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Kaipupu Point

Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

I feel a full explanation is due!

At last, the worst kept secret in Picton is out! That is, we now have nine rowi kiwi on Kaipupu, some of which have been there for some two months.... with us being unable to share the news with our most loyal supporters, our members, and our workers.

To understand why, you need to understand that Rowi kiwi are a Taonga species, a 'national treasure'. As such, there are a number of parties involved in the process of their translocation, namely DOC, two iwi (Te Runanga o Makaawhio, and Te atiawa), The Kiwi recovery group, and ourselves. And we know our place when it comes to sharing the news!

In any dealings with kiwi, particular cognisance is taken of the importance of this culturally important species, as identified by tangata whenua, and as such, we have been required to follow very prescribed protocols, which included our inability to make our own independent public announcements.

Regardless of the process, we can be assured that all parties are totally committed to work together to ensure the ongoing recovery and protection

of this nationally critically endangered species. There are currently only around 500 individuals, contained within the Okarito sanctuary in South Westland, from where our nine juvenile kiwi have originated.

Our role is clear. We have been approved as a 'mainland crèche site', with a responsibility to provide an environment for the Rowi to develop to the point where they can be transferred to less protected sites than Kaipupu Point, and better able to better fend for themselves. Such 'crèches' are in high demand, such is the success of this recovery programme and we are now part of a small network of such sites, with an important national responsibility, for the care of up to 15 Rowi at a time

This really is an incredibly exciting responsibility for us, and we will do all in our power to make it a success. To play a role in such a species recovery is a unique and motivating accountability. Early signs from 'recapture and check' data (they all have micro transmitters on them) are that 'our' Rowi are doing very well. Encouraging early signs!

And what an incredible 'reward' for the hundreds of volunteers over the past 11 years, who have made our Sanctuary what it is, and got it to the point where we have been given a stamp of approval for this vital role. Of course what it also tells us is that our efforts to provide the right environment, and eliminate the invading pests, must continue unabated. At least those working in the Sanctuary will now have something special to look out for during their work! Quite an incentive!

It also gives us encouragement and confidence to proceed with our future species reintroductions, as per our biodiversity plan

So let's celebrate, enjoy the moment, and continue to work hard to maintain our ongoing place in this vital recovery process.

Barry Maister, Chairman

LEFT: Rowi kiwi chick being fitted with a transmitter, ready for release on the Sanctuary





**MAY
28**

It's official! Kaipupu Point
Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary
became a crèche for Rowi kiwi.



THANKS

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to get us to this point, especially our volunteers, members and sponsors. We are also grateful to the Department of Conservation, Te Atiawa and Makaawhio iwi for their support with the release and a huge thank you to Beachcomber Cruises and NZ King Salmon for providing transport and salmon on the day.





SAND TRAPS

We use a variety of monitoring tools to estimate pest numbers on the Sanctuary, including wax tags, tracking tunnels and sand traps. The teeth marks or footprints left behind tell us what species are present.

Recently we have been seeing large footprints in the sand traps across the Sanctuary, not from any pest species but from some of the more recent arrivals. The images below show two types of footprints. Above with a wider footprint are Rowi kiwi, these measure approximately 5-6cm in length and with probe holes either side where the kiwi has been searching for insects with its beak. Below are the footprints of Little Blue Penguin,

these footprints are slightly smaller measuring approximately 4 -5 cm in length. They are also narrower, and shaped like an arrow head. Both of these birds are unlikely to be spotted on the Sanctuary during the day, Kiwi because they are nocturnal and Little Blue Penguins because they forage during the day and return home in the early evening. But if you keep an eye out in the sand traps on the Sanctuary you will spot evidence of them.



ABOVE: Rowi footprints (and small holes) left in a sand trap, the outer toes create a much wider footprint than the Little Blue Penguin (right)



ABOVE: Little Blue Penguin footprints, these prints are approximately 5cm in length.

HOW IMPORTANT IS MY GARDEN?

In the last newsletter we looked at an investigation conducted into Dunedin gardens by Otago University. Gardens can comprise a quarter to a third of urban areas, and three-quarters of homeowners practise some form of gardening. So gardens are not trivial areas and the information the researchers gained about gardens is relevant to Kaipupu Point's Good Neighbours project. We want bird friendly areas around the sanctuary to support increasing native bird species, similar to Wellington's "halo" concept. This is where local homeowners can play a role.

