

Newsletter June 2014

Chairman's Comment – Planning a Year of Action Ahead

Barry Maister



Annual General Meetings are not everyone's 'cup of tea', but they are an important and essential part of any organisation. In many organisations the aim is to get through them as quickly as possible, so that the 'socialisation' can get started. I have a slightly different view. This is our annual opportunity to inform you, in a more formal manner, of what we have been doing, to lay out our future plans, to demonstrate we are being financially responsible, to appoint the people needed to keep the organisation going forward, to enlighten you on some relevant conservation issue with a guest speaker, and to get feedback from you on topical issues facing the Sanctuary. And yes, there will still be time for socialisation after that!

In those regards, we have an interesting speaker lined up (see the details further on in the newsletter) and intend organising some informal groups at the AGM, each with a committee member, to get member feedback on the following issues:

1. Kaipupu newsletters....alternative methods of getting them to you, frequency, content, and any other feedback on them.

2. Festival.....Its future.....Should this be an annual event? How should it evolve, and how members see it now or would like to see it in the future.

3. Kaipupu membership.... members or friends?...subscription categories and benefits, members expectations and benefits of being a member, attracting and using volunteers.

4. How would you like Kaipupu to evolve over the next 5 years? What are the priorities you think we need to address in relation to our strategic plan (which will be distributed to you at the meeting).

Your thoughts on these (or any other) matters really do help your committee's decision making and effectiveness.

The current committee is an excellent group which works cooperatively and constructively, and are always keen to attract new members. If you have any interest at all in being on the committee, and want to know more about it, please contact me or any of the committee. Can I ask that the names of anyone wanting to stand for election be sent by MONDAY 14 JULY. Send a brief CV, and a member nominator and seconder to barry@olympic.org.nz.



Your attendance at the upcoming AGM is really important to us and we would love to see you there...along with any potential members you might like to bring along! Please note the AGM details:

Sunday 20 July at 2 pm in the Port Marlborough Pavilion at Endeavour Park.



Staying Dry and Warm this Winter

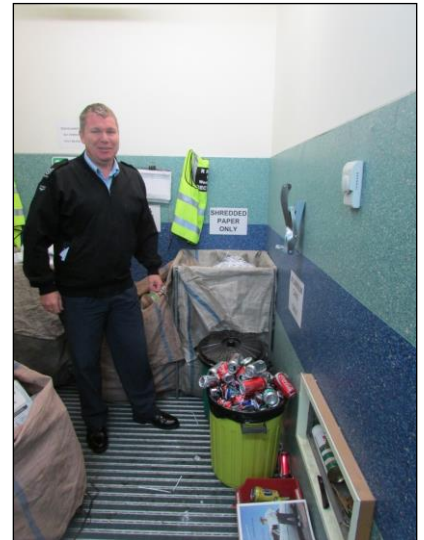
Here's an idea! Volunteer to staff the Kaipupu Info Site, and you'll have the chance to stay cosy and warm while offering Kaipupu hospitality to visitors who pop in. Ring Jenny on 572-7288 if you'd like to have go.

What do Woodbourne RNZAF Base, aluminium cans and the Kaipupu track have in common?



The answer to that question is: plenty! Kaipupu Sanctuary has been very fortunate in our growing partnership with the Base on a number of fronts. This is all due to one of our volunteers Mark Atkinson, who has enthusiastically led this recycling project, and other projects on Kaipupu. Pictured above with Barry Maister (on left), Squadron Leader Kelly Byrne (centre) and Mark (right), the first cheque was presented to the Sanctuary with profits from the recycled cans. This new recycling project at Woodbourne Base means that less aluminium ends up in the Marlborough landfill, and more money comes in to support the development and maintenance of the Kaipupu track system. Mark spearheads this effort in which he has created a central point for recycling on the Base, is raising awareness about Kaipupu Sanctuary, and is raising funds to support the Sanctuary simultaneously.

