



The transformation of Tiritiri Matangi Island in the Hauraki Gulf, near Auckland, from grassland to shrub forest was achieved by volunteers, including many members of Forest and Bird. Native trees replace cocksfoot in these pictures taken 15 years apart.

in the wild, while its shrub-topped profile provides nesting habitat for burrowing grey-faced petrels. (Pictures page 20)

More spectacularly, Mid North branch agitated for the restoration of Motuora, one of a string of islands lying off the Mahurangi Coast, east of Warkworth. Initially their enthusiasm was dampened, as DoC officials felt the 'locals' were getting ahead of their programmes for nearby Tiritiri Matangi and Motutapu in Auckland Harbour. In the event, Mid North's enthusiasm carried into practice, and weed control and replanting began on this sliver of an island which had been farmed for more than a century. The island is still farmed but fenced off areas of native trees show how a local community can get things moving when official budgets are stretched. Zoo-raised kiwi have

The broad reefs surrounding Motuora Island in the Hauraki Gulf, near Warkworth, suggested the island might make a suitable home for shore plover from the Chatham Islands. Restoration of this island (also seen from the mainland, opposite) was begun by Mid North Forest and Bird.

endangered birds surviving only on remote islands for relocation elsewhere.

During the past 20 years, however, there has been a growing interest by Forest and Bird branches to adopt an island and take a lead in its restoration. There are famous examples such as Tiritiri Matangi Island, in the Hauraki Gulf near Auckland, which has become a major project for many community groups and schools, and which now has its own supporters' group and restoration trust. When North Shore Forest and Bird celebrated its twenty-fifth birthday, 20 years or so back, members gave more than \$5000 to help secure a

lighthouse cottage as a base for visiting restoration teams. With its cocksfoot pastures replanted in native shrubs, Tiritiri Matangi is now a much-vaunted 'open sanctuary' where endangered birds, including takahe, saddleback and stitchbird, can be seen by visitors who are free to come ashore and wander round.

On a much smaller scale, Mid North Forest and Bird has worked on the tiny island of Moturemu in the Kaipara Harbour, paying for rat poison and helping the Department of Conservation to lay it. Moturemu is one of the few places where the endangered kakabeak survives

