



Kaipupu Point

Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary

PO Box 186, Picton, 7250, New Zealand
kaipupupoint.co.nz



Newsletter August 2015

Our Mission: To enrich the community through the restoration and guardianship of an indigenous Marlborough Sounds wildlife sanctuary, in which the natural ecosystems, native flora and fauna flourish in a predator-free environment that can be appreciated by all.

Proud to be recognized in 2015 for the following awards:

- * **Finalist 2015 Green Ribbon Awards: Protecting our Biodiversity Category**
- * **Winner 2015 Cawthron Marlborough Environment Awards: Landscape and Habitat Enhancement Category**

Chairman's Comment

Many thanks to those who supported our recent AGM. Consistently good support for this occasion is greatly appreciated, and we hope you enjoyed both the look back over our first 10 years, and the thought provoking address by Dr Morgan Williams. And of course, the bird-friendly plants purchased from Nozz! Your committee is keen to follow up on the 3 issues I raised at the AGM. Thank you to those who have already given feedback to us.



The first and now most pressing issue is the moving on from our 'shop' in High street. At this time I would like to pay a special and huge thank you to Christina Jordan, who has made her shop available to us, at no cost, for some considerable time. The exposure we have received from that prime site has been invaluable, and we thank Christina for her extreme generosity. The shop is to be leased to paying tenants from September 11 this year. Your committee has decided that we should not be in the leasing business using our precious funds to rent such locations, so we are on the look-out for new options from other generous supporters! We are well aware we may not get as good as we have had, but any suggestions of available premises...short term or permanent... would be really appreciated. Even options for storage would be well received.

The second issue I raised was that of the concept of a 'pest free Picton', and the role that our organisation could play in that. Clearly, having pests very much under control on the peninsula, thanks to the great efforts of our pest monitoring team, we need to look at stopping ongoing invasions from untrapped land across the water. If we don't do this, it will be like trying to hold back the tide, and frustrations and enthusiasm for the cause will wane, as

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invasions will inevitably continue. Clearly this is a big exercise, but James Wilson's plan for doing this will be closely examined by the committee at our next meeting. Certainly a pest free Picton and surrounds is a challenging, visionary objective, and in my view, a logical extension of our work on Kaipupu Point.



The third issue related to making easier public access to Kaipupu Point. At present, a casual, spur of the moment decision for visitors to go is not easy, and they are unsure how to get out there. We need to help boat operators to want to make the effort to provide a service, to better promote the opportunity, and to make it affordable. We need to make kayak access easier, and raise community awareness of the different ways and means of getting there.

On these 3 matters, we really welcome your thoughts, and suggestions. Together we have a better chance of addressing them!

Barry Maister, Chairman



Men at Work: Kaipupu Point Working Party Day

There's always *something* to do out there. On 12th June a team of 3 were busy constructing steps to the Northern Lookout on the Point. The photo shows the team of Vince Cowie (top), Gerald Harper and Rob McPhail.

So what happens with a project like this to make it happen from idea to implementation? The following is very typical of most working party days:

A plan is drawn up and materials needed are assembled. In this case twenty 1m lengths of 150 x 25mm treated timber are collected from Picton ITM (discounted price, thank you again ITM for your support) and the steel pegs cut by Vince using recycled reinforcing steel are delivered to the main work shed. More materials needed for the steps and final work on the supplementary water supply are delivered by boat (thank you Alan) to Dolphin Bay in readiness for the working day.



The team meets at the main work shed to collect tools and steel pegs, and then collects the timber at Dolphin Bay and everything is carted out to the site. A stockpile of shingle has been left near the steps site in readiness for the surfaces, this being left from shingling of the track some time ago. About two thirds of the steps are completed on day one.

While the 3 volunteers were working on the steps, Dave Nichols and Alan Izard are on the Point as well carrying out further work on the nearby bird ponds supplementary water scheme.

Final work on the steps is completed by Rob the following week in time for visitors on the Sounds, Salmon and Songbirds tour to enjoy. This is a great result for those visiting the enlarged Northern Lookout – a wonderful place to sit and relax. Kaipupu Point is an amazing place on working days like this. While construction/repair work is in progress there are numerous other volunteers scurrying through the bush checking on traps and monitoring tunnels

or carrying out bird counts – you never know who is going to pop out of the undergrowth. Often visitors to the Sanctuary are very interested in the work that goes into the operations side, and it is great to have them see first-hand what is going on while at the same time being met and welcomed. Information and photo contributed by Alan Izard.

Fancy helping out at a scamper around the hills?

This unique orienteering event is aimed at all ages and fitness levels. This year it will be held at Kaituna Ridges, Readers Rd Havelock on Sunday 15th November.