The track system on Kaipupu is not just what you see as you walk around the circuit track, but includes many management tracks away up in the bush used by the Pest Team volunteers which must be kept in good condition; so all the traps and monitoring stations can be checked and cleared. Not only has Mark initiated a way to financially support the Kaipupu track system, he has also organised teams of recruits to come out and upgrade these tracks so volunteers can get around them with greater ease.



On June 22nd, just before the mid-winter swim in Picton, Mark has organized a large group of RNZAF recruits to do a Picton foreshore clean-up before heading over to Kaipupu to sort out the pest management tracks. Under the careful guidance of the Pest Team and Maintenance Team, better tracks will be a huge relief to all the volunteers who spend hours on the Sanctuary. Thank you Mark and Woodbourne Base!



The Mystery of the Folding Tables...



Not as thrilling as a Dan Brown, Arthur Conan Doyle or Agatha Christie novel, but this time you get a prize (and enormous acclaim) if you can track down these 2 large tables. We use these tables all the time (or at least we did until they were gone), and we think the last time they were used was at the A & P show in November, when Kaipupu put together a large display. They are big and cumbersome, so we suspect they have been put at the back of a shed somewhere in error and forgotten about. We'd love to have them returned. Please contact Jenny on 572-7288 if you track them down, or just drop them into the Kaipupu Information Site at 23 High St any Saturday between 11 and 1 pm. Your prize will then be revealed!





Bailee Hall, Liaona Brown, Timu Beech, William Barclay, Maddy Giles, Lajla Browning

'Kaipupu' the Chick: Waikawa School's bond with a Takahe

Contributed by Wendy Sullivan, DOC.

As two Takahē juveniles left Maud Island this month and travelled down to Burwood Bush Takahē Rearing Unit in Te Anau, they were given two special names by Waikawa Primary School Room 6 and 7 students – **'Waikawa'** and **'Kaipupu'**. Room 6 teacher Jade Lenauze has a special bond with their Takahē mum. As a summer ranger for DOC in 2007, Jade worked at Burwood Bush where she helped raise the Takahē chick 'Pitt' – named by Jade after her home island on the Chatham Islands.

Pitt was sent to Maud Island, while her sibling Rekohu (Mori name for the Chatham Islands) was sent to the wild Murchison Mountains in Fiordland. Like Pitt, Jade ended up in the Marlborough Sounds after completing her teacher training, and is really excited that Pitt has finally become a Mum. Pitt has a little bit of island determination in her. She had been previously unsuccessful in breeding over the last six years, but when one year old Kowhai arrived at Maud Island last year with partner Harper, Pitt claimed him for herself and the pair hasn't looked back. Late last year the pair produced two eggs which soon became two strong, demanding chicks. Twins are unusual in the wild, as often the parents will favour the first chick, which subsequently gets stronger while the younger chick gets weaker. For managed pairs chicks may be fostered to parents that produced infertile eggs. That wasn't an option last year due to timing of the different pairs nesting on Maud Island but luckily Pitt and Kowhai proved to be good parents, and raised both chicks themselves with a little supplementary feeding from the resident DOC rangers. Both parents incubate the eggs for 30 days and feed the chicks until they are three months old. Takahē chicks stay with their parents until they are a year, or sometimes two years old.

As part of the Takahē Recovery Programme, with help from principal partner Mitre 10, the chicks will become part of the captive breeding population there. Takahē lay their eggs on a raised nest made of grass making the eggs and chicks highly vulnerable to stoats, so the captive breeding programme is essential for the species survival. With only 260 birds left, it is crucial that some manipulation of pairings is undertaken to ensure that each population doesn't become inbred. Waikawa and Kaipupu may end up staying at Burwood Bush or could be sent to another island or protected mainland site when they are breeding age.

Takahe photo courtesy of nzbirdsonline.org.nz



What's in your back Shed? Birdlife will spill over from Kaipupu Sanctuary as breeding success increases and food is available because of the eradication of forest pests. Volunteers are putting together a display in the Kaipupu Information Site about attracting all sorts of native wildlife to your garden, and keeping birds safe by ensuring your garden is free of pests. Some further supplies are needed – if anyone has a spare piece of trellis, a length of brush fence, an old fish tank, the ability to make a frame for a small replica of a raised garden, or any great ideas, please give Andrew John (573-5509) or Jenny Keene (572-7288) a ring.

