



Motu Kaikoura

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

KAKA COMMENTS

MOTU KAIKOURA TRUST SUPPORTERS' NEWSLETTER ISSUE 19, AUGUST 2016

2016 Annual Report - June 2015 to May 2016

Our objectives – (in brief):

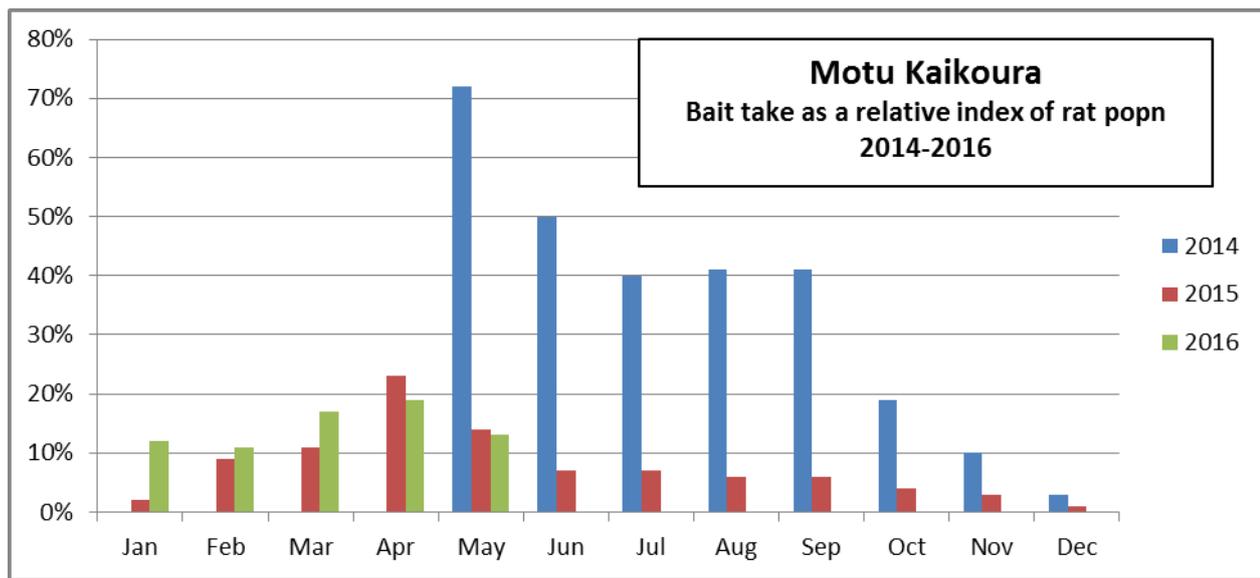
- Restoring the natural environment of Motu Kaikoura
- Making Motu Kaikoura available for outdoor and environmental education

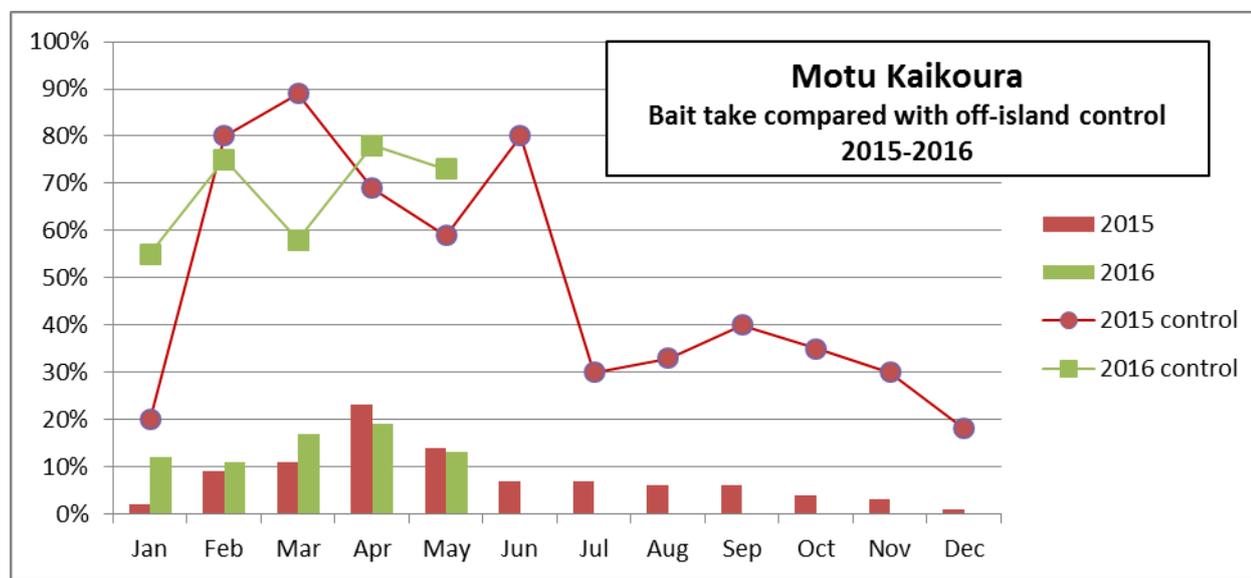
The year in review ...

