



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



# Ulva Island Visitor Survey 2012

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Photo: Post Office Cove – Katrina Harbrow

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# Executive summary

This report summarises the results of a survey of 383 visitors to Ulva Island carried out in February 2012. The survey was part of an ongoing visitor monitoring program being carried out by the Department of Conservation in Southland Conservancy. In this report, results have been compared to a similar study carried out in 2006 and to survey data from other day and short walks managed by the Department around New Zealand.

The key finding of the 2012 Ulva Island survey is the absence of any significant effects on the visitor experience from the 2011 rat incursion and subsequent eradication programme. Respondents appeared to be highly satisfied with their experience giving Ulva Island an average overall satisfaction rating of 8.8 out of 10. This compared well with other tracks around the country. Furthermore, over 90% of respondents were able to see and hear local birdlife. This indicates that, from a visitor experience perspective at least, the island's fauna has not been badly affected.

Other aspects of the experience on Ulva Island were also rated very highly. Over 90% of respondents indicated that they were able to experience natural peace and quiet and able to enjoy tracks that suited their level of experience and fitness. Ninety seven percent of respondents felt safe walking the tracks and 96% were able to experience nature and scenery.

Respondents were generally not concerned about the effects of other visitor activities on their experience. Only 6% of respondents were annoyed by meeting commercial / guided groups, despite the percentage of survey respondents who were guided having increased since 2006. The increased percentage of guided respondents may represent an increase in commercial activity or it may be due to differences in sampling methodology between the two surveys. Visitors to Ulva Island were also, on the whole, not annoyed by the presence of boats, planes or helicopters. They likewise did not experience significant crowding. The level of crowding on Ulva Island (13%) remained very low and has decreased since 2006. This is likely to have been influenced by a decline in visitor numbers and by changes to the way that large commercial groups are guided on the island.

Satisfaction with most facilities on Ulva Island was high. In particular the quality of the tracks and directional and information signage compared well when benchmarked against other destinations around the country. Visual clutter from excessive signage, a concern highlighted in the Rakiura National Park Management Plan (DOC 2012: 216), did not appear to be a significant issue. Only 3% of respondents reacted negatively to the number of signs and notices on-site. However, dissatisfaction with the toilet facilities on Ulva Island was comparatively high with 10% of respondents rating these facilities as poor or very poor. This represents a significant level of dissatisfaction given a further 41% indicated that they were either unaware of, or did not use these facilities. It is also notable that there has been no improvement in satisfaction with the toilets since the 2006 survey. The report recommends that the Department look at the design, location and ventilation of the current facilities.

The report also recommends that future upgrades to facilities on the island consider the needs of older visitors. The survey found that almost half of respondents (47%) were aged over 60 years of age and that the proportion of older respondents had increased substantially since 2006. Ulva Island appears to be a regionally significant destination for older visitors.

Despite reported satisfaction with signage the quality of information provided was identified as another area where the Department could make improvements. Twelve percent of respondents felt that they had not been able to learn about the history of the island. Of more concern, given the island's status as an open sanctuary, 9% had not been able to learn about conservation and island restoration and 5% had not been able to learn about the island's plants and animals. These aspects of the experience received the lowest scores in the visitor experience section of the survey with means of 5.4, 5.7 and 5.9 out of 7 respectively. The report recommends that both the self-guide booklet and onsite interpretation be reviewed.

Biosecurity was also identified as an area of concern. It is of crucial importance to the future viability of Ulva Island as a visitor attraction, yet 35% of respondents did not provide a response when asked what they had learned about keeping Ulva Island free of introduced plants and animals. This was a small increase from the 2006 survey. It is recommended that the Department review the key channels that are currently used to inform visitors about their biosecurity obligations, especially in light of recent rodent incursions.

It is recommended that the survey be repeated in the 2016/17 summer season.

# Introduction

This report presents the results of a survey of 383 visitors to Ulva Island, Rakiura National Park, Stewart Island carried out between the 7th and 14th of February 2012. The survey was undertaken to provide information for various purposes including managing and planning for facilities, understanding the island's existing visitors, concession management, assessing visitors' understanding of biosecurity and measuring the quality of the visitor experience. It replicates a previous survey carried out in February 2006 (see DOC / Tourism Resource Consultants 2006, Emmitt 2006).

Ulva Island is located in Paterson Inlet / Whaka a Te Wera, Stewart Island. It has an area of 267 hectares. The majority of the island is managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) with the exception of small areas of private land (7.8 ha) and council road reserve around Post Office Cove (DOC 2012). It takes 8 minutes to get to Ulva Island by water taxi from Golden Bay on Stewart Island / Rakiura. Ulva Island has never been logged and has remained free of many pests that are present on Stewart Island / Rakiura and mainland New Zealand. Ulva Island was declared pest free in 1997 after a successful rat eradication programme (DOC 2013) and remained so until the 2010 rat incursion. Recently efforts have been made, through the use of aerial poison drops and trapping, to re-eradicate the rats. At the time of the survey the Department was awaiting confirmation of the island's pest free status.

Ulva Island is home to multiple species of rare and endangered New Zealand birds. Some are native to the island and others have been introduced to the island sanctuary. Tieke (saddleback) (*Philesturnus carunculatus*) were released on to the island in 2000 and the opportunity to view them is a draw card for visitors. Much of the flora is native to the island and in its natural condition. As an open sanctuary Ulva Island allows visitors to understand the important work DOC does to protect New Zealand's native flora and fauna. It gives visitors a chance to see work that is often invisible to the public. Ulva Island is one of only three such sanctuaries that can be visited by the public, the others being Kapiti Island and Tiritiri Matangi Island. Ulva Island is the only open sanctuary in the southern half of the country. It is a nationally important visitor site and has been given Icon status under the Department's Destination Management Framework.

Ulva Island contains about 4 km of tracks for visitors to explore. These are maintained to the Department's Walking Track standard. They are clearly signposted, and are generally well formed with bridges over stream and river crossings. They are suitable for people of low to moderate fitness and abilities. Other facilities on the island include shelters, toilets, interpretation panels, seats and viewing platforms. These facilities are managed by DOC with the assistance of the Ulva Island Charitable Trust.

Figure 1 shows Ulva Island and its location in relation to Golden Bay, the main departure point for water taxis bringing visitors to the island. Figure 2 shows the estimated visitor numbers over the last eleven seasons. The next section of the report outlines the survey methodology.



FIGURE 1: MAP OF ULVA ISLAND

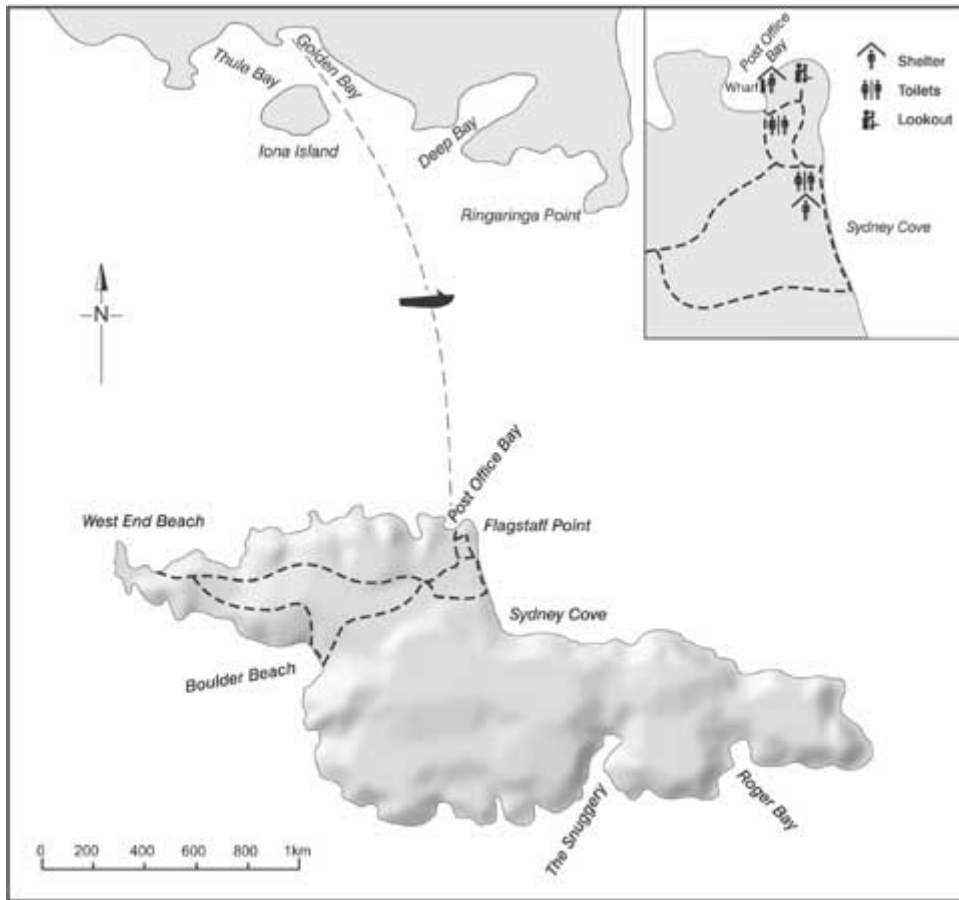
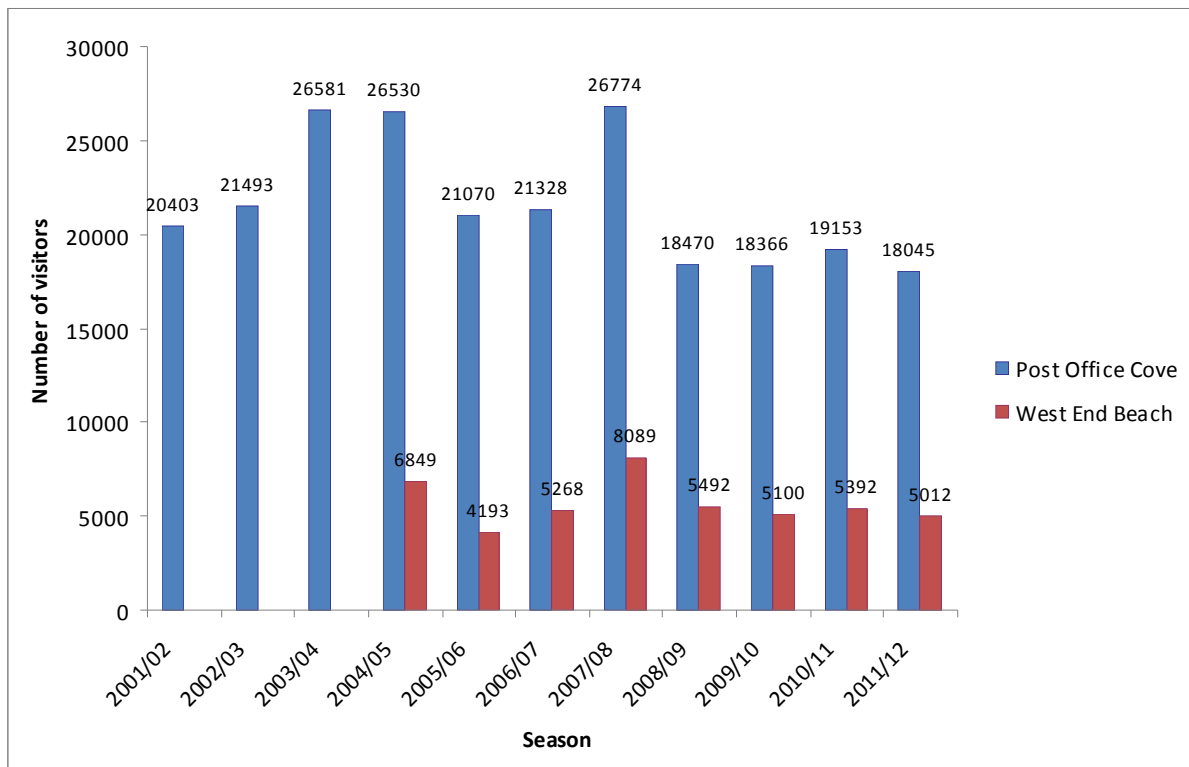


FIGURE 2: ESTIMATED VISITOR NUMBERS FOR ULVA ISLAND 2001/02 – 2011/12



# Methodology

The 2012 Ulva Island survey was undertaken using a four page questionnaire developed by Department of Conservation staff. This included questions replicated from the previous 2006 survey and other recent surveys carried out within Southland Conservancy. A copy of the survey questionnaire is provided in Appendix 1.

Surveying took place over 8 days during February 2012. The surveyor was on site for up to 7 hours each day (normally 10 am to 5 pm) and was present on both wet and fine days. The survey captured both guided and independent visitors at the main wharf when they had completed their visit. All visitors were approached with a survey form, but any who were aged under 16 along with non-visitors, such as DOC staff or guides, were excluded from the survey.

Surveys were self-completed, with the surveyor on hand to collect forms and provide assistance if necessary. A postal return option was given to any visitors who were in a hurry and unable to complete a form onsite. Forms were also supplied to either commercial guides or boat crews to give to their clients to fill in once they had returned from their walk. The forms given to guides were generally returned by post or handed in to the DOC visitor centre in Oban. This minimised any potential disruption to guided group schedules.

In order to quantify non-response rates, the total number of forms distributed was recorded, along with the number of visitors who refused or could not complete a survey. Data from questionnaires was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet for analysis and further analysis was carried out in R. The results of the survey are outlined in the next section.

# Results

A total of 583 visitors were approached over the 8 days of the survey with the number of visitors each day ranging from 44 to 90 (Figure 3). Three hundred and eighty three surveys were completed with 248 being returned on site and 135 returned by mail or handed in to the local DOC office. The survey response rate was 65.7% and the maximum margin of error was 5.0%<sup>1</sup>.

FIGURE 3: DAILY COUNT OF VISITORS (N=583)

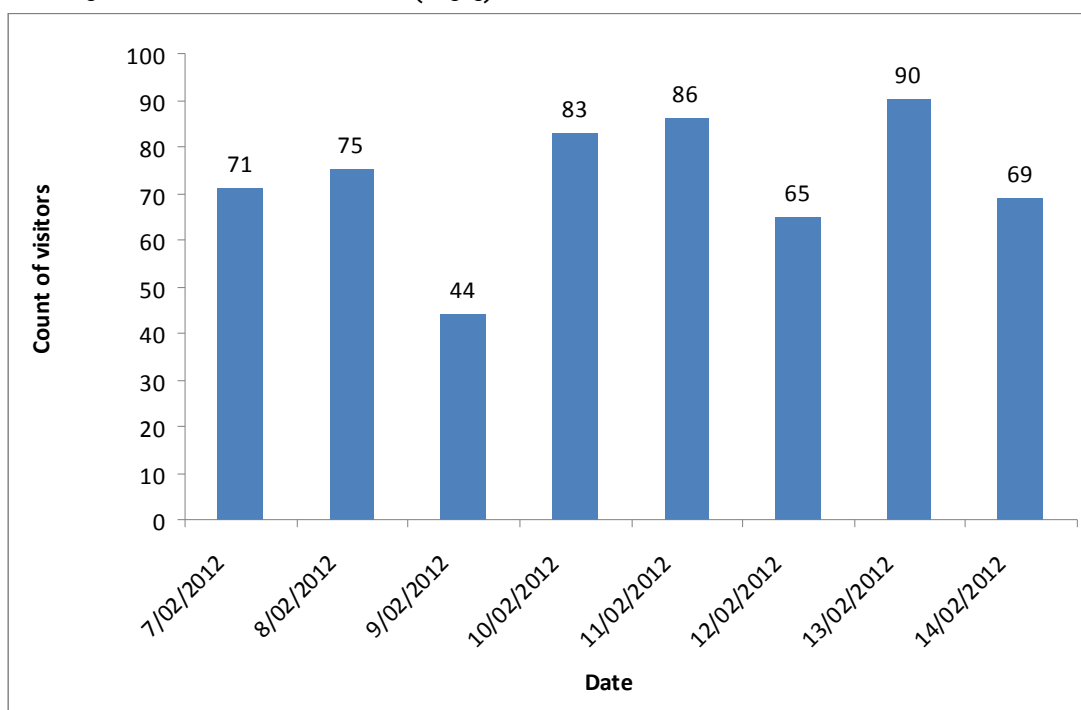


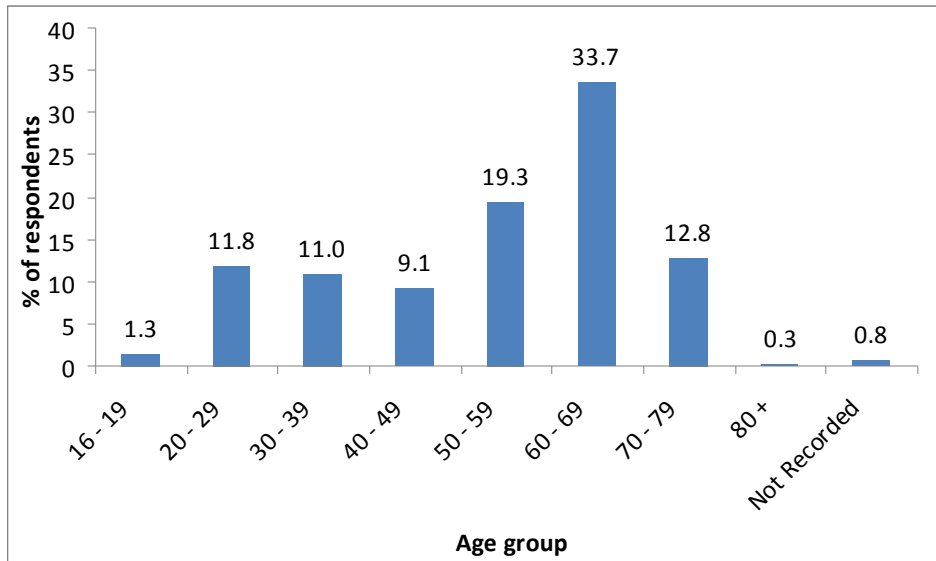
TABLE 1: WEATHER CONDITIONS AND OTHER EVENTS ON ULVA ISLAND DURING SURVEY PERIOD

Date	Weather conditions and other notes
7/02/2012 (Tuesday)	Calm and sunny
8/02/2012 (Wednesday)	Sunny and calm
9/02/2012 (Thursday)	Calm and rain throughout day
10/02/2012 (Friday)	Calm and overcast
11/02/2012 (Saturday)	Overcast
12/02/2012 (Sunday)	Calm and sunny. Scheduled water taxi does not run on Sunday
13/02/2012 (Monday)	Calm and sunny
14/02/2012 (Tuesday)	Overcast and calm

<sup>1</sup>The margin of error refers to the potential error arising from sampling when making inferences about a larger population e.g. everyone who visits Ulva Island during the summer season. Error figures should be viewed alongside other information such as response rates, the methodology and the survey instrument used. The figure given is the maximum margin of error and may be conservative. It has been calculated using the formula  $(=0.98/\sqrt{\text{sample size}})*100$  and gives the maximum size of the 95% confidence interval for a simple random sample. Few surveys undertaken in recreational settings are truly random so the margin of error figures should be regarded as indicative.

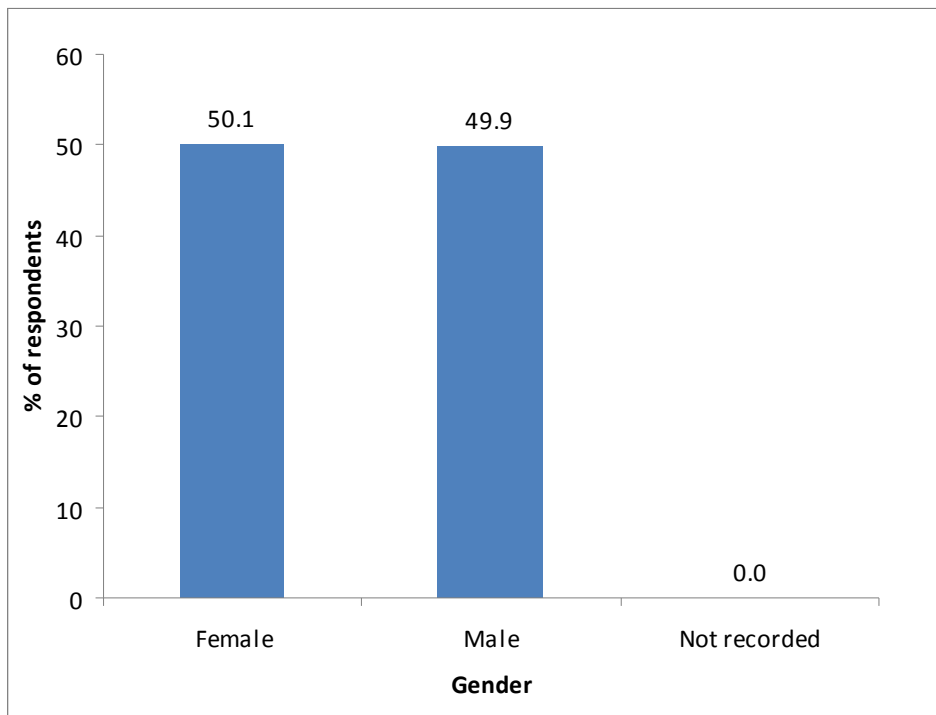
## Demographics

FIGURE 4: AGE (N=383)



The most common age group among respondents (Figure 4) was the 60 – 69 age group with 34% of respondents. This was followed by the 50 – 59 age group with 19%. The least common age group was 80+, with less than 1% of respondents falling into this age bracket. Two thirds of respondents were 50 years of age or older and just under half (47%) were aged 60+.