*Yes - Back by popular demand,
the Amazing Eco Race!*

Last year we hosted an activity station at the Amazing Eco Race and the team had a ball. We will participate once again so can 2-3 willing volunteers please put their hands up? This task involves spending around 4 hours (8:30am-12:30pm) at the event helping people answer some simple questions. It's a great way to promote conservation and Kaipupu Point. To volunteer email info@kaipupupoint.co.nz.

For more information please see facebook.com/amazingecoracemarlborough and website amazingecorace.co.nz/.



Latest news from Monitoring and Trapping

An interesting evening gathering of pest monitoring volunteers was recently held at the Kaipupu Point Information Centre in High Street, Picton. A generous spread of Mud House wines and food was prepared by Pest Monitoring Co-ordinator, Trudy Nicholas, and enjoyed by those who attended. Occasional gatherings like these are held to allow volunteers to get to know one another and to share experiences out on the tracks. The pest monitoring work is relatively solitary, with volunteers seldom bumping into one another whilst on the job, so these get-togethers are seen as a valuable adjunct. The evening provided volunteers their first opportunity to view the new DOC200 trap housing developed by Stephen Hildreth, with help from Gerald Harper.

Last year a highly modified trap housing was developed by the volunteers and these are now spread throughout the sanctuary, however Stephen's development has taken the design to new heights in reduction of weight and space

for carrying and is in fact much more inviting for stoats and rats to enter, whilst providing absolute safety for birds. Production of the new model has now started to populate the new track Q with traps. The second half of the evening was devoted to instructions on using Loomio, a new online communication system for the team. Loomio allows all volunteers to communicate amongst themselves, making suggestions and comments collaboratively. Great idea!

Given the time of the year, it was understandable that numbers attending the latest gathering were lower than usual, but those who came enjoyed an excellent night.



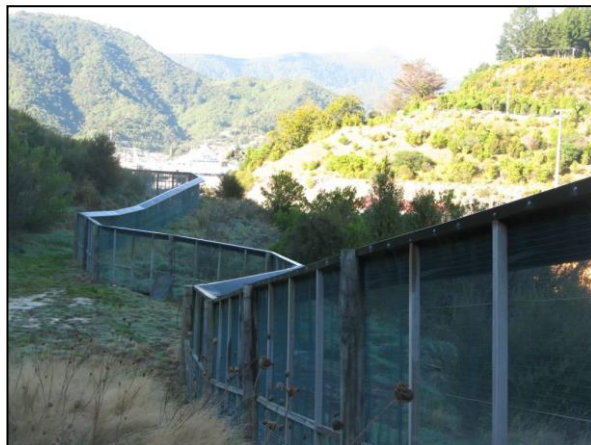
Come help on the Point – & enjoy the view!

Sanctuary visitors amazed at wildlife protection efforts

How is Kaipupu Point protected from predators and pests? Visitors to the Kaipupu Point Information Site and to the Sanctuary itself are often amazed at the effort that goes into protecting the Sanctuary, the rigorous strategy of physical barriers and the carefully planned continuous monitoring and trapping that is undertaken by volunteers. Pests are always knocking on the door, so it's a changing and exciting story to tell all our visitors.

Because New Zealand is a world front runner in terms of this wildlife protection approach, visitors are struck by the focus and dedication of volunteers to ensure they stay at the cutting edge of this conservation strategy. A multi-faceted approach is required, and is under regular review to stay on top of things.

The 600m predator-proof fence is a very visible part of the system, built to protect the headland from pests entering the Sanctuary by land. It must be checked every month to ensure integrity. And immediately *outside* the fence a line of traps extends across the isthmus to deter pests from the area in general. Rat traps are at each end of the fence too, near where it extends into the water, along with a motion sensor camera. Video monitoring is being planned for installation in the near future. This will feed to our Pest Monitoring Group; currently housed at the Kaipupu Point Information Site in High Street, Picton.



But it doesn't end there. The system of defence on the Sanctuary to protect against invasion of pests from the water is extensive, and visitors can see examples of most of the equipment as they walk the track:

- Coastal line: Located 25m above the water line encircling the Sanctuary. This has monitoring tunnels or wax tags every 50 metres, and mouse traps in bait stations every 25 metres. At every wax tag is a DOC 200 trap (with a non-rust stainless steel mechanism).
- Main track line: Located 25m elevation above the Coastal line, encircling the Sanctuary, with the same pattern of tunnels, wax tags and traps. This track also has 10 sand traps (which provide an alert through footprints in the sand) evenly spaced around the track. 2 motion sensor cameras are positioned near this track – 1 on the jetty, and 1 on the landing area beside the Donation Box.
- Q track line: Located 50m elevation above the Main track line, with the same pattern of tunnels, wax tags and traps.
- Intermediary monitoring lines: There are 12 further lines over the sanctuary creating a grid of 50m x 25m of traps, with wax tags and monitoring tunnels set on a grid of 50m x 50m .