Gardens with a rich mix of native plants generally support more native wildlife. A significant conclusion the Dunedin researchers made was that smaller gardens with a higher proportion of vegetated area (in hedges, flower beds etc) could function better and have richer bird mix than large gardens with more lawn, decking, patio and driveways. Small can be good.

Although many owners said they preferred native plants and wildlife, a large majority of plants actually in their gardens were exotic species. However, when interviewed the researchers found the homeowners demonstrated clear signs that participating in the study had changed their views on sustainability. They became more aware of native species - not just plants and birds but also creatures such as skinks. Some create lizard refuges. Some gardeners became more tolerant of invertebrates and used less insecticide. While other gardeners were more tolerant of the role of "weed" species and rank vegetation, they were more relaxed about what their gardens should look like. For them, their gardens now became an ecosystem and more than just a garden.

Biophilia is a technical term for what we experience as connectedness with living organisms, both plants and animals. A friend said to me "I get so much pleasure from just walking among the trees". When gardeners talk of the therapy they feel from gardening they are probably reflecting this biophilia entity. Dunedin gardeners also expressed this feeling in connection with raising vegetables and fruit, and the pleasure they get from sharing or exchanging their harvest with friends and family. Gardens were also mentioned as refuges from the pressures of the commercial world.

Finally, gardeners who participated in this study said they got more than just a positive reward feeling from contributing to academic knowledge. They expressed an increased sense of "duty of care" for the environment and felt it important to be doing the right thing. From the researchers' point of view, gardens, more often than not, have an innate potential to enhance the richness of urban biodiversity, while for gardeners they were also a source of "well being".

Contributed by Andrew John and Nozz Fletcher



Create your own private oasis!

Picton Men's Shed has a great range of locally grown plants to turn your garden into a bird, lizard and critter friendly spot.

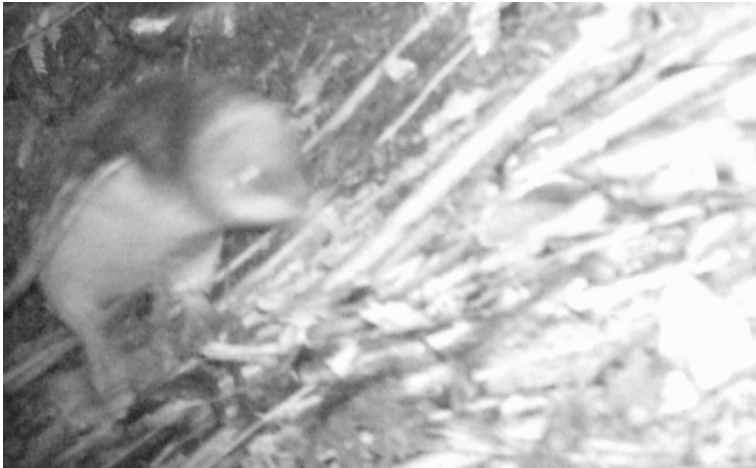
A small selection of plants is also available at the Kaipupu Point Information site in Mariner's Mall.

Picton Men's Community Shed

LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN

The smallest penguin in the world has made itself at home on Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary.

Little Blue Penguin or kororā were once a common sight in the Marlborough Sounds with many nesting under baches or homes close to the sea, they are now considered “at risk” due to declining population numbers. To encourage them to nest on the Sanctuary, specially designed nest boxes have been placed across the Sanctuary and until now it seemed like they hadn’t taken up residence. Last week we photographed these penguins over a couple of nights using a motion activated infra-red camera, they bypassed our penguin boxes and seemed to have made their own home in the bush. Little Blue Penguins often mate for life and will return to the same nest sites year after year.



...and because we haven't seen enough of these little guys, this image was taken just after midnight on the 6th of June. Check out our Facebook page to see the video!

