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Newsletter February 2011

“The Kaipupu Gallery” in High St Picton



A big thank you to all those Kaipupu members who created our wonderful gallery space, and came along each day to share it with our community - what a fantastic achievement! A big thank you also to Christina Jordan, who donated the shop for Kaipupu to use. Its prime location, in the middle of High street, means it's seen a fantastic amount of foot traffic over the last few weeks. Word travels fast - and we've had many return visitors bringing friends, drawn by the birdsong to our door. Many more people from Picton and all over Marlborough are now aware for the first time of the progress and purpose of the

sanctuary. Parents of school children were especially impressed at Andrew John's work in developing the sanctuary as an exciting part of the schools' environmental curriculum. The children themselves were proud to see their achievements and future plans so beautifully presented.

Visitors relaxed on the first 2 donated memorial seats (which will be available to provide us with a place to rest, absorb the peace, and admire the view from the Sanctuary), reading about the Sanctuary and chatting with our volunteers. Native plants generously donated by Selmes Road Nursery created the wonderful atmosphere of sitting in a patch of serene bush right in the middle of town.



If you'd like to spend some time at the gallery, encouraging membership, and meeting new friends, so we can open the doors again, give Jenny a ring. As everyone who volunteered said –“it feels so good to be here, it's the next best thing to spending a morning on Kaipupu!”

~

A Coordinator for our Volunteers.....is this You?

With all the activities we are now involved in, we now need a special someone to help keep in touch with the growing list of volunteers. This just means working in with the Team Leaders, and making a few phone calls to let people know about upcoming projects, the times to meet and what to bring along. We'll give you all the help you need, so if you think this sounds like fun – we'd love to hear from you. We don't want to lose touch with any of the dozens of locals who have signed up and want to be a part of Kaipupu Sanctuary, so if you (or you and a friend) would like to take this on, then call Jenny on 572-7288.

Havelock Mussel Festival - Saturday March 19th

It's a great day out! Can you meet us at Havelock and help out on the Kaipupu stand?

Call Jenny on 572-7288 if you can help.

~

What do you know about....Akeake

Contributed by Greg Thompson



One of the native trees that grows in abundance on Kaipupu Point is **Akeake** or *Dodonea viscosa*. The name Akeake is a Maori word meaning forever and ever as the wood is incredibly hard and was used for many different purposes such as spears, digging sticks, paddles, weapons and spade blades. Akeake is a small tree which grows up to about seven meters and has long, thin leaves with tiny little flowers that can that can add a nice contrast when used in flower arranging. It is common in coastal areas throughout the North Island and as far down to Greymouth and Banks Peninsula in the South Island. If you are looking for a tree to provide shelter or to stabilise soil erosion such as we are doing on Kaipupu ,then Akeake ticks all the boxes as it is a very fast growing tree and has a wide spreading root system.

Film Night at Picton Cinema

Wednesday 2 March

“OCEANS”

Meet at the cinema at **7pm** for complementary nibbles - Movie starts at **7:30pm**.

\$15 per ticket - Phone Picton Cinema 573-6030 now to book your space!

This is a Fundraiser for Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary, sponsored by Picton Cinemas.

OCEANS is one of the most successful documentaries of all time. It's a stunning look at the lives of elusive deepwater creatures through their own eyes. Incredible state-of-the-art-underwater filmmaking will take your breath away as you migrate with whales, swim alongside a great white shark and race with dolphins at play. It's a powerful celebration of our underwater world; a world that requires our attention.

Introducing... the Kereru (New Zealand Pigeon)



Since the extinction of the moa, the **native pigeon** or **kereru** is now the only seed disperser with a bill big enough to swallow large fruit, such as those of karaka, tawa and taraire. The disappearance of the kereru would be a disaster for the regeneration of our native forests.

The noisy beat of its wings is a very distinctive sound in our forests. They are long-lived birds, and breed slowly. During breeding males perform spectacular display flights. They nest mainly in spring/early summer and produce only one egg per nest, which the parents take turns to look after. The chick is

fed "pigeon milk", a protein-rich milky secretion from the walls of the parents' crops, mixed with fruit pulp.

Although the kereru was traditionally hunted for its meat and feathers, hunting of the bird is now illegal. The most serious threat to the kereru comes from predators. Recent studies have found that many nests produce no chicks at all. Rats, stoats, cats and possums eat their eggs and young, stoats and cats will attack and kill adults, and possums also compete with adult kereru for food (leaves, flowers, fruit).

~

Pest Eradication

Contributed by Paul Leeds

Predators on Kaipupu to date appear to be rats, and of late, rabbits. Mice also play a small part in the overall scheme of things but seem to be overrun by the rats. Sightings of possum have diminished greatly, we are unsure of how many there are on the Sanctuary at the moment, and we are keeping a watchful eye on these very voracious beasts. The main problem is still Mr Rattus. A prolific breeder and resilient survivor, the rats tend to keep the volunteer trappers on their toes and invariably pay the traps a nosey visit only to wish they'd kept their curiosity to themselves. Since the inception of a full trapping program in September 2010 and up to February 2011 records show that out of 73 predators caught, 66 were rats (the others being 2 possum and 5 mice). Interestingly enough not a single stoat has been seen – yet.



Volunteer trappers visit the reserve every two weeks. There are 3 groups, so this means volunteers undertake their 'shift' of 3-4 hours once every six weeks. There are basically two types of traps - one for possums and one for stoats, which is very efficient for catching rats and even mice. Apple is used to attract possums, we use peanut butter for rats (they love the crunchy sort) and ground rabbit meal compound (supplied by our friends at DOC). Occasionally eggs have been used (not from the incumbent bird population I might add).

I enjoy getting out and helping with trapping because it's a great opportunity to enjoy the bush and the birdsong that is gradually returning to the reserve. The view out from the north side down the Queen Charlotte Sound is tremendous and an ideal place to enjoy a break before pressing on in to the cooler east side where most of the predator activity occurs. It's also an opportunity to be part of a community activity that will eventually bring much pleasure to locals and visitors alike. So, if you're keen and interested, and don't mind getting 'stuck in', then get in touch and sign up for the trapping program!

~

Fresh Choice Raffle

Contributed by Nozz Fletcher



A big thank you to Casy Smits, owner of Picton Fresh Choice, who donated a \$250 grocery voucher for our raffle. This has been selling over the last month at our High St display gallery. Support like this from local businesses has been the reason the Sanctuary has progressed so far over the last year.

Margaret Thynne of Blenheim was the happy winner. She is pictured here along with Casey and some of our volunteers. As well as raffle tickets being sold, new members were signed up, many from overseas who were impressed with our bush and birds and wanted to support this community project. Soft toy singing birds were popular and metres of track were sold (in advance) at twenty dollars a metre.

When the jetty gets under way soon - thanks to Kenny Barging - we expect ever increasing public awareness of the sanctuary's importance and value to the community . Please encourage your friends, and the businesses you patronise, to invest in membership. We have plenty of promotional material and membership forms available.

~

A Huge Thank You to All our Sponsors!

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