



## NEWSLETTER Summer 2009 - 2010

Wishing all our members a safe and happy summer festive season.



The summer season got off to a great start with Friends of Matapouri holding the annual Environmental Day at the Hall on Labour Weekend. Over 200 people attended the free event with many displays and info sessions. We plan to hold this event every year on Labour Weekend, to mark the anniversary of our formation.



World famous marine expert Dr Ingrid Visser gave a presentation about Orca, illustrated with stunning photographs.

### What's On at Matapouri this summer

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

- Kids bike decoration competition and sausage sizzle
- Hole-in-one and quick fire raffles
- Civil defense information
- Heaps of stalls by local residents

**8-10 January: Artists for Otito** For the second year running Friends of Matapouri (FoM) and Te Whanau O Rangiwhakaahu Hapu Trust (the Hapu) are holding a fundraising exhibition of NZ artwork at the Matapouri Hall. All proceeds from the sale of artworks goes towards paying legal fees we have incurred while trying to retrieve Otito Reserve land that is now in private ownership.

Featuring works by Charlotte Fisher, Steve Moase, Tony Ogle, Barry Squires Megan Squires, Rua Paul, Bruce Pullman, Jenny Bennet, Andrea Low and many other New Zealand artists.

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

### Otito Reserve Update

We understand that the Department of Conservation is negotiating an out-of-court settlement with the adjoining landowners to get back an area of Otito Reserve that was wrongfully included in a private title in 1999. Neither FoM nor the Hapu have been involved in the negotiations or know the details that are being discussed. We do know though that earlier this year, DoC obtained a market valuation for the disputed area of land that came in at \$6m. Previously, DoC had commissioned expert reports on the 1999 survey, which was the survey that transferred the approximately 1.1 hectares of Reserve land to private ownership. The experts confirmed that the 1999 survey was incorrect in its definition of the boundary of the Reserve and the private land. The disputed land includes Crown Grant Road and wahitapu land.

The Crown requested that the Judicial Settlement Conference scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> be postponed while these negotiations were taking place. A new settlement conference has been scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> 2010.

While the fight is far from over we would like to thank all our supporters for their help in reaching this significant milestone. Our community, together with the unstinting efforts of our fantastic legal representatives, Henderson Reeves Connell Rishworth, has succeeded in making the Government take action to reinstate this important piece of land to its rightful status as Crown owned Reserve. Well done! We must not yet slacken off though - there is work still to be done to finalise all aspects of our claim and restore the mana of that land.

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

Restore • Respect • Protect  
**OTITO RESERVE**  
[www.friendsofmatapouri.co.nz](http://www.friendsofmatapouri.co.nz)