



Kaipupu Point

Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary

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



Newsletter June 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.

Come and celebrate the 10 years of Kaipupu Point !

AGM Sunday June 21st, 2-4 pm

Port Marlborough Pavilion at Endeavour Park

What's happening at the AGM?

Join us on Sunday June 21st to walk through the accomplishments and developments over the last 10 years. As well as reviewing activities since our last AGM, we will take the time to enjoy the result of many years of work and fun. A slide show of the high points will illustrate the project from first inception to its current status, and even further ideas for the future.

Come along for the afternoon:

- Dr Morgan Williams, former parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, will speak on the topic: "A pest free New Zealand..... myth or serious possibility? "
- Members will be invited to contribute feedback to the committee on any matters relating to the Sanctuary
- Enjoy afternoon tea (bring along a plate to share), Mud House wine, salmon & crackers supplied by King Salmon.
- A plant sale of bird friendly plants.

Catch up with all things Kaipupu Point and pick up some bird friendly plants for your garden.

See you at the AGM!

DOC's Volunteer Database

DOC is currently developing a database to better connect registered volunteers to opportunities and events. Currently the database is being used in Nelson/Marlborough and West Coast. If successful it will be rolled out nationally. If you would like to go on the database to receive notifications of volunteer opportunities please email Wendy at wsullivan@doc.govt.nz and Wendy will email you a registration form. Alternatively if Facebook is your thing "like" the Marlborough Conservation Events Facebook page www.facebook.com/marlboroughconservationevents.



Sounds Fantastic!



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**. Our other sponsors, Mud House and Bluebridge, are also supporters of this tour. The trip is aimed at families and offers a low cost option for people to experience Kaipupu Point, as well as a salmon farm and a lovely tour of the Sounds. It also is a great way to encourage new Kaipupu Point memberships. If you haven't been out to Kaipupu Point for a while this may be a great opportunity for you to take your kids or grandchildren. Similarly, if you know friends and family who may be interested, we'd love you to pass this on.

The **Sounds, Salmon & Songbirds Cruise** is a Saturday afternoon tour running fortnightly from June through until September, with more trips during the July school holidays. The cruise departs Picton on board Marlborough Tour Company's well-appointed MV Odyssea 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.



Photo by Steve Pearson

Dates: 20 June, 4 July (school holidays), 11 July (school holidays), 18 July (school holidays), 1 August, 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 head to:

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

Email: info@marlboroughtourcompany.co.nz

Phone: 03 577 9997



Where were you when...

What stories do you have about Kaipupu Point? When did you decide to become a member and why has the Kaipupu Point project meant something special to you? As we retrace our footsteps over our first 10 years we'd love to hear your stories and history. Can you add to the Kaipupu Point scrapbook of milestone moments in our journey? Contact us at info@kaipupupoint.co.nz if you would like to share your story through the newsletter.



Outward Bound on the job

In April a keen group of 14 from Outward Bounders with their Instructor Dave donated their time and energy around the Sanctuary. Barry Maister welcomed all at Dolphin Bay, and Alan Izard, Vince Cowie and Paul Mann then led the project with the group working mostly on the bird water supply, creating a stable base for the water storage tank which will be helicoptered into place soon. After a roof area is constructed, water from the roof will be collected and fed into the tank. This will then be channelled into special pond areas and provide a guaranteed supply for the native birds. Huge progress – thank you Outward Bound!



New ways to communicate with Kaipupu Point Pest Monitor Team

Pictured: Helen Ainsworth and Aileen Walker



The success of the Kaipupu Pest Monitoring scheme is due to the volunteers who willingly put many hours in each month monitoring traps and tunnels. This ongoing willingness is sustained with communication between the volunteer coordinator, Trudy Nicholas, and volunteers. The group was originally established using stand-alone communication systems. Now these activities are to be integrated into the Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary's communication system.



All volunteer data has been transferred into Wild Apricot (an online database system) and future emails from Trudy will be coming from a new email address and have the Kaipupu Point Sanctuary branding. While many of the pest volunteers are members of Kaipupu Point, there are some strongly empathetic with Kaipupu Point, who have put in hours and hours of work on the sanctuary, but who choose not to become members. This position is appreciated by the committee and their status will remain as volunteer.

