

KAIPUPU WILDLIFE SANCTUARY NEWSLETTER

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

As I sit down to write my chairman's comments for this newsletter (something that has come around very quickly) I can't help but liken Kaipupu to life on the farm you work your way through winter then spring arrives and everything moves into top gear at once.

Here is just a quick look at some of the activities that are going on: We had a visit from the council checking on how we had spent a council grant. This audit was very ably led by Robin and supported by Nicky, we also managed to take them on a walk around the Sanctuary seeing kiwi and penguins close up which made up for the rain.

On a recent visit to the shop to catch up with Rachel I found her meeting with Mel to discuss some financial matters (Kaipupu is very fortunate having someone of Mel's experience as our treasurer). Once that was over they were then on to organising a quiz night.

Next Nozz popped into the shop to

update plans for the spring plant sale. Then we got on to Rachel's plans for two trips to the Sanctuary as part of Conservation Week on the 14th and 15th of October with the help of one of our good supporters Beachcomber Cruises.

Next on the list, planning for our site at the Garden Marlborough Fete and for a stall on the foreshore on the days that cruise ships are in Picton. Then organising for counting the South Island Robins on Kaipupu and a working bee for weed identification on the Sanctuary on the 18th Nov. Out on Kaipupu, Alan and his team have mown the grass, cleared the slips on the main track, fixed the support collar on the jetty and readied a team of volunteers to build the much anticipated kayak ramp once all the paper work is signed off. While all this is going on Trudy has her team of volunteers out doing the monitoring and organising a group of Outward Bound students to finish the benching of the new R track.

I feel it is quite daunting and at the same time a privilege to be the chairperson of such an organisation. As you can see we are always looking for volunteers, even the smallest amount of time you can give is greatly appreciated.


Gerald Harper
Chairperson


OCTOBER 2017


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KAIPUPU
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
PICTON - MARLBOROUGH - NZ

THE SWEET SOUND OF SPRING

Territorial tui compete over flowering kowhai trees and bird song heightens as winter turns to spring.



"In the warm sunlight of advancing summer, when the manuka-scrub is covered with its snow-white bloom and the air is laden with the fragrance of forest flowers, amidst the hum of happy insect-life, a soft trill of peculiar sweetness—like the chirping of a merry cricket—falls upon the ear, and presently a tiny bird appears for an instant on the topmost twigs of some low bush, hovers for a few moments, like a moth before a flower, or turns a somersault in the air, and then drops out of sight again. This is the Grey Warbler, the well-known Riroriro of Maori history and song."

— Sir Walter Lawry Buller, *A History of the Birds of New Zealand*, 1888, London

The inconspicuous grey warbler may often be hidden from view but their distinctive song echoes around the hills as the earliest spring buds emerge. For early maori, their song was a seasonal reminder that spring had arrived and it was time to plant their crops.

Known in maori as riroriro, they are one of New Zealand's smallest birds, weighing about 6.5 grams but also one of the most widely distributed endemic bird species, occupying the whole of New Zealand.

Grey warblers breed in spring and summer with females building a pear shaped nest and incubating the eggs while the male actively defends his territory through song. Once the chicks hatch, the male feeds them

while the female prepares to lay a second clutch.

The second clutch often have to contend with the brood parasitic shining cuckoo. Grey warbler are the only mainland host of shining cuckoo who eject a single warbler egg and replace it with one of their own. After hatching the cuckoo chick ejects all the grey warbler eggs or nestlings and is raised alone by the grey warbler parents.

Grey warbler do not seem to be too affected by mammalian predators, perhaps due to nests that hang on the extremities of dense vegetation although they are a little more obvious on predator free islands.



TELL US ABOUT YOUR VISIT

We want to hear all about your visit to Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary. Visit our tripadvisor listing and let everyone know about us too. Visit www.tripadvisor.co.nz and search Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary.

GO NATIVE IN THE GARDEN

Native plants are becoming more common in our gardens, they can be used in modern architectural style gardens or you create your own slice of native bush. Whatever type of garden you have, native is a great option.

