



# Kaipupu Point

Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary

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

## Newsletter February 2015

**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.

### Are you ready to *Party*?

Kaipupu Point is celebrating 10 Years! Save this date: **Sunday 15th March**

~

Depart 11 am from the Picton waterfront for the Kaipupu Point jetty

Depart 1 pm from the Kaipupu Point jetty for the Picton waterfront

BBQ on the Landing Area

**This celebration is generously sponsored by Beachcomber Fun Cruises, Picton**

RSVP to Nicky at 573-9233 by 7<sup>th</sup> March to save your spot.

Gold Coin Donation

### Caught on Camera

Stephen Hildrith, a dedicated member of the Pest Team has many talents – and he shares his skill and love of photography with this wonderful photo of a tui drinking from the pond above the jetty on Kaipupu Point.

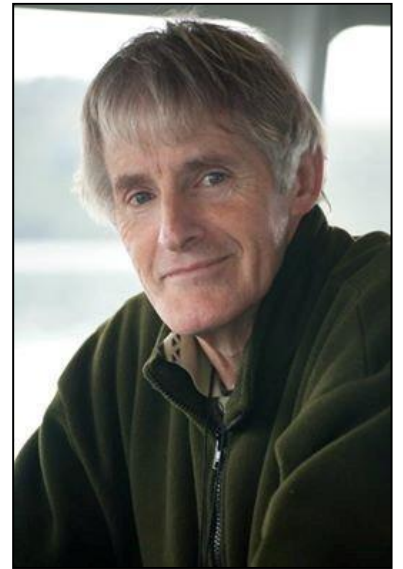
Taken on the afternoon of 25th January, this superb shot celebrates the revitalizing of the bush and birdlife that is a result of the huge volunteer effort that has been going into the Sanctuary.



Stephen often carries his camera with him as he checks his monitoring line. He has been taking photos since he was a young lad, and thinks he still has a lot to learn, but one thing he does know is that if you don't have a camera with you and have it ready you will miss that one great shot.

Born in Wellington, Stephen has been in Picton for the last 4 years, but has seen a lot of the country. Before Picton he called Matamata home for 20 years and has lived in many other great spots. A really keen and active volunteer, Stephen says he is involved in Kaipupu Point work because he recognized the birds need a Sanctuary, and because of his love of the bush and getting out around the tracks.

And his favourite place on Kaipupu Point? Coming down from the summit, following E track down through the beech trees, reaching the jetty and stopping for a well-deserved drink. Thank you Stephen for all that you do for Kaipupu Point.



## Chairman's Comment

Welcome to the 10th year of Kaipupu Point. I'm sure I can feel an appropriate celebration coming on sometime this year! 2015 promises to be another year of significant progress on the Sanctuary. Your committee will have 3 priority tasks for this year:

- 1) **Species reintroductions.** This is the most exciting of the year's tasks, and if we get it right should provide huge satisfaction for the large team of enthusiastic community volunteers who keep us going.
- 2) **Secure a more reliable water supply for the birds.** Our maintenance team has got the plan and secured the costings, again significantly reduced through community goodwill. We hope to have a water tank on top of the peninsula, with controlled water flow down to the 2 bird ponds. Wonderful!
- 3) **Signage...especially for species identification.** This is much needed but we need to take time to get it right, as there are many ways of doing this. As always we will be relying on DOC best practice to guide us.

To state the obvious, all our initiatives and intentions rely on having a sanctuary demonstrably free of pests, and our amazing trapping and monitoring team is determined to eliminate the very last mouse from the sanctuary...a significant achievement! One issue that has come to the fore, again, is public access to the sanctuary. We remain incredibly grateful that the Port Marlborough has gone to some considerable effort and expense to ensure our volunteers have access across Port land. While this may become increasingly difficult, the Port is committed to making it work for our volunteers, even if the current method of entry may change in the future.

Maintaining ready access for our volunteer workers will be a top priority for your committee. There are, however, considerable pressures on the Port to maintain safety and efficiency, in an operation that continues to grow and get busier. Our community is greatly assisted by the Port's continuing commercial success. Public access across Port land is simply not possible. Our original agreement with the Port, when they gave the land over to our guardianship, specifically excluded public access.