FIGURE 5: GENDER (N=383)



There was an even split in survey responses between male and female visitors (Figure 5).

FIGURE 6: COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE (N=383)

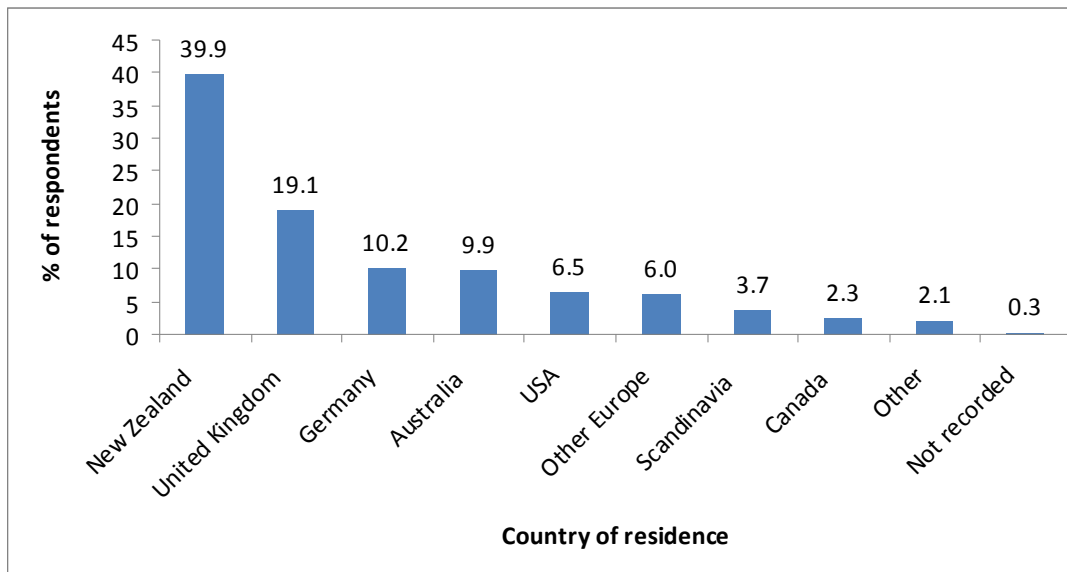
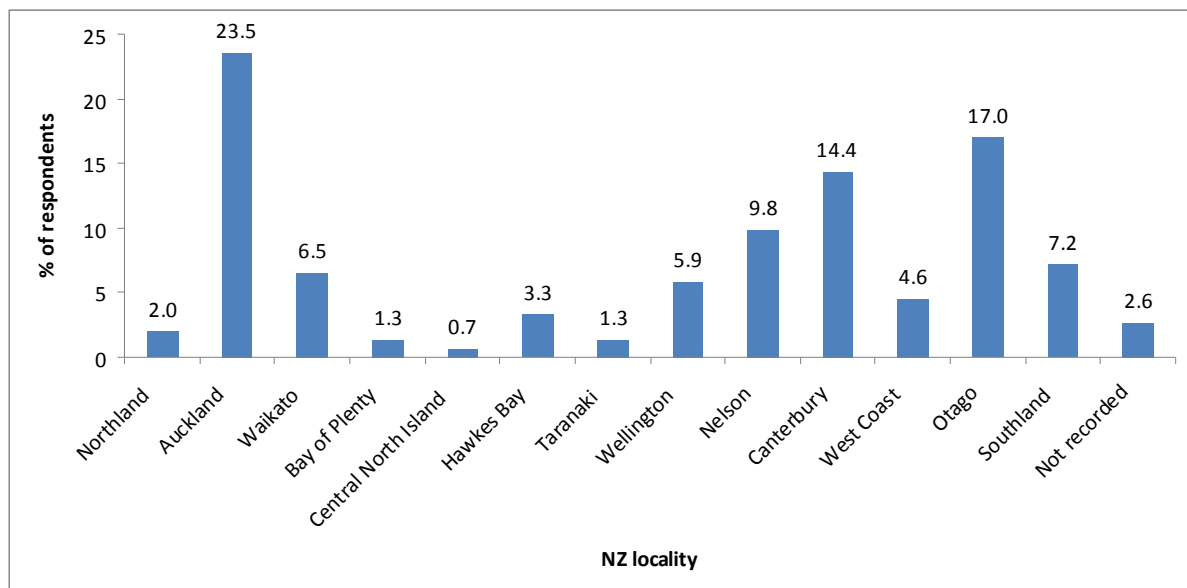


FIGURE 7: ORIGIN OF NEW ZEALAND RESPONDENTS (N=153)

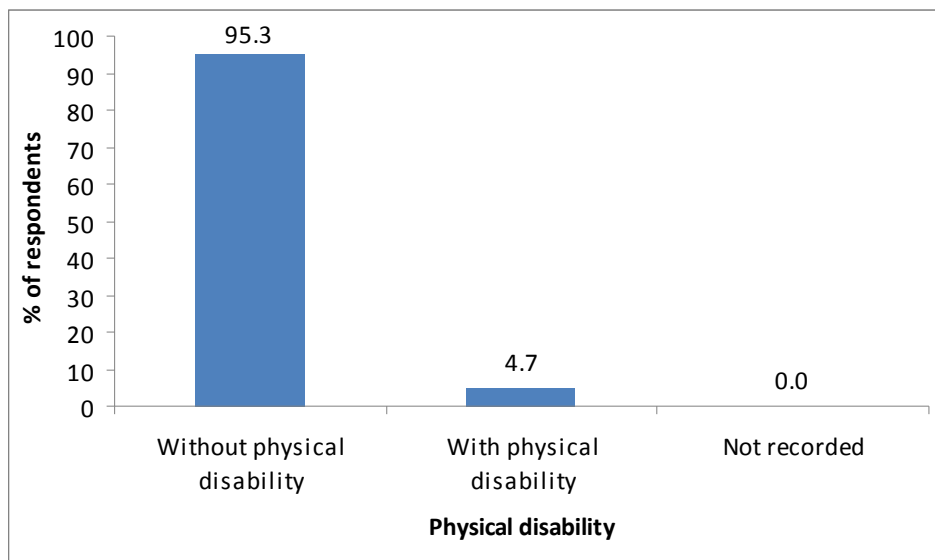


Most respondents were from overseas but New Zealand was the largest single source of visitors (Figure 6). The five most common responses for country of residence were;

- New Zealand (40%)
- United Kingdom (19%)
- Germany (10%)
- Australia (10%)
- USA (7%)

New Zealand respondents came from around the country but there were slightly more South Island (53%) than North Island (44%) respondents. The most common regions (Figure 7) were Auckland (24%), Otago (17%) and Canterbury (14%).

FIGURE 8: RESPONDENTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES (N=383)



Most visitors surveyed on Ulva Island did not identify as having a physical disability (Figure 8). Of those that did (5%), none reported having any difficulties during their visit.

Visitors were also asked to report how many people in their group were less than 18 years of age. During the survey period only 3% of respondents reported having children in their group. The majority of respondents that reported visiting with children, only had one child in their group.

## Group characteristics

When respondents were asked to describe their group, the majority were found to be independent visitors (Figure 9). However, it is important to note that most commercial visitors received postal return forms while most independent visitors were surveyed on-site. The number of commercial visitors is likely to have been underestimated due to the slightly lower response rate for postal returns.

The most common reported group size (Figure 10) was two people (29%) while the median response was four. The most common reported group size category for guided respondents was 5 to 9 people (38% of guided groups) and the median group size reported by guided visitors was 10 people.

FIGURE 9: GROUP TYPE (N=383)

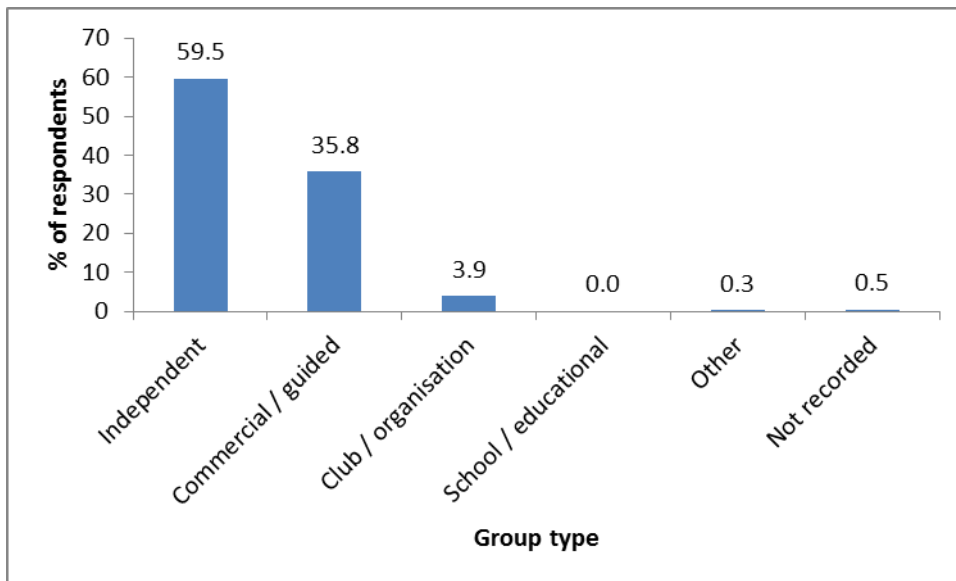
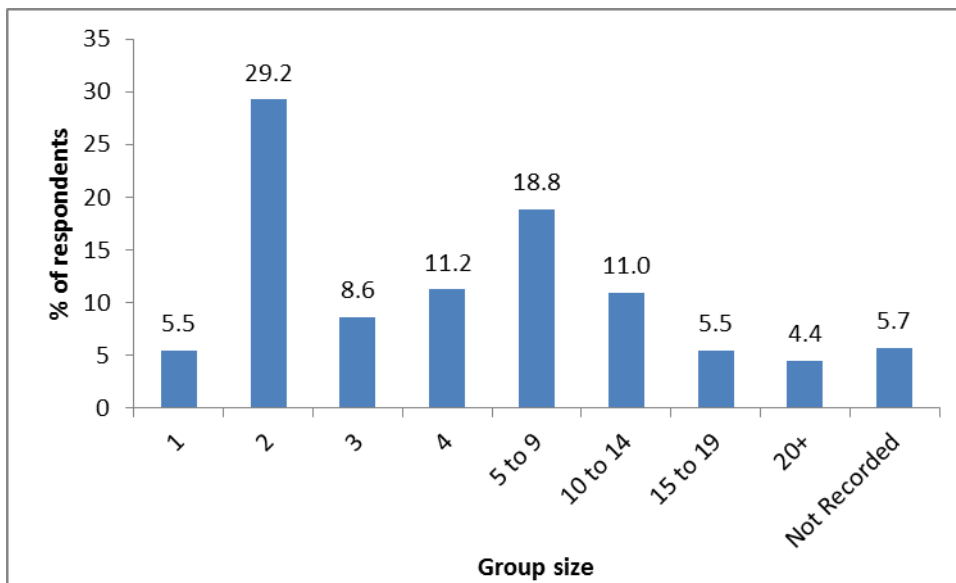


FIGURE 10: GROUP SIZE (N=383)



## Previous visits

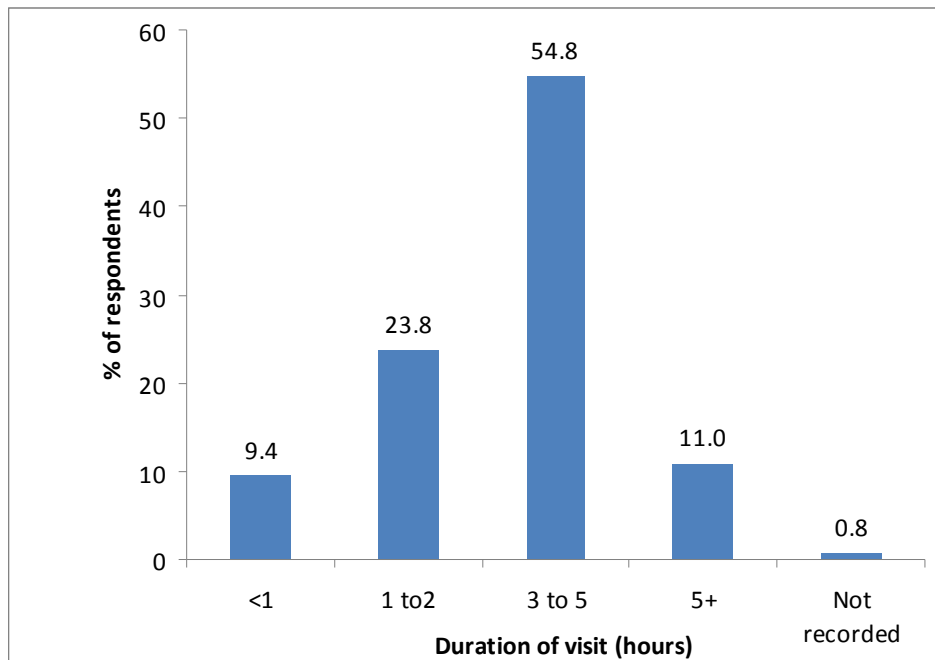
Most respondents (87%) had not visited Ulva Island previously (Table 2). Of those that had visited Ulva Island before (13%), most had only visited on one previous occasion.

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF PREVIOUS VISITS TO ULVA ISLAND (N=383)

# previous visits	0	1	2	3	4	5+	Not recorded
# respondents	332	30	4	6	2	8	1

## Length of stay

FIGURE 11: LENGTH OF STAY ON ULVA ISLAND (N=383)



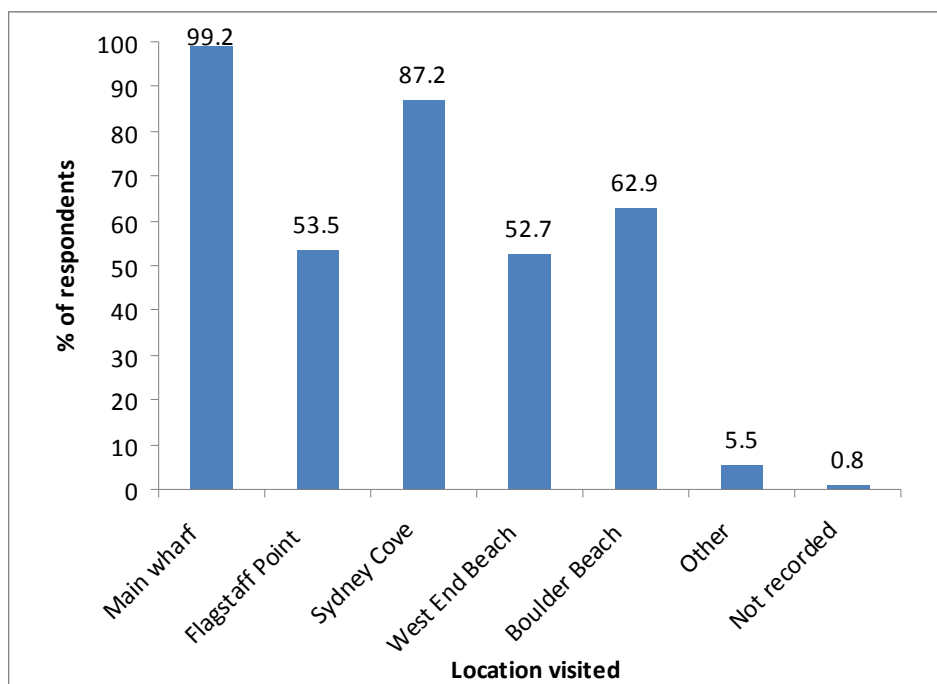
The most commonly reported length of stay on Ulva Island (Figure 11) was 3-5 hours (55%).

## Locations visited on Ulva Island

Respondents were asked to indicate which locations on Ulva Island they had visited (Figure 12). Results indicated that walkers were ranging widely across the network of tracks on the island. Sydney Cove was visited by 87% of respondents but surprisingly only 54% indicated that they had visited Flagstaff Point. This is despite this location being only 5 minutes walk from the main wharf.



FIGURE 12: LOCATIONS VISITED BY RESPONDENTS ON ULVA ISLAND (N=383)



## Visitor experience

Respondents were asked to indicate on a seven point scale how much they agreed or disagreed with eleven statements about their experience on Ulva Island. A score of 1-3 meant that they disagreed with the statement and had not experienced that aspect, a score of 4 was neutral, and a score of 5-7 meant that they agreed with the statement. Six of the eleven statements had a mean score of 6.5 or higher (maximum score 6.8). This coincided with more than 90% of respondents agreeing that they had been able to;

- enjoy tracks that suited their level of fitness and experience
- experience an environment where signs and notices did not detract from their experience
- experience natural peace and quiet
- enjoy seeing and hearing local birdlife

and more than 95% stating that they had been able to;

- enjoy nature and scenery
- feel safe walking the track.

Four of the statements received average scores of less than six. This corresponded with a number of respondents disagreeing with the statements;

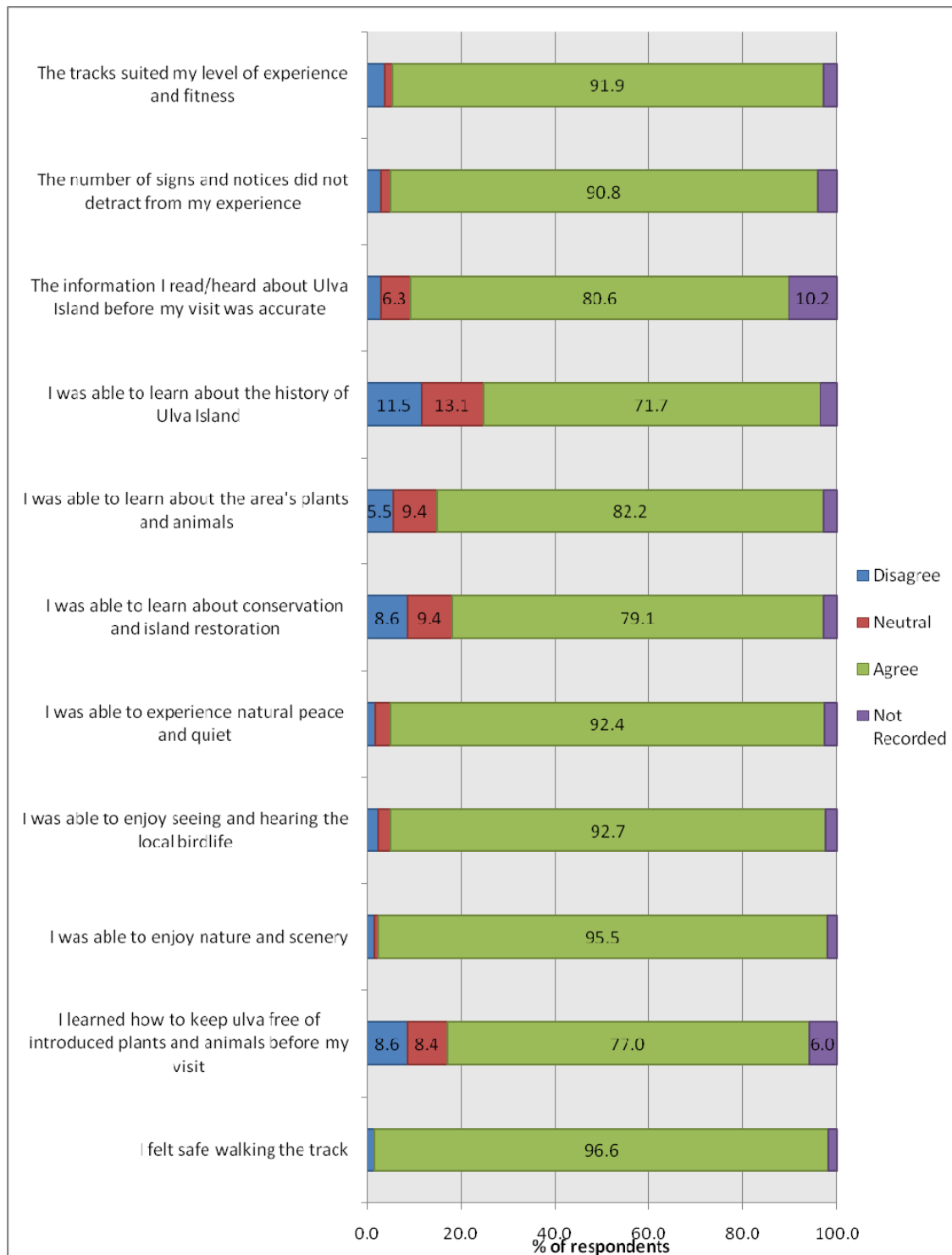
- I learned how to keep Ulva Island free of introduced plants and animals before my visit (9% disagreed)
- I was able to learn about the area's plants and animals (6%)
- I was able to learn about conservation and island restoration (9%)
- I was able to learn about the history of Ulva Island (12%)

Full results for each statement are shown in Table 3 and Figure 13 below.

