



Kaipupu Point

Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary

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.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

March 2016 would have to be marked down as possibly the most significant month in the 10 year history of Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary. All the work of preparing the track, raising the dollars, building the amenities, establishing policies and protocols, and monitoring and removing the pests, came to a point where the Sanctuary was deemed appropriate for our first species reintroductions. This month we had Robins reintroduced, and discussions regarding Kiwi translocations are very well advanced. We hope to have news on that front within a month. Buoyed by this, we have started work on other reintroductions, consistent with our strategic plan, in the form of Saddlebacks and Kakariki, and the probable establishment of a Weta population. This will all take time. There are considerable hoops to go through for any species translocation, but it now

does seem we have the confidence of the respective authorities to be trusted to successfully accommodate all these wonderful newcomers, and your committee is keen to maintain this momentum.

Ensuring we remain predator free and demonstrating our ongoing competence and commitment in that regard, remains a top priority. Hopefully the many hours committed by so many to that task, will seem a bit more rewarding if our newly introduced species become more visible, comfortable and confident in their new surroundings.

Of course we must not see these developments as the end, or even the beginning of the end. Rather as significant steps along the way to the establishment of an enriched environment, able to be enjoyed by everyone, forever.

I shall always remember the sheer joy experienced by so many, as the birds were coaxed from their boxes at our very well attended Robin release day. Such was the excitement that our well laid plans for a quiet and orderly release were lost in the clamour of everyone wanting to be part of the action. And not just the young! The tears of joy in Peter McMillan's eyes said it all, as someone who has been part of the Kaipupu Point team in one form or another since Day 1. It was a time to celebrate, and reflect on the power of a volunteer workforce totally committed to this project, over 10 years of hard work. It was well worth celebrating. Let's do it all again!

Barry Maister
Chairman

LEFT: South Island Robin Photo by Heather Smithers



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APRIL 2016



HOW IMPORTANT IS MY GARDEN?

Often we think of conserving NZ's natural heritage by using large national parks or predator-free islands and sanctuaries like Kaipupu Point. These are places to enjoy, admire and sometimes be able to visit. Yet for most us, our gardens are our closest connections with the natural environment and, for many, our gardens can provide much valued pleasures of the world of plants and animals.

Kaipupu Point's Good Neighbours project aims to help local homeowners create native wildlife-friendly gardens by appropriate plantings and predator control and in this way become Good Neighbours to Kaipupu Point. Wellingtonians have initiated a halo concept around Zealandia Sanctuary and consequently seen an increase in native birds to the suburbs. Local gardeners might be doing this already and want to increase their garden's biodiversity; the richness of plant and animal species.

So we were very interested in the fascinating findings from a study of how Dunedin urban householders related to their gardens, their approach to planting, use of the garden etc. (However, Dunedin is not Picton-Waikawa, so we do wonder whether these findings fit with our smaller population and proximity to surrounding bush).

In urban Dunedin at least, home owner's relationships with their gardens turns out to have many facets. There was a theme expressed succinctly by one homeowner who put it as "My garden is an expression of me".

This philosophy fits with a more widely emerging view that native plants are a part of national identity. Indeed, more than three-quarters of Dunedin homeowners said they appreciated and preferred native plants over exotics, but native plant species were actually in the minority in their gardens. Is this a reflection of an earlier, more colonial perception of gardens and would that apply to our local areas? The authors of this report wondered if gardeners would use more native plants if they knew more about what natives would fit their needs. Good Neighbours will be holding bird-friendly plant sales again this autumn and spring, so look out for what's available and at low prices too!

An encouraging finding was that small gardens had the same biodiversity potential as large gardens. That is, small gardens can have the same richness of

plant and animal life as large gardens. It is not a matter of size; it is how you use it. Some larger gardens were taken up by patios, decks, paving and large lawns which obviously limits what wildlife can live there.

Contributed by Andrew John.

BELOW: A native garden designed with birds, lizards and insects in mind.



MARCH 2016

Looking back March has been a busy month for the Sanctuary, with our first species translocation on March the 1st. For many people now the highlight of their visit to the Sanctuary are the friendly Robins.



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Come along to the Autumn Plant Sale to get some bird, lizard and invertebrate friendly plants for your garden. Thanks to Nozz and Robert who grow these plants locally at the Picton Men's Shed.



MAY 2016

As Autumn fades into Winter, Picton becomes a little quieter. This month we have Steve Atwood, a wildlife photographer, visiting for our Evening Speaker Series. Come along to get some tips for your photography.



SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

This month meet the humble Wētā, from gardens to forest these dinosaurs of the insect world are everywhere.

Wētā have been around long enough to see dinosaurs come and go and to evolve into more than 70 different species, all of them endemic to New Zealand.

These nocturnal invertebrates, many of which are threatened or endangered, can be broadly grouped into five types - Tree wētā, Ground wētā, Cave wētā, Giant wētā and Tusked wētā. They are found in a variety of habitats and excavate holes under stones, rotting logs or in trees. The decline of Wētā is due to predation by introduced predators, habitat destruction by humans and habitat modification by browsing species.

Information from www.doc.govt.nz





OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

Once again we have been privileged to have another visit from RNZA Woodbourne recruits to help out with development and maintenance on Kaipupu Point. Ably led by Sgt Mark Atkinson and his two Instructors, 10 enthusiastic recruits re-oiled the woodwork on the jetty under the guidance and watchful eye of Paul Mann and the remaining 40 were detailed to split into groups to bench and step the new Q track. These groups were well led by Trudy Nicholas and volunteers Gerald and Dido Harper, Rob McPhail, Alistair Boyce and Stephen Hildreth with Alan Izard preparing the tools and taking the odd photographs.

The standard of improvement achieved was great and the results will put a smile on the faces of all who walk the Q track in the course of trapping and monitoring and the jetty with its new coat of oil says it all – we care about the assets on Kaipupu Point.

Well done everyone and a very big thank you to the Air Force recruits for their great contribution, our Volunteers for their time and effort and to DoC for, once again, lending us many of the tools required for the day.

Contributed by Alan Izard

TOP: Airforce recruits visit, 20th March 2016

RIGHT (TOP): Making plans

RIGHT (MIDDLE): Paul & Airforce Recruits oiling jetty

RIGHT (BOTTOM): Volunteers Stephen, Gerald, Dido, Trudy, Alistair, Alan, Rob



MOVIE NIGHT FUNDRAISER

The movie night fundraiser on the 31st of March was a huge success, with over 50 people attending "Hunt for the Wilderpeople". With the support of New Zealand King Salmon, Mud House and Picton Cinemas we raised \$590 for Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary. A huge thank you to everyone who supported us - see you next time!

IMAGES FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:

- (L to R): Locals Kent & Penny with Nicky Jenkins
- Nibbles provided by New Zealand King Salmon
- (L to R): Jo, Sue, Mel & Phil
- Raffle prizes supplied by Mud House
- (L to R): Jess from Beachcomber Cruises & John from Picton Cinemas

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 15th & SATURDAY 16th APRIL

Autumn Plant Sale

Kaipupu Point Shop, Mariner's Mall

Lots of bird, lizard and critter friendly plants, all grown locally by Nozz at the Picton Mens Shed.

WEDNESDAY 20th APRIL

Evening Speaker Series -

Robin Translocation - Bill Cash & Pete Hamill

Port Marlborough Endeavour Park Pavilion

Bill will provide a background to bird translocations in the Sounds and Peter will present a video on KP's robin translocation process.

WEDNESDAY 18th MAY

Evening Speaker Series

Steve Atwood - Wildlife Photographer

Port Marlborough Endeavour Park Pavilion

"So many birds, so little time": a guide to maximising your ability to get great bird photos within the short time that most people have for a birding outing.

