

# MIRO

## 2015 Annual Report

### Message from the Chair

It was business as usual for MIRO in the 2014/2015 year. No major new projects were undertaken and all our existing activities continued as before.

At Committee level, a good part of our meetings were taken up with discussion about the future of our robin reintroduction programme. We had reached the point where it was time for a decision as to whether we should commit more resources to the programme or whether it was time to cut our losses and concede that it was not worth continuing. Making such a decision proved extremely difficult, due largely to the lack of solid data to back up any decision we might take. The three reintroductions to date, totalling 104 birds, had so far failed to establish a sustainable population. However it was four years since our most recent reintroduction and we were aware that there was still a small population in the park. In order to make a more informed decision, MIRO and Greater Wellington employed the services of Delia Small to search for robins and to monitor those she found. She did this for several months over summer, including the breeding season.

The few birds Delia found and monitored appeared healthy and were breeding. By the end of her contract we knew of the presence of five birds, and possibly more, within a narrow area of the park. This confirmed that the habitat in parts of the park is suitable for robins although we were unable to properly assess the effects of predation. Experience elsewhere suggests that the park could possibly still be viable for robins but considerably more 'top-ups' might be required to get the population to a sustainable level. While this provides an argument in favour of continuing the reintroduction programme we also know that dispersal is a major problem for us, given the shape and geographical location of EHRP. With such a narrow area of robin habitat it is a real possibility that any robins released into the park would soon find themselves in an unprotected area. Assuming that predation is not an inhibiting factor in the Mainland Island, and this can be debated, we decided to treat dispersal as our major issue.

This led us to conclude that the Mainland Island, at its current size and shape, is likely to continue to work against our reintroduction efforts. However we are currently considering the viability of significantly extending the size of the Mainland Island. Should this happen, MIRO will revisit the idea of further robin re-introductions, whether or not a surviving population remains in the park.

To inform future discussions, MIRO contracted Elizabeth Parlato to feed the specifics of the EHRP situation into a model she has developed for assessing the critical success factors of robin reintroductions, with a focus on dispersal. Her model predicted that the chances of success with the status quo would be positive but only marginally so. This happens to describe our current situation, where a few second generation birds are surviving in the park, healthy but at numbers too low to be considered sustainable. She also modeled a future scenario with an extended Mainland Island and this showed a far more positive outcome could be expected.

We will keep our members informed of any significant developments in this area but meanwhile it is important to remember that we still have robins in the park. Once the weather improves we would

really appreciate any information our members or the public can provide about robins spotted, in the the park or outside, specially their location and the colour of their bandings, if present.

During the year our Treasurer, Mike Rumble, resigned from the MIRO Committee to focus on other commitments. We are grateful to Mike both for the wonderful job he did as Treasurer and as project manager of our most recent, and highly successful, robin reintroduction. We are also grateful to Keith Levy for filling in as a temporary Treasurer until someone else is appointed to the position. Please let us know if you are interested. It is an important but not onerous role on the MIRO Committee.

I should also note that I will be leaving the MIRO Committee at the AGM to make room for a new Chair. It is my hope that a new Chair will provide the energy and insight necessary to strengthen the organisation into the future.

There are many others I should thank for their contribution to MIRO's success but it's not possible to mention them all. First and foremost I'd like to thank our volunteers and helpers who, as a group, form an impressive and effective workforce for the protection and restoration of EHRP. Also of vital importance are our partners from the Greater Wellington Regional Council without whose support, professionalism and funds, the work we do would simply not be possible. Mark McAlpine and Kim Broad regularly give up their evenings to attend MIRO meetings. Mark, the EHRP Ranger, also spends a lot of time with us in the field and facilitating our activities.

Last but not least we are also grateful to our auditor, George Tuffin, and Spiral Web Design who provide and sponsor all our web services.



Doug Mercer, July 2015

## **MIRO Committee**

The MIRO Committee met approximately at 6 week intervals throughout the year and continued to function in an effective and constructive manner. The members were Doug Mercer (Chair), Mike Rumble (Treasurer- retired), Parker Jones (Secretary), Gail Abel, Jill Bagnall, George Gibbs, Jan Heine, Colin Ross, Owen Spearpoint, Keith Levy and Linda Mead. Several Committee members other than the three office holders had assigned responsibilities. The broad mix of skills on the current Committee enables good governance and has a direct impact on our ability to make sound decisions but we are always on the lookout for new members.