**TABLE 3: MEAN SCORES FOR EXPERIENCE STATEMENTS ABOUT ULVA ISLAND (N=383)**

<b>How much do you agree or disagree that .....?</b>	<b>Mean Score (out of 7)</b>
I felt safe walking the track	6.8
I learned how to keep Ulva Island free of introduced plants and animals before my visit	5.9
I was able to enjoy nature and scenery	6.7
I was able to enjoy seeing and hearing the local birdlife	6.5
I was able to experience natural peace and quiet	6.5
I was able to learn about conservation and island restoration	5.7
I was able to learn about the area's plants and animals	5.9
I was able to learn about the history of Ulva Island	5.4
The information I read/heard about Ulva Island before my visit was accurate	6.1
The number of signs and notices did not detract from my experience	6.5
The tracks suited my level of experience and fitness	6.6

FIGURE 13: PERCEPTION OF EXPERIENCE ON ULVA ISLAND (N = 383)

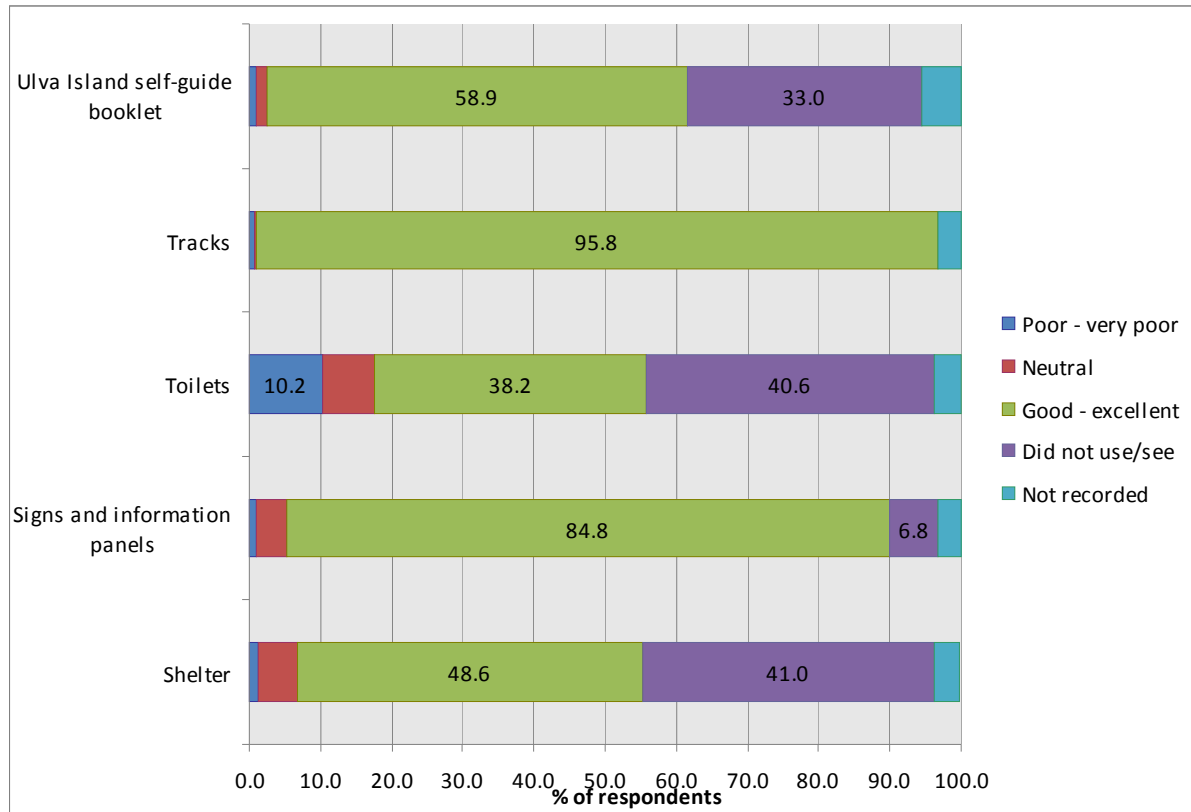


## Satisfaction with facilities

Satisfaction with facilities was measured on a seven point scale with response categories ranging from 1 (very poor) to 7 (excellent). A score of 4 indicated a neutral response. Ninety six per cent of respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the tracks (Figure 14) while 85% of respondents did so for the signs and information panels. Only 38% of respondents rated the toilets positively, but 41% indicated that they did not see or use these facilities. The toilets had the highest percentage of

dissatisfaction (10%) out of any of the facilities and had the lowest mean score of 5.2 (Table 4). The results also show that at least a third of respondents did not use the self-guide booklet.

**FIGURE 14: SATISFACTION WITH FACILITIES (N = 383)**

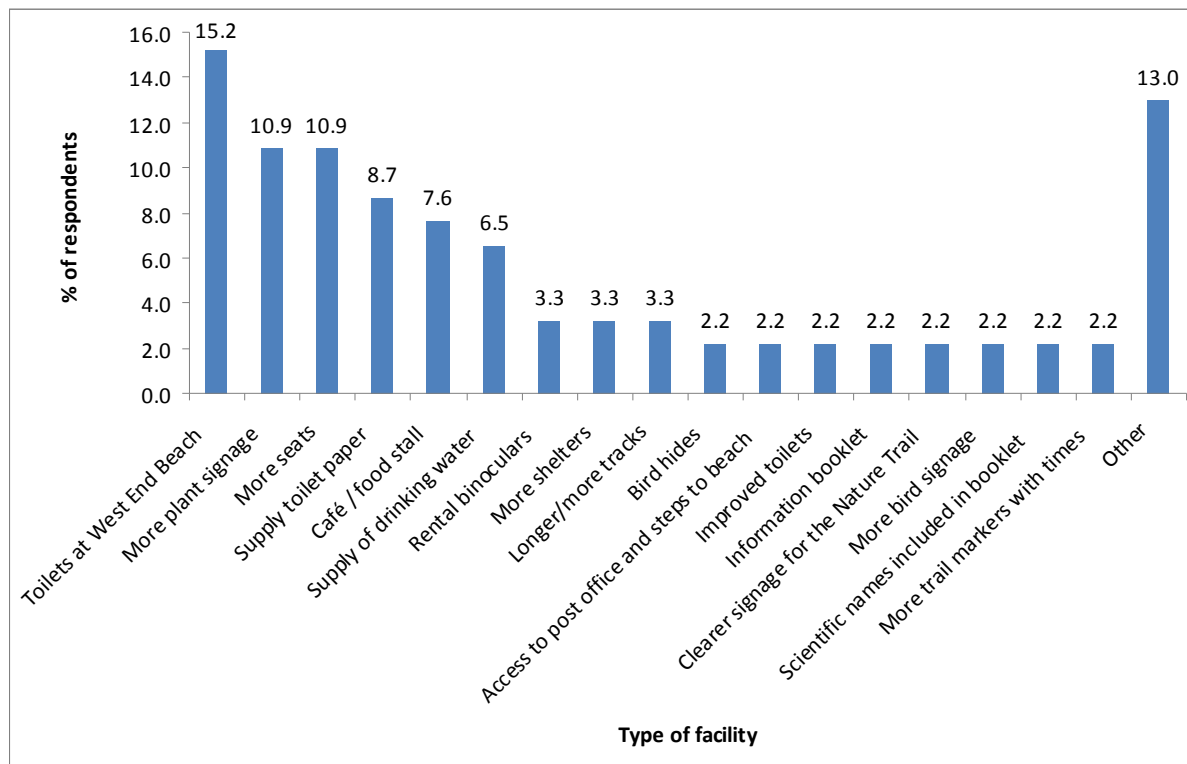


**TABLE 4: MEAN SATISFACTION SCORE FOR FACILITIES (N=383)**

Facility	Mean Score (out of 7)
Shelter	5.9
Signs and information panels	6.2
Toilets	5.2
Tracks	6.8
Ulva Island self-guide booklet	6.4

## Other facilities

FIGURE 15: ADDITIONAL FACILITIES THAT COULD BE PROVIDED (N=92)



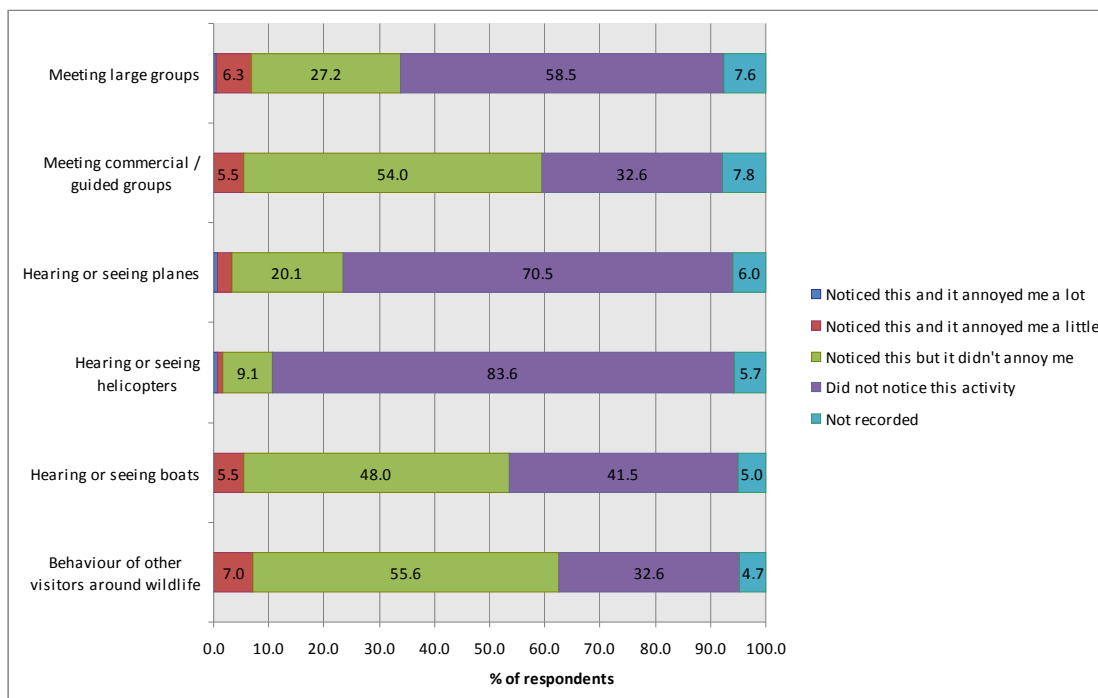
When asked whether other facilities should be provided on the island, 64% indicated that no additional facilities were required while 22% felt that there were additional facilities that could have been provided. A diverse range of answers was provided (Figure 15) however the three most common requests for additional facilities were:

- Toilets at West End Beach (14 respondents)
- More signage about plants (10 respondents)
- More seating along the tracks (10 respondents)

Responses in the “other” category were each provided by a single respondent only.

## Effects of other visitors

FIGURE 16: EFFECT OF OTHER ACTIVITIES (N=383)



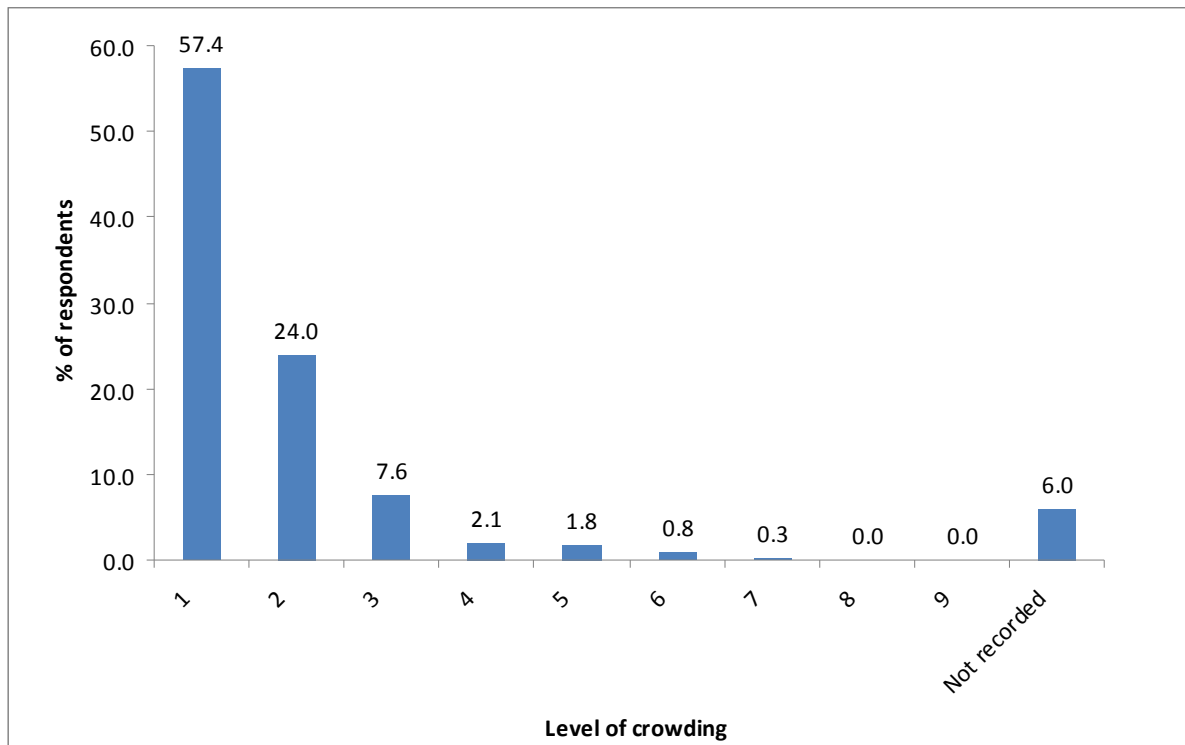
Respondents were asked to indicate on a four point scale the degree to which the activities or behaviour of others affected their visit (Figure 16). Six scenarios were tested;

- Behaviour of other visitors around wildlife,
- Hearing or seeing boats,
- Hearing or seeing helicopters,
- Hearing or seeing planes,
- Meeting commercial / guided groups,
- Meeting large groups.

For each activity visitors could state that they did not notice, noticed but were not annoyed, noticed and were annoyed a little, or noticed and were annoyed a lot. Levels of annoyance for all of the activities tested were very low. The behaviour of other visitors around wildlife was the issue that attracted the greatest number of negative responses (7%).

# Crowding

FIGURE 17: PERCEIVED CROWDING ON ULVA ISLAND (N=383)

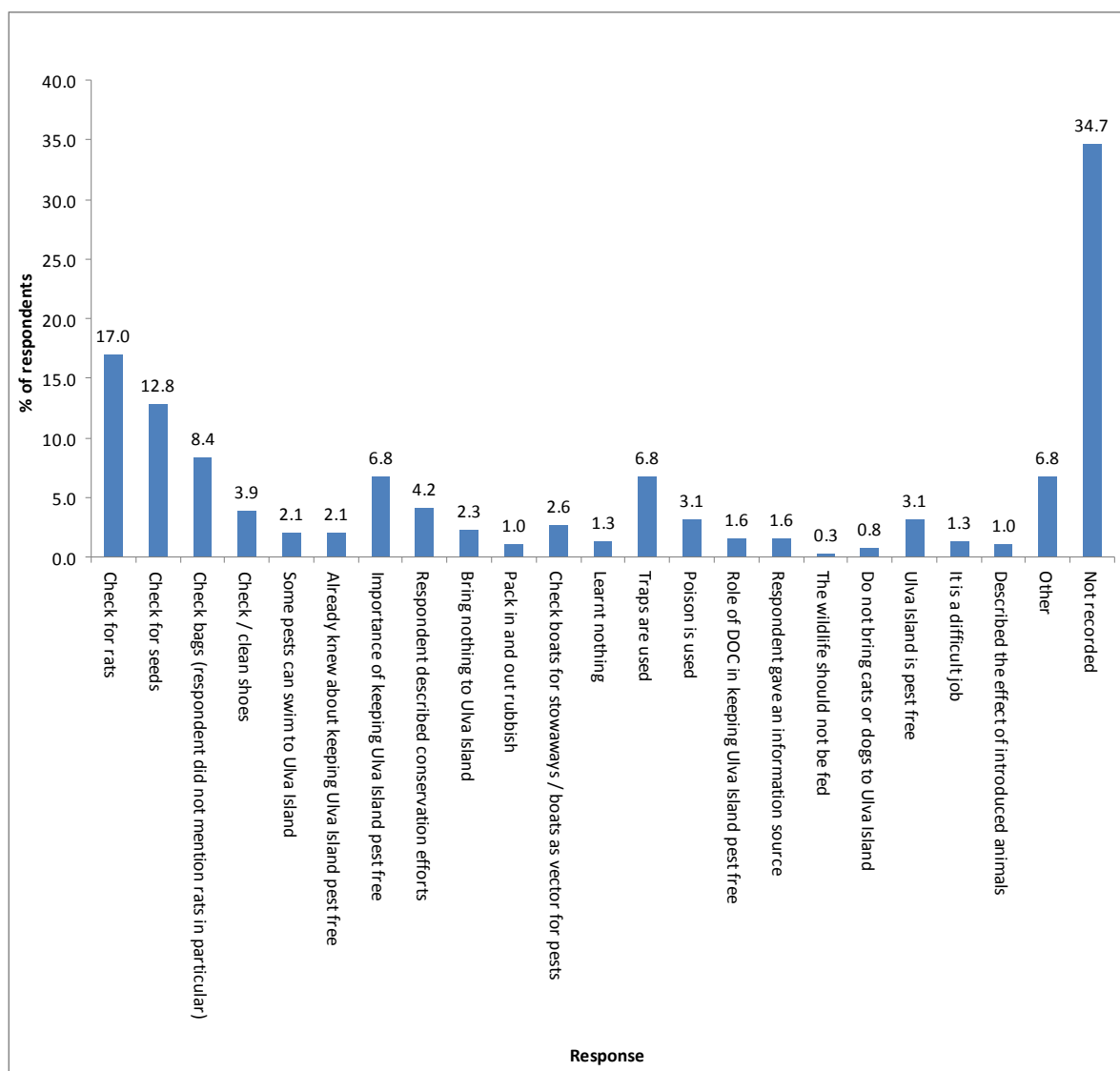


Crowding was assessed using a 9 point scale that ranged from “not at all” to “extremely” crowded (Shelby et al. 1989). Scores of 3 or more indicated some level of crowding while scores of 2 or less indicated no crowding.

Eighty one per cent of respondents reported that there was no crowding on Ulva Island while 13% of respondents reported feeling crowded to some degree (Figure 17). This constituted a very low level of crowding.

## Biosecurity

FIGURE 18: “WHAT, IF ANYTHING, DID YOU LEARN ABOUT KEEPING ULVA ISLAND FREE OF INTRODUCED PLANTS AND ANIMALS?” (N=383)<sup>2</sup>



Respondents were asked if they had learned anything about keeping Ulva Island free of introduced plants and animal (Figure 18). If they had learned something they were asked about the source of their learning (Figure 19). A large percentage of respondents (35%) did not give a response to this question and this could imply that a significant number did not learn anything about keeping Ulva Island free of introduced plants and animals. The most common thing learned by respondents was the need to check personal belongings for rats and seeds.

The three most common sources of information about keeping Ulva Island free of introduced plants and animals were:

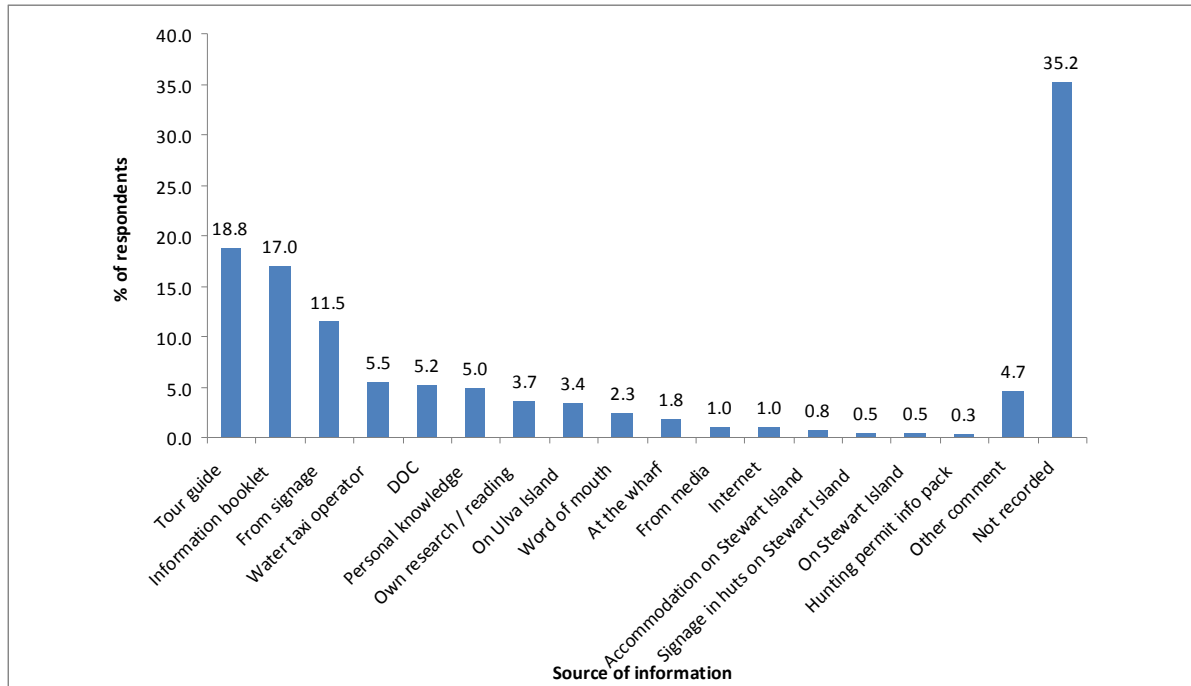
- The respondent’s tour guide

<sup>2</sup> The percentage scores add to more than 100% as respondents could give multiple responses.



