

THE FRIENDS OF MANGARAKAU SWAMP INC. SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER March 2019

It is nearing the end of the financial year so here is our latest Newsletter.

EVERYBODY WELCOME TO OUR AGM !

This year we will hold the AGM at the **Courthouse Cafe, Collingwood** at **11:00 am on Tuesday 30th April**. **Mark it in your diary!**

We have had a very active year at the swamp and feel very pleased with progress.

Matai Point

We have finally changed the name of Wattle Point to Matai Point. There are still Wattles germinating but the 100 Matai we have planted are doing well.



Grillo

The new ride-on mower is going to make life a lot easier, especially for Murray.



Visitor Centre Roof

The Visitor Centre roof started to leak. We spent a lot of time repairing it 7 years ago but finally the rust wore through. We were very lucky to get funding from the QE11 Stephenson fund, the Forest and Bird Valder fund and PuPu Hydro. Now we have a lovely new roof.



Spotless Crake

We continue to see Spotless Crake on the Trail Camera and even a chick this spring.



Bitterns

We did the Bittern Survey again using sound recording devices. They were booming intermittently but when they were all going at once there was plenty to hear.

We also had a lot more sightings than usual. We saw 5 flying over one day and here is the sighting Heather reported....

'Yes, we saw 3 bitterns! One came soaring over the lodge towards the pond, to be greeted by another launching up from the pond to dance above it together in graceful flight. This one returned to the swamp a few times from greeting the first one then settled back, when another one soared from the south to accompany the first one in slow circling movements till it was so high even the binoculars couldn't trace it. How wonderful was that? Thank you Robin and all you mangarakauites for the privilege of being part of all this, I love it! "

Heather Wallace 7.12.18

Weeds

John and Bron continue to work diligently on the weeds. Amazing not to have gorse dominating everything, and now only a few convolvulus flowers and very little Montbretia to remove.

We also had another trip out to the island in the middle of the swamp where we are eradicating gum trees. This group of happy volunteers struggled through the swamp to tackle the job and made great progress.



Pests

We have had very low pest numbers this year and still have low rat and mice catch results but the stoats have jumped back with a vengeance. This is a worry as without rats and mice to feed on the birds are very vulnerable. All our traps are up and running, so hopefully we can keep them under control.

New Brochure

We have updated and redesigned the Visitor Guide so it is easier for visitors to find their way around the swamp.

Seats

Four new seats have been installed at viewing spots for visitors to rest on. Kevin Riley made them out of yellow pine logs dug out of the swamp at Otuhie Farm.



Coffee Plunger

Unfortunately, we have been unable to keep the coffee plunger at the Lodge from disappearing, so we have decided not to supply one any more.

Thanks

Thank you very much to those of you who gave a donation after your stay at the Lodge or with your subscription payment.

Also, we would like to thank people staying in the Lodge for keeping it clean and tidy.

ADMINISTRATION

Subs are due now and it would be helpful if you could send details of your full name, street address, email address and phone number to mangarakauswamp@gmail.com

See form below for internet banking details or post the form back with your cheque.

Best wishes from the team here at Mangarakau Swamp - Murray, David, Robyn, John B, Bron, John McK, Jo-Anne, Margaret, Heather, Ian and Helen

**FRIENDS OF MANGARAKAU SWAMP INC. SOCIETY
SUBSCRIPTION FORM FOR ONE YEAR**

I enclose my subscription of \$20.00 for one year. Date:.....

I wish to make a donation. \$.....

Name:.....

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Phone No.

Email address

Please send to: Robyn Jones, 39 Gibbs Rd, Collingwood. 7073

For enquiries: ph: 03 524 8266 or Email: mangarakauswamp@gmail.com

For Internet banking: Bank account number: **NBS 03-1354-0421763-00**

Please enter 'Subs' and your Name in the Reference boxes.

Website for further information: <http://mangarakauswamp.com/>