Your committee is keen to explore any way of making public access cheaper and more accessible than now, although we are aware from the donation box of a good stream of visitors currently visiting Kaipupu Point. This may well require some 'left field thinking', but will not involve public access across Port land. We hope you understand the position regarding this, and work with us to find new ways to encourage more people to visit Kaipupu Point and enjoy what is an increasingly attractive and unique part of the Sounds.

Barry Maister

***Fresh Choice Picton supports  
Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary with hundreds of dollars of grocery  
vouchers each year. Thank you Fresh Choice!***

## Mud House Wines support Kaipupu Point at Wine and Food Festival



Glasses of Mud House wine were a popular choice on Saturday 14th February at the Wine and Food Festival held at Brancott Vineyard.

The Marlborough Wine & Food Festival is New Zealand's original and longest running festival which combines wine, food, fashion and terrific music. Festival goers had the opportunity to sample a unique selection of world-class wines and delicious local cuisine in one of our oldest and most picturesque vineyards. Mud House Wines took the opportunity to tell Kaipupu Point's story as a part of their display, and for every glass of wine they poured at their stand on the day, \$1 was donated to Kaipupu Point!

Mud House Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc	2014	\$2	\$6
Mud House The Woolshed Sauvignon Blanc	2014	\$2	\$7
Mud House Selmesbrook Sauvignon Blanc	2012	\$2	\$7
Mud House Marlborough Pinot Gris	2014	\$2	\$6
Mud House Taggart Pinot Gris	2011	\$2	\$6
Mud House Marlborough Gewürztraminer	2014	\$2	\$6
Mud House Marlborough Chardonnay	2014	\$2	\$6
Mud House Hungry Hill Chardonnay	2013	\$2	\$8

\$1.00 from every glass sold is donated to Kaipupu Point!

This totalled \$500 over the day, and is stunning support from our newest 'Rimu' sponsor. The funds will be put to good use in the near future on upcoming projects. A number of projects are needing funds in order to start implementation, such as the proposed transfer of species to the Sanctuary, setting up water sources for the birds, and interpretive signage around the track. Thank you Mud House for your support of the Sanctuary.

### HELP WANTED!

The Sanctuary Information Site in Picton is open every Saturday from 11 am to 1 pm. Please email [info@kaipupupoint.co.nz](mailto:info@kaipupupoint.co.nz) if you would like to take part in staffing the site. If we have enough volunteers the Sanctuary Information Site can be opened on any other days as well – it's all up to you!

## Trips to Kaipupu Point in January a Great Success

2 trips supported by the Department of Conservation and Beachcomber Cruises cruised the inner Sounds including time to walk on Kaipupu Point in January. Nearly 80 people took advantage of this cruisy opportunity and were impressed with the work that had been achieved and the value for money on the day for such a grand day out. Thanks to Department of Conservation (most especially the incomparable Robin Cox), and Beachcomber Cruises for making these trips happen.

## Beech Honeydew



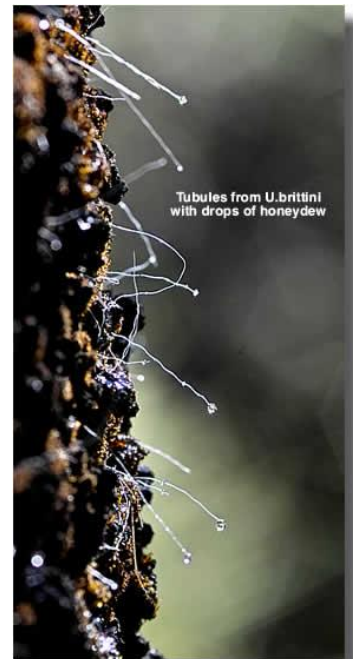
Beech forests in New Zealand are home to a unique resource – honeydew – delicious to birds, fungi and insects. 2 of the 5 species of beech found in New Zealand, Hard Beech (*Nothofagus truncata*) and Black Beech (*Nothofagus solandri*) are found on Kaipupu Point, and honeydew can be seen on these trees throughout the Sanctuary. This sweet sticky substance forms the basis of an important ecosystem.