- Self-guide booklet
- Signage

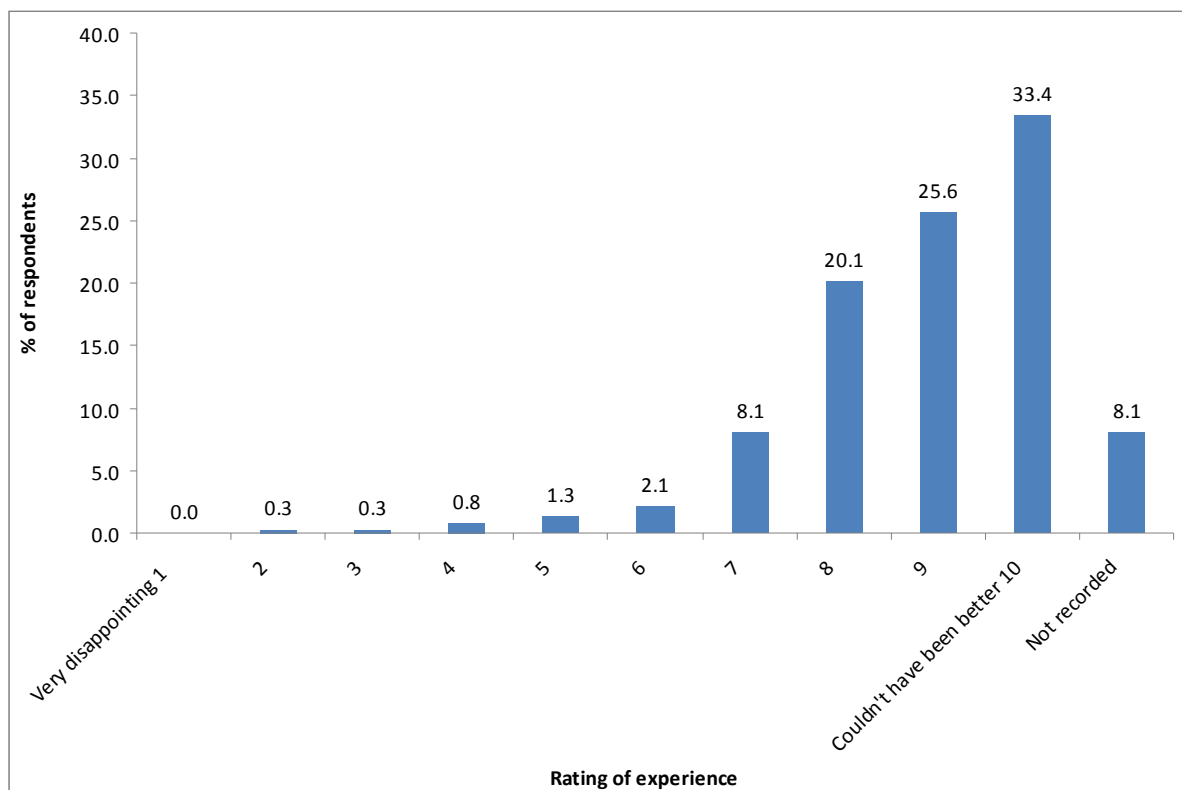
FIGURE 19: WHERE DID YOU LEARN ABOUT KEEPING ULVA ISLAND FREE OF INTRODUCED PLANTS AND ANIMALS? (N=383)<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup> The percentage scores add to more than 100% as respondents could give multiple responses.

## Overall satisfaction with experience

FIGURE 20: TRIP RATING OUT OF 10 (N=383)

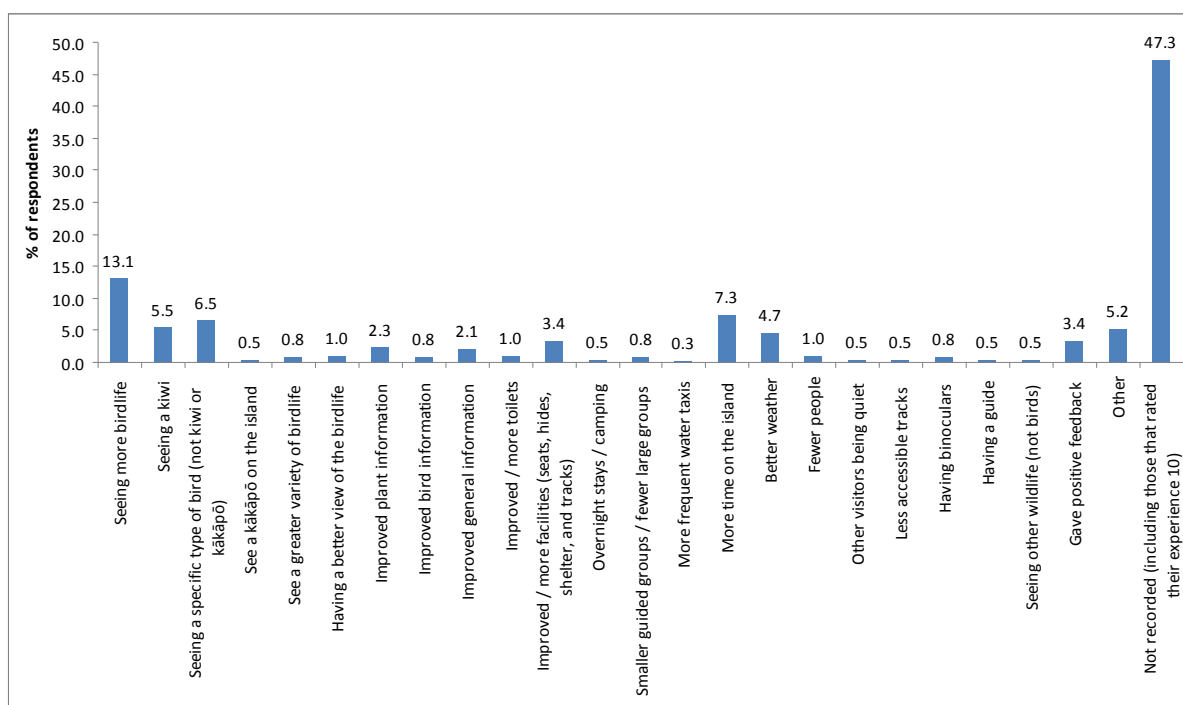


To gauge the level of satisfaction with Ulva Island, respondents were asked to rate the experience of their visit on a one to ten scale. Thirty three per cent rated their experience as 10/10 – “couldn’t have been better” and the vast majority of respondents (87%) rated their experience at 7 or higher (Figure 20). The mean score was 8.8.

Visitors were then asked what would have made their experience a ten out of ten (Figure 21). The top five issues identified were:

- Seeing more birdlife (13%),
- More time on the island (7%),
- Seeing a specific type of bird (not a kiwi) (7%),
- Seeing a kiwi (5%),
- Better weather (5%).

FIGURE 21: WHAT WOULD HAVE MADE YOUR TRIP A 10? (N=383)<sup>4</sup>



It is important to note that the top five scoring issues are all issues that are largely out of the Department’s control. The next most significant issues however were ones that the Department can influence;

- Providing better information about the island, bird life or plant life (5%)
- Improved facilities (4%).

A selection of the comments is provided below and all of the open ended responses from the survey are listed in Appendix 2.

*“To have got clearer view of some of the birds. But this is not something that can be controlled. I wouldn't want anything staged.” (5/10)*

*“Would like to have seen weka and rifleman. Would like more places to sit.” (8/10)*

*“Better weather. Expected more birds. Both out of your control.” (8/10)*

*“Info on introduced plants, more info on history of Ulva, open sanctuary.” (9/10)*

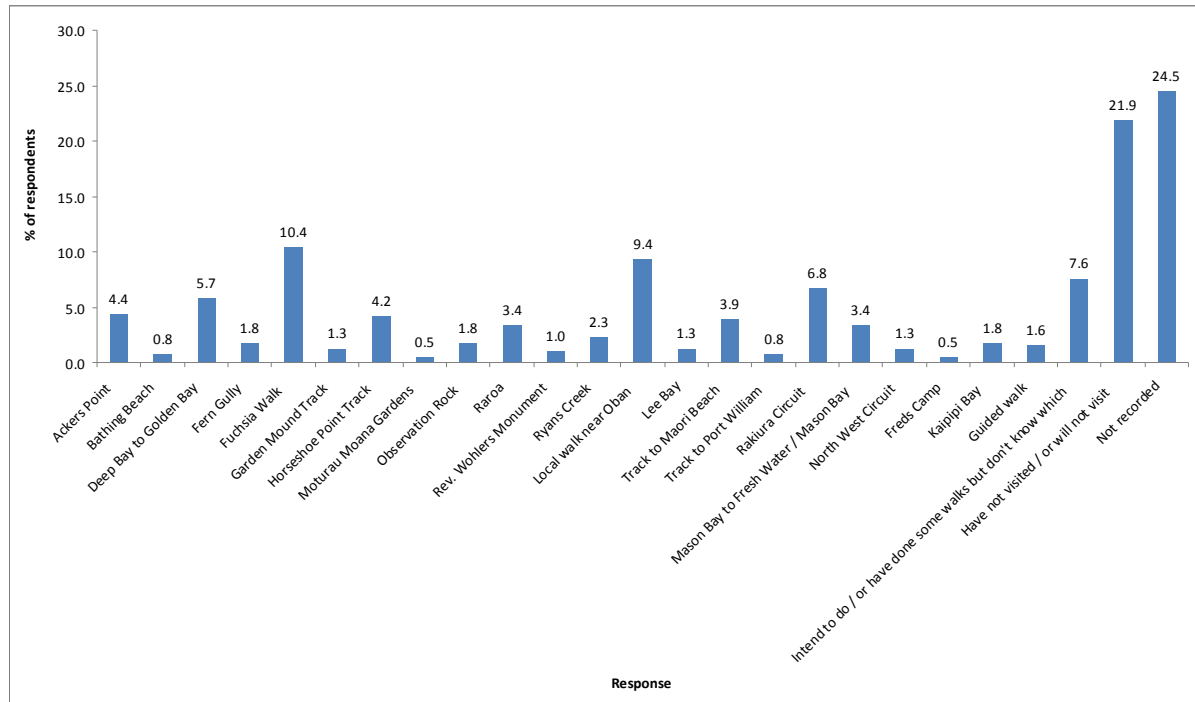
*“Visitors to the island who appreciate the need for quiet. More info in the guidebook i.e. better descriptions of what to look for with bird life” (8/10)*

<sup>4</sup> The percentage scores add to more than 100% as respondents could give multiple responses.

*“It was a perfect experience - saw all birds species (including finally weka + saddlebill (sic) quiet, easy walking, no car noises, other visitors also quiet + friendly and waterboat (sic) was cheap.” (10/10)*

## Use of other tracks on Stewart Island / Rakiura

FIGURE 22: HAVE YOU VISITED, OR WILL YOU VISIT, ANY OTHER DOC TRACKS ON STEWART ISLAND DURING THIS TRIP? (N=383)<sup>5</sup>



The final question in the survey asked respondents to list the other tracks they had visited, or those that they intended to visit, during their current trip to Stewart Island / Rakiura (Figure 22). Thirty two per cent of respondents identified at least one local walk around Oban which they had visited, or intended to visit. A significant number of respondents (8%) indicated that they had done a walk, or intend to do a walk, but could not name the specific track. The most popular track was the Fuchsia Walk with more than 10% of respondents giving this response.

The results from the 2012 Ulva Island survey are discussed further in the next section of the report.

<sup>5</sup> The percentage scores add to more than 100% as respondent could give multiple responses.

## Discussion

In this section the survey results have been compared with data from the 2006 Ulva Island survey (DOC / Tourism Resource Consultants 2006, Emmitt 2006). Where there has been change over time appropriate tests have been carried out to determine the level of statistical significance. In making comparisons between the two surveys however, it is important to bear in mind that there was a slight change to the sampling method between the 2006 and 2012 surveys. In 2006 only one person per group was surveyed which could have meant that small groups and independent visitors were over-represented. In 2012 all visitors were approached and the ferry operator, Real Journeys, was also provided with forms to allow clients to fill in a survey on their return boat trip. Because of this, the potential for there to be some effects on comparisons between the two surveys cannot be discounted.

Results have also been compared to those from surveys at other day and short walks around New Zealand. This allows the experience provided on Ulva Island to be benchmarked against comparable destinations. Comparisons with other sites also help the Department to better understand users of day and short walks as a group, and to identify any sites with unique characteristics or values.

The 2012 Ulva Island survey is likely to have captured a sample that is representative of visitors to the Island over the peak summer season. No unusual events occurred during the survey period that could have significantly skewed the sample. Although the surveyor did note the presence of a small cruise ship in port on one day of the survey, this is not unusual for Stewart Island and cruise ship passengers were also surveyed in 2006. Weather conditions were relatively settled over the survey period. Non-response bias is a potential influence on the results of any survey. This can occur when the characteristics of non-respondents are in some way different to those of respondents (e.g. non English speakers who can't complete a survey having different characteristics and opinions to other visitors). The sample size ( $n = 383$ ) and relatively high response rate (65.7%) reduces the risk of non-response error. The results of the survey are discussed below.

## Demographics

Visitors to Ulva Island who responded to this survey were generally aged 50 years or older (66%). The predominance of this age group on Ulva Island is consistent with the previous survey (DOC / Tourism Resource Consultants 2006) but appears to have become more pronounced. In 2006 only 53% of respondents were aged 50 years or older. The largest changes were in the older age groups. The percentage of respondents aged 60-69 increased from 23% to 34% while the percentage who were in the 70+ age group more than doubled from 5% to 13%. The difference in age distribution between the two surveys is statistically significant.<sup>6</sup> The increase in the percentage of commercial visitors captured within the survey may account for some of this difference as commercial visitors surveyed in 2012 had a higher average age than respondents who were independent (mean age of 56 compared to 51)<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup>  $\chi^2(5, n=612) = 20.144, p = 0.001$

<sup>7</sup> Guided 56.3 Independent 50.7 ( $t(341.256) = 3.473, p < .001$ )

**TABLE 5: AGE OF RESPONDENTS AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS<sup>8</sup>**

Site	Age group						
	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Not recorded
Ulva Island 2011/12	1.3%	11.8%	11.0%	9.1%	19.3%	46.7%	0.8%
Ulva Island 2005/06	1.6%	11.7%	11.3%	12.8%	25.3%	27.6%	9.7%
Waipoua Big Trees Experience 2008/09	1.9%	19.6%	17.9%	14.4%	21.5%	24.7%	-
Nugget Point 2006/07	0.8%	26.1%	17.0%	8.7%	18.6%	22.3%	6.4%
Rob Roy Track 2007/08	2.3%	17.3%	27.5%	11.4%	20.9%	17.6%	2.9%
Routeburn Track (Otago) 2008/09	1.7%	19.3%	11.8%	14.3%	21.0%	31.1%	0.8%
Curio Bay 2006/07	1.5%	36.6%	16.6%	10.7%	12.7%	15.6%	6.3%
Kepler Track 2005/06	2.8%	22.6%	23.4%	21.7%	14.7%	12.2%	2.6%
Key Summit Track 2010/11	1.8%	31.8%	23.6%	13.7%	15.2%	13.4%	0.5%
Lake Gunn Nature Walk 2009/10	2.0%	33.2%	15.0%	12.9%	17.5%	18.8%	0.5%
Lake Marian Falls Track 2007/08	2.3%	29.9%	18.7%	14.6%	17.6%	16.0%	0.9%
Milford Sound Foreshore 2006/07	3.0%	30.6%	17.7%	12.2%	17.4%	18.5%	0.6%
Waipapa Point 2006/07	3.9%	33.7%	19.0%	9.8%	9.8%	15.1%	8.8%

Site	Age group						
	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Not recorded
Fox Glacier (Independent walkers) 2008/09	3%	27%	20%	13%	15%	21%	-
Franz Josef Glacier (Independent walkers) 2008/09	4%	27%	13%	12%	20%	23%	-
Hooker Valley 2006/07	4%	30%	22%	12%	15%	18%	-

Site	Age group						
	Under 20	20-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	Over 60	Not recorded
Tiritiri Matangi Island 2011/12	3%	11%	16%	22%	12%	36%	-

<sup>8</sup> Sources for this data are Visitor Solutions 2011 (Waipoua Big Trees Experience), Hall 2007 (Nugget Point), Squires 2008 (Rob Roy Track), Harbrow & Visser 2010 (Routeburn Track), Harbrow, Roughan & Chesterfield 2007 (Curio Bay, Waipapa Point), Harbrow 2010 (Kepler Track), Harbrow & Murray 2011 (Key Summit, Lake Marian Falls Track, Milford Foreshore Walk), Van Neuren 2010 (Lake Gunn), Ulva Island (DOC / Tourism Resource Consultants 2006), Franz Josef Glacier (Tourism Resource Consultants 2009), Fox Glacier (Tourism Resource Consultants 2008), Hooker Valley (Smith 2007) & Tiritiri Matangi Island (Sonia Frimmel unpublished data).

The age distribution of respondents at other day and short walk sites around the country is shown in Table 5 with the median category for each site shaded grey. Ulva Island appears to be a regionally significant opportunity for older visitors. In 2012, 46% of respondents on Ulva Island were aged 60 and over. The Glenorchy end of the Routeburn Track (31%) and Tiritiri Matangi Island (36% aged over 60) are the only other surveyed locations where older visitors have made up more than a quarter of respondents (Harbrow & Visser 2010, What's the Story? 2012). The results from Ulva Island show that strong consideration needs to be given to the requirements of older visitors when building or managing facilities on the Island.

**TABLE 6: GENDER OF RESPONDENTS AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS**

Site	Gender		
	Female	Male	Not recorded
Ulva Island 2011/12	50.1%	49.9%	-
Ulva Island 2005/06	46.3%	48.2%	5.4%
Waipoua Big Trees Experience 2008/09	51.0%	49.0%	-
Tiritiri Matangi Island 2011/12	66%	34%	-
Ohope Scenic Reserve 2010/11 <sup>9</sup>	53%	47%	-
Wairongomai Valley 2010/11 <sup>10</sup>	52%	48%	-
Castlepoint 2009/10	47%	53%	-
Kapiti Island 2006	45%	55%	-
Cape Foulwind Walkway 2006/07 <sup>11</sup>	51%	49%	-
Fox Glacier (Independent walkers) 2008/09	52%	49%	-
Franz Josef Glacier (Independent walkers) 2008/09	51%	49%	-
Nugget Point 2006/07	50.4%	43.2%	6.4%
Rob Roy Track 2007/08	48.0%	49.7%	2.3%
Routeburn Track (Otago) 2008/09	53.8%	45.4%	0.8%
Curio Bay 2006/07	53.7%	40.0%	6.3%
Kepler Track 2005/06	44.3%	44.9%	10.8%
Key Summit Track 2010/11	51.0%	48.5%	0.5%
Lake Gunn Nature Walk 2009/10	50.0%	45.9%	4.1%
Lake Marian Falls Track 2007/08	48.9%	48.2%	3.0%
Milford Sound Foreshore 2006/07	48.1%	48.0%	3.9%
Waipapa Point 2006/07	47.8%	42.9%	9.3%

<sup>9</sup> Sun & Zahra 2010

<sup>10</sup> Burness & Zahra 2011

<sup>11</sup> Tourism Resource Consultants 2007

The gender distribution of respondents on Ulva Island in 2012 was very similar to 2006 (DOC / Tourism Resource Consultants 2006) with a near even distribution in both surveys. Nationally, surveys at day and short walks have tended to show a slight skew towards greater numbers of female visitors (Table 6), although there are some exceptions. Males made up the majority of respondents surveyed at Kapiti Island (Parkin 2007) and Castle Point (Hill 2010) while females made up two thirds of respondents in a recent survey at Tiritiri Matangi Island (What's the Story? 2012). The trend of more females using day and short walks managed by the Department is supported by the 2012 National Survey of New Zealanders. When New Zealanders who had visited public conservation land in the previous 12 months were asked about their most recent visit, female respondents (40%) were more likely to have undertaken a walk under 3 hours than male respondents (30%). There was no statistically significant difference for longer day walks (Premium Research 2012). It is not clear if the same pattern is found among international visitors.

In the 2012 Ulva Island survey the most common country of origin was New Zealand with 40% of respondents. The 2006 survey produced a near identical result with 41% of respondents being normally resident in New Zealand (DOC / Tourism Resource Consultants 2006). Visitors from New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and Australia made up approximately 85% of respondents in both surveys. Differences in percentages for individual countries across the two surveys were not statistically significant.