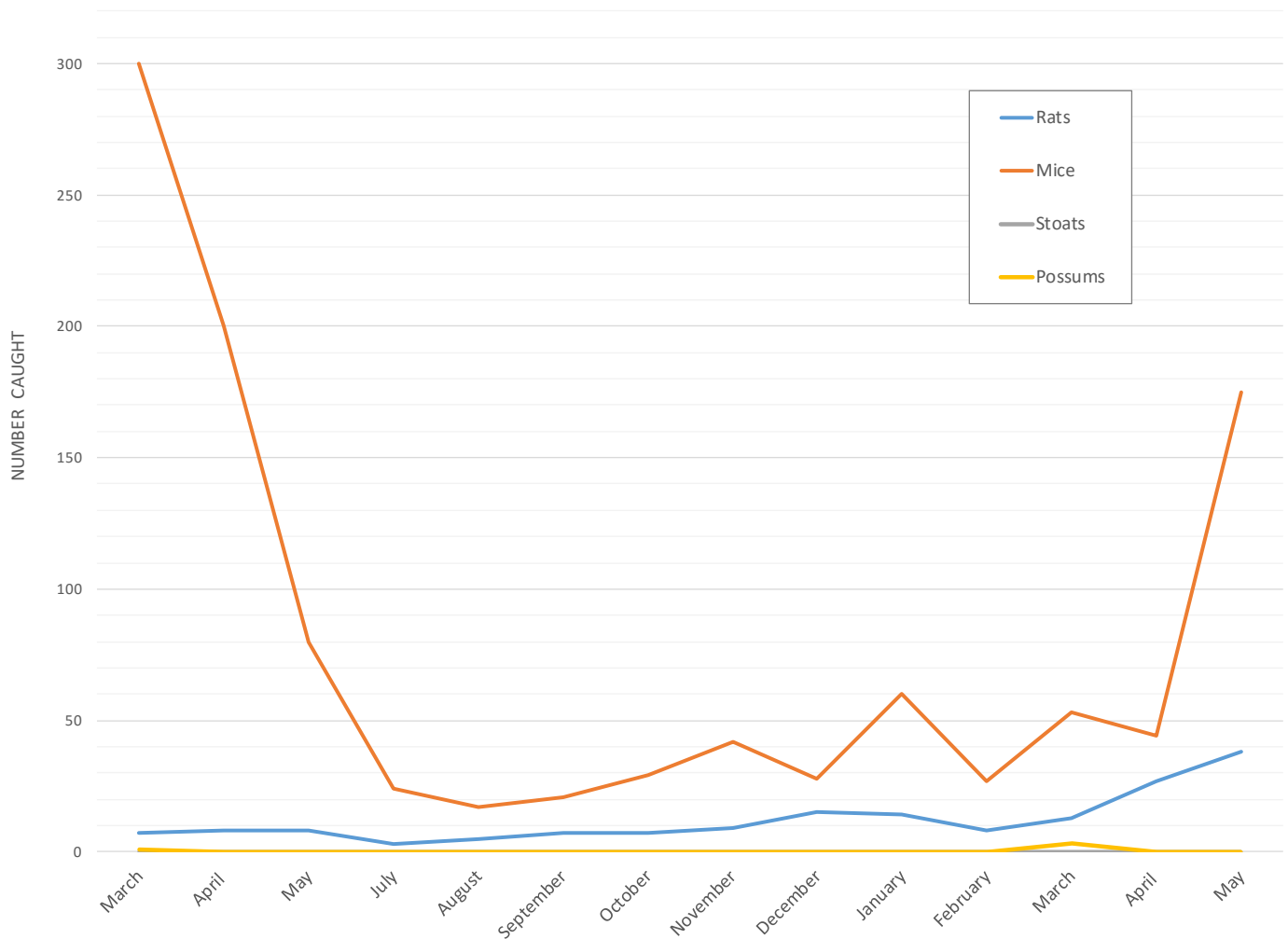




SANCTUARY VISIT

A few years ago, Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary successfully applied for Canon's Oceania Environmental Grant. This grant provided the Sanctuary with equipment that was used to tell our story through images and video. In May, Canon visited to see how the equipment had benefited the Sanctuary with James Wilson, Scott Henry and Robin Cox leading the tour. We hope to be able to share the final video created by Canon soon, visit our Facebook page or website to keep up to date with all the action.





PEST MONITORING UPDATE

Our pest monitoring volunteers have had another busy couple of months, with warmer temperatures rat and mice numbers have risen and we had a couple of adventurous possums visit the Sanctuary briefly in March.

As a result of the possum incursion we are talking with Port Marlborough about extending the buffer zone between the predator proof fence and the vegetation outside. We are also looking at trapping in this area.

With cooler winter temperatures now upon us and the addition of 40 resetting Goodnature traps across the sanctuary, rodent numbers will likely decrease over coming months. New lures are being trialled in the DOC200 traps to also help improve catch rates.

The introduction of Rowi kiwi to the sanctuary means that it is now more important than ever to maintain low pest numbers. Particular pest

species, like stoats, we hope will never venture onto Kaipupu Point again. Later this year we will use Stoat detecting dogs to check the sanctuary and confirm that we are 100% stoat free.