So how does the honeydew ecosystem work? The sweet honeydew is exuded by small scale insects *Ultracoelostoma assimile* and *Ultracoelostoma brittini* that live within the bark of beech trees. These insects are very simple in body structure and are related to aphids - looking like a little flattened sac with no wings or legs. They are basically just mouthparts with a very long anal tube, which is the one part of the insect that you can see protruding as a thin waxy stem from the bark of the tree. The tube often has a small drop of sweet sugary honeydew on the end (and, yes, you can eat it).

The scale insect inserts its mouth into the phloem of the tree (phloem is the internal tube within the tree that conducts sugar from the leaves throughout the tree to the roots). The fluid in the phloem provides the scale insect with all it needs to live, but the fluid has so much sugar that the insect takes in far more than it needs. Instead of using all this food and getting fat, it secretes the excess sugar through its anal tube, forming small droplets that are eaten by birds or fall to the forest floor.

These droplets are a rich source of food for a number of organisms. For tui and bellbirds, it is an easy energy source. Tui have been observed working their way up and down beech trees eating the small droplets of honeydew as they go. This food resource is available all year round, so in the winter months when nectar is scarce, the honeydew is an important food source for the birds.

Other organisms also benefit from this sweet sugary syrup. As the honeydew drops from the end of the anal tube, it covers the bark and ground surrounding the tree. This promotes the growth of black sooty mould fungi that eventually grow to cover the bark of the tree. These dense black fungi are an important food source for a range of animals, including



several species of beetles and moths. These small insects also provide food for birds, and a complex web builds up – all

sustained by the small scale insect lodged inside the bark.

**Canterbury Community Trust and Pub Charity  
supported the Sanctuary in December with funding for operational needs.  
This recent funding means Sanctuary activities can continue without interruption.  
Thank you Canterbury Community Trust and Pub Charity for this support!**

## Pest Team Volunteers enjoy a BBQ on the Sanctuary



A slight chill in the air did nothing to dim the spirits of the Kaipupu Point Pest Team volunteers at a recent BBQ on the Sanctuary. Thanks to fresh Choice for the refreshments and Beachcomber for assistance with transport.

## Pest Team Report: New Lightweight Trap Box design!

As more trapping and monitoring lines are placed around Kaipupu Point, so the need to spread defensive traps along these lines continues. The trap lines are kept narrow to minimize vegetation disturbance, so moving the original DOC200 traps and boxes around is very hard work.

Carl Beaumont and David Trewavas worked together, with input from other Pest Monitoring volunteers, to come up with a new design of box to house the well proven DOC200 rat/stoat traps. The new design is only 30% of the weight of the boxes, generously built by the Men's Shed. They are just as strong and durable, but less bulky and more accessible for cleaning out dead pests. They are more easily checked during monitoring exercises and resetting is simpler and safer. Most importantly 6, instead of 2, traps can be carried on a specially designed pack, making the distribution of them around Kaipupu Point more practical.



*'The new design of the Lightweight Pest Trap Box by volunteers from the Sanctuary resolves many of the problems which volunteers and professionals in the field have found challenging for a number of years in terms of pest traps.'*

Mike Bell, excerpt from a letter supporting the new pest trap box design to the WWF Conservation Innovation Award.

The new design was recently entered into last year's WWF Conservation Innovation Award. Although the entry did not place in the awards, the volunteers and invading rats and stoats have all come to realise that Karl and David have come up with an impressive improvement. The trap box is covered with a removable, flexible, plastic, UV treated cover secured by rubber bungee cords. With the flexible plastic cover removed, two traps can be nestled together making the load when transporting traps not only lighter but more compact.

## Northern Lookout on Sanctuary Completed



The photo above shows of the Mud House table plaque being placed in the table by Peter and Bev Jones.

The generator in the foreground was donated by Nigel and Sue Hutchinson.