Like all landscaping, planting a native garden requires some planning. One of the best ways to “see” your vision is to visit a local reserve or patch of native forest. Here you can see how different plants look together, how big they might grow and even what type of position (sunny, shady, damp) they might like in the garden. New Zealand natives are naturally adapted for our local climate and soils, particularly clay soil types. They are hardy and relatively low maintenance, with incredible variations in structure, colour and texture.

Native plants also help to attract wildlife into your garden. By planting trees or shrubs that produce foliage, flowers, nectar, berries or seeds at different times of the year you will attract birds, lizards and insects throughout the year.

During spring on the Sanctuary, five finger are covered in small purple/black berries which attract silvereye, and flowering kowhai, manuka and kanuka attract nectar feeders like tui, bellbirds and kereru. The insects that live on the bark and foliage of manuka and kanuka trees will also attract grey warbler, fantail and

silvereye. To protect these species when they do visit your garden you could always add a trap to your garden plan and get rid of those pesky pests like rats, mice, possum and stoats.

Thanks to Nozz and his team at the Powerhouse Reserve Herb and Native Nursery we will have a huge selection of plants available at our Spring Plant sale on November 3rd and 4th. You will also be able to get some excellent advice about what to plant in your garden.



MOVIE NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Always a popular night out, the latest movie night showing An Inconvenient Sequel, Truth to Power was a great success raising just under \$400 for the Sanctuary. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended and to our sponsors, New Zealand King Salmon and Mud House Wine. Thank you also to Picton Cinema for hosting us. Keep an eye out for our next movie night!



A REALLY WEEDY PROBLEM

Weed control has become a priority at Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary this year and Ben Minehan from Weed Solutions (above) has been employed to help us get rid of the weeds. In August, he visited the Sanctuary shop to show our weed team what we might encounter at the Sanctuary. Part of the session included weed specimens that Ben collected from the Queen Charlotte Drive roadside.

Many of the weed species that we are now tackling are plants that have escaped the confines of our gardens. Above Ben shows

a volunteer a branch of bay tree which is becoming a problem around Picton and will eventually take over the native bush if it isn't dealt with.

The first step of the eradication process is identifying the weeds and their locations across the Sanctuary. This will be achieved during our working bee in November, where volunteers will walk the island locating any weeds. From there Ben and his team will start getting rid of them.

A visit by Ben earlier in the year helped to identify some of the

target species at the Sanctuary, these include sycamore, barberry, hawthorn, old man's beard, pampas grass, wilding pine and climbing dock. Ben suggests that the sanctuary's geographic isolation has kept it free from being invaded by a lot of invasive weed species present in surrounding areas. However, seed dispersal by birds will mean that regular monitoring will be needed to ensure that those species don't establish at the Sanctuary.