Of course there's always loads of work behind the scenes. All equipment installed is inventoried, GPS located and rigorously maintained. When totalled up this consists of 404 bait stations (for use with pindone, however no poison bait is used on the Sanctuary at present), 150 tracking tunnels to track both rats and mice (because of the large increase in mice numbers currently tracking tunnels are not being monitored until mice numbers decrease), 120 wax tags, and a variety of traps –

- Rat traps: DOC 200 traps are used. 74 are around the Main and Coastal tracks. 25 more are scheduled to be put on the Sanctuary in a defence line being formed on the newly constructed Q track line.
- Mouse traps: 404 mouse traps are in place around the Sanctuary, located at each bait station.



Over 100 volunteers are part of the group rostered to check the pest monitoring grid over the entire Sanctuary every 7 days. After every monitoring trip, these same volunteers must ensure results are ready for input into 'CatchIT', the



software being used to collate results and plan ongoing strategy. To decide upon the strategies for deployment of volunteers the Kaipupu Point Pest Management Focus Group has been established. This group of volunteers meets regularly to discuss strategies and to set plans for the future. Strategies decided upon are then implemented by the team of volunteers. Along with regular meetings, the Focus Group also use the online facilities of Loomio to keep in touch and meet 'digitally' on occasions.

So that's it, in a nutshell, see how much you can remember?

Want to help out? That would be great!

You can help a little or you can help a lot. All help appreciated.

Contact us at 027-898-2517



Kaipupu Point Evening Speaker Series

Nicky Eade from the Environmental Science and Monitoring group at the Marlborough District Council gave a talk in July that summarised a lot of the biodiversity protection work that has been taking place in the Marlborough region over the last decade or so. Nicky discussed the many groups and individuals who contribute to this work – the Department of Conservation and the Council as well as national groups like Forest and Bird and Fish and Game and local community groups like Kaipupu Point, Grovetown Lagoon and at least 10 other groups. The Council has many roles in helping to manage Marlborough's biodiversity including managing resource consents for new activities, compliance, policy development, as well as more directly through managing public reserve areas.

Council also works with private landowners through the Significant Natural Areas and Tui to Town projects. Over 700 significant natural areas have been identified on private land since 2000 and the Council has helped landowners protect more than 80 of these sites so far (mostly through fencing and weed control). Many of these are also covenanted through the QEII National Trust so that the sites are protected in the long term. The Tui to Town project is to encourage native planting to create more habitat for native birds in areas where there is very little left (around Blenheim, Seddon and Ward areas). Nicky finished her talk by discussing the need to be clear about what we are all trying to achieve and setting up some way of monitoring and measuring the outcomes of all our work so that we know how effective we are being. Thankyou Nicky for coming and sharing your knowledge and inspirational stories.

And our next Speaker – another to warm your heart on a chilly winter night

Biz Bell from Wildlife Management International Ltd brings us 'All in the Dark' - Monitoring Hamilton's frogs (*Leiopelma hamiltoni*) on Takapourewa/Stephens Island.

Wednesday August 19th – 7 pm - Kaipupu Point Information Site



Hamilton's frogs have been intensively monitored on Takapourewa/Stephens Island since 1990 by a number of DOC staff, researchers and students. Biz Bell and her team have been completing this important annual monitoring for DOC since 2004. Biz will be outlining the special features and behaviour of *Leiopelma* frogs, what is involved in the monitoring (hoping for rain and working in the dark is just part of it), take you on a virtual trip to Takapourewa and introduce you to the island and its special residents. She will also update you on the latest results and how things look for this unique Marlborough species. Bring a gold coin and a chair.

A Spring Cruise in the Sounds

There are still several opportunities to take a cruise in the Sounds including a visit to the Sanctuary. Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary has again teamed up with our ongoing Rimu sponsor New Zealand King Salmon, along with Marlborough Tour Company, to run the **Sounds, Salmon & Songbirds Cruise**. One of our other Rimu sponsors, Mud House, are also supporters of this tour. Come and experience Kaipupu Point, as well as a salmon farm and a lovely tour of the Sounds.

The **Sounds, Salmon & Songbirds Cruise** is a Saturday afternoon tour running through until September. The cruise departs Picton on board Marlborough Tour Company's MV Odyssey launch and runs 1.30-4.30pm. First up is a guided visit to Kaipupu Point then it's off to a New Zealand King Salmon farm to feed the fish. Onboard there is a sample of Marlborough Regal salmon and a taste of Mud House Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, along with spot prizes to be won.