The planned lookout has now been created on the northern side of Kaipupu Point, with views of inner Queen Charlotte Sound. Thanks go to Mud House Wines for their sponsorship of the Northern Lookout which involved a small amount of excavation and flattening of the area, and then placement of wooden benches and a large wooden table.



## Marlborough Environment Awards Judging



Kaipupu Point entered into the Marlborough Environment Awards programme at the end of last year, and judging took place out on the Sanctuary in January. Volunteers who guided the judges around the Sanctuary explained Sanctuary operations under key areas such as innovation, biodiversity, weed and pest control, community engagement and potential for local and national replication. Even just under the 1 category of innovation, Kaipupu Point is a powerful example of volunteer creativity – look at what we've done in the last 12 months:

- **Administration:** Kaipupu Point has switched to using a cloud-based database to manage administration of memberships, volunteers, donors and sponsors. Use of this 'Wild Apricot' system has significantly reduced the amount of time required to manage members and volunteers while greatly improving administrative efficiency.
- **Pest team website:** The 100 strong pest management volunteer team use technology creatively to connect volunteers by the use of a dedicated pest management website to roster monitoring and trapping tasks and provide information to volunteers (<http://kaipupupestmonitoring.weebly.com>).
- **CatchIT software:** Field results from the Pest team are collated and interpreted through 'CatchIT' software developed at Auckland University. This new software summarises results and the team then plans ongoing strategy.
- **Lightweight pest trap:** Volunteers have developed a new design for a lightweight pest trap box. The new design overcomes the weight and bulk issues of typical trap boxes and allows two boxes to be incorporated together for field transport, to halve volume and reduce weight by at least 60%.
- **Concession for Kaipupu Point:** We are applying to DOC to hold the Concession for commercial visits to Kaipupu Point. This will enable the Society to protect the integrity of the Point while tapping into an income stream.

## Seen this bird? Pīpiwharautoa - Shining Cuckoo



This is a medium-sized (16 cm), bronze-green, native cuckoo. Underparts and face are a barred dark green.

The shining cuckoo voice is a distinctive series of high-pitched slurred whistles: 'tu-whee, tu-whee, tu-wee, tee-wuu'; the last a descending note. It is more often heard than seen.

Their food comes from mainly insects, especially the green caterpillars found on Kowhai. Cuckoos winter over in the Solomons and Papua New Guinea. They arrive in New Zealand in September, find a mate, and then a suitable Grey Warbler nest in which to lay their eggs.

## Biosecurity on the Sanctuary – What does this Mean?

We see the word 'biosecurity' every time we fly in and out of New Zealand, with strong warnings and hefty fines if we bring foreign items into the country, but what does this term mean on our own small piece of turf here in Picton? When we talk about biosecurity measures for Kaipupu Point, we are referring to our strategies to prevent pest and predator incursions onto the Sanctuary. Pests and predators arriving uninvited has occurred in most if not all reserves protected by predator-excluding fences. Our goal is to operate so we minimize these incursions.



Luckily, access to the Sanctuary is limited to pedestrians arriving on boats. If our Sanctuary was in a different location and vehicles were allowed in (as is the case in at least 2 mainland islands in New Zealand protected by predator-excluding fences) we could expect a higher level of problems with pests and predators getting in.

We know dogs and cats are forbidden to bring to the Sanctuary, but there are many ways that unwanted animals can gain entry, and can become established if we are not always monitoring for any sign of them. For example, prey transport by harrier hawks into the Sanctuary or potentially rough joints along the fence and cap allowing predators to figure out ways to gain entry. Then there is the chance of exposure of the anti-burrowing skirt at the base of the fence by erosion which could allow unwanted animals to end up on the wrong side of the fence.

Sanctuaries such as Kaipupu Point are vital in protecting vulnerable fauna and allowing the recovery of plant communities. We all need to be careful when visiting Kaipupu Point to protect this habitat from mammalian invaders, whether herbivore or predator.

