's keeping an eye on ranger John Mills and thinks he needs company. If volunteers are intending to walk the island at night to hear these birds, please keep to the mown tracks.



ISV:

Thanks and congratulations to the 4 ISV groups who have accomplished some great work during their 2 week stays on Motuihe between May and late July. These groups have focused on track formation, weedwork and nursery tasks. We hope these students enjoyed their visit to our 'Gem' in the Hauraki Gulf. Special thanks to Liz Callinan for her support with these groups. Liz had thunder storms, wild winds, missed flights/ferries and chickenpox to contend with. Working alongside these groups can make for an interesting time. Flexibility was the key requirement to this year's success.

Website: www.motuihe.org.nz
Email: info@motuihe.org.nz
Tel: 0800 668844

NURSERY NEWS:

Wow! 2009 planting has almost emptied out the nursery. Hard to believe but yes there are enormous gaps. Pricking out of new seedlings for 2010 planting is well underway with our volunteers filling our root trainers at a great speed. Our nursery workers do a wonderful job and we very much appreciate their efforts. Weeding of seedlings will not have to be attended to quite so often as we have changed our potting mix supplier. Already there is a noticeable difference in a lack of weeds. Sourcing of seeds that are not currently available on Motuihe is also underway. This is a great way for new volunteers to learn more about native plants and their growing habits.

ISLAND NEWS:

Our thoughts are with George Nelson battling ill health at present. Another great supporter of Motuihe, George has given many volunteers memorable momentos made from Motuihe wood.

We are seeking volunteers who are prepared to spend a night or two on a rostered basis on Motuihe to mow the tracks and help out as required. Training will be provided; ferry and free accommodation. Volunteers are also needed to assist with guided tours, information hut coverage during summer holidays/weekends/public holidays. If you are able to help in any way please email info@motuihe.org.nz.

AUCKLAND HERITAGE FESTIVAL: Sunday 4 October

Motuihe Trust will again be participating in the Auckland Heritage Festival. This has become a very popular event in Auckland. Guided tours of the Restoration and Heritage areas will be available. Guides and lunch helpers are required to ensure this day is a success. If you are able to assist us please email info@motuihe.org.nz. A training day will be held on September 13 for guides. Motuihe Island is rich in its history and guides have found this festival to be very rewarding and a great way to broaden your knowledge in our little piece of paradise.

VOLUNTEER DATES:

Saturdays: First Saturday of each month Sept/Oct. Every Saturday from Labour Weekend

Sundays: Every Sunday

Transport: (Advise Ticket Office you are a Treeplanter for discounted fare)

360 Discovery: (Winter schedule) Depart Auckland Pier 3 0915hrs 1400hrs. Return Trip: 0945hrs 1430hrs 1600hrs

For summer schedule after Labour weekend, please check www.motuihe.org.nz or 0800668844 after 7.00am on Saturday/Sunday.

PLANTING PROGRESS:

Another great planting season on Motuihe is nearing an end. To date an impressive 232,000 plants have been planted by volunteers from all areas of the community—from Corporate groups, schools, youth, tramping, Rotary to name a few and of course all those individuals who are brave enough to turn up on their own not knowing anyone. 2009's total of 40,000 had a tremendous boost from the "NO" group (Nikolai Organisation). A massive logistical exercise for the NO organisers, however a stunning 22,400 plants were bedded in on grided areas between Calypso & Snapper Bays in one day. We extend our thanks to the "Running with Scissors" team who ran the day with precision and enthusiasm.

Ricoh NZ organised another great effort with 100+ workers and families. This group have supported Motuihe over many years and thanks extended to Margie for her great organisation of this day.



KAURI: (Agathis Australis)

With summer approaching and many people tramping through native bush reserves, it is timely to remind everyone to take extra care with boot/equipment hygiene. The virus that has hit the mighty Kauri has decimated some wonderful specimens. Biosecurity NZ have asked the public to stay to well-defined tracks, clean footwear and any equipment that comes into contact with the soil and after leaving Kauri planted areas and avoid disturbing roots of kauri trees.

TRUSTEES UPDATE:

Late 2008, three new Trustees joined the Motuihe Trust team. Welcome to Steve Nelson, Julie Thomson and Lois Badham.