

# December 2008

## What's On at Matapouri this summer



[www.friendsofmatapouri.co.nz](http://www.friendsofmatapouri.co.nz)

The Friends of Matapouri executive committee and Te Whanau O Rangiwakaahu Hapu Trust, would like to wish all our members and supporters a very happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

It would not be hard to guess what gift we would like from Santa and I'm sure you would agree that the restoration of the Otito Reserve boundary and protection of the wahitapu would be at the top of the list for all those who love Matapouri Bay.

On Friday 12 Dec we have a day set aside for hearing various interlocutory applications at the High Court in Auckland. Hopefully the outcome of this will be setting of a date for the substantive issues around the correct boundary. Our next newsletter will give more details.

So till then we wish you all a safe summer holiday spent with family and friends.

### Otito Reserve - a brief background

#### Otito Reserve Matapouri: Restore Respect Protect

Te Whanau O Rangiwakaahu Hapu Trust and Friends of Matapouri Inc are fighting to get the correct boundaries of the Otito Reserve restored, the wahitapu respected and the Crown to honour the Maori Land Court conditions by which it acquired the land in 1970.

In 1999 a survey plan submitted by the adjoining neighbours of the Reserve redefined the boundary so that approximately 1.1 hectares of Reserve land was transferred to private ownership.

The area of Reserve now under private title is an urupa, a wahitapu where the bodies of the deceased were cleansed and prepared for burial.

Tony Bevin, an ex Surveyor General, conducted a peer review of the 1999 survey plan. His conclusion was that it was 'not robust' in that it ignored a corner peg that defines the SW corner of the Reserve.

#### Your help WILL make a difference

We could lose forever this significant part of **our** Reserve if we don't maintain the Court action and keep fighting. Write to your MPs, politicians, newspapers - demand that this situation be fixed and the Crown get back our land. Help by donating to our legal fighting fund or perhaps you can give some of your time and skills to help us.

NZ Herald journalist, Geoff Cumming wrote a very balanced article about Otito called '**Lines in the sand at Northland beach**' on Saturday Oct 25, 2008. Go to the NZ Herald website ([www.nzherald.co.nz](http://www.nzherald.co.nz)) and enter 'Otito' in the search area.

**17 December:** Matapouri Structure Plan - Final Draft - Consultation meeting. Matapouri Hall 4-8pm. Presentation at 7pm. All welcome. You may be able to find further info on the Whangarei District Council website: [www.wdc.govt.nz](http://www.wdc.govt.nz)

**January 2: Matapouri Hall Gala Day** - 9.30. This hugely popular old fashion gala day attracts people from all over the coast.

- Kids bike decoration competition
- Sausage sizzle
- Hole-in-one
- Quick fire raffles
- Heaps of stalls by local residents

#### 10 January: Matapouri - Its Colourful History

Jennifer Wilson Stuart has located a vast fascinating collection of old photos, Land and Survey maps, newspaper clippings, family histories, audio tapes, a movie etc etc. She is displaying all of this at **Matapouri Hall** and will be there to answer questions and pour light on our shared history. All welcome

#### 8 February: The Mamaku Project @ Snapper Rock

Tutukaka Come and join us on Sunday afternoon and enjoy some home grown music from Tui Mamaki and her friends. This is a fund raiser for the Otito Reserve legal fees. More information to come.

Keep an eye on the **Matapouri shop notice board** and Friends of Matapouri website for up to date information.

Your donation will help restore Otito Reserve boundary to the correct survey, to protect the wahitapu and give all New Zealanders the right to enjoy our Crown reserve. Donations go directly to our legal fund.

Bank account: ASB Whangarei, Friends of Matapouri Inc  
12-3099-0880004-00



Jovian Parry's painting, "Golden Skies, Matapouri" was painted specifically with a view to raise funds for the Friends of Matapouri campaign to restore Otito Reserve boundary. The painting is for sale at \$5,000 and all proceeds go towards our court costs.

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