Findings from Ulva Island are consistent with those from day and short walks around the country where typically more than 50% of survey respondents have come from those same five countries. The relative percentage of New Zealanders and international visitors using these sites is highly variable however (Table 7). Sites on major tourist routes such as the West Coast Glaciers, Hooker Valley in Aoraki / Mt Cook National Park and the walks on the Milford Road, tend to be dominated by overseas visitors who may make up more than 80% of survey respondents. These sites may still provide important recreational opportunities for New Zealanders. For example, the small percentage of New Zealand respondents surveyed at Franz Josef Glacier (15%, Tourism Resource Consultants 2009) would still equate to more than 60,000 domestic visitors per year<sup>12</sup>. On the other hand, two sites, the Ohope Scenic Reserve and the Wairongomai Valley in East Coast Bay of Plenty Conservancy, are almost exclusively used by New Zealanders (Sun & Zahra 2010, Burness & Zahra 2011). New Zealanders also made up over half of respondents at Tiritiri Matangi and Kapiti Islands (Parkin 2007, What's the Story? 2012). A high proportion of use by New Zealanders appears to be a feature of all three open sanctuary islands and this supports their function of teaching New Zealanders about the work the Department does and growing support for conservation.

Ulva Island is also an important site for local visitors compared to other day and short walks in the region (Figure 23). In 2012 9% of respondents came from the local Southland region compared to 14% in 2006. This difference was not statistically significant. The percentage of local users on other Southland tracks has ranged from 0.5% to 5% of respondents but higher levels of local use have been found on three Otago tracks.

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<sup>12</sup> An estimated 415,000 - 420,000 visitors accessed Franz Josef Glacier in 2008 and 2009 (Ian Wightwick, Department of Conservation pers. com.)



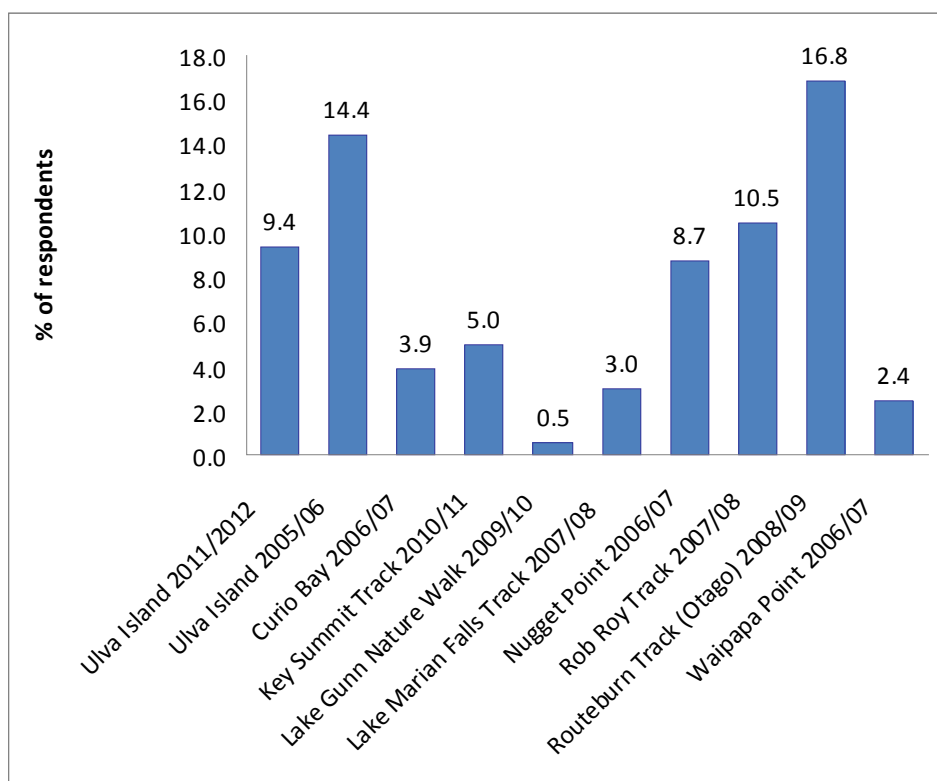
TABLE 7: ORIGIN OF RESPONDENTS AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS

Site	Country of origin						
	New Zealand	UK	Germany	Australia	USA	Other	Not recorded
Ulva Island 2011/12	39.9%	19.1%	10.2%	9.9%	6.5%	14.1%	0.3%
Ulva Island 2005/06	40.5%	16.3%	4.3%	8.9%	14.8%	12.1%	3.1%
Waipoua Big Trees Experience 2008/09	38.1%	15.4%	8.5%	11.5%	6.9%	19.7%	-
Tiritiri Matangi Island 2011/12	56%	18%	4%	1%	10%	11%	-
Ohope Scenic Reserve 2010/11	91%	Not recorded	<1%	4%	<1%	4%	-
Wairongomai Valley 2010/11	98%	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	2%	-
Kapiti Island 2006	71%	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	19%	10%
Cape Foulwind Walkway 2006/07	14%	24%	16%	8%	5%	31%	-
Fox Glacier (Independent walkers) 2007/08	18%	23%	10%	14%	8%	30%	-
Franz Josef Glacier (Independent walkers) 2008/09	15%	27%	9%	17%	4%	28%	-
Hooker Valley 2006/07	16%	23%	10%	9%	9%	33%	-
Nugget Point 2006/07	23.1%	17.8%	10.6%	7.2%	6.4%	28.4%	6.4%

TABLE 7 (CONTINUED)

Rob Roy Track 2007/08	28.4%	15.0%	10.1%	11.8%	10.1%	24.2%	0.3%
Routeburn Track (Otago) 2008/09	26.9%	19.3%	7.6%	14.3%	11.8%	20.2%	-
Curio Bay 2006/07	16.6%	18.0%	14.6%	5.4%	7.3%	31.2%	6.8%
Kepler Track 2005/06	38.8%	11.3%	8.0%	10.8%	8.9%	20.8%	1.5%
Key Summit Track 2010/11	13.7%	15.7%	15.7%	8.7%	10.4%	35.3%	0.5%
Lake Gunn Nature Walk 2009/10	6.3%	16.0%	15.0%	20.8%	8.1%	33.5%	0.3%
Lake Marian Falls Track 2007/08	14.2%	16.0%	9.1%	12.8%	14.2%	33.3%	0.5%
Milford Sound Foreshore 2006/07	13.0%	25.3%	11.6%	15.9%	10.1%	23.7%	0.3%
Waipapa Point 2006/07	8.8%	23.9%	11.2%	5.4%	1.5%	42.0%	7.3%

FIGURE 23: PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS FROM LOCAL REGION AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS



## Group characteristics

Most respondents on Ulva Island were not part of an organised group although a significant minority (36%) of respondents were guided. Despite improvements to sampling methodology in 2012, the percentage of guided visitors may still be slightly under-represented. This is because most guided visitors returned their questionnaires by post while most independent visitors returned theirs on site. The response rate for postal returns was much lower at 45.3% compared to the overall response rate of 65.7% and therefore the percentage of guided visitors should be taken as a minimum.

Compared to the 2006 survey there has been a large and statistically significant increase in the percentage of guided visitors (DOC / Tourism Resource Consultants 2006).<sup>13</sup> The percentage increased from 21% in 2006 to 36% in 2012. Some of this increase may relate to the change in sampling methodology discussed previously. The percentage of guided respondents on Ulva Island is the highest of any DOC managed day or short walks surveyed to date (Table 8).

<sup>13</sup>  $\chi^2(1, n=639)=14.610, p=0.0001$

TABLE 8: PERCENTAGE OF GUIDED VISITORS AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS

Site	% of respondents who were guided
Ulva Island 2011/12	35.8%
Ulva Island 2005/06	21.4%
Waipoua Big Trees Experience 2008/09	3%
Ohope Scenic Reserve 2010/11	-
Kapiti Island 2006	1%
Cape Foulwind Walkway 2006/07	1%
Hooker Valley 2006/07	4%
Nugget Point 2006/07	4.5%
Rob Roy Track 2007/08	1.6%
Routeburn Track (Otago) 2008/09	28.6%
Curio Bay 2006/07	27.3%
Kepler Track 2005/06	-
Key Summit Track 2010/11	10.4%
Lake Gunn Nature Walk 2009/10	26.9%
Lake Marian Falls Track 2007/08	6.6%
Milford Sound Foreshore 2006/07	6.7%
Waipapa Point 2006/07	15.1%

Results for group size reflected the large number of respondents who were guided with 16% reporting being in a group larger than ten people. The largest reported group size was thirty

people. Commercial operators are generally not permitted to operate with groups of this size but it is most likely that there was some confusion among respondents visiting the Island with Real Journeys. These clients arrive on the island in one large group then split into smaller groups. It is likely that respondents gave the size of the larger group rather than the smaller group that they subsequently split up into for the 1 hour tour of the island.

There were very few groups with children on Ulva Island during the survey period. Only 3% of respondents reported having children in their group. This reflects the older age group who use Ulva Island and who are less likely to be travelling with children. The survey was taken outside of the New Zealand and Australian summer school holiday period however and more children could be present earlier in the summer. Results for three other walks in the region have ranged from 8 to 13% of respondents travelling with children (Harbrow & Visser 2010, van Neuren 2010, Harbrow & Murray 2011).

Very few people with disabilities visited Ulva Island during the survey period. The modes of transport to Ulva Island would likely be a barrier to people with disabilities visiting, so the low number of disabled respondents (5%) is not surprising. None of these respondents indicated that they had experienced any difficulties during their visit. Feedback from these visitors indicates that Ulva Island would be well suited to people with disabilities if access to the island was improved. At a national level, there is very little information available on the use of public conservation land by disabled visitors as only two other surveys have assessed levels of disabled use. At the Lake Gunn Nature walk in 2010, 3% of respondents indicated that they had a physical disability (van Neuren 2010) while 2% of respondents surveyed at the Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre in 2007 did so (Visser 2007).

## **Previous visits**

Thirteen per cent of respondents in 2012 had made a previous visit to Ulva Island compared to 10% in 2006 (DOC / Tourism Resource Consultants 2006). This change is not statistically significant. The level of repeat visitation at other day and short walks around New Zealand has ranged from 3 to 20% (Table 9). The relatively high level of repeat visitation to Ulva Island could be due in part to the high percentage of visitors of New Zealand and particularly local origin. Harbrow & Murray (2011) found that there was a positive correlation between the percentage of respondents who were from the local region and the percentage of repeat visitors. High repeat visitation can also be an indicator of a quality experience. Conversely low repeat visitation can indicate dissatisfaction. It may also be influenced by a high percentage of overseas visitors who may only visit New Zealand once or at least infrequently, having less opportunity to make repeat visits.

TABLE 9: PERCENTAGE OF REPEAT VISITORS AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS

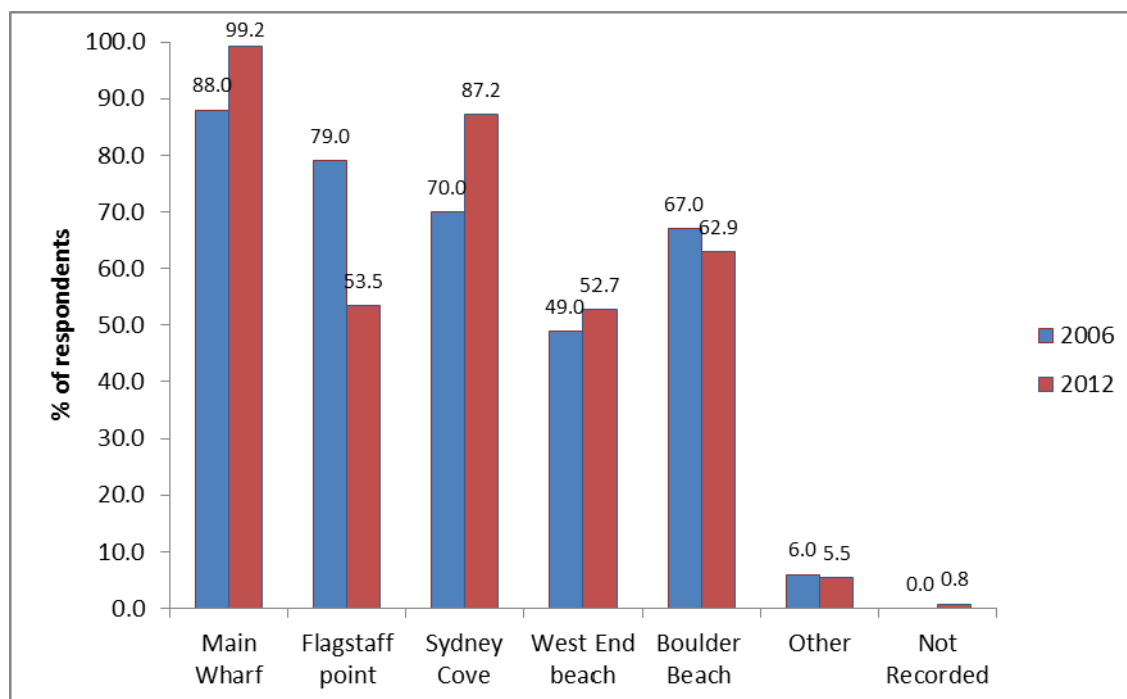
Site	% of respondents who were repeat visitors
Ulva Island 2011/12	13.1%
Ulva Island 2005/06	9.7%
Cape Foulwind Walkway 2006/07	12%
Fox Glacier (Independent walkers) 2007/08	19%
Franz Josef Glacier (Independent walkers) 2008/09	20%
Hooker Valley 2006/07	13%
Nugget Point 2006/07	11.4%
Routeburn Track (Otago) 2008/09	18.5%
Curio Bay 2006/07	9.8%
Key Summit Track 2010/11	7.7%
Lake Gunn Nature Walk 2009/10	3.3%
Lake Marian Falls Track 2007/08	2.7%
Milford Sound Foreshore 2006/07	16.4%
Waipapa Point 2006/07	3.4%

## Length of stay

The most common duration of visit to Ulva Island was 3 to 5 hours. The results for the length of stay are largely unchanged from 2006 (DOC / Tourism Resource Consultants 2006) although there was a slight increase in the number of people who stayed more than 5 hours. The duration of visit on Ulva Island is largely determined by the water taxi schedule and tour operators so it is unsurprising that the results of the 2012 survey are very similar to the 2006 survey.

## Locations visited on Ulva Island

FIGURE 24: COMPARISON OF LOCATIONS VISITED



There appear to have been some changes in visitor flows between 2006 and 2012 (Figure 24) however, there were some differences in the way the surveys were conducted that may have had some effect on the results for this question. In 2012 the surveyor was located at the Main Wharf while in 2006 there were two surveyors, one at the Main Wharf and one at Sydney Cove. There does appear to have been a shift in the locations being visited by respondents however. Flagstaff Point received a smaller percentage of visitors in 2012 than it did in 2006 which is surprising given that it is only 5 minutes walk from Main Wharf and gives views out over Ulva Island and Paterson Inlet / Whaka a Te Wera. This change is highly statistically significant<sup>14</sup>. There has also been a large statistically significant<sup>15</sup> shift in the percentage of respondents visiting Sydney cove.

## Visitor experience

To monitor the visitor experience and important site values and to determine any areas where management could be improved, respondents were asked to evaluate eleven statements relating to their experience on Ulva Island. A number of the statements have been used in other surveys carried out in the Southland region and comparisons have been made where appropriate.

With the exception of the statement relating to natural peace and quiet, these questions were not asked in 2006. The level of agreement with the statements in the 2012 survey was generally very high. Almost all respondents agreed that they had felt safe on the track and this result is similar to results from two other tracks in Southland that are maintained to day visitor standard (Table 10).

<sup>14</sup> $\chi^2(1, n=639)=40.292, p<.01$

<sup>15</sup> $\chi^2(1, n=639)=26.767, p<.01$

**TABLE 10: PERCEPTION OF SAFETY AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS**

Site	% Felt safe on the track	% Did not feel safe on the track	Mean score (out of 7)
Ulva Island (2011/2012)	97%	2%	6.8
Key Summit (2010/2011)	98%	1%	6.7
Lake Gunn Nature Walk (2009/2010)	97%	2%	6.8

The majority of respondents (77%) felt that they had learned how to keep Ulva Island free of introduced plants and animals. However, 9% disagreed with the statement and a further 8% gave a neutral response. This statement also had a high percentage of non responses (6%) relative to most of the other statements. The mean score was 5.9, which was low in comparison to the other ten statements. The 2012 Ulva Island survey was the first time this question has been used so no comparisons with other locations can be made. However the number of negative, neutral and non-responses is concerning. Visitors are supposed to receive pre-visit briefings from water taxi operators and commercial guides and are asked to check their bags for rodents. The results indicate that some visitors are not aware of precautions that should be taken when visiting Ulva Island. There was no significant difference in the mean scores for guided compared to non guided respondents.

Most respondents were able to enjoy nature and scenery during their visit to Ulva Island with 96% giving a positive response to this statement. Nature and scenery also achieved the second highest mean score of 6.7. The Ulva Island result was comparable to results achieved at Key Summit and the Lake Gunn Nature Walk elsewhere in Southland Conservancy (Table 11).

**TABLE 11: ABILITY TO ENJOY NATURE AND SCENERY AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS**

Site	% Able to enjoy nature and scenery	% Not able to enjoy nature and scenery	Mean score (out of 7)
Ulva Island (2011/2012)	96%	2%	6.7
Key Summit (2010/2011)	94%	1%	6.6
Lake Gunn Nature Walk (2009/2010)	97%	2%	6.7
Milford Sound Foreshore (2006/2007)	88%	3%	6.2

Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement “I was able to enjoy seeing and hearing the local birdlife”. This statement received a high level of agreement which is unsurprising as Ulva Island is an open sanctuary. Despite recent incursions, the absence of pests allows Ulva’s rare and endangered birdlife to thrive. The 2011/2012 summer was the first tourist season after the rat incursion and poison drop and given this context, this is a particularly good result. Ulva Island achieved a higher level of agreement than Key Summit (Table 12), the only other site where this question has been used to date, and received a much



lower level of disagreement. Key Summit is not predator free but is located on the edge of the Eglinton Valley which has received intensive pest control in the past as part of Operation Ark.

**TABLE 12: ABILITY TO ENJOY SEEING AND HEARING LOCAL BIRDLIFE AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS**

Site	% Able to enjoy seeing and hearing local birdlife	% Not able to enjoy seeing and hearing local birdlife	Mean score (out of 7)
Ulva Island (2011/2012)	93%	2%	6.5
Key Summit (2010/2011)	70%	12%	5.4

Almost all respondents were able to experience natural peace and quiet on Ulva Island. Furthermore there was a statistically significant increase in the mean score from 6.2 in 2006 to 6.5 in 2012.<sup>16</sup> Ulva Island has the potential to be affected by boats and aircraft but this does not appear to have been an issue during the survey period and Ulva Island compares favourably to other locations (Table 13). This is unsurprising as the other sites listed below are along the Milford Road corridor and could be expected to be affected to varying degrees by traffic, aircraft and in the case of the Milford Sound foreshore, boats (Harbrow & Murray, 2011).

**TABLE 13: ABILITY TO EXPERIENCE NATURAL PEACE AND QUIET AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS**

Site	% Able to experience natural peace and quiet	% Not able to experience natural peace and quiet	Mean score (out of 7)
Ulva Island (2011/2012)	92%	2%	6.5
Ulva Island (2005/2006)	93%	2%	6.2
Key Summit (2010/2011)	82%	8%	5.8
Lake Gunn Nature Walk (2009/2010)	96%	3%	6.6
Milford Sound Foreshore (2006/2007)	55%	21%	4.8

Seventy nine per cent of respondents felt that they were able to learn about conservation and island restoration while on Ulva Island, which was a relatively low level of agreement in comparison to the other statements. No similar statement was presented to visitors in 2006 or in surveys of other tracks. The mean score of 5.7 was the second lowest of the 11 statements presented to visitors. The percentage of agreement and the lower mean score may indicate that there is not enough information about conservation and island restoration on interpretation panels or in the self-guide booklet. Alternatively it may mean that this material is not engaging, memorable or presented through the right medium and that people either didn't read it or didn't recall the content.

Ulva Island is a place where people come to learn about native plants and animals in a pest free environment. However, only 82% of visitors agreed with the statement "I was able to learn about

<sup>16</sup> 2006 = 6.23, 2012 = 6.47 (t(625) = -2.98, p < .01)

the area’s plants and animals”. The statement also had a relatively low mean score of 5.9. The statement was not used in the 2006 survey and has only been used in two other surveys elsewhere (Table 14). It could be expected that Ulva Island would achieve a high mean score and high agreement given its status as an easily accessible open island sanctuary. A number of visitors suggested, in open ended survey questions, that it would be good to have more interpretation panels with plant and bird information.

**TABLE 14: ABILITY TO LEARN ABOUT THE AREA’S PLANTS AND ANIMALS AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS**

Site	% Able to learn about the area’s plants and animals	% Not able to learn about the area’s plants and animals	Mean score (out of 7)
Ulva Island (2011/2012)	82%	6%	5.9
Key Summit (2010/2011)	68%	12%	5.3
Lake Gunn Nature walk (2009/2010)	89%	4%	6.1

Seventy two per cent of respondents agreed with the statement that they were able to learn about the history of Ulva Island. The mean score of 5.4 was the lowest out of the 11 statements presented in the survey. Twelve per cent of respondents disagreed with the statement. The results could indicate that there is not enough information about the history of Ulva Island being provided to visitors. This statement has not been used in surveys elsewhere.

The pre-visit information (e.g. brochures and the DOC website) that respondents had seen in regards to Ulva Island was generally considered to be accurate. Ulva Island compares well with other day and short walks (Table 15) having both the highest mean score and the highest level of agreement. This statement had a high number of non-responses at 10% which may be due to people not having seen any pre-visit information and hence not being able to make a judgment of its accuracy.