SUNDAY 26TH JUNE

Annual General Meeting

Port Marlborough Endeavour Park Pavilion



PEST MONITORING UPDATE

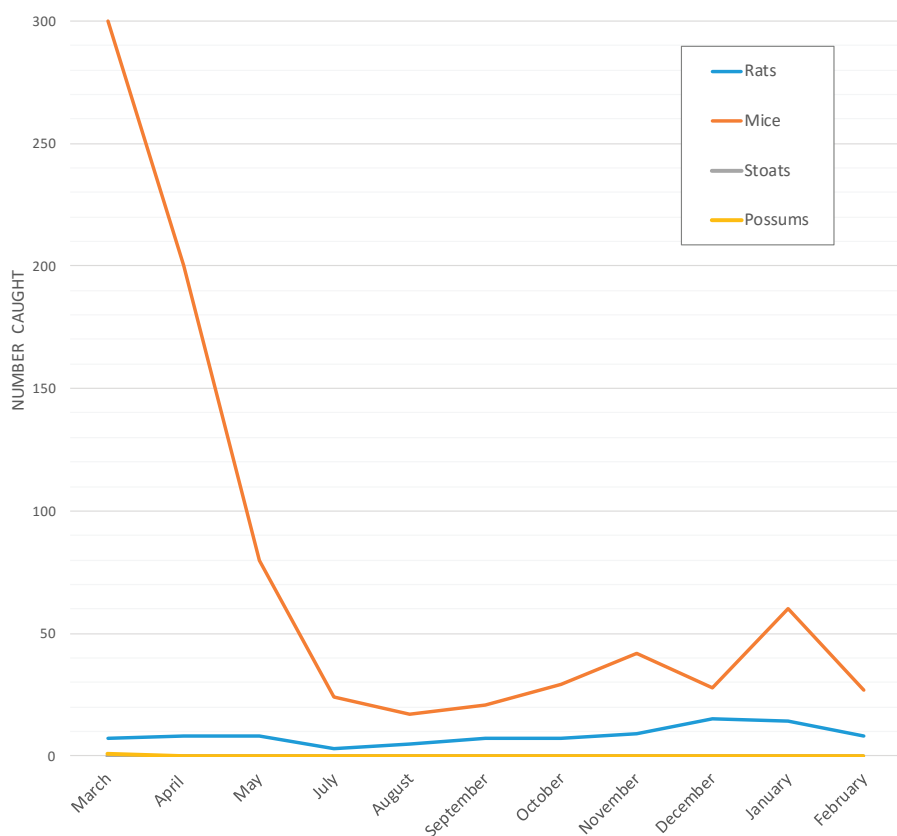
The first three months of this year have been very busy for the Kaipupu Point Pest Team. February saw us placing a mixture of mouse traps, DOC200s and self-setting Goodnature traps on our new track Q, while in March approximately 50 Airforce Recruits from Woodbourne came and helped us bench it so that the volunteers had a much nicer track to walk on and monitor.

March also saw our exciting Robin translocation, with our new trapping track helping to ensure that they are kept safe. The Pest Team volunteers are now also kept busy with spotting and identifying our curious friends as they go around Kaipupu Point. That is the really fun part.

Our mouse catch in March also took a real dive with only 53 caught. When compared to March 2015, which saw 300 mice caught, we have certainly limited their numbers. Unfortunately, we are still catching rats but hopefully with the increase of traps and the regular changing of lures we will get on top of them. The year up to February 2016 also saw no stoat incursions which is very good news for our feathered friends.

The next few months are sizing up to be busy too with another, and hopefully our last, monitoring track to be formed and fitted with traps. This should ensure that Kaipupu Point is well defended against any nasty predators and the flora and fauna can flourish in peace.

Contributed by Trudy Nicholas, our Pest Team Coordinator



On average our pest monitoring & trapping volunteers put in 120 hours each month and the results of this are evident with the reduction in pest species over the last year.

BELOW: An orange wax tag, a pest monitoring tool which uses teeth marks indicate the presence of pest species.



KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL THE NEWS

Make sure that we have your email address so to that you can keep up to date with all the exciting things happening at Kaipupu Point. If you haven't heard from us in a while then let us know.



admin@kaipupupoint.co.nz



www.kaipupupoint.co.nz



www.facebook.com/KaipupuPoint



www.twitter.com/Kaipupupoint

STRAIGHT FROM THE POINT

Thank you to everyone who has visited the Sanctuary and left us messages on Facebook, Twitter or Trip Advisor - we love to hear from you!

TOP:

"My family and friends went for a walk round Kaipupu Point today and its well worth it. The Bellbirds' song was just amazing and to get to watch a little Robin for about 5 minutes on the track and then in a nearby tree was just too much. Thank you to everyone who works on the reserve, its well worth it."

KIM BACCHUS - 26th March

BOTTOM:

"Look what we saw on KP today!"

DIANNE JOHN - 4th March



NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBOURS

Driftwood Retreat
& Eco-Tours
New Zealand's nature @ your pace

D'URVILLE ISLAND 4 DAY TOUR



Departure date: Thursday May 5 2016.

Price: Per person NZ\$1,475.

Includes: Accommodation on the beach front. A guide who is knowledgeable and has connections to the area. All food provided (alcoholic beverages are at your own cost). A day tour in a charter boat with a local skipper with blue cod fishing.

Please contact us for more details. Will @ 0274 483 133 or email @ info@driftwoodecotours.co.nz www.driftwoodecotours.co.nz

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

RIMU

(from \$5,000/year)



KAHIKATEA

(from \$1,000-\$1,999/year)



KOHEKOHE

(from \$300-\$999/year)



GRANT FUNDING



FOUNDATION PARTNERS



HONORARY SPONSORS (recognised for assistance with goods or services)



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