## **Membership**

It is difficult to quantify MIRO membership numbers. We prefer to think of all our volunteers as members so, using this measurement, we have a fluid membership that possibly involved at least 100 individuals throughout the year. As an Incorporated Society, we also have to treat membership more formally on occasions, particularly regarding eligibility to vote for Committee members and other constitutional matters. For these purposes, membership is determined by the payment of an annual subscription (\$10 or \$15 per family) and numbers usually fluctuate between 20 and 30.

## **MIRO Activities**

### ***Trapping***

In our 11th year of trapping another 269 possums have been despatched bringing the total so far to 3538. The last 3 years have shown small but steady increases in possums caught. It is uncertain whether this is a worrying trend or perhaps just a reflection of increased trapping effort in some areas. Given the very high rat numbers experienced since the beech mast last season and increased targeting of possum lures by rats, a lower catch might have been expected in 2014/15. However the only objective measure of possums in the forest is the RTC monitor, which was last done in 2013 (2%).

Catch per trap again confirms what we have already observed in previous years that the eastern and northern boundaries are the source of the highest number of possums. A record of 17 possums was made on one single run on the south end of the Eastern Ridge this year. We will be giving thought to strengthening these boundaries, possibly using self-setting traps.

Mustelid catches remain low and similar to the previous 2 years.

Rats are only by-catch in possum and stoat traps and increased hugely this year following the beech mast. However huge numbers no doubt got away based on the number of non-toxic lures taken from possum traps. Rat rait consumption at possum traps was as expected following the high beech mast, with consumption of ditrac blocks at possum traps soaring to 8000 blocks this year. This matches the high reached in 2009/10 though still below the peak in 2006/07.

Feral cats have not been targeted in the last 2 years.

### ***Monitoring***

MIRO continued its monitoring partnership with GW this year, providing volunteers for the usual quarterly rodent monitor and six-monthly mustelid monitor. This work was particularly important this year in light of the beech mast and confirmed the expected surge in rat numbers.

### ***Parangarahu Lakes***

The 9th year of planting saw nearly 2000 trees planted at the Lakes in new and existing plots and 900 supplied to Baring Head. Excess trees were given to other local restoration projects at Waiwhetu Stream, Maararoa and Makara Peak.

### ***Nursery***

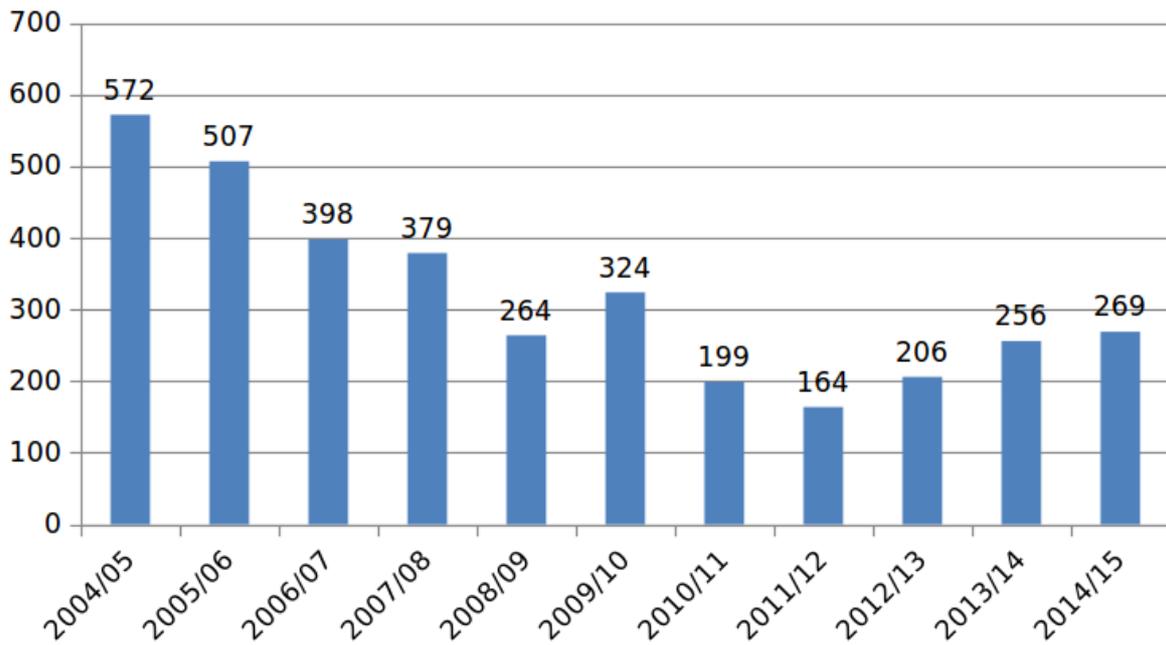
The MIRO nursery at GNS continued its good work and thanks are due to its small core of dedicated volunteers. Nursery