**TABLE 15: ACCURACY OF PRE-VISIT INFORMATION AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS**

Site	% Agreed pre visit info was accurate	% Disagreed pre visit info was accurate	Mean score (out of 7)
Ulva Island (2011/2012)	81%	3%	6.1
Key Summit (2010/2011)	78%	4%	5.9
Lake Gunn Nature walk (2008/2009)	62%	5%	5.8

The mean score of 6.5 and 91% agreement with the statement “the number of signs and notices did not detract from my experience” indicates that the current number of signs on the Island is not overly intrusive. However, some visitors indicated that they would like more information panels giving further information about the Island’s plants and animals. The statement has not been used in other surveys. It was included in this survey to assess a policy in the Rakiura National Park Management Plan relating to ensuring there wasn’t excessive or inappropriate signage on Ulva Island (DOC 2012: 216).

While the number of signs appears to be appropriate, the results for statements relating to visitors' ability to learn about the Island's natural and historic heritage and conservation and island restoration suggest that a rethink of the information provided to visitors is necessary. It is recommended that the Department review the interpretation signs on Ulva Island along with other information sources such as the self guided walk brochure.

The final question in this section assessed whether the track matched respondents' perceived level of fitness and experience. Respondents generally agreed that it did. Ulva Island scored slightly better than other locations where this question has been used (Table 16), reflecting the high standard that tracks are maintained to on the Island. If anything some respondents felt the tracks were too good as is reflected in the following comment from a respondent – "*make the tracks less accessible*". It is possible that some respondents may have felt that the tracks were too easy for them and disagreed with the statement on those grounds.

**TABLE 16: EXTENT TO WHICH TRACKS MATCHED EXPERIENCE AND FITNESS AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS**

Site	% Suited level of experience & fitness	% Did not suit level of experience & fitness	Mean score (out of 7)
Ulva Island (2011/2012)	92%	4%	6.6
Key Summit (2010/2011)	89%	5%	6.3
Lake Gunn Nature walk (2008/2009)	87%	5%	6.3

## Satisfaction with facilities

Satisfaction with the facilities provided on Ulva Island was assessed on a scale from 1 (very poor) to 7 (excellent). The 2006 survey did not ask about all of the facilities that were included in 2012, but comparisons to the earlier survey have been made where possible. Results from 2012 showed that respondents were satisfied with the quality of the tracks and that the high level of satisfaction recorded in 2006 has been maintained. Results from Ulva are also consistent with the high levels of satisfaction recorded elsewhere (Table 17).

**TABLE 17: COMPARISON OF SATISFACTION WITH TRACKS AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS<sup>17</sup>**

Site	% Satisfied with the tracks	% Dissatisfied with the tracks	Mean score (out of 7)
Ulva Island (2011/2012)	96%	<1%	6.8
Ulva Island (2005/2006)	93%	<1%	6.7
Cape Foulwind Walkway (2006/07)	91%	-	-
Fox Glacier Valley Independent visitors (2007/08)	79%	-	-

<sup>17</sup> Reports for surveys at Cape Foulwind, Fox Glacier & Franz Josef Glacier only recorded the percentage of respondents who were satisfied.

**TABLE 17 (CONTINUED)**

Franz Josef Valley independent visitors (2008/2009)	86%	-	-
Hooker Valley (2006/2007)	92%	2%	6.4
Key Summit (2010/2011)	96%	<1%	6.5
Routeburn (Otago) (2008/2009)	92%	<1%	6.4

**TABLE 18: COMPARISON OF SATISFACTION WITH TOILETS AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS**

Site	% Satisfied with the toilets	% Dissatisfied with the toilets	Mean score (out of 7)
Ulva Island (2011/2012)	38%	10%	5.2
Ulva Island (2005/2006)	30%	9%	5.3
Franz Josef Valley independent visitors (2005/2006) <sup>18</sup>	22%	1%	5.1
Hooker Valley (2006/2007)	37%	5%	5.1
Key Summit (2010/2011)	57%	7%	5.6
Routeburn (Otago) (2008/2009)	78%	5%	5.9

The high and varying percentage of respondents indicating that they did not use or see toilet facilities at day and short walks means that the percentage satisfied / dissatisfied is a less reliable method for comparing sites. However, it is worth noting that 40% of respondents on Ulva Island in 2012 indicated that they did not use or see these facilities. The 10% dissatisfaction level indicated above (Table 18) is a significant percentage (22%) of those who were able to express an opinion about the toilet facilities. When non-users are excluded this result is close to the management threshold of 25% dissatisfaction (Corbett, et al, 2006) where action would be recommended.

Mean satisfaction scores are a better means of comparison across sites. Scores for toilets on Ulva Island are lower than those of two other high profile sites in the region that have been assessed. Furthermore there has been no statistically significant change in the mean scores for Ulva Island since 2006 despite efforts to improve the toilets. These efforts have been in the form of a weekly clean by a volunteer. This took place twice during the survey period. It appears that cleanliness may not be the issue causing the poor satisfaction scores. The surveyor noted that

<sup>18</sup> Tourism Resource Consultants 2006

the toilets had a very strong smell even on days when cleaning took place and that they appeared to be of different design to less odorous toilets on other tracks on Stewart Island / Rakiura. It appears that the Ulva Island toilets are poorly ventilated which allows the odour to build up.

Respondents appear to be satisfied with the signs and information panels on Ulva Island. The level of satisfaction has improved markedly since the 2006 survey while the level of dissatisfaction has decreased. The mean score increased from 5.6 in 2006 to 6.2 in 2012 which was statistically significant<sup>19</sup>. Satisfaction with signage compares well with other sites around the country (Table 19).

This result seems to contradict the concern raised earlier that some respondents had not been able to learn about the history of Ulva Island or the Island's plants and animals. A factor that needs to be considered when viewing these results is that the 2012 question related both to information signage and directional signage whereas the 2006 question related to information signage only.

**TABLE 19: COMPARISON OF SATISFACTION WITH SIGNS & INFORMATION PANELS AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS**

Site	% Satisfied with signs & information panels	% Dissatisfied with signs & information panels	Mean score (out of 7)
Ulva Island (2011/2012)	85%	1%	6.2
Ulva Island (2005/2006)	67%	5%	5.6
Franz Josef Valley independent visitors (2005/2006)	90%	2%	5.9
Kepler Track (2005/2006)	73%	2%	5.9
Key Summit (2010/2011)	85%	2%	6.2
Routeburn (Otago) (2008/2009)	71%	7%	5.6

**TABLE 20: COMPARISON OF SATISFACTION WITH THE SHELTERS AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS**

Site	% Satisfied with the shelter	% Dissatisfied with the shelter	Mean score (out of 7)
Ulva Island (2011/2012)	49%	1%	5.9
Ulva Island (2005/2006)	38%	<1%	6.2

<sup>19</sup>  $t = 6.3651, p < 0.0001$

**TABLE 21: (CONTINUED)**

Hooker Valley (2006/2007)	55%	3%	5.8
Key Summit (2010/2011)	41%	4%	5.8
Routeburn (Otago) (2008/2009)	66%	2%	6.1

## Other facilities

After considering the standard of existing facilities, respondents were asked about any other facilities that they would like to see provided on the Island. Sixty four per cent of respondents indicated that there was no need for additional facilities while only 22% felt that some other facilities were required. There was no strong support for any particular new facility. The most often suggested additional facility was a toilet at West End Beach but this response was only provided by 4% of respondents. The results indicate that the majority of visitors are satisfied with the breadth of facilities on the Island.

## Effect of other visitors

The levels of annoyance with other activities on Ulva Island were uniformly low with no particular areas of concern. The level of annoyance caused by helicopters and planes was lower than most other tracks where this question has been asked of respondents (Table 21) although all of the other sites are located on the flight path for Milford Aerodrome. Many respondents would have flown to Stewart Island / Rakiura and it is likely that this would influence the response to any aircraft that are heard. Aircraft would potentially be viewed as being more acceptable. The same principle likely applies to any adverse effects from boats.

The level of annoyance with guided groups was also low despite Ulva Island having a high percentage of guided visitors. Guides on Ulva Island are typically trying to ensure their clients are able to hear and see birds. They therefore tend to encourage clients to be quiet and move slowly so as not to disturb them. In other words they are encouraging behaviours that should not annoy other visitors. Commercial party sizes have also been limited under the recently enacted Rakiura National Park Management Plan (DOC 2012).

Present visitor flows on the Island further limit the scope for conflict between groups. Currently the Real Journeys boat arrives at 2pm and departs at 3pm and clients are guided between Post Office Cove and Sydney Cove. At this time of the day there are usually very few independent visitors or smaller guided groups between Post Office Cove and Sydney Cove due to the water taxi arrival and departure times. It appears that the larger Real Journeys boat and guided groups arriving and departing at the wharf at the current times have little impact on other users of the island. This is also confirmed by the relatively low annoyance caused by boats and large groups.

TABLE 22: ANNOYANCE WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS

Site	% Annoyed by helicopters	% Annoyed by planes	% Annoyed by other visitors	% Annoyed by commercial/guided	% Annoyed by large groups	% Annoyed by boats
Ulva Island (2010/11)	2%	3%	7%	6%	7%	6%
Curio Bay (2006/07)	-	-	-	5%	4%	-
Key Summit (2010/11)	14%	10%	9%	10%	12%	-
Lake Gunn Nature Walk (2009/10)	1%	1%	4%	4%	3%	-
Lake Marian Falls (2007/08)	4%	4%	1%	3%	5%	-
Milford Sound Foreshore (2006/07)	28%	27%	14%	25%	33%	13%
Rob Roy (2006/07)	-	-	4%	5%	11%	-
Routeburn (Otago) (2006/07)	23%	10%	-	-	-	-
Waipapa Point (2006/07)	-	-	-	6%	5%	-

## Crowding

Crowding does not appear to be a significant problem on Ulva Island and the percentage of respondents who felt crowded has decreased since 2006. This decrease in crowding is statistically significant<sup>20</sup>. The mean crowding score has decreased from 2.04 to 1.62.<sup>21</sup> In the 2012 survey none of the respondents reported feeling extremely crowded (a score of 8 or 9). It is possible that lower visitor numbers in the 2011/12 season have contributed to the lower level of reported crowding. Better management of commercial visitors since the Rakiura National Park Management Plan was enacted may also have influenced this. One other factor is the change in sampling methodology between the 2006 and 2012 surveys. The 2012 survey will have captured more respondents from large groups who could be expected to be more tolerant of crowding.

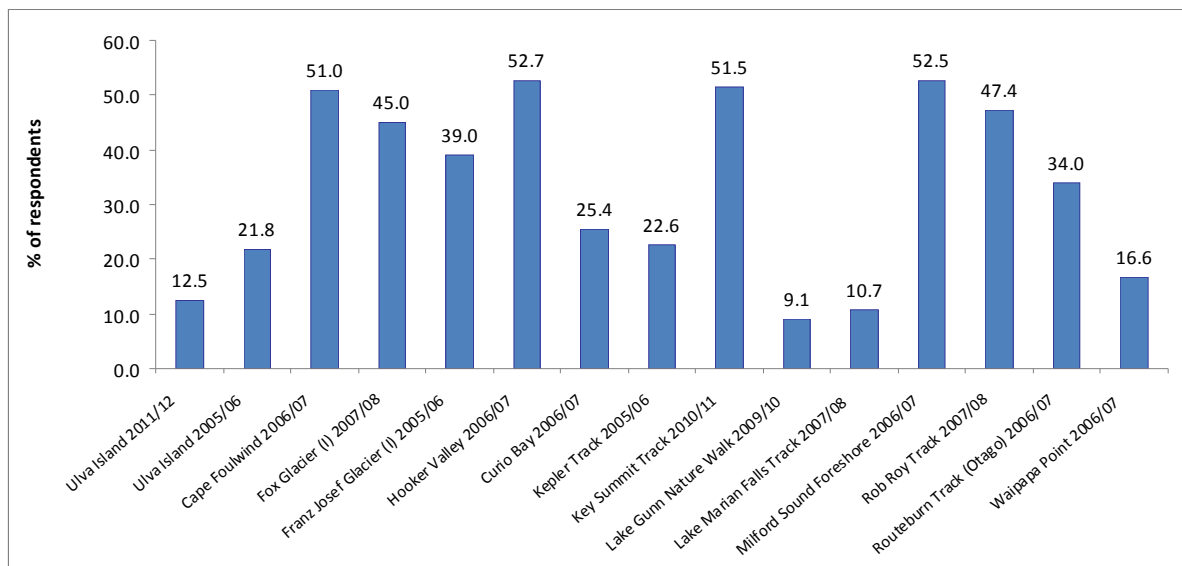
<sup>20</sup>  $\chi^2(1, n=616)=7.182, p<.01$

<sup>21</sup>  $t = 4.2826, p=0.0001$

Irrespective of the cause, the current level of crowding is well below the threshold level<sup>22</sup> where management action should be considered. It could also be considered that the low crowding score indicates that Ulva Island has the capacity to support greater visitor numbers.

Crowding on Ulva Island is very low compared to most other day and short walks nationally where this question has been asked (Figure 25). Only the Lake Gunn Nature Walk and the Lake Marian Falls Track have recorded lower levels of crowding. The access to the island by water taxi most likely helps to prevent a perception of overcrowding. Visitors arrive in groups of up to 10 on the water taxis although occasionally the service may do multiple trips at a scheduled time. The time it takes for the water taxi to return to Golden Bay and bring the next group across allows for people to disperse to different locations on the Island. With the exception of the period between 2pm and 3pm when Real Journeys clients are present there are usually no more than 10 people at Post Office Cove.

FIGURE 25: COMPARISON OF CROWDING AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS



## Biosecurity

The result from the 2006 survey implied that up 30% of people did not learn anything about keeping Ulva Island free of introduced plants and animals (Emmitt 2006). The result for the 2012 survey shows no improvement with 34% of respondents failing to answer this question. It must be assumed from the current results that the biosecurity messages are not getting through to a large percentage of visitors, which is a major concern. The 34% should be seen as a minimum as some visitors gave responses that talked more about general conservation rather than what they had specifically learned about keeping Ulva Island free of introduced plants and animals. Management action with regards to how visitors learn to keep Ulva Island free of introduced plants and animals should be considered. This should include discussions with water taxi operators and guides as they are two of the main channels for conveying this information. Signage on Ulva Island and at main departure points (e.g. Golden Bay and Half Moon Bay) should be reviewed also and the Department should work with the Ulva Island Trust to review

<sup>22</sup> The Management threshold for crowding is 50% of respondents giving a score of 3 or more, while a score of 65% is viewed as being above a site's carrying capacity (Shelby, Vaske & Heberlein 1989, Corbett et al. 2006).

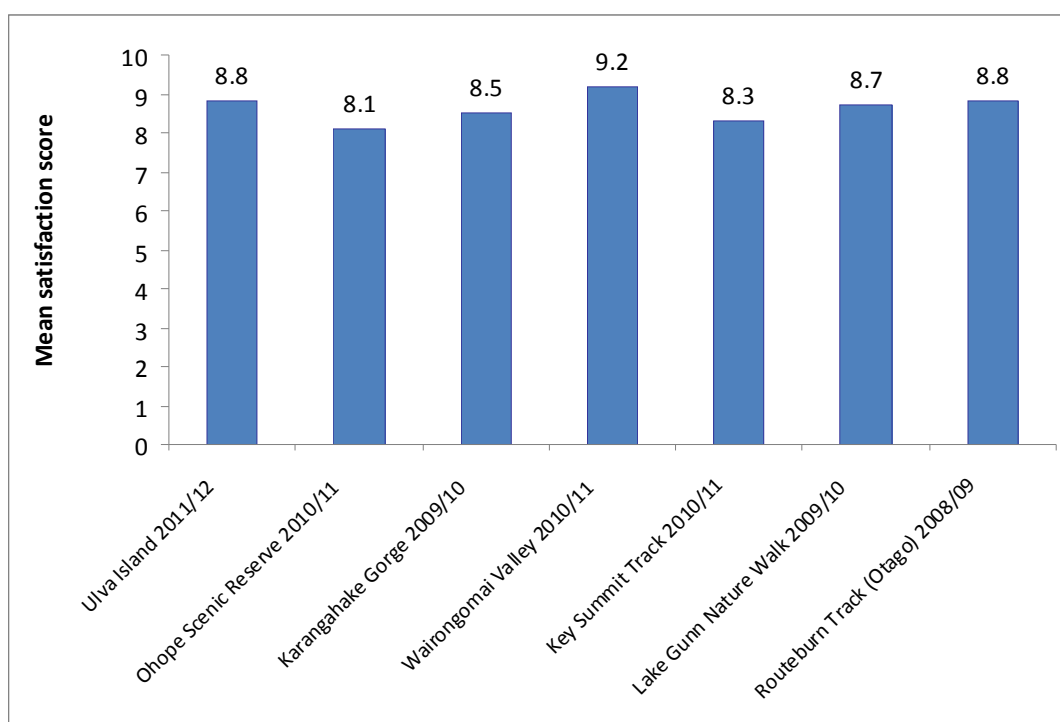


the self guided walk brochure. To make comparison between surveys easier in the future, the biosecurity questions should be changed to closed questions that target specific threats.

## Overall satisfaction with experience

Overall satisfaction with the Ulva Island experience in 2012 was very high. The mean satisfaction score for Ulva Island was 8.8 out of 10. Only ten respondents gave Ulva Island a rating of 5 or less with none giving a ‘very disappointing’ rating of 1. In the 2006 survey satisfaction was rated on a scale of 1 to 7 making direct comparisons problematic. The change to the question was made to make the survey more comparable with surveys carried out elsewhere in the country. The ten point satisfaction scale has been used at five other day or short walk opportunities in Southland, Otago and East Coast Bay of Plenty Conservancies. Satisfaction scores have ranged from 8.1 to 9.2 (Figure 26).

FIGURE 26: AVERAGE SATISFACTION LEVELS AT SELECTED DAY & SHORT WALKS<sup>23</sup>



Respondents were also asked to explain what would make their experience a ten out of ten. The five most common responses related to seeing more or different birdlife, experiencing better weather and having more time on the Island. These are all issues that the Department has little or no control over. Better facilities and information were the most significant issues that the Department could directly influence but were each raised by no more than 5% of respondents. Satisfaction levels are currently high on Ulva Island and should continue to be monitored in the future to ensure they do not drop.

## Use of other tracks on Stewart Island / Rakiura

Most respondents on Ulva Island indicated that they had either walked or intended to walk other tracks on Stewart Island / Rakiura. However a significant number of respondents either could not

<sup>23</sup> Data for the Karangahake Gorge is from MacFarlane & Zahra 2010

name their chosen track or gave generic answers e.g. a walk around Half Moon Bay. This limited the usefulness of this question as a means of determining visitor flows or the relative popularity of different tracks. The most popular named tracks were the Fuchsia Walk (10%), Rakiura Track (7%) and the Deep Bay to Golden Bay Track (6%). Surprisingly very few respondents (1%) said that they either intended to or had visited Observation Rock, the most popular walk on the island.

Twenty five percent of respondents failed to answer this question while 22% indicated that they had not or would not visit other tracks on the Island. A further 8% indicated that they would walk other tracks but had not decided which ones.

## **Future monitoring**

Monitoring is most effective when there is a commitment to carrying it out over the longer term using a consistent methodology. This allows longitudinal trend data to be collected and for the effects of any management interventions to be measured. This has to be balanced with the cost of regular monitoring and the time scale over which significant change is likely to occur. Based on these considerations and the fact that Ulva Island continues to be a priority site under the Department's Destination Management Framework, it is recommended that surveying be repeated in the 2016/17 summer.

# Recommendations

The following points are recommended for continued and improved management of Ulva Island:

1. Review how and where visitors are taught about their biosecurity obligations when visiting Ulva Island.
  - a. Work with water taxi operators and guides to ensure that they are informing clients of biosecurity procedures before they leave Golden Bay.
  - b. Review biosecurity signage at key embarkation points – Golden Bay and Oban ferry terminal / wharf, as well as signage on the island.
  - c. Work with the Ulva Island Charitable Trust to review biosecurity messages in the self guided walk brochure.
  - d. Develop a series of closed ended biosecurity questions to make future comparisons easier.
2. Consider management action beyond regular cleaning with regards to the toilets on Ulva Island, such as using different toilet designs.
3. Review the information presented to visitors about the Island's plants and animals, historic heritage and about conservation and island restoration. This review should consider
  - a. Interpretation signage provided on the island.
  - b. Information provided in the Ulva Island Charitable Trust's self guided walk brochure.
4. Repeat the survey during the 2016/17 summer.

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# Appendix 1

## Survey Questionnaire



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

Date

### Ulva Island Survey 2012

This survey will help the Department of Conservation manage Ulva Island. Your help in completing this form is greatly appreciated. All responses are anonymous

First please tell us a little about yourself and your group

1. Age: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Gender: Male  Female

3. a) Where do you normally live? \_\_\_\_\_

b) If you live in New Zealand, please tell us where \_\_\_\_\_

4. a) Do you have a physical disability? Yes  No

b) If YES, did you have any problems visiting Ulva Island today? (please tell us)

\_\_\_\_\_

5. a) Who are you visiting Ulva Island with today? (Please tick one box)

Independent  Club / organisation   
Commercial / guided group  School / educational group   
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

b) How many people are in this group (Including yourself and any guides)? \_\_\_\_\_

6. How many people in your group are aged less than 18 years of age? \_\_\_\_\_

7. a) Have you visited Ulva Island before today?

