



NEWSLETTER March 2010

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Friends of Kaipupu Evening

March 31st 7 pm at Ecoworld in Picton

Everyone is Welcome!

It promises to be a great evening. Guest speaker will be Phil Bradfield, from the DoC South Marlborough office, who will talk about the Hutton's Shearwater project on Kaikoura peninsula

This is another community driven project which has involved the construction of a predator proof fence, and the translocation of shearwaters from the Kaikoura ranges to the peninsula to create a new Hutton's Shearwater colony.

With thanks to our

Foundation Partners:



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Kohekohe Sponsors:

*Wilderness Guides
Aldan Lodge*

Kahikitea Sponsor:

*Biosecurity New Zealand
Limited (John and Judy
Helstrom)*

Join us on 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.”

You can share in and support our **vision**
as we work towards the

**“Restoration of an indigenous Marlborough Sounds
environment for ever, for everyone.”**

TRIP TO TUI NATURE RESERVE

– Alan Izard

The visit to the Tui Nature Reserve on Sunday, 14th March organized by Robin Cox was a great day out. About 37 people hopped on board for a two hour trip down Pelorus Sound, which was an opportunity for Robin to give us all a background on the history of many of the bays as we passed.

Once at the Tui Nature Reserve we strolled for 45 minutes up to the tourist lodge, with a ride up on the Reserve's 4WD buggy as an option also. We had a delightfully warm welcome from the Plaisier family, and enjoyed tea and coffee during lunch as the Plaisiers gave us an overview of the achievements of Tui Nature Reserve, and their goals for the future.

Their vision is not very different to that of Kaipupu in that they are endeavouring to achieve a "mainland island" on their peninsula with lush regenerated bush and original wildlife restored. Their next major hurdle will be the construction of a predator proof fence. Two walks followed lunch, one with Brian through the Bush Walk and the other with Leona and Liam (daughter and son) looking at the enclosures and the traps. At the enclosures we were shown a young kakariki and could see a



Robin thanks the Plaisier Family at the end of visit

number of different geckos.

At the end of the day Robin thanked the Plaisier Family for their wonderful hospitality.

Alan presented them with packets of Kaipupu native bird note cards and Peter Thorne George led a move for people to buy a meter of fence for \$30. This was taken up by quite a number on the trip and a figure of around \$200 was forthcoming, which will help Tui Nature Reserve as they move forward with their goals.



Brian Plaisier and Robin Cox



JETTY PROGRESS

– Alan Izard

Work towards the jetty and landing is moving on with Vince Cowie now obtaining further design details and initial quotes and estimates. After this is complete then we can move straight into seeking the funding we need.

As you will see in the photos, depths at the preferred site have been taken. Much discussion is still required from our partners the Port Company and DoC.

Resource consents also must be sought, as well as finally raising the required funding. It is not a simple project but nothing is impossible!



Prospective jetty site in Shakespeare Bay



Dave Nichols and Vince Cowie measure water depths for the prospective Kaipupu Point jetty site

FEEDING OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS IN AUTUMN AND WINTER – Peter McMillan

Feeding birds in your garden is an interesting pursuit, and especially helpful for the birds in the colder months when the food chain is limited, or in short supply.

Make sure your bird feeder is constructed so birds feeding are safe from predators – mainly cats.

The photo below shows a simple feeder I made for my garden. I fill it daily with a sugar water mix.

The Recipe:

- 1.5 cups sugar
- 3 Litres water
- a dash of red food colouring

My birds just love it, and with two feeders going daily, I use the full amount, sometimes, I have to mix up two lots.

Results have been fantastic. We have tui, bellbird and silver-eye as regular feeders, and certainly no shortage of bird song daily.

Try it and see what appears in your garden.



VOLUNTEER UPDATE

– Dave Nicholls

Through the summer ongoing work has been on several fronts. One of these has been the sea ends of the fence.

A group of dedicated volunteers have worked regularly on the fence. Building the extension down to the sea at the Picton end (the eastern end of the fence) is now all but completed. The extension just needs the capping to be attached and the stainless steel buffer to be installed.

Other work has been to reinforce the capping along the full length of the fence, as the winds proved too strong for the original construction.

After completion of the east end, the western sea end will be installed.



Volunteers hard at work on the Picton end of the fence

More helpers, especially any with practical building skills, are warmly welcomed.

Contact Dave Nicholls, team leader on 0274-372252, 573.8818, or contact us at info@kaipupupoint.co.nz.

As well as the fence, another group has been working on keeping the tracks open. There is constant re-growth where sunlight gets in, resulting in lush, but unwanted areas of bracken, gorse, and of course wilding pines. A lot more volunteers are needed to control this re-growth to keep the tracks open, with the main ingredient being fitness and enthusiasm. Ideally this group would be divided into several smaller groups – with each team taking ownership of a specific task.

Tasks we need teams for are:

- wilding pine maintenance, track maintenance,
- spraying weeds,
- trap monitoring,
- organizing and planting out natives in the areas that need them
- maintenance of plantings

In the future there will be even more opportunities – developing public tracks, lookouts, and establishing bird habitats just to name a few.

So get in touch if you think you'd like to give any of this a go! You would have lots of support, and never a dull moment!

WEBSITE

If you haven't visited our website recently, take a look: www.kaipupupoint.co.nz

One of our members, Diane John, has kindly donated many wonderful bird photographs, which have been used in the upgrade of the Kaipupu website, and more will be used in the future in other publications. We are very grateful to Diane for these wonderful photographs which will be used to tell the Kaipupu story.



Tui on flax – By Diane John

Contact Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary at:

info@kaipupupoint.co.nz

or visit our website

www.kaipupupoint.co.nz