

Out of Scope

Power System

As Board members saw at our noho, the Island's power system has essentially reached the end of its road and we have brought forward the planned replacement. This is part of a programme also upgrading power systems on Mana and Kāpiti Islands, which have similarly reached the end of their lives.

Phase 1 of the replacement, involving around 2/3 of the work, was completed by Easter weekend and then reopened to overnights. Phase 2 is scheduled for May, and involves further work on the generator and wind turbine.

Spatial Plan

As the Board has seen, s9(2)(a) and his Thrive team are underway with their Spatial Plan process, and the suggested target date for completion is the end of July 2026.

Cook Strait Giant Wētā (CSGW) Population Survey

A survey of CSGW has been completed. 62 CSGW were translocated to Matiu Somes in 1996 for species conservation and to as part of the ecological restoration of the island. Subsequent surveys had confirmed the population has spread from the release site at the northern end of the island to throughout the island.

Traps were set out at three locations over 4 nights, but only four CSGW were detected. Three of those were found opportunistically, and only 1 in a trap. In addition, 72 tracking tunnels detected 17 CSGW.

Because of these low numbers of CSGW detected, the study was unable to generate absolute population density. However, the tracking tunnel data confirms that the species remains widely and relatively uniformly distributed across the island.

The study concluded that CSGW current occupancy is stable but low, and recommended that Matiu Somes remains closed to harvesting for translocations until further monitoring confirms a positive growth trend. Repeat tunnel survey was suggested in two years' time. When translocations do resume, a conservative

harvesting quota was recommended to mitigate risks of overharvesting and ensure the continued stability of the island's population.

DOC Property Budget

As reported previously, we are at maximum capacity for building work on the motu for 2025/6. Once that Spatial Plan has been written we need to shape up some bids for 2026/27.

The next phase includes:

- demolition of the LPG Shed between the Visitors Centre and the motels – includes advice on the tuatara apparently still living in the drain at the back.
- urgent sewer pipe repairs
- complete power system upgrade
- upgrade to the circuit track – a draft design is being consulted on. We would be happy to have further involvement from the Board.
- archaeological assessments are being completed for all work disturbing land.

Longer term, the next significant item is an upgrade to sewage separation. This is an old issue, because there isn't separation of wastewater and stormwater on the island. Engagement with Greater Wellington Regional Council will be required on design issues.

IVL Funding

We reported previously on also receiving \$200k of International Visitor Funding money for Matiu this year – effectively \$175k when DOC overhead is deducted. We have now committed all that funding, including to:

- Audio video iwi stories and AV equipment – s9(2) leading
- Website for Matiu – funding in place for PNBST and development ongoing through s9(2)(a). Includes professional photos of the island and board members, new email addresses, new booking system for whare mahana (subject to discussion).
- Museum upgrade – the whole visitor centre apart from the toilets is being committed to the museum. Work is underway on a new access ramp, restoration of internal woodwork and repainting. The current museum contents are being relocated during this work. Further funding will be needed for planned new contents apart from the new audio video stories and

equipment (see above). Curation advice has been offered by Te Papa, Wellington Museum and volunteer curators.

- Upgrade of outdoor furniture – furniture purchased
- Give Forest and Bird House a 60/70s vibe – completed.
- Extend funding to 30 June for s9(2)(a) to deliver DOC work sitting with PNBST – funding in place.
- Restore gardens around houses and old LPG shed – completed by He Kaha Tuatinitini. Forest & Bird to provide new plants when nursery stocks permit (likely winter 2027)
- Matiu Spatial Plan top up
- Burrow cams for penguins

We plan to seek further funding for further work. We have put in a request for further IVL funding next year, but this is by no means guaranteed. Apart from any items identified in the Board's Spatial Plan work, these include:

- Co-branded uniform
- Bi-lingual signage
- Mural on the Quarantine centre – concept to be developed with iwi designer
- Forest & Bird House lino polish
- Visitor Centre floor
- Museum contents:
 - Security cameras
 - Secure cabinets
 - Digital photo smart frames
 - Wireless microphone kit for filming future interviews

Island Biosecurity

No issues to report

East by West

EBW has returned to its Winter timetable. Latest visitor numbers are as follows:

Month	Passengers paying visitor fees	Passengers exempt from visitor fee	Total passengers travelling to Mātū
Apr-25	1226	251	1477
May-25	474	341	815
Jun-25	637	68	705
Jul-25	540	109	649
Aug-25	521	191	712
Sept-25	751	188	939
Oct-25	310	100	410
Nov-25	967	1125	2092
Dec-25	1233	755	1988
Jan-26	1905	207	2112
Feb-26	1096	567	1663
Mar-26	857	811	1668

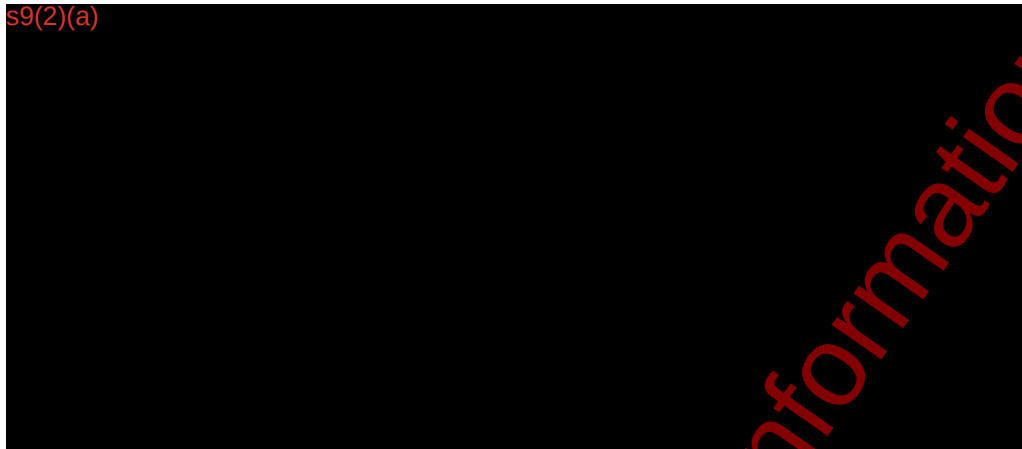
Volunteer Work

Karobusters have completed their Summer programme, including a further weeding trip on Mākaro/Ward Island. Leader s9(2)(a) will attend the May meeting to discuss progress. Two issues we are working through with them:

- national standards for abseiling have been greatly raised/narrowed, so it's unlikely that DOC and volunteer abseilers can continue to carry out weeding on steep slopes. Drone spraying was conducted on Mātū last year and is increasingly seen as the best alternative.
- with the retirement of Tiniwaka, travel to Mokopuna and Mākaro Islands is principally by our DOC boat based at Mana Marina. There is pressure on its capacity to meet all demands, also from Mana and Kāpiti Islands, as well as limitations due to weather. A programme of monthly visits to Te Whanganui-a-Tara has been developed, and we are still working through how best to support volunteers as well as DOC requirements. Other options may need to be considered – e.g. the Police have occasionally provided support from their vessel.

Our penguin people have completed their surveys for this breeding season and presented their annual report.

s9(2)(a)