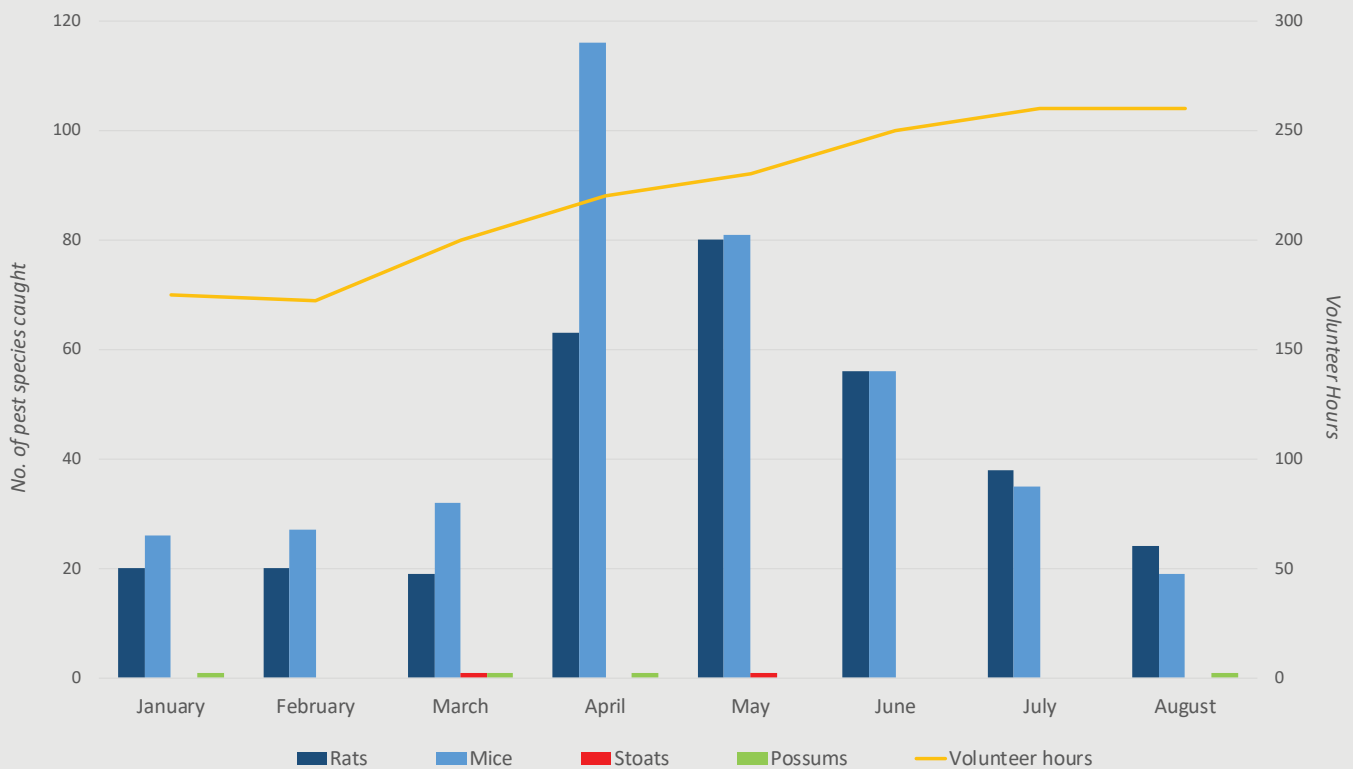


FAREWELL LITTLE KIWI

Small kiwi footprints present in sand traps across the Sanctuary earlier this year have now become increasingly large. A positive sign that that our (not so little) kiwi chicks are at a size that they will be able to defend themselves against potential predators when they head home to the forests of Okarito in October. It is always with delight that a kiwi sighting is described by visitors and our night time video footage of kiwi is a huge hit (you can find this footage on our website or facebook page).

Just like proud parents, the team at Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary couldn't be more pleased with our small involvement in the bigger Operation Nest Egg programme. The success of which was seen this year when the conservation status of rowi kiwi was moved from Nationally Critical to Nationally Vulnerable because there are now more than 250 mature/breeding adults.

We look forward to 2018 when we receive our next batch of rowi kiwi chicks.



THOSE PESKY PESTS

Our catch numbers are slowly decreasing as winter eases into spring, a common annual trend but as warmer temperatures arrive, food becomes more abundant and breeding begins for all species. Rats are rapid breeders, able to reproduce from two to four months of age and producing up to three litters per year (each with about five young). This means that trapping at this time of year is extremely important. A continuous trapping programme like the one on Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary requires huge commitment from volunteers and on average our volunteers are spending around 260 hours per month clearing and maintaining traps. Removing pests like rats means that our native birds have a

better chance of success and young chicks survive to fledge and eventually breed themselves.

Over the last six weeks we have caught three possums. Although not expert swimmers, they can swim and these possum may be searching for mates in new areas.

Our maintenance team has also been kept busy with slips and tree falls due to heavy rain and wind. We are planning a working bee in the near future to tidy up some of the tracks, so keep an eye out for this one.

Thank you to all our volunteers who have braved the wind and rain to complete your jobs at the Sanctuary.



KAIPUPU SHOP

The shop is open four days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday) from 9am until 3pm. There is a great range of products that help support the Sanctuary as well as informative displays. Find us in Mariners Mall.