When looking back over the last year, two activities stand out as taking up a large amount of our time and energy – rats and fundraising.

Rats

It is a relentless battle but our systems, increasing coverage, and hard work is keeping on top of rat densities and bringing them down. See the bar charts below. Particularly encouraging is the improvement since 2014 and our results compared with the off-island control results.





It is interesting (distressing!) to note the flush of rat numbers in mid to late summer; a trend that is also noted on Aotea/Gt Barrier. We battle during autumn and early winter to get the numbers down again but importantly by the bird breeding season we have succeeded to get relative densities down to the important 5% figure.

A great effort by volunteers co-ordinated by trustees Rod and Rosalie Miller has recently built another 150 rat “motels” which are proving to be a very effective weapon. These will be deployed over the next few months – rats beware!

We have also recently received from Goodnature an updated version of their automatic rat traps. These have been deployed and fingers crossed they will be effective.

As good as motels, bait stations, and traps are they do require ongoing checking and rebaiting. This is very resource intensive. As Mike Lee, the trustee with oversight of the rat programme has said “.. imagine what we could do if we didn’t have to deal with rats and could free up all that time and energy for other activities on the island...”.

Thank you to DOC and Auckland Council for your ongoing support.

Fundraising

We have been making applications all year to different philanthropic organisations to raise funds to replace the lodge that was burnt down late in 2013. Not all successful unfortunately. We are still about \$300,000 short of the quantity surveyor’s estimate of the replacement cost. Where to from here will occupy us for a while yet.

The lack of a lodge, however, restricts what we can do on the island. Volunteers, researchers, monitoring groups, and on-island workers have to make do in less than ideal circumstances. My appreciation to you all for your patience.



Other Infrastructure

Other work must continue of course. Equipment like the boat, mule and generator that we rely on so much need regular maintenance and repair when they break down.

The house at Bradshaw Cove is gradually being restored with resource consent received for the rebuild of the chimney with its heritage rated limestone fire surround. Our thanks to Auckland Council Environment Initiative Fund for assisting with funding for this project.

Monitoring

A monitoring trip was undertaken in December 2015. A small team led by Maureen Young took advantage of the new rodent management tracks to cover more of the island looking for plant species and several more plant species have been added to the list including a threatened species - pimelea.

The trip also completed the annual bird monitoring on the three established transects. This completed 10 years of bird surveys which constitutes a milestone for our monitoring - typically longitudinal ecological data gains value over time - with 10 years considered by some researchers as the minimum time period for such measures to be meaningful. The data appears to suggest that the trend of gradual increase in bird populations continues. Also, an exciting observation in January 2016 was the sighting of a bellbird by trustee Mike Lee. This is only the second 'new' bird species to be recorded on the island since 2006.

Financial

During the last financial year to 31 March 2016, the Trust received income of \$53,058 and incurred expenditure of \$62,006.

Full audited financial accounts for the year for the Trust will be filed with the Charities Commission.

Thanks

I would like to thank the Motu Kaikoura Trustees for their dedication. We have met formally 11 times during the year. Without you our achievements and successes would not have happened. My thanks to retiring Trustee Judith Grant who has been a Trustee from the start of the Trust. Your contribution has been considerable and is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to express my appreciation to our supporters both for their moral as well as their financial support, and for the work done by our on-island volunteers. Keep up the great work.