### ***Other activities***

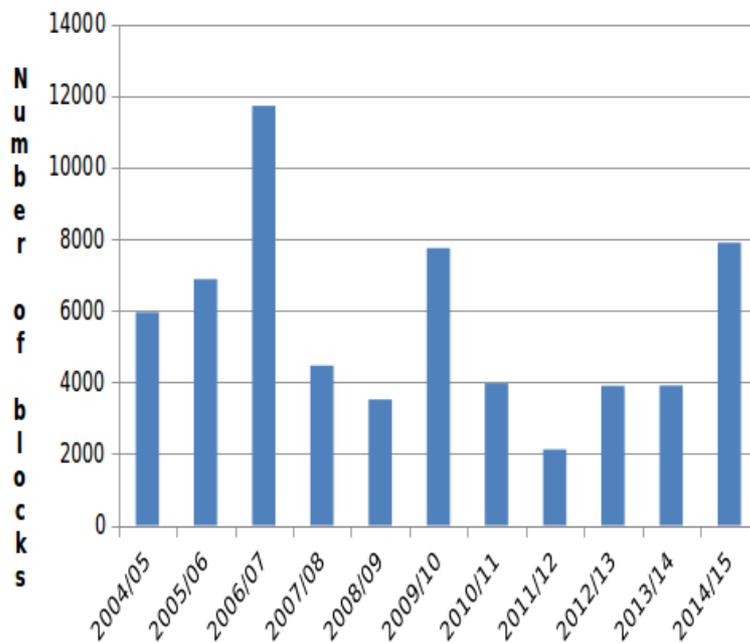
The annual MIRO bird count took place in October 2014 as did the annual MIRO Explore Butterfly Creek Walk for the public in February 2015.

MIRO Continues to work with GIS In Conservation to develop smart systems to collect, store and analyse the information supplied to us by our volunteers. The first version of our SmartPhone app is expected later in 2015.

## EHRP Northern Forest Annual Possum Catch



## EHRP Northern Forest Annual rat bait consumption at possum traps



<b>MAINLAND ISLAND RESTORATION OPERATION (MIRO) INC.</b>					
<b>Statement of Financial Performance</b>					
<b>For the year ended 31 March 2015</b>					
<b>INCOME</b>					
			<b>2015</b>		<b>2014</b>
<b>GRANTS</b>			\$		\$
Hutt Mana Charitable Trust			894		0
GW Regional Council			0		0
<b>PLUS</b> Previous Year Unexpended Grants			0		565
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>			894		565
<b>LESS</b> Unexpended Grants			0	894	565
					0
<b>GWRC INCOME</b>					
Sale of trees (Honda Tree Fund)			6,106		0
AGM Reimbursement			0	6,106	157
					157
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>					
Subscriptions			265		175
Donations			600		620
Bank Interest			321	1,186	205
					1,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>				<b>8,186</b>	<b>1,157</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>GRANTS REFUNDS</b>					
Hutt Mana Charitable Trust			0		0
Pub Charity			0	0	0
					0
<b>OPERATIONS</b>					
Nursery			2,133		1,708
Trapping			794		0
Robin Monitoring			6,000	8,927	0
					1,708
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>					
AGM and Meeting Costs			558		602
Men's Shed			0		0
Grey Power Stall			0		0
High Viz Vests			0		0
Post Box			170		170
Sundry			246	974	51
					823
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>				<b>9,901</b>	<b>2,531</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>				<b>-1,715</b>	<b>-1,374</b>

