

BUCKLANDS BEACH SEA SCOUTS - MOTUIHE ISLAND TREE PLANTING WEEKEND

Buckland's Beach Sea Scouts combined with Tauhinu to visit Motuihe Island for camping and tree planting on 16 and 17 June. This was our tenth year of tree planting at Motuihe and we had 12 Cubs, 25 Scouts, 7 Venturers and 10 Leaders for a total of 51 campers, of which 26 sailed over in 4 cutters. We had brilliant weather again, sunny and warm during the day, cold and clear at night.

We were visited by John Mills the resident ranger after we had set up camp and shown the historical sites at the northern end of the island. After dinner we were taken by international volunteers staying on the island to listen for Kiwi and look out for Tuatara. We had picked the longest Saturday night of the year, but the Cubs were up again at ten to six!

On Sunday we were joined by 6 Keas and another 40 keen tree planters. We were fortunate to be able to welcome the first release of Popokotea/Whiteheads on Motuihe Island. The birds had been caught on Little Barrier and flown in by helicopter. We participated in the welcome by the tangata whenua before the release in the old bush area.

Despite all this and our lunch break, the team planted around **1000 trees** and helped potting in the nursery.

We are already looking forward to working at Motuihe next year 22-23 June, why don't you plan to bring your group too?