Thank you all.



Harry Doig
Chair

July 2016



DOLPHIN AND WHALE RESEARCH

Sarah Dwyer regularly stayed at Motu Kaikoura while carrying out her dolphin and whale surveys.

Attached is the conclusion of her most recent manuscript published in the New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research.

Conclusion

Overall, Great Barrier Island was a hotspot for bottlenose dolphins during all seasons and years, and for Bryde's whales in 2011. Predictable high density areas for Bryde's whales could not be identified given the annual variation in their occurrence.

Although specific key spatial regions could not be determined for common dolphins, it is evident that the inner Hauraki Gulf is particularly important for the species during the colder months. The shallow regions of the Firth of Thames and southwestern inner Hauraki Gulf were not highly used by any of these three species.

It is essential to remember that the results of this study occurred under predominantly La Niña conditions. Given the strong effects of winds on ocean circulation in the Hauraki Gulf, variations in patterns described here may vary under more neutral and El Niño conditions, particularly for Bryde's whales. The relative abundance indices presented here enable global comparisons with other populations of these species and, more importantly, provide baseline values for the Hauraki Gulf that can be used for future monitoring purposes. Moreover, the spatial maps provide useful seasonal distribution and relative density information to support management initiatives such as marine spatial planning.

Acknowledgements

SLD thanks the Great Barrier Island local community, in particular the Motu Kaikoura Trust and Great Barrier Island Marine Radio for support in the field. Special thanks go to all volunteers who assisted with boat surveys.

The manuscript can be downloaded from the link below:

<http://www.coastalmarineresearchgroup.com/PDFs/Distribution%20and%20relative%20density%20of%20cetaceans%20in%20the%20Hauraki%20Gulf%20New%20Zealand.pdf>

Since finishing her PhD, Sarah has been working as a freelance scientific editor and doing contract marine biology work. She is also busy continuing to publish the results of her doctoral research and preparing for the arrival of a baby boy in early September.

Bryde's whale



Contribution from the Archives of Don Armitage

(Original text)

“Kaikoura Island”

Dear

We understand that you have expressed interest in acquiring a share in Kaikoura Island.

We – John Burrowes, Stuart Searle and Barry Preddle – would like to take this opportunity of providing you with some information to assist in your further consideration of the proposal.

Kaikoura (or Selwyn Island as it is known to some) is adjacent to Great Barrier Island, 55 miles from Auckland and guards the entrance to Port Fitzroy’s beautiful sheltered harbour. It is in fact less than one mile from the Port Fitzroy Post Office and store. Sea Bee Air Ltd’s regular amphibian service to the Great Barrier Island can put you down right on the beach at Kaikoura just 25 minutes flying time from Auckland. In addition, there are regular air services by land plane to Okiwi (then taxi to Port Fitzroy) and by sea on the M.V. “Ngaroma” which carries passengers and cargo weekly to Port Fitzroy. Easy communication with the island is available through the island’s radio telephone connections.

The total area of the island is 1394 acres. There is an active and well advanced farming development programme under way on the island occupying about 400 acres and the unfarmed remainder of the island is in scrub and native bush.

We have owned the island since August 1973. Kaikoura Island has many attractions for us. Probably the greatest thing about it is just the very idea of owning an island. For John and Stuart, being boating enthusiasts, it has been a place to get away to by boat and to call base.....

We are willing to share these pleasure with others but we make it clear that we want to continue as partners in the island and its future..... Our offer to those interested in joining us in partnership in the island is that each partner will be entitled to :-

A one-twentieth share in the Island, separate freehold Certificate of Titles can be issued for each undivided share.

A one-twentieth share in farm buildings, plant, machinery and stock.

The exclusive right to occupation of a site of his choice on the island.

The price per share is \$15,000 on terms or \$14,250 for cash. An initial deposit of \$1,500 is payable on signing the agreement, If you wish to pay cash the balance of \$12,750 would be payable on settlement on 1 August 1978. If you would prefer to buy on terms there would be a further payment of only \$6,000 on 1 August 1978 and the balance can be deferred for up to three years with interest at 8% payable quarterly.....