CONSERVATION WEEK COMPETITION

To celebrate Conservation Week on October 14-22, Department of Conservation's (DOC) Picton office is running a Toyota Kiwi Guardians competition, with the chance to go into the draw to meet a real rowi kiwi. Competition participants must visit all three Marlborough Toyota Kiwi Guardians sites and take a team photo with the Guardian Posts by October 16.

For competition details go to doc.govt.nz/news/events/conservation-week/events.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

SOUNDS, SALMON & SONGBIRDS

A fantastic family cruise in the Marlborough Sounds, travel with Marlborough Tour Company to a NZKS farm. Sample some delicious salmon and Mud House wine along the way. Lastly, enjoy a walk at Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary.

WHEN: 1st, 8th and 15th October

COST: \$49 adult, \$22 child, \$120 family

To book call 03 577 9997 or visit www.marlboroughtourcompany.co.nz

CONSERVATION WEEK TRIP

Travel with Beachcomber Cruises to Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary, visit the Guardian Post to earn your medal. Don't forget to download your adventure map at www.kiwiguardians.co.nz

WHEN: Sat 14th October, departs at 10am

Sun 15th October, departs at 2pm

COST: \$10 per person

Bookings essential - phone 03 573 6175

QUIZ NIGHT

Back for 2017, our quiz night will ask the tough questions (hopefully not as tough as last year!). Get your team together and start studying.

WHEN: Friday 3rd November

WHERE: Port Marlborough Pavilion
Endeavour Park

COST: \$10 per person (teams of 3 -5)

SPRING PLANT SALE

Fill your garden with native trees and shrubs (and herb). A great range, locally grown.

WHEN: Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th November

WHERE: Kaipupu shop, Mariners Mall

Keep up to date with all our events on our Facebook page or on our website www.kaipupupoint.co.nz

WE NEED YOU!

There are plenty of ways that you can help at Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary. Below is a list of the latest volunteering opportunities, let us know if you can help with any of the following:

Weed working bee - Saturday 18th November

Come along and help us identify weeds across the Sanctuary. This will involve walking the main monitoring tracks across the Sanctuary and identifying any weeds along the way. Ben Minehan from Weed Solutions will be there to help as well. A BBQ lunch to follow.

Cruise Ship market - various dates (Oct - Apr)

Starting in October there will be over 40 cruise ships visiting Picton, we would like to have a stall at the Picton Lions market during these visits. This would involve being present at the stall during the cruise ship visit to sell a range of our products as well as providing information about visiting the Sanctuary.

Kaipupu shop volunteers (Dec - Feb)

Over summer we would like to have the Kaipupu shop open as much as possible, we will need help from the end of December through to the start of February. It will mostly be weekdays but there may be some Saturdays as well. If you can spare a few hours please let us know.

The Picton PowerHouse Trust nursery is the main provider of plants for our biennial sales. Nozz is looking for help. If anyone can give an hour or so of their time - any time - but particularly Wednesday afternoons or Saturday mornings, that would be greatly appreciated. Phone Nozz 573 7226.

Please contact us if you can help:

email info@kaipupupoint.co.nz, visit the Sanctuary shop in Mariners Mall or **call** Rachel on 027 692 3488

KEEP UP TO DATE

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

CONTACT US

WEB www.kaipupupoint.co.nz

EMAIL info@kaipupupoint.co.nz

www.facebook.com/KaipupuPoint

www.twitter.com/Kaipupupoint



VISITING THE SANCTUARY

It is free to visit the Sanctuary. Access is by boat only. You can take your own boat out there or travel with one of the local water taxi companies. These trips range in price from \$20 - \$50 return. You can also access the Sanctuary by kayak.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

FOUNDATION PARTNERS



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

RIMU (from \$5,000/year)



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



DO YOU KNOW A SOMEONE INTERESTED
IN SUPPORTING KAIPUPU WILDLIFE
SANCTUARY?

GRANT FUNDING



HONORARY SPONSORS (recognised for assistance with goods or services)



TST Contracting



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