Maintenance Team 2026

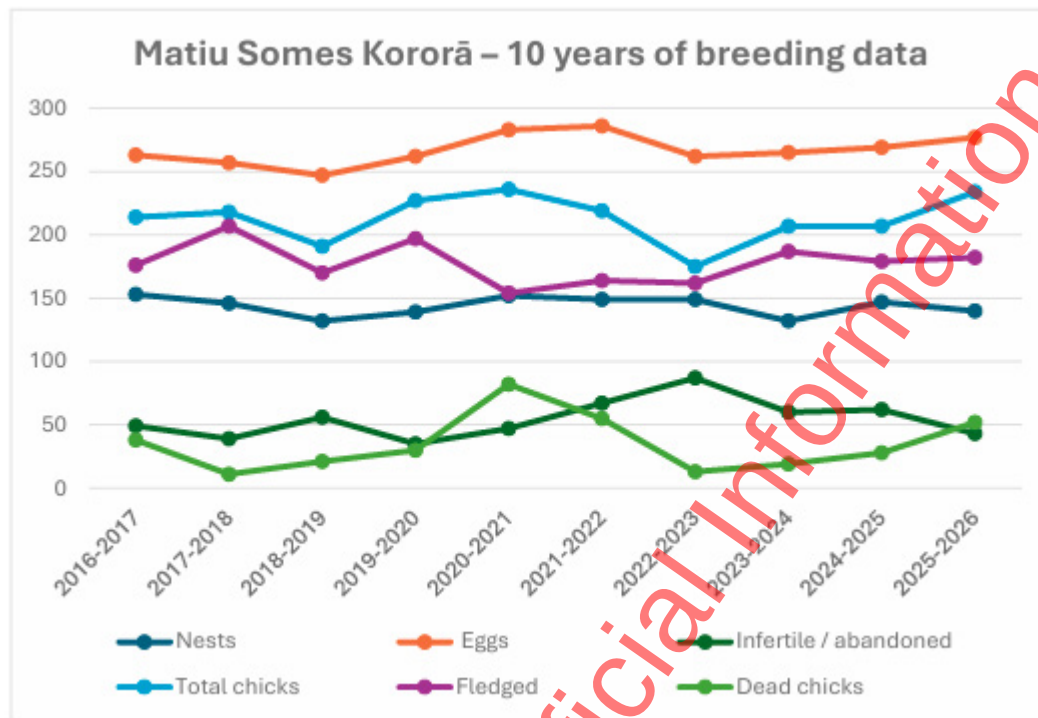
ck: Geoff, Andy, Red, Katie, Jaco, Peter, Ashoka, Courtney, Archer, Saul, Alfie; In front: Garth, Dallas

In summary:

- Chick fledging was 78% for the 2025-2026 kororā breeding season on Matiu Somes Island.
- Breeding data for the past 10 years indicates a stable population.
- eDNA faecal sample analysis showed six dietary species and a diverse range of non-diet taxa.
- A second season of monitoring selected wharf nestboxes for the presence of the kororā specific tick *Ixodes eudyptidis* again showed no adverse effects on the breeding outcome of the kororā.



Mātiu/Somes Island
Kaitiaki Board



Budget Update

Item	Amount	Spend to date	Comment
Contractors, tools and repairs	\$28,000	\$30,000	Heritage and Visitor costs
Ferry travel	\$8,000	\$10,643	DOC, Volunteer, Iwi
Summer Ranger	\$20,000	\$19,617	Four months in peak season
Cleaner	\$12,000	\$6,000	One day per week - off season. Casual island support role for annual leave and sickness cover
Biosecurity related costs	\$5,000	\$4,500	Predator dogs, supplies and trap replacement

Weed Control	\$10,000	\$10,050	Harbours Islands drone weed spraying
Gull/Goose Control	\$2,000	\$1,700	Hunting component, egg oiling mainly staff time
Manaaki Groups - Karo Buster, Penguin and F&B	\$4,000	\$3,000	Plant covers, compost and barge run for F&B
Matiu Taiao Plan draft	\$3,000	\$0	Work underway – yet to be invoiced
Iwi lizard monitoring training	\$7,000	\$6,800	April - June 2026 with Trent Bell
Survey of wētāpunga population	\$10,000	\$8,500	Project completed - reports available. One invoice to come.
Matiu Spatial Plan	\$90,000	\$16,692	Progressing
IVL budget	\$174,000	\$81,001	Full budget is committed
Kaitiaki Board fees and hui expenses	\$8,000	\$2,000	
Kaitiaki Board Secretariat	\$8,000	\$8,000	Complete
Total	\$389,000	\$208,503	

Capital works program

Item	Amount	Spend to date	
Caretaker's Cottage reroof (reactive CAPEX)	\$99,600	\$95,000	Work completed
Property program: Visitor centre repaint / Rec room reroof / Caretaker cladding	\$200,000	\$150,000	Completed

Circuit Track upgrade	\$500,000	\$0	April - September 2026
LPG shed removal and on	\$28,000	\$0	Penguin burrow moved, tuatara burrow will be scoped
Power system upgrade	\$500,000	\$400,000	February - March 2026
Total CAPEX	\$1,327,600	\$645,000	

Revenue		
East by West	\$0	July year to date. Nothing received
Accommodation	\$43,728	July year to date for Education House and Caretakers Cottage