“ ...with kiwi comes a special responsibility... ”

Another aspect of becoming a Rowi kiwi creche site is monitoring these taonga or treasure. Every month staff from the Department of Conservation will be checking in on our nine guests to make sure that they are happy and healthy. So far, the Sanctuary is proving to be very kiwi friendly!

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 15TH JUNE

Tales from the Galapagos - Evening Speaker Series

Presented by Nicky Jenkins

Port Marlborough Endeavour Park Pavilion, 7pm

Drinks & Nibbles provided

\$2 members, \$5 non-members

SUNDAY 26TH JUNE

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is more than just an annual meeting and has always been well attended. Come along to hear what's been happening in the sanctuary, and what lies ahead. Come along to hear a great speaker, and to share your thoughts on our future plans in our workshop session. Come along to share the excitement of recent events, to share some 'winter cheer' and maybe buy a bird friendly plant. Bring a friend along!

Port Marlborough Endeavour Park Pavilion, 2 - 4pm

WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY

Evening Speaker Series presented by Mike Bell

Mike will bring us up to date on the work to save the critically endangered taiko (Magenta Petrel) on the Chatham Islands. The bird was thought to be extinct until rediscovered in 1978 by amateur ornithologist David Crockett. Now community conservation group the Chatham Islands Taiko Trust is spearheading the project to save this species from extinction. Ground breaking conservation in one of the most challenging work environments in the country, the slow road to recovery has started, and is a combination of the oldest methods, mixed with the latest cutting edge technologies."

Port Marlborough Endeavour Park Pavilion, 7pm

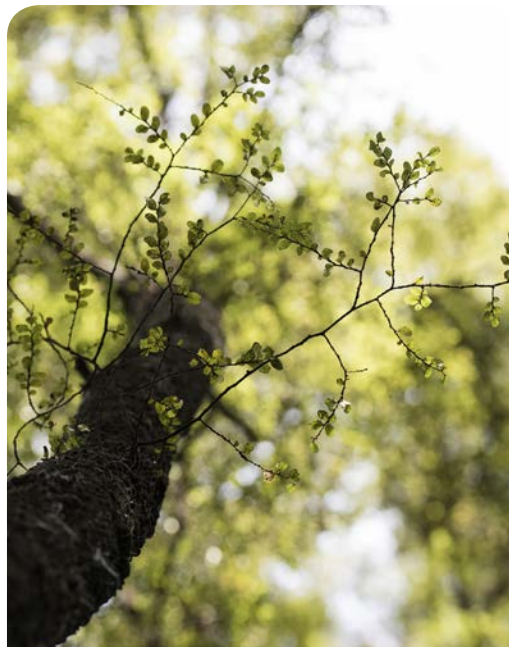
Drinks & nibbles provided, \$2 members, \$5 non-members

SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

Garage Sale Fundraiser

Last year one of our volunteers ran a very successful garage sale that benefited the sanctuary so this year we are planning another one. If you have anything that you would like to donate for us to sell get in touch with Rachel, our project coordinator, on 027 692 3488 or drop into the Kaipupu Point Information site in Mariners Mall.

Location & Time - To be confirmed



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



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www.tripadvisor.co.nz

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:

Scarlet rata vine (*Metrosideros fulgens*) is a forest liane or vine endemic to New Zealand. One of the better known species of rata vines, because it flowers in autumn or winter, and is often highly visible on well-lit host trees, with vibrant displays of large red flowers (sometimes orange or yellow) that rise above the forest canopy.

Scarlet rata is found on the east side of Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary, with Tui taking advantage of this winter food source.

Information from www.terrain.net.nz

BOTTOM:

The New Zealand falcon or kārearea is New Zealand's only endemic falcon and the only remaining diurnal bird of prey endemic to New Zealand. They are widespread but rare and considered nationally vulnerable which may be due to clearance of native vegetation and the intensification of land-use practices which have significantly reduced the amount of habitat suitable for breeding. Habitat degradation and modification has also affected prey populations. Electrocution is also a major problem in areas where un-insulated power lines occur.

The falcon pictured was seen on Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary in late May, perching for several minutes before flying off to a higher vantage point on the island.

Information from New Zealand Birds Online.

www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz



IF YOU HAVE SPOTTED SOMETHING INTERESTING OUT AT THE SANCTUARY, PLEASE SHARE IT WITH US HERE:



admin@kaipupupoint.co.nz



www.facebook.com/KaipupuPoint



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