



## **Motu Kaikoura**

*An open sanctuary promoting wilderness education, ecosystem restoration and public recreation on an offshore island*

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# **MOTU KAIKOURA TRUST SUPPORTERS' NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO 26 JULY 2018**

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## **2018 ANNUAL REPORT - JUNE 2017 TO MAY 2018**

### **OUR OBJECTIVES**

- **Restoring the natural environment of Motu Kaikoura**
- **Making Motu Kaikoura available for outdoor and environmental education**

### **Lodge Replacement**

As you will all know by now our new lodge, which was designed by Strachan Group Architects (SGA) and built by Women+Architecture with help from professional builders, has been completed.

This has been a generous contribution by all those concerned in the building by giving their time to us at no cost.

We have received materials at no cost or heavily discounted arranged by SGA and we express our thanks and appreciation to all those firms.

At the Architectural Awards 2018, SGA received an award for the design of the lodge under the Small Building Projects and they have presented us with a framed copy of the certificate.

It is planned to have an official opening on 13 October 2018.

Special thanks to our treasurer Peter Hutton for his tireless efforts in obtaining insurance for the arson and the ongoing management of accounts for the building. Not a small task and all paid for now.

### **Rodents**

Thanks to Mike Lee for his dedicated management of rodent control on Motu Kaikoura.

The Motu Kaikoura Trust, using manual methods, has significantly reduced numbers on Motu Kaikoura and has kept them at 5% or below, during the ecologically important spring season, for the last four years. It is encouraging to note that in response to ongoing management the spike in rat numbers was lower in 2017 than 2016 and has been progressively lower each year going back to 2014 when we began the control programme.

Sustainable progress in managing rats on the island now enables the Trust to focus on achieving its wider conservation restoration goals as set in the Motu Kaikoura Trust Biodiversity Management Plan.

We would like to thank Motu Kaikoura Island ranger Clint Stannard for his hard work and dedication in making this operation a conservation success story. Assisted by his wife Jacinda, Clint has done a superb job. I would also like to thank former resident volunteer Robbie Smith who left the island towards the end of 2017 for his contribution to the programme.

Thanks are also due for the ongoing support of Brett Butland of Auckland Council's Predator-free Auckland and Jonathan Miles and the Biosecurity team at Auckland Council both in terms of providing advice and material support.

Mike Lee's full report can be read on the Trust website [www.motukaikoura.org.nz](http://www.motukaikoura.org.nz) under Restoration.

## **Bird Monitoring**

The bird surveys carried out in December 2017 represent the twelfth year of monitoring. No new species were recorded, so it was generally "business as usual". The trend is for slow increases in numbers, but because many of the birds are largely insectivorous, they may still be affected by the presence of rats (even in low densities) that take the same prey.

Two species that are showing a small but encouraging, increase are the tui and kereru. This may be a sign that vegetation recovery may be starting to have beneficial effects, with native trees providing more nectar and fruit for these specialist feeders.

Overall, the survey team were conscious of patches of the larger native trees (e.g. puriri and kohekohe) 'appearing' under the pines, suggesting that the change in vegetation composition is accelerating. It is expected that this will lead to an increase in food and habitat, a change that will start to show up in the bird populations over the coming years.

Thanks to Mel Galbraith and his team of volunteers.

## **Other Surveys**

Rodents – Drs. Thomas Bodey and James Russell  
Jessica Perez continuing with dolphin research  
Lizards – Mikey Watson  
Gannets – Nigel Adams

## **Staffing**

In addition to the rat eradication Clint and Jacinda Stannard continue to carry out the day to day management of the island with an ever increasing number of visitors. Robbie Smith left the island and went to Whangarei near his family.

## **New Website**

Our thanks to Stan Vause for managing the website for 12 years. A new website has been undertaken by (Collate) Yenegh Badimayalew of Women + Architecture and it is slowly developing with more accessible information.

## **Supporters**

Thanks to our supporters for their financial support. Some have now been making annual donations for twelve years. We really appreciate their continued interest. Supporters' newsletters have been well received and continue to keep everybody up to date with the activities of the island. Thanks to Rosalie Miller. Thank you also to those who supply contributions.

## **Management Plan**

Thanks to Mike Lee for the huge task of finalising the Management Plan which is now in the hands of DOC for discussion and final approval before being publicly circulated.

## **Renovation of Cabins**

Thanks to Warkworth Rotary for their amazing renovations of the cabins, new roofing, painting, replacing rotten timber and supply of bedding, etc, as one of their projects. These cabins are available for renting. Check out our website for details.

## **Grants**

The Trust is very appreciative of all the financial support it receives in grants:

Smarty Grants, Auckland Council for grant towards solar panels

Pub Charity for grant towards solar panels

Lion Foundation for grant towards insurance

DOC Community Fund for grant for ranger

Foundation North for grant towards new lodge

Warkworth Rotary for donation for Bradshaw House.