***Kaipupu Point AGM – Save the Date – Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2-4 pm***

***Port Marlborough Pavilion at Endeavour Park***

## Strong Volunteers needed for Work on Tracks and Infrastructure!

This team is always active out on the Sanctuary, and always open for new volunteers to join them. Alan and Vince have spent time recently emptying and cleaning out the two bird water ponds in preparation for plastering to seal any leaks. They have also cleared out an area for the water storage tank and collection roof further up the hillside for the more permanent bird water supply. Further volunteer help is now needed to dig out the tank base and a team to construct the 20 square metre collection roof.

**Any people offering their strength and expertise please contact Vince (573-8974) or Alan (573-5659).**

## Designer of software 'CatchIT' checks out the Sanctuary



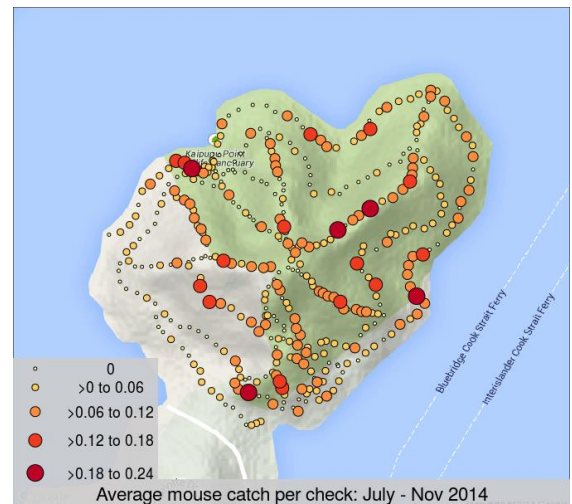
Pictured at left: Rachel Fewster, designer of CatchIT at Auckland University. CatchIT is the online database for analysing predator trapping and baiting information.

Over 100 volunteers check the pest grid over the entire sanctuary every 5 days, and after every monitoring trip volunteers gather, share results, confirm identification of tracks, and ensure results are ready for input into 'CatchIT'. 'CatchIT' is the software from Auckland University we are using to collate results and plan ongoing strategy.

This is developing technology which will likely revolutionize pest control efforts. It can graphically show catch results, which is a real bonus to show visually what is

happening in the bush. A range of charts and analyses can be created, and Rachel can respond to specific requests from users of the software such as Kaipupu Point. The chart pictured below, for example, is an analysis of the information received from the Pest Team concerning mouse catches throughout the Sanctuary from July to November in 2014.

Rachel says they have the ability to continue developing charts and analyses of information into the distant future, thanks to the limitless supply of smart statistics students at Auckland University! On her visit to the Sanctuary Rachel emphasized how impressed she was with the Pest Team and its efficient and dedicated operation. Although she is heavily involved in volunteer groups in Auckland, as well as having groups from all over NZ using her Catch IT software, Rachel said she had never seen such a vibrant and organised bunch of volunteers. Quite a pat on the back – **Well Done Volunteers!**



## Connecting with Like Minds



The Marlborough Falcon Conservation Trust recently invited Barry Maister and Jenny Keene from Kaipupu Point to discuss common ground in conservation goals and view a falcon flying display. Andy Frost met Barry and Jenny at the Brancott Heritage Centre so they could see first hand some of the advocacy work of the Trust, and it proved to be a memorable and valuable morning.

The photo at left is of 'Fern', the Trust's advocacy falcon who has been trained to entertain groups while they learn about the fascinating life history of endangered New Zealand falcons (karearea).

### Remember the new membership prices when you send in your renewal:

Single Membership \$25 - Family Membership \$40 - Couples Membership \$40 - Individual Lifetime \$300 - Couple Lifetime \$500

## ***PHOTO FINISH...***



***View from the Northern Lookout***



***The lengths some will go to, to get to Kaipupu Point!***

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RIMU (\$5,000 per annum)



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KOHEKOHE (From \$300 to \$999 per annum)



## FUNDERS



## FOUNDATION PARTNERS



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**SPECIAL THANKS TO:** Kenny Barging, Le Café, Picton ITM, Nigel Hutchinson, Robyn Spence, Marlborough Helicopters, Fulton Hogan, Jordan Family Trust, Tory Channel Contractors, Outward Bound.