

Additional paired photographs taken in June 1972 and June 2022.

Figure S1. The south-west coast of Mana Island, where Tony Whitaker caught a single McGregor's skink in 1972 (and where they were rediscovered in 2010). **A.** June 1972 (Image: Tony Whitaker, gift of Vivienne Whitaker, 2020, Te Papa CT.067091). **B.** June 2022 (Image: Maarten Holl, Te Papa, 206574).

Figure S2. The west coast of Mana Island, looking north-east towards the trig and Kapiti Island. **A.** June 1972 (Image: Tony Whitaker, gift of Vivienne Whitaker, 2020, Te Papa CT.067090). **B.** June 2022 (Image: Maarten Holl, Te Papa, 206591). Note natural recovery of taupata at the foot of the slope.

Figure S3. View down Weta Valley to Landing Bay, showing planted vegetation. **A.** June 1972 (Image: Tony Whitaker, gift of Vivienne Whitaker, 2020, Te Papa CT.067088). **B.** June 2022 (Image: Maarten Holl, Te Papa, 206572).

Figure S4. Looking south towards South Point, showing planted vegetation. **A.** June 1972 (Image: Tony Whitaker, gift of Vivienne Whitaker, 2020, Te Papa CT.067089). **B.** June 2022 (Image: Maarten Holl, Te Papa, 206605). Note the absence of flax at this site close to where flax weevils were released.

Figure S5. View south-east from Shearwater Point, with Mike Daniel and Mike Meads inspecting sooty shearwater burrows in 1972. **A.** June 1972 (Image: Tony Whitaker, gift of Vivienne Whitaker, 2020, Te Papa CT.067092). **B.** June 2022 (Image: Maarten Holl, Te Papa, 206575).

Figure S6. View south-west along the west coast of Mana Island, showing natural regeneration of taupata. **A.** June 1972 (Image: Tony Whitaker, gift of Vivienne Whitaker, 2020, Te Papa CT.067095). **B.** June 2022 (Image: Colin Miskelly).

Figure S7. View south-west from near the trig, showing natural regeneration on the western slopes. **A.** June 1972 (Image: Tony Whitaker, gift of Vivienne Whitaker, 2020, Te Papa CT.067099). **B.** June 2022 (Image: Maarten Holl, Te Papa, 206580).

Figure S8. View south-west across Landing Bay. **A.** June 1972 (Image: Tony Whitaker, gift of Vivienne Whitaker, 2020, Te Papa CT.067094). **B.** June 2022 (Image: Maarten Holl, Te Papa, 206601).



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