Monitors seldom meet out on the hill, so regular gatherings are organised, so volunteers can get to know one another and share views. Not all volunteers get to every gathering and it is important that they are heard, so to further enhance the team spirit, all volunteers are now being invited to join Loomio.org.nz, an online program that allows everyone to share information and ideas. Trudy anticipates these online debates will assist the Kaipupu Pest Monitoring Focus Team to fine tune the team's work, as well as enthuse others to become pest monitors. If you're interested in becoming part of the Kaipupu Pest Monitoring Team or would like to learn more about becoming a Friend of Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary visit www.kaipupupoint.co.nz or contact Trudy on 027-898-2517.

Sanctuary Secrets



In the winter time they are hard to find, but as it gets warmer start looking about for our wonderful tiny native reptiles. New Zealand geckos and skinks are well known as very cool creatures, and with predators gone from the Sanctuary we expect them to increase in numbers. Kids love to draw them, and learn about their amazing adaptations for survival. They have one especially nifty trick to escape predators – they can lose their tail! Even once it's detached the tail keeps thrashing about. This helps

fool their killer and gives them enough time to make a quick escape. And they have plenty of predators in New Zealand outside the Sanctuary, so they need all the tricks they can. The tail will re-grow - taking between 1 and 2 years.

More cool stuff everyone *needs* to know about our geckos –

- They smell with their tongues! And their tongues vary in colour from species to species. They come in so many colours – blue, pink, red, brown, grey, purple and orange
- They are known to roost with other creatures – and will sometimes snuggle up with a spider the same size as them!
- They have wonderfully sticky fingers – which gives them the ability to walk up walls and along window panes
- They have lots of predators – rats, cats, stoats, weasels, possums and tuatara.

Charity lunch a huge success in Blenheim

Ōra King has helped raise more than \$24,000 at a special charity lunch on May 3rd in aid of Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary. More than 50 guests dined on a four course lunch created by Ōra King ambassador Matt Lambert, from New York restaurant The Musket Room and Bradley Hornby, head chef of Gibbs on Godfrey. The Ōra King event was hosted at Gibbs on Godfrey restaurant in Marlborough with support from local producers and wineries including Mud House, Dog Point, Seresin, Greywacke and Fromm Wines. Guests were treated to a spectacular raw bar of delicious seafood from the Marlborough Sounds followed by a four course lunch. The \$24,000 was raised through ticket sales as well as a silent auction and live auction which included the sale of an original Don Binney artwork. The artwork titled Kaipupu Point I was created by the late artist a few months before he died in September 2012 to raise funds for the sanctuary and was sold for \$8,100 to an art enthusiast from Mangonui.



Ōra King general manager of marketing Jemma McCowan says the team was overwhelmed by the goodwill of those who contributed to the event. “The event was about giving back to the region and we’re pleased we were able to sponsor such a great cause. New Zealand King Salmon has been a Rimu Sponsor of Kaipupu Point over the past four years and we have been proud to see the development of this predator-free sanctuary over that period.”



Above left Peter Hamill Deputy Chair talks about the Sanctuary. Above right Hamish Watson from Fresh Choice volunteered in the Kitchen. Photo copyright Richard Briggs

Chrissy Powlesland, marketing team leader, Kaipupu Point Mainland Island Committee also expressed her delight at the result. “We were absolutely blown away by the generosity of the guests at the fundraising lunch on Sunday. Along with all the local producers and staff on the day who volunteered their time, energy and products to the lunch, the event was a huge success. The kiwi spirit of philanthropy is alive and well in Marlborough”. The funds raised by Ōra King will enable longer opening hours for the Visitor Centre in Picton and enhance the experience for school children and tourists alike.

Good neighbours come in all shapes, sizes, varieties and colours.