**MAINLAND ISLAND RESTORATION OPERATION (MIRO) INC.**

**Statement of Financial Position**

**As at 31 March 2015**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Kiwibank-Call Account	3,129	7,276
Kiwibank-Front Runner Account	7,224	4,792
LESS Unexpended Grants	-	-
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>10,353</b>	<b>12,068</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		
Balance 1 April 2014	12,068	12,877
Surplus (Loss) for year	(1,715)	(809)
<b>BALANCE 31 MARCH 2015</b>	<b>10,353</b>	<b>12,068</b>
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**MAINLAND ISLAND RESTORATION OPERATION (MIRO) INC.**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 March 2015**

**Incorporation**

The Mainland Island Restoration Operation (MIRO) was constituted by a resolution dated 5 June 2009 and was incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 on 18 June 2009.

MIRO was previously part of the East Harbour Environmental Association (EHEA).

The purpose of MIRO is to provide benefit to the community through restoration of the natural ecosystems in the East Harbour Regional Park located in Lower Hutt.

**Accounting Policies**

**Reporting Entity:**

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

**Measurement Base:**

The measurement base adopted is that of historical cost.

**Goods and Services**

**Tax:**

The accounts have been prepared on a GST inclusive basis.

## **REVIEW REPORT**

**To the Members of the Mainland Island Restoration Operation (MIRO) Inc**

- 1 I have reviewed the financial statements, as attached, of MIRO for the year ended 31 March 2015.
- 2 My review is limited primarily to the inspection of MIRO's records and analytical review procedures applied to financial data and thus provides only a moderate level of assurance and less assurance than an audit. I have not performed an audit and, accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion. My review cannot be relied upon to prevent or detect fraud or error.
- 3 The Committee is responsible for recording the receipts and payments of MIRO and maintaining the books and records and preparing the financial statements of MIRO.
- 4 Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the accompanying financial statements do not give a true and fair view of the results and state of affairs of the Mainland Island Restoration Operation (MIRO) Inc for the year ended 31 March 2015.

This review has been completed on 2 July 2015.



George Tuffin  
Accountant  
Eastbourne

## MINUTES OF THE MIRO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 15 th July 2014

### EAST HARBOUR WOMENS CLUB ROOMS

Present: Gail Abel, Jill Bagnall, Parker Jones, Keith Levy, Colin Ross, Doug Mercer, Kim Broad Mark , McAlpine and approximately 30 others.

Apologies – Jan Heine, Owen Spearpoint, Mike Rumble, George Gibbs, Gary Sue, Derek Wilshire, Fran Wilde

Minutes of the last AGM

- Accepted Jill/Gail

Election of Committee

All nominations for the 2014/2015 were elected by unanimous approval. The Chair will be shared by the committee members on a rotation basis for the next year.

The committee is:-

Mike Rumble – Treasurer

Parker Jones – Secretary

Gail Abel, Jill Bagnall, George Gibb, Jan Heine, Keith Levy, Doug Mercer, Colin Ross and Owen Spearpoint

Moved and Accepted Gail/Parker

Annual Report

Doug tabled the annual report.

Chairman Review

Doug reviewed the past year mentioning the following accomplishments and points of note:-

- DoC 200 Traps placed around mainland island;
- MIRO increasing its trapping efforts e.g. East Ridge
- MIRO's large team of trappers;
- MIRO's bird counters;
- Lake Plantings – now have 8 plots and are working with the local IWI and GWRC on the future plantings
- Nursery – Thanks to GNS for our plot on their land. Volunteers meet twice a month and the nursery has supplied other planting projects.

Robin Program

Doug tabled that our robin program has had 3 translocations and the results were good for the short term, but unknown for the long term. The committee is currently working to make a decision on the future of the robin program, do we pull the plug or put in more effort? The committee had a meeting at Zealandia which clarified our next steps. The summary is that the program is worth persisting with and we will keep topping up the robin numbers, but we need more hard data. So, we will be ramping up our monitoring efforts. There is no sense in releasing more robins without the proper monitoring efforts. In order to proceed, MIRO needs two more people on the committee:-

- One to Project Manage proper robin monitoring training at Zealandia and in field monitoring coordination ; and
- One to Project Manage the translocation.

If anyone knows a suitable person, please let a committee member know.

Pateke Program

Doug noted that MIRO is also considering a translocation of the Patake

Conclusion

Doug noted thanks to both Greater Wellington Regional Council and to MIRO's volunteers.