Pest Monitoring on Kaipupu

The team has been very active over the last months and is in full swing. Equipment has been purchased, which has been supported by Pub Charity. Effective monitoring and trapping equipment is vital to ensure the team can carry out their jobs. And unless there is enough equipment to ensure that we always know exactly what is happening on the sanctuary so we can respond to events quickly, we will not succeed in keeping it predator free. Track upgrades are on the calendar this month also which will make everything that little bit easier.

Take a look at the map below at all the tracks that volunteers use to keep Kaipupu free from pests. Along the tracks are monitoring stations and traps all of which are checked on a strict rostered basis.

Next newsletter we will be describing the new software and staff support that is happening. Exciting stuff for Kaipupu! If you would like to volunteer this team always needs members to join them.

Contact James at 573-6334

The aerial photo below shows the public circuit track around the sanctuary as well as the network of smaller management tracks used only by the pest management team. The smaller management tracks are not open to the public, and are much steeper and rougher than the public circuit track. They have been cut through the bush in specific areas to provide sanctuary coverage of monitoring devices in a specifically designed grid. All the management tracks have been created and are maintained by volunteers.



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

'Possum Stomp' - a smartphone app about the plight of NZ's native birds

From Landcare Research



'Possum Stomp' is a fun game where a kiwi tries to protect its nest from zombie possums, and is a teaser for a wider educational online game called 'Ora'. It is also a precursor of new tools to challenge how New Zealanders think about pest control. "In 'Possum Stomp' the player helps the Stompy the Kiwi to run around and stomp on the zombie possums before they steal his eggs. The zombie possums represent all invasive pests and the kiwi represents New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity," researcher Pen Holland, Landcare Research Scientist says. Pen says there have been downloads from New Zealand, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Australia, USA and France. The App costs NZ\$1.29 to download and all revenue will go towards the development and running of the project. Meanwhile, when the game 'Ora' is released it will allow players to undertake pest control operations by selecting and utilising a range of different methods, and teach them how to measure

the outcomes of their choices.

However, for every decision taken by the player, there will consequences, says researcher Bruce Warburton.

"One of the main aims is to teach people about the complexities of managing pests in New Zealand. If people don't want to use a particular tool, say 1080, they don't have to but there may well be consequences related to budget, biological, or regulatory constraints."

Landcare Research mathematical models developed by Pen Holland run underneath the game and show participants what would happen to the forest canopy as a result of the pest strategies they choose. The gaming environment marks a significant change in how science can be translated from research to the public and both researchers are hoping the gaming medium proves to be effective. "It's educational but we're also going to observe peoples' strategies for pest management and use that to understand public perceptions as well as crowd-source some specific management solutions," Pen says.

Development of the 'Ora' and 'Possum Stomp' games are also an element of a wider research programme led by Bruce aimed at developing new technologies for pest control. The game has been developed in collaboration with Hazel Bradshaw, a PhD student at the Human Interface Technology Lab (University of Canterbury), who is studying how the gaming environment can be utilised for knowledge transfer. Contact Pen Holland at Landcare Research for further details: 021-027-07547.



Save the Date - Wednesday June 25th - Kaipapa Information Site

Come out of the Cold - You are Warmly Invited!

When: 7 pm Wednesday June 25th

Where: Kaipupu Information Site (at 23 High St in Picton)

What: To enjoy a full **Evening about Albatrosses** with Dianne and Andrew John. Dianne and Andrew took part in the first southern albatross translocation earlier this year. This exciting project involved transferring 50 threatened Chatham Island Albatross from Pyramid Island to a new predator-free site.

Bring along a chair - And stay for supper afterwards.

Space is limited so contact Jenny at 572-7288 or jennymkeene@gmail.com if you are planning to come.