You will also readily appreciate that the rate of progress in farm development is directly related to the amount which the owners are willing to expend each year on development costs and it would be for the owners to decide from year to year how much they wish to spend. Given these variables, the contribution required from each owner, based on current costs, would be up to \$1,500 per annum.....

(Further pages of this very interesting letter containing prices, shares, etc, can be viewed on website)



THE GREAT RAT MOTEL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT



Dima loading timber Mitre 10



Rosalie cutting stencil: POISON DON'T TOUCH



Nick



Rod



No. 44





Dave



Cathy and Brian



Rosalie



Mark and Margaret



Nick



Sam



Ben and Craig
bending wires



Des





60 on the trailer 15 in the car
1 more trip to go

Sam unloading Fleet Street Devonport

Many thanks to our 14 supporters (Jon & Paul not photographed). Nick, Dima and Rod had prepared 4,960 pieces of wood and stacked them in appropriate piles ready for assembling. Rod had bored 300 holes for entry to the motels.

Our supporters hammered, glued, and then stapled 10,240 fastenings, POISON DON'T TOUCH sprayed 150 times.

This was the Mark IV version so required 4 dots each end and on top for identification. (1,800 dots) Velcro was used to attach the lids so rocks were not necessary to keep the lids from blowing off.

After 212.5 man hours (Saturday and Sunday) we had 150 rat motels ready for delivery to Devonport for transporting on the Hauturu to Motu Kaikoura.

Our supporters travelled from Auckland, Paihia, and Warkworth area to the Miller farm, 44 Martins Bay Road, Warkworth where we coffeed, lunched, and chatted together.

THANKS TO A GREAT TEAM EFFORT.

Hillary Outdoors - Kayakers - August visit - arriving at Motu Kaikoura.



Motu Kaikoura Winter catch-up 2016

Well, lots of things have been happening out here this Winter, so much so that this article may sound like it has been written by a sleep deprived zombie, Here's why...

Last month we welcomed the final addition to our family, Tazmyn Violet Stannard, who may be the youngest future volunteer for Kaikoura Island that we have!

It's been a haze of milky cuddles, baby burping and nappy changes so today the arrival of the replacement califont is being eagerly anticipated by everyone, especially Clint, our King nappy washer!

Track clearing has been progressing well despite the weather, so much of the gorse, thistles, fallen trees and other obstacles have been cleared away to allow maintenance of ratlines to flow smoothly once again, and I predict that I'll be spending way less time hunkered over Clint's shins picking out gorse prickles now too, hooray!

Recently the coastal bait stations have been brought in and replaced with wooden hotels that were made up by volunteers like Rod and Rosalie. The addition of two snap traps per station means a fair while longer completing the coastal rat lines but our great advantage now is being able to capture more of the rats reaching Kaikoura from other locations, particularly those which may have developed an aversion to poison bait.

A trial of 9 self-setting good nature traps is also underway. These traps have the potential to be set and left for long periods of time, making them useful for steep or dense bush areas where it is uneconomic to make a track.



Okiwi School students, Teachers and caregivers were invited to come out for a field trip a while back, we had a korero about the history of Motu Kaikoura, current conservation efforts being made and the general situation of the Island, as well as took them all over to Bradshaws Cove for a look at the World War Two bunkers and a picnic lunch at the beach.

You couldn't get a more upbeat bunch of people about the change in the weather, as we all got drenched walking back from Bradshaws Cove in the torrential rain!

Being with some of the local people who have ancestors who once lived here gave us something to reflect on as we passed through places that were historically important, and still treasured today.

I wonder what future generations will make of us?

That's all for now,

From Jacinda Stannard.

If anybody has stories of Motu Kaikoura's past, especially the management of the "Lost Resort" it would be great to hear from you for our archives.

Thanks

Rosalie Miller



MOTU KAIKOURA TRUST SUPPORTERS

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Annual donations as a supporter are tax deductible. Your donations are appreciated.

Single	\$20	Family	\$25
Student	\$10	Life	\$250
Bequest.....			

Name _____

Address _____

My cheque for _____ is enclosed

Or ASB Account – Motu Kaikoura Trust 12 3077 0580668 00

Please email me if you have made a direct payment so that I can issue you with a tax deductible receipt.

Thank you.
Rosalie Miller
Motu Kaikoura Supporters

I would like to receive newsletters by: Email _____
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