Recognizing that the birds spilling out from Kaipupu Point need a little love outside the Sanctuary, Kaipupu Point volunteers collected together hundreds of plants birds particularly seek out for food and shelter, and on May 1 and 2 a giant bird friendly plant sale was held in Picton. The sale was also supported by Morgan's Road Nursery, who donated \$500 in plants through the Marlborough Environment Awards programme. By choosing 'bird-friendly' plant species for their gardens, local gardeners in the 'halo' around Kaipupu Point are being good neighbours to the Sanctuary, and will find that their planted areas become a magnet for birds. It's all part of the Kaipupu Point plan to not only provide a safe haven for birds on the Point, but to also look more widely at where birds are flying to outside the Sanctuary and share ideas about creating further habitat in the local area.

On offer at the plant sale were nectar, berry and seed rich plants. Tuis, bellbirds and fantails from Kaipupu Point are relying on good neighbours to provide places for them to feed, nest and shelter outside the Sanctuary and these plants will do just that. Many more birds will follow the ones appearing in gardens now, and we have the opportunity to plant out an attractive 'welcome mat'. By choosing the right species, everybody wins. Grateful thanks for all the help from volunteers to make this happen, as well as Picton School pupils who made beautiful original posters and supported the sale. Look out for notices and come to the next Bird Friendly Plant Sale this spring.

New pest management track funded by Pub Charity

Pub Charity has been supporting various Sanctuary projects for many years, and the latest one is pivotal in protecting the biodiversity on the headland. A new pest monitoring line has been cut encircling the headland to provide further coverage for the pest monitoring team to place monitoring stations. The contract to construct this line was funded by Pub Charity. Not only will this line provide additional protective coverage, it will make things a little easier for the volunteers, as the track is parallel to the main track below it, and requires less physical effort to negotiate. **Thank you Pub Charity for your ongoing generous support.**

Photography project on Kaipupu Point

Photographer Steve Pearson is doing a Diploma Course in Photography at Southern Institute of Technology (Southland). It is a one year course and a part of his coursework is a major assignment where Steve had to pick a topic and produce a photobook.



Steve chose Kaipupu Point for his subject as he loves taking photos of native birds and has been interested in the mainland island concept for conservation of species. Steve is a mature student, and has found working with digital technology and post-processing in Photoshop has been an exciting challenge. I'm sure you'll agree Steve's photos from Kaipupu Point are wonderful. Steve wishes to thank Kaipupu Point volunteers

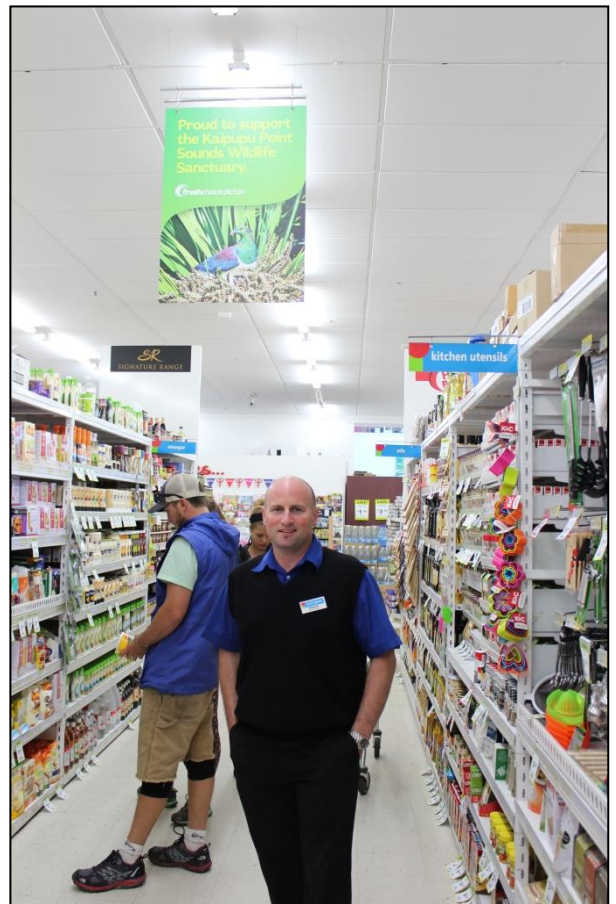
for their support of his project, particularly Alistair for his great help, as well as Trudy, and Helen and Aileen who helped Steve on the trails. And thank you Steve for your beautiful images.