Or just turn up on the night and find an empty spot.

Calling all Citizen Scientists – Where are the Penguins?

Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary has initiated a little penguin (korora) conservation project as part of our biodiversity conservation work on the Sanctuary. Little penguin (aka Blue penguin or Little Blue penguin) population is in decline due to the loss of terrestrial habitat and predation by dogs, feral cats and mustelids (ferrets, stoats and weasels). And at sea penguin may be preyed by sharks and seals, drown by entanglement in nets and be unable to feed efficiently due to declines in fish stocks.



The Picton Penguin Project has two components: To provide penguin nesting boxes on the Sanctuary so that penguins may have warm, dry and safe roosting and nesting sites (thankyou Picton ITM for generously providing all these materials), and also to provide our community with the opportunity to help gather information about little penguin.

Penguins at Sea

If you do see penguins when you are out on the water - can you record your sightings? You can either:

- Log the data on our Nature Watch website <http://naturewatch.org.nz/projects/picton-penguins>. You will need to join Picton Penguins to enter information yourself, but joining is simple. Or
- Send the information to Andrew John and he will add it to the Nature Watch website (573 5509 celtsh@clear.net.nz)

So what sort of information do you need to note down when you see a penguin?

- location (GPS if possible)
- number of penguins
- birds in a group or single
- date and time of day
- state of the sea (calm, choppy, rough)
- how much time you spent in the area (passing through, ½ hour, 1 hour ...)
- how many active observers were on board your boat

We already know that healthy feeding grounds at sea are important as penguins can lose body condition and have reduced breeding success where food supply is poor. More information about their feeding at sea is valuable. Penguins have been known to forage cooperatively to catch their prey (small fish), so it could be helpful to note down anything about group behaviour if you see anything interesting.



Penguins on land

Penguins breed and raise chicks during September to November and sometimes raise two clutches during a season. If you know of penguins on land then record where you have heard or seen them. Don't know what a penguin sounds like? Check out little penguin calls at <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/little-penguin>, they are noisiest during breeding season. Again, you can enter the information on the website or send it to Andrew to enter for you.

Where do you remember penguins?

This survey is to get an idea of any historical trends in penguin numbers and locations. Contact Andrew for more information. The sort of information we are looking for is:

- Location(s) you remember seeing/hearing penguins (GPS if available)
- At sea or on land or both?
- Last time you saw/heard them
- Duration you remember them being there (months, years)
- Were they in singles or groups (or both)
- Were they nesting or not sure
- Any particular season?
- The date you are reporting the historical sighting

- Kaipupu AGM -
Your chance to really get Involved
Sunday 20 July at 2 pm in the Port Marlborough Pavilion
Endeavour Park, Waikawa.

Kaipupu volunteers Dianne and Andrew John will give an illustrated talk
"Naturally Chathams"
about the natural features of the Chatham Islands and their experiences in this environment
while doing an albatross translocation.

Everyone in the community is welcome
(and if you feel the urge bring a plate of treats to share)

See You There!



Before We Go...

*Take some friends out to Kaipupu for a walk soon. Spread the word about our lovely local Sanctuary, we
can always do with more help to keep this small peninsula pest-free. See you next time!*

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name					
Address					
Email					
Home Tel		Mobile			
Membership Enclosed	\$	Do you require a receipt ? (for payments of \$20 plus)	Yes *	No *	
Additional Donation?	\$				

Please select choice of membership by circling:

Single Membership \$20.00	Family Membership \$30.00	Lifetime Membership \$250.00
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Do you want to be a volunteer?

Yes/No

After filling out, clip off and please post to:

Kaipupu Point Mainland Island Society Inc

P O Box 186

Picton 7250

Email: info@kaipupupoint.co.nz

Ph: 027-898-2517

Direct Credit: 02 0740 0008 833 00 - Use your Name as Reference

P.O. Box 186 Picton, 7250

Email: info@kaipupupoint.co.nz

Ph 027-8982517

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