Dates: 15 August & 12 September

Price: \$49 per adult; \$120 per family (2 adults & up to 3 children), children 14 + under go free.

For more information and to book go to:

www.marlboughtourcompany.co.nz/tours-cruises/sounds-salmon-songbirds

Email: info@marlboughtourcompany.co.nz

Phone: 03 577 9997



Hooray! It's nearly A&P Showtime, 6/7 November

A great chance to help Kaipupu Point!

Email us at info@kaipupupoint.co.nz if you'd like to take part.

Mark your Calender:

'All in the Dark' - Wednesday August 19th – 7 pm

Kaipupu Point Information Site, 21 High St, Picton

Biz Bell will be sharing with us her experiences with Stephens island frogs.

Celebration of a Decade:

Plans, dreams, music, plants, a catch up over wine and snacks - our AGM



It was an afternoon to remember and celebrate and that's exactly what we did. A good turnout enjoyed the meeting, which included a big-screen visual walk through the last 10 years covering the creation of the Sanctuary (narrated by Robin Cox) with an inspirational musical finale created by Peter Hamill. 'It's a Wonderful World' was the perfect choice to accompany the beautiful images of the Sanctuary we have collected over the years.

We were fortunate to have Dr Morgan Williams as our speaker, and he gave us all lots to think about in terms of native flora and fauna and introduced pests and predators. Good food for thought as we embark on new projects on the Point.

The Committee for 2015-2016 was elected – Barry Maister, Nicky Jenkins, Peter Hamill, Mel Kellie, Chrissy Powlesland, James Wilson, Andrew John and Gerald Harper. Rose Prendeville representing Port Marlborough and Robin Cox representing the Department of Conservation will continue in their roles.



Jo O-Connell, who has served on the Committee enthusiastically for many years is taking a well-earned break. We thank Jo for her huge and passionate contribution over her time on the Committee. Who could forget the 2 Picton Festivals we held, and Jo was at the helm for both, as well as the immense positive energy that Jo has put into everything about Kaipupu Point. We know Jo isn't far away, and she is still a keen volunteer, and we appreciate the time and focus that she has brought to the Kaipupu Point Committee.



See you on the Sanctuary Jo!

Pub Charity Support

Further support from Pub Charity in the form of funding for operational needs for the 2015-2016 Plan, and funding for further education resources, was awarded to Kaipupu Point in July.

This new funding is very welcome as because of this support we can now take new, easily transportable panel displays to more public events and to schools, and we can support the work of the volunteers through the co-ordination roles. Thank you Pub Charity! Fantastic news!

We need a New Home!

Thank you to Christina Jordan, who has made her shop available to us for over 4 years. We are now seeking another home for our Kaipupu Point Information Site so volunteers can share the Kaipupu Point message with the community. If you have any ideas please email info@kaipupupoint.co.nz, or phone/text 027-898-2517

Discover Cool Fungi on the Sanctuary



Flamecap, *Gymnopilus*



Cup fungi *Cookeina colensoi*



Leatherbracket

Information and photos contributed by Dianne John

A few years ago I took mycologist and author Geoff Ridley out to Kaipupu Point to see what fungi we could find. I expected him to be bored with the meagre pickings along the old track on the eastern side. However he enjoyed the afternoon and was excited about seeing our fungi, though there was nothing new for him. This piqued my interest in fungi and although I know very little about them I find them fascinating and intriguing. The variety and colours are amazing. In autumn when most fungi erupt, once I get my eye in, I just love walking slowly with my head down searching for new ones. This May, as I have been doing my pest monitoring tracks, I have been looking and taking photos as I go. Each new one I find I post on the naturewatch.org.nz site and add to the Kaipupu Point Project page. This way I get the fungi identified which makes them more interesting. Last year there was an abundance of fungi, many more than I have seen this year. The fungi are spread all over the Point, generally the damper eastern tracks have the greater variety.

But fungi have been a mystery to the experts, as they can come up in an area one year then disappear only to return a few years later. Worldwide there are thought to be 200-300,000 species, with about 6000 species catalogued in NZ. However there could be from 3,000 to 15,000 still to be recorded. And we think we know it all!! So when you are out in the bush, especially in April and May, keep a lookout for fungi and you never know you may be the first to see a new species.

Note: Geoff Ridley is the author of 'A Photographic Guide to Mushrooms and other Fungi of New Zealand.'



Agaric



Puffball

Keep your ears and eyes open for announcements about the next Bird Friendly Plant Sale in Spring – Planned to be on Friday 16th October – we will announce exact time and venue soon.

PICTON | WAIKAWA
GOOD NEIGHBOURS
ENHANCING THE HALO

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