

ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK LAUNCH SERVICE

MV "MATANGI" AND MV "PONUI"

4 DAY GUIDED WALKS

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Clearance of Aotuhia's kiwi-rich shrubland was the focus of a critical article by conservation officer Terry Fitzgibbon in our August journal. TV and newspaper coverage prompted other agencies to get involved in the fray. The Department must now gain Catchment Board approval before undertaking any further clearance. Also as a result of the public controversy a moratorium has been placed on further clearance until the DSIR and Wildlife Service has undertaken a wildlife survey of the shrublands earmarked for destruction.

The Society wants farming confined to already cleared lands which will tailor the "10 farm-\$10 million budget" down to more modest levels. The Society also believes the Matemateonga walkway entrance is the appropriate western "gateway" to the Wanganui Park rather than a proposal for a visitor centre amidst the charred hills of Aotuhia.

Dr Gerry McSweeney, Conservation Director