These grants go a long way towards our continued work on the island.

## **Trustees**

Trustees have met 10 times during the year.

Thanks to Harry Doig for his leadership for the previous 11 years.

Gemma Parkin, Gt Barrier Island, joined the Trust in August 2017. Kirsten Foster and Jack Warden resigned in 2018. This has been my first year as chairperson and it has been quite a learning curve but very rewarding. I visit the island on a regular basis

Thank you to you all for your continued support for the ongoing task of managing a scenic reserve.

Rod Miller

Chair

Motu Kaikoura Trust

June 2018

[www.motukaikoura.org.nz](http://www.motukaikoura.org.nz)

# Okiwi School Visit



About to start planting



Cooks Petrel



Planting flax



Pond planting



Banded Rail



Velvet worm



Tazmyn – gannet rescue



Swimming after a great day

**Some of the comments in letters of thanks to Clint and Jacinda:**

On behalf of Okiwi School I would like to thank you for letting us stay in the nicest lodge I've ever stayed in before,

We had fun planting the harakeke that was sourced from the island around the pateke pond.

I learnt that there are not any cats or rabbits left on the island. The only pest left is the rat.

I enjoyed staying in the cabins because it was nice and cozy and the beds were comfy.

I would like to thank you so much for hosting an awesome educational, yet great fun,

haerenga to the beautiful island Kaikoura.

It was so cool learning about a unique new island.

I learnt a lot about Kaikoura Island like how it's a scenic reserve and has not many pests any more.

It was very educational and I learnt a lot about Kaikoura island.

Thank you so much for making us feel welcome



## Winter Catchup 2018 Kaka Comments

Well, winter is easing off already with the days getting longer again now, and it seems that this year has been the busiest ever with the events over winter that I can remember.

Since March we've had the SGA builders out finishing off a few bits here and there and doing some photo shoots, as well as the Warkworth Rotary guys, Pete Johns and Jon Nicholson, all doing great work fixing up the ablution block and cabins, closely followed by scientists researching the behaviour of rats in areas with no predators, to compare with results found from rats which do have predators.



Thomas, Rupert and Zyra – rat scientists



Rat arena

Hot on the heels (or tails depending which way you look at it) we had a visit from some Hillcrest High school girls doing part of their community involvement module with Hillary Outdoors who wanted to have a few questions answered about life out here, and they also helped us cut out some templates for our new rat trap designs from sheets of corflute, as well as a couple of them helping us prepare some pots by making holes in tin cans for growing nikau seedlings in.

We also had a sleepover with Okiwi school kids and parents who helped us do some planting around the pond we cleared out a few months ago, and the wharf here hasn't had so many people squealing with delight and splashing around since they were all here about the same time the year before!

We were honoured by the visit of a contingent of "Wairahians" who just might be using some of the seating and storage ideas of the lodge layout for the communal shanty, and our local "Good sort" hero's son, Mr Ricky Gregory, came out to plan the installation for the solar panel array.

Asides from this, lots of maintenance jobs are ticking along. Track and ditch clearing and pest control are no small tasks all year round.

Joan Stott of Awa nursery kindly donated us some lovely healthy plants which were carefully biosecured and Freightlink transported them for free too. Thank you both so much!

The kids and I have been visiting Glenfern sanctuary a fair bit in the past couple of seasons. Usually it's because we have treacle or molasses sandwiches to feed to Phaidra, the horse. Things are humming along so well with Chris and Sarah managing there that it's such a pleasure to visit, (of course Motu Kaikoura is great too)! Having the shared goals of helping nature are invigorating and Sarah's photographic portrayal of the gems nature reveals in winter are truly exceptional. I saw them on her posting on the Glenfern website, and now when I see tiny gems like the baby stick insect a couple of days ago out here I take a pretend photo in my mind, he he!

Because our sanctuaries are so close, I view them almost as an extension of each other, and I feel lucky to have such wonderful team mates for conservation goals on the Barrier and I'm happy with the way both 'Sister sanctuaries' are going.

If you haven't been out for a wander lately, now is especially good if you go at a pace where you often get too hot in Summer! We might see you soon.

Jacinda Stannard.



*Xyra, Soren and Tazmyn found this previously undiscovered pond on Kaikoura when studying a satellite map of the island for a school project. The map showed a “black spot” amongst the green hillside and the girls suggested further investigation.*

The pond is in an unlikely place on the steep hill face between the top house and the Vodafone tower, for those who know the island.



The repaired mule from Warkworth to Sealink to Pt.Fitroy, barge to Motu Kaikoura – there at last



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Thank you  
Rosalie Miller  
Motu Kaikoura Supporters

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Hard copy Yes/No

*“Having vision is not enough.  
Change comes through realising the vision  
And turning it into reality.”  
Sir Peter Blake*

[www.motukaikoura.org.nz](http://www.motukaikoura.org.nz)