

Submission on 2018 – 2028 Long Term Plan from Kaipupu Point Mainland Island Society

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the 2018 – 2028 Long Term Plan. The focus of our submission relates in part to the “Investing in the Environment” aspect of the Long-Term Plan.

Kaipupu Point Mainland Island Society is responsible for managing Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary with the vision of “creating a wildlife sanctuary that can be enjoyed by all”. Our mission statement is “to enrich the community through the restoration and guardianship of Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary where natural ecosystems, native flora and fauna flourish in a predator free environment, that can be appreciated by all”. Additional details about Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary including the land owners, predator-proof fence, ongoing plant and animal pest control programmes, community involvement, contribution to Marlborough’s economy and education activities follow our submission.

Kaipupu Point Mainland Island Society is pleased to see that Marlborough District Council is looking to invest more in the environment. We would like to see more investment in the community groups already working hard to protect areas of Marlborough and their own achieve biodiversity goals.

Kaipupu Point Mainland Island Society is seeking long term financial support from the Marlborough District Council to ensure that following programmes at Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary continue, these include:

1. Our pest control programme (including mammalian predators and plant pests)
2. Fauna survey/monitoring – this will provide useful information about the populations present but also their response to predator control
3. Our education programme - our aim is to connect children with nature through hands-on experiences
4. Our two part time coordinators, who provide the connection between our volunteers and the management committee and also ensure that all other programmes at the Sanctuary are completed.
5. Information shop – this provides a central point for our volunteers and members, a source of funding (through merchandise sales) and an information site with history of the Sanctuary, the flora and fauna and our pest control work.

KAIPUPU WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

In the 2005, prior to the development of Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary, an Ecological Significance Assessment report¹ gave Kaipupu Point an overall M+ rating. As a distinctive feature in the Picton landscape, Kaipupu Point was identified as an ideal opportunity for a mainland island. Further supported by the landowners Port Marlborough and the Department of Conservation, Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary was created.

Since then much has changed. In 2008, a 600 metre long predator proof fence was installed across the southern end of Kaipupu Point preventing introduced predators from re-establishing after a brodifacoum poison drop. Public access to the Sanctuary was created via a 2.7km walking track, floating pontoon and jetty, which was officially opened in 2013. Thanks to a strong relationship with Port Marlborough, our 100 strong volunteer team are able to access the Sanctuary via land to complete maintenance, monitoring and pest control tasks (spending on average 200 hours per month). In 2016, the hard work and commitment of these volunteers was rewarded with our first species translocation of South Island Robin and the development of a rowi kiwi creche at Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary. This year, a kayak ramp was completed by volunteers, with support from local businesses.

The Sanctuary is popular with local, national and international visitors. We offer guided tours and have an excellent education programme that sees various groups and schools visit the Sanctuary with our experienced educator. Our membership, encompassing individual, family and life memberships, numbers 250 with many supporting us from outside the region.

Kaipupu Point Mainland Island Society is managed by a committee of nine volunteers alongside representatives from the Department of Conservation and Port Marlborough. The Society contracts two part time coordinators to ensure that all tasks at the Sanctuary are completed effectively and efficiently. The Pest Coordinator manages the predator control program and its volunteers, ensures that best practice is followed and that trapping results are accurately documented and reported. The Pest Coordinator also acts as the Health and Safety Manager. The Project Coordinator is responsible for administration (emails, banking, general communications), compliance (resource consents, concession, management agreements, translocation agreements), education, promotion and marketing, community outreach, technical tasks (translocations, interpretative signage, concession) and volunteer/membership engagement.

KAIPUPU WILDLIFE SANCTUARY: AN OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE

The headland of Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary was identified as an area of high natural character with high experiential value in the proposed Marlborough Environment Plan² and with goals that align with the DOC Conservation Management Strategy 1996 – 2006 and those of the proposed Marlborough Environment Plan we believe that Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary is an important resource within Marlborough.

¹ Geoff Walls (2005) Marlborough District Ecological Significance Assessment Report

² Appendix 1, No. 17 Northern Lands of Inner Queen Charlotte Sound

Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary provides a number of benefits to the people of Marlborough, as well as the region's visitors. Our biodiversity goal of developing "a self-sustaining ecosystem, by removing pests, recreating natural habitats, reintroducing appropriate species, and allowing the natural regeneration of a coastal forest ecosystem, representative of the one there prior to human arrival" provides opportunities for the local community to connect with nature through volunteering. The health benefits of getting out in nature are well studied and for many it is also a social opportunity to connect with other like-minded people. Our volunteers come from across Marlborough, and for some it is a family event with mum, dad and the kids volunteering together. Through this connection with nature, people are more likely to take further action in the environment.

Many natural ecosystems across New Zealand are benefitting from mammalian predator and weed control and Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary is no exception. The success of our pest control programme is directly linked to the likelihood of further translocations. Monitoring programmes, like five minute birds counts and surveys of invertebrates and lizards tell us a lot about the success of our pest control. Five minute bird counts³ are currently undertaken each year by volunteers and show a statistically significant increase in the number of bellbirds and tui, likely in response to predator control work. Last year, we employed a contractor to target weed species at the Sanctuary, this vital work will reduce the competition for space, light and resources.

Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary also provides economic benefits for Marlborough. The Sanctuary is visited by many local, national and international visitors who all require transport to the Sanctuary. Local water taxi and tour companies are visiting Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary regularly due to its close proximity to Picton and the wildlife viewing opportunities. Kaipupu Point Mainland Island Society also holds a concession to provide guided tours of the Sanctuary.

We believe that as we meet our biodiversity goals Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary will become a significant destination for visitors to the region, where wildlife viewing is an easy ten minute boat ride from Picton. As an advocacy tool for conservation and restoration, Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary is uniquely positioned to provide educational opportunities and hands on conservation experience for the whole community. Ongoing support from the Department of Conservation, Port Marlborough, Marlborough District Council and local businesses will ensure that we achieve all this and more.

³ Nicki McArthur, Kaipupu Point five-minute bird count monitoring: April 2017 data analysis