Hamish Watson and Fresh Choice

Hamish Watson leads Fresh Choice in strong support of Kaipupu Point, and behind his generous activities for the Sanctuary is a desire to be active and give something back to the community, bringing environment and industry together. He took some time out recently so we could get know him a little better.

Hamish believes that the Kaipupu Point project champions many of the great things about Marlborough – a fantastic and varied natural environment, people working together, sharing ideas, and connecting individuals to create something the whole community can enjoy both now and in the future.

What many in Picton may not know is that Hamish has been a chef for over 15 years, starting in Christchurch, then moving on to super-yachts in the Mediterranean in the European summer and in the Caribbean in the winter. It was an unforgettable experience, but also extremely hard work. Hobbies now include fishing, as well as other water sports like wakeboarding and water skiing. As Hamish spent a lot of time in this area visiting family as a child, coming back here and getting settled with wife Heide and son Beau has been a wonderful experience. Hamish has enjoyed becoming a part of this welcoming community, and believes Picton offers a lot to residents. Fresh Choice employs 60 permanent staff in the winter and 90 staff in the summer, so Hamish has his hands full throughout the year, but he finds the time to volunteer. Currently he volunteers on the Steering Committee for 'Smart and Connected', the Council group which is working to get input from the community about the Picton and Sounds area, for inclusion in future planning. Thank you Hamish – we look forward to more opportunities to work together.



Piwakawaka in our garden Contributed by David Nichols



Over the last few weeks a lovely Piwakawaka (fantail) has taken to treating our house as part of his territory and even shows signs of wanting attention during visits.

It started each time I visited our lean-to behind the garage where I keep firewood etc. He would turn up and follow me closely around, chirping incessantly. Presumably hunting insects was the main attraction. Now he comes inside the house several times each day if doors are left open and perches on the light fittings in the lounge, from where he flits around the house searching for flies etc. On one occasion he came in one door, so we isolated him in the conservatory as it turned out until he exited again but he came straight back inside through another door.

We shooed him out again only to find he had flown

right around the other side of the house and again entered through the open back door. He chirps away happily and stays, it seems, as long as he has our attention. When we lose interest he soon exits again. When he catches a fly he holds fast to the chain on a light fitting with one claw whilst holding the fly with the other until he has completed eating it. Then he chirps like billy-o for a while happily. We feel blessed in spite of having to regularly clean off small deposits on the light covers!

We have many native birds visiting our garden but this one is very special.

Garden Bird Survey – Join in June 27 – July 5!

The garden bird survey is a citizen science project established to monitor the population trends of common garden birds in New Zealand. It attempts to answer the question, “Are garden bird populations increasing, decreasing, or remaining stable?” New Zealand has a number of rare native bird species that are declining in number, but we do not know the population trends of our more common native or introduced birds. It is hoped that the annual garden bird survey will act as an early-warning system if currently common native species start declining. Several currently common native species occur in our gardens, including fantail, tui, bellbird, silvereye, grey warbler, and kereru. Measuring the population trends of these species is an enormous task, which is why help is needed from everyone.



This year's Garden Bird Survey: 27 June – 5 July 2015

Survey Forms: Pick up the survey forms from the Kaipupu Point Information Site (open Saturdays 11 am to 1 pm) or go to: <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/animals/birds/garden-bird-surveys>.

Situations Vacant!

There's always room for more volunteers to staff the Kaipupu Point Information Site in High Street Picton. No previous experience necessary - we'd love to see you anytime. Or if you would prefer something a little more 'outdoorsy', how about joining the pest monitoring team, or the very physical track team?

Phone 027-898-2517 or email info@kaipupupoint.co.nz to join us.

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KAHIKATEA (From \$1,000 to \$1,999 per annum)



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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.