Yes  No

b) If YES, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_

**Now we would like you to tell us about your experiences on Ulva Island**

8. Where did you go on Ulva Island? (Please refer to map on clipboard)

Main wharf/ Post Office Cove     
  Flagstaff Point (Lookout)     
  Sydney Cove     
  West End Beach  
 Boulder Beach     
 Other (please tell us where) \_\_\_\_\_

9. How long was your visit to Ulva Island today? (Tick one box)

Less than 1 hour     
  1-2 hours     
  3-5 hours     
  More than 5 hours

10. Thinking about your visit to Ulva Island today, how much do you <u>agree or disagree</u> that...?	Strongly disagree							Strongly agree
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
I felt safe walking the track	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
I learned how to keep Ulva Island free of introduced plants and animals <b>before my visit</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
I was able to enjoy nature and scenery	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
I was able to enjoy seeing and hearing the local birdlife	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
I was able to experience natural peace and quiet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
I was able to learn about conservation and island restoration	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
I was able to learn about the area's plants and animals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
I was able to learn about the history of Ulva Island	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
The information I read / heard about Ulva Island before my visit was accurate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
The number of signs and notices did not detract from my experience	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
The tracks suited my level of experience and fitness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

11. What did you think about the services and facilities provided on Ulva Island? (circle one number on each line)

	Very poor							Excellent	Did not use/ see
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Shelter	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Signs and information panels	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Toilets	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tracks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Ulva Island self-guide booklet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	

12. Are there any other facilities or services that you think should be provided on Ulva Island?

Yes  (Please tell us) \_\_\_\_\_

No

13. How did the activities of other visitors affect your visit? (Please tick one box on each line)

	Did not notice this activity	Noticed this but it didn't annoy me	Noticed this and it annoyed me a little	Noticed this and it annoyed me a lot
Behaviour of other visitors around wildlife				
Hearing or seeing boats				
Hearing or seeing helicopters				
Hearing or seeing planes.				
Meeting commercial/ guided groups				
Meeting large groups				

14. Did you feel crowded during any part of your visit to Ulva Island?  
(circle one number)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Not at all crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	

15. a) What, if anything, did you learn about keeping Ulva Island free of introduced plants and animals?

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b) Where did you learn about this?

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16. a) On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is "very disappointing" and 10 is "couldn't have been better", how would you rate your experience on this trip? (circle one number)

Very disappointing										Couldn't have been better
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

b) If you did not rate your trip as 10 out of 10, what would have made it a 10?

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17. Have you visited, or will you visit, any other Department of Conservation tracks on Stewart Island / Rakiura during this trip? (please list them below)

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*Thank you for your time!*

*If you have any feedback about this survey please contact Michael Harbrow, Southland Conservancy,  
Department of Conservation, PO Box 743, Invercargill. Ph. 03-211-2400.*

*Email: [mharbrow@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mharbrow@doc.govt.nz)*

## Appendix 2 – Open ended question responses

### **Question 12 comment bank**

A few more toilets. More benches to sit and wait for birds
Add markers on trail so person know how much trail they have traveled and how fast they need to go to catch water taxi on time
Additional toilet at West End Beach
Another toilet at west end
Antiseptic hand gel @ toilet. Attach toilet flush as bowl becoming very smelly
Basic walking (loop) track to access the other 200ha of Ulva
Better communication to bring toilet paper to island or provide toilet paper
Better information
Better toilets (2)
Binoculars
Binoculars for rent
Bird boards / information if not in guided trip
Bird hide / record
Camping
Coffee shop
Drinking water if possible
Drinking water tank
Eco toilets
Few more toilets
First aid post. Cell phone access if available
First aid station
Food
Food and coffee
Fresh water fountain (drinking)
Guided tour on whole tracks
Include scientific names in booklet. You could perhaps do more with the effects of rodent / mammal removal on plants as well as animals. Our guide helped with this - but the signage / pamphlet could also incorporate this information
Info booklet
Info sheet with map, birds to look for, history
Information centre
It has all we wanted and more
It is delightful as is
Just a small point. I wondered about rubbish. A reminder that all rubbish should be packed out wouldn't be a bad idea.
Keep it as beautiful as it is
Keep it pristine
Longer walk duration
Maybe a toilet also in the other side of the island and café would be nice
Maybe one more toilet on other side of island
Maybe shelter / seats at far end
More frequent distance signs
More info about flora, some signs seemed out dated
More information on plants

More seats (2)
More seats. They are awesome for resting + watching birdlife
More shelter since it always rains
More signage about the trees and plants. More seating to stop and wait for the birds
More signage instead of books to save printing / paper
More signs for plant life
More signs on vegetation
More small notices with tree / plant names etc. plus small catering facility at the Post Office bay
More toilets (2)
More toilets (pissing in the bush encourages weeds)
More tracks and more info about plants and birds
More tree / plant signs
More tree signs
Nature walk entry needs signposting. Also need to make it clear that entry does not lead you back to the same track you left.
No keep it natural
Overall orientation map of Ulva's location within Paterson so that we could work out what the other bits were.
Place to buy food and drink
Probably, if it was a wet day I 'd think differently
Recordings of calls of the birds found on the island
Rental binoculars maybe
Resting spots
Seating in secluded areas to see and hear birds
Signs at the end of nature trail to indicate track where you enter / exit
Signs of birds with pictures like in the self-guide book
Small facility on arrival for purchase of bottles of water / juice (or at departure point)
Some seats or hides in sections of the bush to be able to watch the birds
Some sheltered seats (with us it rained unexpectedly and became difficult - having to walk over 45min to get back to the shelter)
Steps to P.O Cove beach
Supply fresh potable water
Toilet at other end
Toilet at West End
Toilet at West End Beach (2)
Toilet at West End. More seats to sit and watch birds
Toilet paper (4)
Toilet paper in the toilets
Toilet paper, waste bin at wharf
Toll gate
TP in toilets if possible
Vegetation interpretation signs
Volunteer ???? Stations
Walking access to Post Office beach and building
Water
Water supply for drinking
Would be nice to have a complete plant and animal list with scientific names available at DOC.

### Question 15a and b comment bank

Question 15a – What, if anything, did you learn about keeping Ulva Island free of introduced plants and animals?	Question15b – Where did you learn this?
-	Our guide
-	It is a very difficult job and you don't have to stop it
-	Books
-	I always wanted to see it from reading about it
-	Kaka lodge
-	My german travel book
-	Ulva Island booklet
-	From taxi boat & leaflet
-	Brochures, internet, personal guides
"Check for seeds and rats" - sign at the beginning, but there could be a lot more information	Sign
A lot	Bill board etc
A lot of, as our guide excellently told us	On the island
Ability of rats to swim large distances	-
About the poison and traps. Allowing mature non-natives their space but not allowing regeneration	Ulva guide and signage
Absolutely pristine island and foliage was so rich and lush throughout trail - no rat stoat etc infestation	Stewart island info centre and brochures
Already knew	Have known about for ages. Friends
Already knew the info	-
Always on going	-
Always to check luggage / bags for rats and seeds	The guide book
Am aware of the need to do so	Not sure - over the years reading and hearing about it
Avoid bring rats, seeds, etc to the island. Read there may be as many as 30,000 rats on the island. Saw none but did see many traps	Signs and brochures
Avoid introducing rats and seeds	Ferry
Bag and shoe inspection protocol. Poisoning and trapping program / monitoring	Guide
Bag checks. Seedling scouting	Guide
Be a tidy kiwi. Check your bags before going to the island	Boat crewmen
Be aware of your footwear & other personal items you carry onto Ulva	Guide
Be careful and thoughtful about what I bring to island	I knew it already - reading
Be especially careful what you bring over to the island	Brochure and boat
Beautiful bird life + nature at its best	On site
Boat access carefully regulated	DOC office
Booklet information	As above
By means of the sign	
By means of the sign we saw	The message was loud and clear
Careful check before tour commenced	Guide
Check bags before arriving on island	The wife (and DOC)
Check all bags and not to bring up to shore	School
Check backpacks for rats. Be vigilant	Common sense
Check bag & shoes for rats & seeds	Guide

Check bag contents, clothing etc	On Stewart Island & Ulva Island
Check bags + footwear before leaving / arriving on island. Rodent eradication scheme	Read @ signs + booklet
Check bags for rats / seeds before going onto tracks. Guides / others remove any seedlings from PO garden.	From guide
Check bags for rats and seeds. Most likely vector for infestation is boats. Deer can swim so may need to be dealt with if they don't move on	Tour guide (who was excellent - passionate and knowledgeable)
Check bags for seeds (rats)	pamphlet
Check bags for seeds + rats + other non-native biologics	Ferry operator + signage
Check bags or leave them on boat	Crew and booklets
Check bags, clean boots.	(I knew) on the water taxi wharf
Check bags, shoes, boats	UK
Check bags/clothes for rats/seeds	Books. DOC visitor centre
Check belongings before going on island	Booklet
Check belongings for rats and seeds	At Ulva Island
Check for rats and seeds	Signs / boat driver
Check for rats in your gear	Advertising
Check for rats. Can swim for up to 700m	Booklet
Check for rodents in boats and bags before landing.	Water taxi
Check packs, bring no seeds	Booklets
Check packs. Check clothing for seeds	On a similar island sanctuary
Check your bag before coming	Signs and notices
Check your bags	At the DOC centre
Check your bags, shoes & clothing for seed etc before you arrive	Guide book
Check your belongings, footwear etc for algae or other plants	Huts
Check your foodstuffs for seeds etc	In our guidebook plus it was well signposted all over Ulva
Check your gear before visiting the island. No seeds, rats or other pests.	Information signs. Visited Matiu / Somes Island. Booklet
Check your pack & boat	From the booklet
Check your package and boots before you come to the island (no rats, no seeds)!	Ulva Island self-guide booklet
Check your shoes for seeds and bags for rats	The brochure for Ulva
Checking bags + taking rubbish away. Not feeding birds / animals	Reading pamphlets + previous experience
Checking bags and boats for rats and seeds. Replanting native bush	Self guide leaflet to Ulva. Boat taxi driver
Checking bags for rats and seeds	Signs, brochure information, boat ramp
Checking bags for rodents before leaving craft or leave bag on boat	On organised boat cruise
Checking bags for stowaways	Self guide booklet
Checking boats / luggage for rats prior to coming here	Ulva Island handbook
Checking for rats and seeds. The work of DOC. Ongoing vigilance	From guide
Checking packs/boats etc	Guide book, from guide, poster
Checking shoes, clothes, bags prior to arriving	DOC site Oban
Clean boots necessary to prevent introduction of foreign seed. Trapping required to eradicate introduced predators such as rats	On the guided tour, on previous tours, Doubtful Sound where pests were discussed and in literature read before visiting which came from travel agent.
Clean my boots	At the beginning of the tour
Clean your shoes, check your pack	Guide

Constant diligence over rats	DOC visitor centre
Could give more information on boards	Quite a lot
critical if islands plant and animals are to survive	previous reading - guidebook
Danger of rats and then need for poison and thence to birds too esp weka	Have to admit I visited with Ruggedy Range 3 days ago
Discussed rat problem	Boat captain / general info
Do check baggage, backpacks for feral rats etc. plants	From information in books & Ulva Island booklet
Do not bring anything from outside	-
Do not bring anything onto island	From guide
Do not bring boat close to shore and lines onshore. Don't bring bags etc that may have predators	Real Journeys tours from Stewart Is.
Do not bring seeds with you (check for on socks, clothing, pockets, etc) Ulva is rat free, possum and stoat free	Literature (pamphlets seen) also word of mouth
Doc	Doc
DOC doing a good job	-
Don't bring anything on to island	At embarking jetty
Don't bring anything with you	Sign
Don't bring pests on. Stay on the track	Along the way
Don't bring rats and seeds	Signs on the way
Don't bring seeds or rats	Signposts
Don't take them to the island	Stewart island DOC
Don't take them with you	
Enhanced bird life	From relatives previous visit
Ensure backpack free of rodents; take out what you bring in; no dogs etc	From guide book and notices at welcome centre in town
Ensuring that you don't carry seed or soil on your shoes. Ensure that vermin i.e. rats are not able to be allowed to enter	On tour
Extreme affect on weka population in process of removing rats	On the island from ranger
Friends	Friends
From the guides	From the guides
Full information given by guide	Guide
Good as possible keeping rats at bay / away. Very important to all wild life	Booklet / guide
Great to see extremely rare plants - birds still going?????	From guide
Had read a lot before	Stewart Island pamphlets
Heard that rats had bred on Ulva in 2010 but have now been eradicated	Read it before visiting and had update from Peter on water taxi today
History (although not entirely clear) of the elimination of introduced animals (but not plants). Methods used. Recent 2nd effort to eliminate introduced animals not so clear. After leaving this land I have learned more - re visits by deer to the island and the ability of rats to swim to the island.	Explanatory DOC boards, Ulva Island booklet
History of rats / other introduced species, traps, poisoning, etc, and avoiding seeds etc.	??????????
How important it is to keep introduced plants and animals and to keep biodiversity healthy	By reading and watching documentaries
How important it is. How easy it is to ruin environments like this	Booklet plus my own understanding / knowledge
How Important that is	From the guide
How precious an environment is Ulva Island	Signs and booklet brought at DOC office
How to keep rats off the island	From our guide off our boat trip
I can very easily do my part to keep Ulva pest and plant free	I read a lot
I felt this was adequately addressed - saw some employees	Learnt all this in Tasmania

checking traps - pleasant folk - I understand 'quarantine' being a ????????	which has high quarantine rules which I support strongly
I learnt that rats are a big problem for plants and animals and I know a restoration project in South Georgia island, keeping the rats out today I saw the results of a project like that. So I learnt a lot	Starting on South Georgia Island. Then in DOC office in Stewart Island from a movie also from the self guide booklet, I read before I came
I learnt to make sure my boots were dry + to remove any seeds stuck to clothing before arrival	Guide booklet
I question the poisoning of pests. In the long term it probably is positive	-
Importance of being very careful	Guide book
Importance of biosecurity	I am a zoologist
Importance of checking bags before entering the island for rats and seeds	Booklet
Importance of keeping island rat free	Ulva Island booklet, info board Oban wharf about norway rats, skipper on board ferry
Important to protect the wildlife. Steps being taken to eliminate rat	Prior to visit + notice on jetty
Introduced plants and animals destroy the natural habitat and bird life	In booklets and notice board
Is this question really necessary? It repeats a previous question. It would appear to me that this question is designed to get a specific answer for DOC bureaucrats	About what??
It is a very difficult task	Shelter by the wharf, booklet, water taxi driver
It is critical if want to keep our biodiversity	Reading material
It is very important to keep predators off the island	From our guide
It really is true that a gravid female rat can populate an island and be a founder mammal. It is nice to see conservation efforts that can kill introduced predators without large public objection. Keeping the island alien free is clearly an ongoing and continuous project with monitoring, etc. The difference in plant life (seedlings etc.) is amazing without alien herbivores	Previous knowledge, DOC office, guide
Its bloody hard!	DOC man
Its cool to be pest free	Guide
It's fragility. Visitors could contribute, pay via charge for water transport	The guides throughout NZ
It's important for the whole forest (plants, birds, etc.) because they have other behaviours than the native ones.	Guide
Its necessary to ensure boots, bags, boats etc are absolutely clean before arriving	Signs at Freshwater Hut, DOC staff at various locations including Kepler track
It's very hard - all the pests can swim (rats, stoats etc)	DOC officer
Just aware of the importance	-
Keep it free from rats is important	The guide
Keep it rat free - seed free. Risk of introduction in boats / bags	On boat
Keep out cats rats and seeds	Signs and prior knowledge
Keep rats off the island	On the tour
Keep rodents, other pests, seeds off Ulva. Saw lots of boxed rat traps	Sign at the wharf, rats info brochure on the Ulva marine reserve that came with hunting permit
Keeping the island free from predators	Guide
Kill the rats	-
Know about boots and other things as a matter of course	Use national parks a lot

Learned about non native seeds and animal pests (rats) but not much else.	Various printed literature and DOC agent
Learned about this on boat before going ashore	On boat
Learning about - damage rats can do and introduced plants	From the booklet and notice boards
Learnt about the occasional invasion of rats and how they are eliminated	Posters on island and guide
Learnt about the traps now put back along. Learnt about what was done in the beginning. Learnt about wash of the gravel	From the guide
Learnt how important this is to keep Ulva a wonderful nature reserve	Reading literature about Stewart Is. Before I came
Leave bags on boat so as not to introduce rats / mice check soles of shoes for seeds / vegetation before leaving the boat.	Guide
Leave bags on ferry	On ferry
Lots from booklet	From booklet - Ulva Island
Lots of traps	-
Manage to keep rats off island and no stoats	From guide
Many years ago ??????	Local cove
Measure taken by conservation groups to educate public of importance - high standard	Info centre/ accommodation etc
Met ranger who was baiting traps	How far rats can swim
Need to be vigilant all the time	Guide + reading + signs + before I got there
nil	TV programs
no	
No harmful stuff, maintain high level of security of foreign soil / stuff	From the guide who is very knowledgeable / friendly
No rats brought to island. No trash left. No plants brought. No dog or cats. Traps and poisons. DNA on rats caught.	brochures, people, DOC in town
No rats! Check your bags	The boat
No seed or rats	Wharf
Not taking bags on as rats can hide in bags. Being careful not to introduce any plant species.	Our guide
Not to bring bags ashore to avoid the introduction of rats and insects	Onboard our tour boat
Not to bring rats or seeds	On signs and friends prior
Not to bring them esp rats	My sister and others
Not to introduce anything on the island	Notice - guided books
Nothing	already had pre-existing Knowledge
Nothing already did not know	
nothing besides it has to be done	Signs
Nothing new. Have been a member of 'Friends of Tiritiri Matangi' in the past and have a reasonable familiarity with the process	Friends of Tiritiri Matangi
Notice about clean shoes from out travel agent / guide	Guide
Notices for rats and seeds. Rat traps	From the guide on board who took us round
Only about rats	Signage and pamphlet
Our guide told us a lot	On the tracks around the island
Please continue the work	Guide books / internet
Poison	Saw the bait stations and guide
Poison, traps, cleaning shoes / boots, check bags	Guide, Matiu Somes Island, information guide
Probably nothing I didn't know before but I haven't read the booklet through yet	I think most kiwis know about the dangers
Rat are bad, nature is good	Sign & booklet



Rat capture & aerial poisoning	From guide and signs
Rat eradication	Previous reading and from guide
Rat eradication and why	Booklet
Rat free	On every beach and wharf
Rat free	Ulva Island booklet
Rat poison drop, traps. Ch Trail's trees	Ulva Guide. While on Ulva and read before
Rat traps	-
Rat traps - volunteer work	From the guide - and pre-read info (internet etc)
Rat traps and seed checks	Information booklet and signs
Rat traps. Aerial poisoning	Our guide - the self guide info
Rats + seed to check. Checking boots / shoes / bags etc.	From guide
Rats and seeds	Signs
Rats are biggest problem	On water taxi coming over
Rats can swim far	Wharf
Rats can swim!!	On walk
Rats have been eradicated & need to kept away. No seeds can be brought in	Signs & booklet
Rats introduced in error	Leaflet on ferry
Rats not welcome. Learnt about the traps which have raw egg and peanut butter to attract rats, which are caught and cleared by volunteers. Learnt about the island being marked out in grids to identify problems.	From Ulva
Rats under control. Island divided into grids. Careful tagging of birds. Caring for plants. Unwelcome animals dealt with efficiently	From guide Ulva
Rats will decimate the bird population	Guide
Rats would eat bird eggs	Self guide booklet
Reiterated DOC policy from other wildlife monitored areas	Forest & Bird
Risk of predatory invasion and infections	Since arriving in NZ
Search personal bag for rats.	Guide on boat before we landed
Search your bag for rats	From the cruise guide
Sign at wharf regarding rats and seeds	Notice board
Signage common sense	Newspapers
Signs and info	B&B
Signs at entrance/landing stage about rats.	Landing stage
Take care not to bring seeds - check for rats when coming on / off Ulva	Signs
That DOC are working hard on the rat problem but it has had an effect on the birdlife. This has been controversial.	From the guide
That DOC needs to be extremely vigilant as rats & deer can swim. Do not bring seeds onto the island.	Booklets before Ulva Is visit and signs on Ulva island
That if we wish to keep certain parts of the planet in pristine condition a great and continuous effort must be made and that certain interests must be acknowledge any sacrifice is necessary for such a project.	It is a conclusion I came to after learning about the dropped poison in 2010/11 which has affected the wildlife as well as the intended introduced animals.
That I'm against poisoning the whole island!!! It's better put on traps. Everyone has to help to keep Ulva free from rats and possums.	My opinion
That rats had been a real problem, but that an eradication by DOC had them all removed. Bait stations were set up to catch the one or so rats that made it ashore. A breach in biosecurity in 2010 lead to their reintroduction, but a bait drop in 2011 was	interpretation panels at Golden Bay, DOC centre + Ulva Island Book

hoping to stop the rats becoming re-established.	
That the most likely way of introducing was by rats swimming ashore or by boat	Guide
That this is most essential for future of NZ native flora and fauna	Not only today - have heard else where of several NZ sanctuaries
that Ulva Island is a rat free island which is helping the animals and plants on the island	The guide book
The absolute importance of it	From the guide and instinct
The constant challenge of keeping island free of rodents	Reading literature, guide, using internet to learn about recent reintroduction of rats and the efforts to eradicate them.
The grid system and the trapping system.	From guide
The importance of balanced ecosystem and keep nature pristine	Own experience, university and books
The importance of checking for seeds	Sign at wharf
The importance of keeping rats off the island	Information panels
The native wildlife is important and needs protection	-
The need to check bags etc for rats & to stamp mud & seed off shoes	From our guide
The S.I. robin has increased in nos significantly as a consequence of decreasing rats	Our guide provided excellent details about these facts
The scourge of the norway rat	On South Island
There are some introduced plants but as long as they don't spread it is not a problem. Rats and possums are a big problem and its important to use traps which are "weathered".	From Furhaha combined with my own knowledge as a biologist
They do very much and I admire the volunteers. It is very difficult to keep the rats out of the island.	You have to fight every time again and again
They look after and keep the origin of plants in this area	The guide told very interesting and informative
This keeps the native birds and plants free and able to survive	Booklets and using common sense
Thoroughly checking gear before landing on island (also visit to Tiri Island 2011)	Self guide booklet
To be aware of cleaning shoes etc before visiting island. Also metal brought in was washed first.	From guide and boatman
To check bags before and after visit	Booklet and signage
To check for rats and seeds	Signs
To check for rats in my bag	Post office
To check shoes for seeds	Signs
To check shoes, backpacks etc	In the booklet and notice board
To keep protected species free of pests	DOC booklet
To protect the birdlife. All pests have been removed	Brochure
Trapping	Observation
Traps and pipes placed ??????	Booklet
Traps are really necessary	On the island
Traps/rat poison	Pamphlet
Use of traps and poison to eliminate rats. Harm the rats can do to birds. Birds don't like introduced trees, you don't see them there	From the guide
Very important to check equipment	Notice panels on Stewart Island
Very important to hold balance	Book and guide
Very important to keep the balance right	Book and Ulva
Vitally important, with no room for complacency	Before visit (literature read) & from our guide

