

### **MDC Long Term Plan Supplementary information.**

The mission statement of Kaipupu Point Mainland Island Society 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”.

Kaipupu Point Mainland Island Society values the input Marlborough District Council, it's Councillors and Staff have had in the development of the Sanctuary. We would of course always like to see more investment in the community groups already working hard to protect areas of Marlborough and contribute to the objectives of the Councils own biodiversity goals.

Kaipupu Point Mainland Island Society looks forward to continued long term 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. Successful translocation of appropriate threatened species onto Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Our education programme - our aim is to connect children with nature through hands-on experiences
5. 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.
6. 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 2005, prior to the development of Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary, an Ecological Significance Assessment report 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 very good 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. In 2018 a kayak ramp was completed

by volunteers, with support from local businesses. Since then we have continued with annual bird counts, a lizard and skink survey, Tawa seed collection project, Little Blue Penguin survey of the Sanctuary, Picton and Waikawa Bays, plus undertaking a complete review of the trapping programme. This led to major adjustment of the trap locations and following this plus a hand-laid bait and toxin project we are able to report 0% rats from our tracking tunnel monitoring.

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. Another objective is to develop the educational programme to provide opportunities for schools Marlborough-wide to benefit. Our membership encompasses individual, family and life memberships 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, now working with a H&S specialist member of our committee. The Sanctuary 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 Plan<sup>2</sup> 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.

Pest control and other conservation strategies are moving to a whole landscape level rather than isolated pockets. MDC is a partner with Top of the South agencies in developing such a strategy. The Kaipupu initiative in successfully building and maintaining bird populations is highly dependent on the successful reduction of predators in the halo surrounding Kaipupu. The development of community interest, support and participation at the Sanctuary has led to the extensive trapping work carried out by Picton Dawn Chorus and other predator control groups within bird flight distances.

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 counts 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. Our plant specialist volunteer team leader has completed a comprehensive plant survey adding a number of previously unrecorded native species to the list of those present on the sanctuary. We now regularly employ a contractor to target weed species at the Sanctuary, and 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, until the interruption from Covid 19, 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.

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