Watch that you do not bring in rats or seeds	Tour guide + signage
We have only one issue telling with our guide. No introduced plants and animals	On Ulva Island
Why this is important	Leaflet, driver of the boat
Yes	Rats
You are doing a great job & this is how all NZ native bush should look. Love it	On Stewart Island

### Question 16b comment bank

Score out of 10 for Q16a	If you did not rate your trip as 10 out of 10, what would have made it a 10?
-	Excellent
-	I think that we didn't see so many birds as promised
-	Smaller group to make crowd control easier. Warm weather. Another loo. Guide was very knowledgeable (Ruggedy Range)
3	Meeting expectation of anticipated bird life
4	I think advertising makes tourists think there are lots birdlife - marine life in and around island - we have wet day which would make it quieter for birds - but does not seem to be heaps
4	More bird sightings
4	Seeing a kiwi would be 4 points more (but I know it cannot be forced)
5	I was disappointed that we did not see the birds - the bird calls were great
5	More bird life as it was raining
5	More information about plants
5	To have got clearer view of some of the birds. But this is not something that can be controlled. I wouldn't want anything staged.
6	A speedier walk and time to sit and watch birds. Dawdling on beaches delayed this or lessened the time to do all walks or looking at birds
6	Being able to see more birdlife
6	If I could have seen more birds
6	More info about the island including the brochure showing a map of the whole island
6	Need more time on Ulva
6	Saw many common birds but very few of the rarer birds (eg no riflemen, yellowhead etc)
7	A tiger
7	Did not see as many different birds as I expected
7	Didn't get quite the photographic results I wanted
7	Enjoyed all I saw, but you will have to bribe the birds to appear; ????????????????
7	Experience more wildlife
7	Fewer birds than anticipated
7	I did not understand much, because my English is not so good
7	Limit the number of people on the island at any one time
7	Limited time - would have preferred longer. Beautiful
7	Longer
7	More hides maybe so that you can sit undisturbed maybe.
7	More time to explore the whole island
7	More tracks, birdlife, a guide
7	More water taxis. Ability to determine what bird makes which noise
7	Nothing ever perfect
7	Saddleback were hiding from us
7	Seeing a kiwi
7	Seeing a kiwi, or getting a super shot of some other rare bird

7	Seeing birds
7	Seeing more birds
7	Seeing more birds. Having more benches to sit and wait for birds
7	Shelters for rain when over 20min away from main shelter
7	Staying longer to see more birds
7	Sunshine rather than rain. Would be a fun place to come back to on my own (without tour group but the tour was great!)
7	To see more bird life
7	Toilets are very close together
7	Tracks a bit pristine
7	Would have liked to have seen more variety of birdlife. We did see a lot of just a very few species
8	A few more information panels
8	Better weather
8	Better weather (more sunshine), less people (lunchtime on a weekend in summer must be a busy time)
8	Better weather. Expected more birds. Both out of your control
8	Could have seen a few more birds (especially a kiwi!)
8	Didn't see a lot of birds
8	Didn't see a saddleback
8	Don't give 10 - but it was a very enjoyable experience
8	Fairly quiet bird wise due to rather cool conditions - no fault of Ulva Island
8	Great but would liked to have seen more species of birds that are here
8	Hard to tell
8	I am a "twitcher" and I found time spent on looking at birds too long. I prefer plants
8	In making sure we saw / heard all the bird life possible our guide was quite strict about sticking together on the trail & not talking. It made the experience less natural & meant questions could not be asked or answered in a natural way
8	It was too short! We want it to be longer
8	Jetlagged and tired otherwise it was excellent
8	Just a bit of rain on way back from west end beach. Baby go a bit wet, umbrella's too small
8	Kiwi
8	Kiwi
8	Less people and seeing a kiwi
8	Longer on island ????????
8	Longer trek overnight stay
8	Maybe a bit less people and make the tracks less accessible
8	More bird close up. More time
8	More birds
8	More birds
8	More info on birds. More time generally on island.
8	More information on plants
8	More information on plants and birds and some more tracks
8	More information on plants. Smaller tour guided groups.
8	More remote tracks/overnight camping (maybe a kākāpō)
8	More signage + seating
8	More time
8	More time - I wished I had binoculars
8	More time on Ulva
8	More tracks
8	More wildlife
8	Not enough time

8	Perhaps time to sit down for about 5-10 minutes and have a drink while listening to details from guide.
8	See a kiwi
8	See item 12
8	See question 12
8	Seeing a few more birds, but I guess that is luck
8	Seeing a kiwi
8	Seeing more bird life, more description of birds and trees and plants on notice boards on arrival
8	Seeing more birds
8	Seeing more birds
8	Seeing more birds up close
8	Seeing more kaka, seeing a weka, seeing a kiwi
8	Spend more time next time and going independent
8	The bird life was more apparent on my last trip. There was quite a few more groups of people than last time and the talking was heard
8	The rainy weather
8	The weather could have been better. Excellent experience
8	Things that can't be controlled: ability to see birds, good weather, fewer people
8	Time - our issue - guided tour - it's a lovely place!! Well done
8	Time of day & weather conspired to keep bird sightings to a minimum.
8	To have seen more bird life & perhaps more flowering plants - but that would depend on the seasons
8	To have seen more bird life on seats and hides
8	To see more birds (rather than just hear them)
8	Very wet
8	Visitors to the island who appreciate the need for quiet. More info in the guidebook. I.e. better descriptions of what to look for with bird life
8	Wanted to see saddlebacks but missed them
8	We as a group walked for 3 1/2 hours. While there were a few stops I think it would be useful to encourage those in a group to bring some food and drink. Providing everything is put back in pack etc. Work in a 10 to 15 minute tea / coffee / soft drink break.
8	Wet day - weren't able to see more birdlife
8	Would like to have seen weka and rifleman. Would like more places to sit
9	10
9	A beer
9	A bit more time on island - but this was restricted be organised tour - accepted this and it was a fantastic introduction to the island
9	A few more vegetation identification signs
9	A mooring that could (public) have used otherwise very good
9	Absolute solitude (impossible) and another toilet on west side. Also, I should have got some binoculars
9	Better weather. I guess more shelters on the track would be great on a rainy day.
9	Bird information boards - ?????? Conservation techniques success rates etc
9	Did not see kaka
9	Didn't see a saddleback
9	Few more rest seats
9	Having binoculars would have been great
9	I guess, hosing out the toilet if this was at all practical!
9	I spend just a short time on the island to itinerary of the tour operators
9	I was not able to spot a weka or kiwi that would have been perfect. Had a great experience with a robin
9	I would have stayed longer

9	If we had stayed longer we needed more time
9	Info on introduced plants, more info on history of Ulva, open sanctuary
9	Kākāpō (maybe unrealistic)
9	Learning more about the vegetation
9	Less large groups
9	Less rain
9	Less slippery paths (chicken wire was rusted away)
9	Longer time
9	Made it longer
9	Missed the saddleback
9	More bird activity
9	More bird life ????????????
9	More birds today
9	More birds/better camera
9	More information on flora
9	More information. Information about elimination of weeds and also deer management. Seeing weka, penguins, seals, sea lions
9	More interpretation on tracks
9	More time
9	More time bushwalking and listening to our guide
9	Needed longer. Friends lucky enough to see kiwi
9	No doubt the birdlife will improve further over time
9	No many birds today
9	Nothing in life is 10 out of 10
9	Nothing in this world is perfect
9	Paper in toilet
9	Personal fault - didn't bring enough water
9	Q12
9	Quiet today for birds
9	Reluctance of birds to show themselves in a way I could easily see them. Seriously, the ability of birds to hide. I could hear but not see. No fault of the island.
9	Saw no kiwi
9	Seating
9	See a kiwi
9	See even more bird life
9	Seeing a fantail or weta. Kapiti island has birdlife++. I enjoyed the peace though + picnic lunch @ West End Beach. Loved the gold/black sand sydney cove. Need a sharper pencil to write with or longer this one really awkward.
9	Seeing a few more species of birds
9	Seeing a kiwi
9	Seeing a kiwi
9	Seeing a kiwi (but know that is rare), penguins (also less common) but otherwise saw all birds I wanted to see
9	Seeing a kiwi or two
9	Seeing every bird or a kiwi. Asking a little too much though
9	Seeing mohua / yellowhead
9	Seeing more birds - saddlebacks & kiwis
9	Seeing more birds (spotted 3 species)
9	Seeing weka
9	Seeing yellow crowned parakeet, just unlucky
9	Slightly clearer description of the history of the island (still not 100% sure why the post office was here). No flash photography should be allowed
9	Smaller group

9	Some place to get a cool drink whether it be water or something else and a rubbish bin
9	Staying longer
9	Sun
9	Sun
9	Sun!! Seeing a kiwi. A few more birds!
9	The information a guide could have given, but we are on a budget. Also as NZers we are familiar with most of our native birds and plants.
9	There were one or two bird species that I would have liked to see
9	To see a king fisher and a fantail bird. Furhana was great. The best guide I ever had
9	To watch a kingfisher or / and a fantail and a few more sightings of the yellow crowned parakeet. Not the number of species but the overall number of birds was not as high as expected.
9	Toilet paper
9	Was a little bit rushed. Another 1/2 hour or so would have been good (timing linked to tour boat being also the Foveaux Strait ferry I think)
9	We saw lots of different birds, but not every bird. But I think you can't see everything so it was ok.
9	Weather
9	Whilst we saw a good number of species of birds, the actual number of birds was very disappointing
9	Without my current temporary disability
9	Would have been nice to see a kiwi
9	Would have liked better view of birds for photography - luck of the draw
9	Would have liked to have longer - perhaps a little time alone
10	Beauty of the place. Birds songs & appearances. Information on notices about the forest
10	Even the weather (light rain) did not dampen the experience!
10	Excellent walking tracks etc and guide
10	Had 1 more bird to see
10	I would greatly enjoy the chance to see a kākāpō - one that cannot be used in the breeding program. Small point though Ulva Island is a gem and worth the effort to maintain it
10	It was a perfect experience - saw all birds species (including finally weka + saddlebill) quiet, easy walking, no car noises, other visitors also quiet + friendly and waterboat was cheap.
10	It was raining and we got very wet. I left my binoculars at home, but it was still a 10 experience. Ulva is a great guide
10	Maybe few permanent signs giving the names of tree specimens would be helpful
10	Met expectations
10	Might have been even better if more birds around
10	Saw a kiwi
10	The day here was absolutely perfect! Also the weather
10	Would have been awesome if the book mentioned the reintroduction of rats and how the drop in 2011 went.

### **Question 17 comment bank**

<b>Have you, or will you visit, any other Department of Conservation tracks on Stewart Island / Rakiura during this trip? (please list them below)</b>
3 day Rakiura Track
3 day walks around Oban. Rakiura Track to Port William. Ackers Point, Horseshoe Bay.
Ackers Point (2)
Ackers Point lighthouse

Ackers Point, Fuchsia Walk, Observation Rock
All day tracks around Oban
Already Ackers Point & Rev. Wohlers Monument, Hopefully Maori Beach and North Arm.
Always the Fuchsia Walk - the Raroa Walk - and then just kayaking
Beach tracks near "The Neck"
Been to Fuchsia Track, Rakiura National Park as far as Little River, would have liked to see Ryans Creek. May not have time to do Fern Gully.
Bragg to Horseshoe track
Butterfield - Braggs Point
Coast to Coast, Fuchsias walk
Coast to Coast, Halfmoon Bay Track
Day trips around Oban
Day walks - to Dead Horse + Horseshoe so far
Dead Man Beach, Horseshoe Point etc. Fuchsia Walk, Golden Bay to Deep Bay, Ringa Ringa, Leask Bay etc.
Deep Bay Track, Fuchsia Track
Deep Bay Track. Fuchsia Walk
Deep Bay Track. Observation Hill. Fuchsia Walk
Deep Bay Walk.
Deep Cove to Golden Bay visited. Intend to do more
Deep Cove to Golden Bay. Intend doing lots more.
Do not know yet (4)
Either Golden Bay to Deep Bay or Garden Mound.
Fern Gully, Ryans Creek, Golden Bay to Deep Bay (2)
Fern Gully. Maori track. Observation Rock
Few of short walks
From Freds Camp - part way to Freshwater and Rakeahua Hut (2)
Fuchsia and Raroa Walks (2)
Fuchsia Track (2)
Fuchsia Track, Observation Track, Moturau Moana Gardens
Fuchsia Track, Raroa Track, Ryans Creek
Fuchsia Track, Ryans Creek
Fuchsia Walk (2)
Fuchsia Walk & Observation Rock
Fuchsia Walk, and Ackers Point
Fuchsia Walk, kiwi watching (2)
Fuchsia Walk, Raroa Walk (4)
Fuchsia Walk, Raroa Walk, Golden Bay - Deep Bay Track.
Fuchsia Walk, Ryans Creek, Raroa Track
Fuchsia Walk, to Golden Bay. Track from Bragg Bay to Horseshoe Bay.
Fuchsia, Raroa, more
Fuchsia, Raroa, Trail Park
Garden Mound Track and Track to Maori Beach and Port William
Garden Mound. Track from Lee Bay to Port William
Golden Bay to Deep Bay (2)
Golden Bay Track
Have done the Rakiura Circuit and Ackers Point
Have not visited any other tracks + will not have time to on other than the Fuchsia Track in town
Have visited Rakiura Track, North West Circuit, Ackers Point, Maori Beach
Horseshoe Bay Braggs Bay, around to golf course etc.
Horseshoe Bay to Braggs Bay, Leask Bay
Horseshoe Bay Walk
Horseshoe Bay, Fuchsia Walk, Ackers Point, Maori Bay.



Horseshoe Point Track, Ackers Point, Evening Cove, Ringaringa, Rev. Wohlers, Deep Bay to Golden Bay, Ryans Creek, Maori Beach.
Horseshoe Point Track, Golden Bay to Deep Bay Track
I have / will visited all the day walks, sadly not the long tramps (leg injury). All was signposted really well. (Hated the steps, though I understand why they are there) good work DOC. Keep it up. (Loved the DOC centre in Oban too!)
I have visited Rakiura Track (three days). If I have time I will visit also other smaller tracks around Halfmoon Bay
I live here
If time yes
I've been on Rakiura Great Walk. I would like to come back here to do the North West circuit.
I've done the Rakiura Track
Just completed the North West Circuit (+ Mt Anglem). Brilliant track, can't say enough good stuff thanks DOC.
Just here on a day trip - did the conducted tour of Stewart Island & visited Ulva Island - spectacular!
Just the basic walks around Oban
Kaipipi Bay, Ryans Creek.
Lee Bay, Start of track only
Local walks (3)
Local walks around Oban
Local walks, Ackers Point, Lee Bay and various other bays
Local walks, Fuchsia Walk
Many others on Stewart Island probably Maori Beach Track
Maori Beach
Maori Beach and Garden Mound
Maori Beach, Ackers Point, The Neck
Maori Beach, Horseshoe Point Track, Golden Bay to Deep Bay
Mason Bay (3)
Mason Bay & walk back to get boat. Kayaked to Paterson Inlet. Walk various tracks
Mason Bay to Freshwater Landing.
Masons Bay then walk to Freshwater Landing
Masons Bay, Fuchsia Walk
May do Coast to Coast (fly / walk / boat)
Maybe during my next longer stay on the island
Millars Beach – whalers
Millars Beach / whaling base. Lee Bay.
Millars Beach whalers base Kaipipi Inlet
Most likely but no firm plans yet
No - (would do if time permitted)
No - did not allow time - my mistake
No I am limited by time
No, unfortunately
No, we leave tomorrow, it is a pity
No. not sufficient time
None - our cruise ship leaves at 1700 for Australia
North West Circuit (2)
Not known at this stage of visit but probably.
Not sure
Not sure which but will be doing
Not sure yet
Not this trip
Not visited but will
Not visited. But may visit on an extended stay

Not yet, undecided
Observation Rock, Fuchsia Walk, Ackers Point
One word comments of no (39), yes (4) or none (31)excluded from the comment bank
Ones near / in Oban
Only short walks around Oban.
Part of the northern loop
Part of the Rakiura Track (Little River), Ackers Point, Evening Bay, Fuchsia Walk, and similar
Possibly tracks from Oban, not sure.
Probably
Rakiura Great Walk
Rakiura Track (9)
Rakiura Track (in part)
Rakiura Track , Ackers Point and Fuchsia
Rakiura Track + all the other day walks
Rakiura Track + short part of the North Western Circuit. Furthermore I did some short walks like Ackers Point, Fuchsia Walk.
Rakiura Track 3 days - enjoyed it + had great weather. Love it here - saw dolphins coming across when walking the track - that was good
Rakiura Track i.e. Port William / North Arm Huts.
Rakiura Track, Sawmill Bay
Raroa, Fuchsia
Round trip starting from Lee Bay.
Ryans Creek, Kaipipi Bay, Fern Gully, Golden Bay - Deep Bay - Ringaringa - Pet Hill, Bathing Beach (2)
Several walks on main island. Lee Bay
Short walks around Oban
Shorter walks around Oban
Some day trips around Oban
Some of the few hour tracks
The national park track, walks around the surrounding area
Time too short.
To Ackers Point on guided walk.
To Horseshoe Bay
Track to Maori Beach
Tracks between Horseshoe and Halfmoon Bay
Tracks near the town
Unfortunately not. No time
Unfortunately not
Visited Moturau Moana Gardens, Observation Point, Fuchsia Track. Track to Bathing Beach.
Visited Port William by boat and walked back to Halfmoon Bay. Also Golden Bay to Halfmoon Bay
Visited several tracks on Stewart Island
Walk to Maori Beach and other day walks
Walked Rakiura Track
Walked some of the short walks around Oban - had we known the times stated for the tracks were so conservative we would have done more. Did the Observation Rock and Fuchsia walks we would have liked to stayed on the island a few more days to do some more walks.
Walked the North West Circuit - 11 days
Walks around Oban
Walks around Oban and Maori Beach
We have been Ackers Point, Horseshoe Point Track
We have done all the shorter walks around Stewart Island plan to do Maori Beach walk and Fern Gully next
We have this visit

We intend to do more in the afternoon but I don't know yet what.
We plan to take walks on Stewart Island tomorrow.
Whalers base
Will explore Rakiura tracks tomorrow. Not sure which if not all or how many there are as only arrived this a.m. Depends also on fitness level in a.m.
Will visit - don't know yet - shorter ones (this time)
Yes - but don't know where or names yet.
Yes - don't know names
Yes - few local ones - Golden Bay to Deep Bay
Yes - Garden Mound, Lee Bay
Yes - haven't decided
Yes - intend to
Yes - Mason Cove
Yes - not sure which yet
Yes - TBA
Yes - the Rakiura Track
Yes - will visit Ackers Point / Deep Bay
Yes ??????
Yes but don't know yet which ones (just arrived)
Yes but unsure of names. Possibly a flight to a DOC hut at Mason Bay + 4hr hike out to water taxi
Yes other walking tracks saw a marine brochure - will look at this - 3days to go.
Yes the small (3-4 hours) ones
Yes using day walks booklet
Yes with a guide, Ackers Point
Yes, but not sure which.
Yes, going Coast to Coast walk to Masons Bay.
Yes, some tracks close to Halfmoon Bay.
Yes. Kiwi experience. Track was good. Guide was great.
Yes-guided walk to Ackers Point