



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 21 JULY 2017

Chairman's Update

2017 Annual Report – June 2016 to May 2017

Our objectives – (in brief):

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

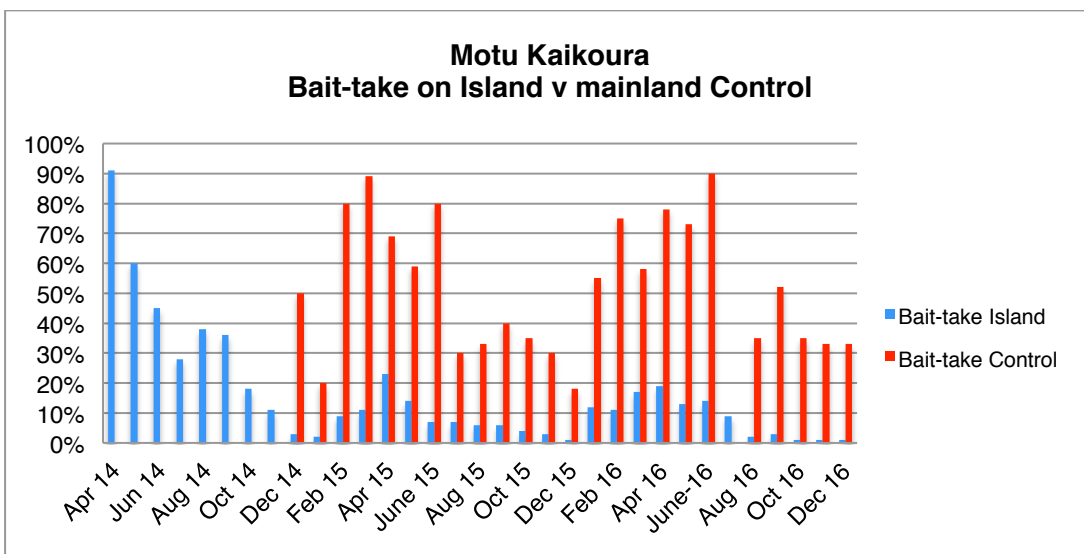
The year in review ...

Rodents

After nearly 3 years of systematic management, rat numbers on Motu Kaikoura continue to track down – highlighted by the contrast with the situation on mainland Great Barrier Island, as indicated by our mainland control line. Please see figure below.

In this issue:
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- Chairman's Annual Report
- Hillary Outdoors
- Botanical Report from Maureen Young
- Bradshaw House
- Rod Miller 2017 Chairman
- Update from The Stannard family
- Supporters' Donation Form



Rodent monitoring (supported by baiting and trapping data) indicates a clear seasonal pattern to the level of the rat populations both on the island and on the nearby mainland (the latter at about 10 times the island level). This late summer 'spike' in rat numbers presumably from



residual populations on the island augmented by 'swimmers' was apparent again this year (2016) but monitoring in May indicated a peak of 12% compared to 25% at the same time in 2015. For most of 2016 (late summer and several localised 'hotspots' excluded) rats over extensive areas of the interior of the island have been managed to low levels. (Monitoring in December 2106 recorded rodent levels at 4%). Early this year the bait station network was expanded to cover the northern Stanley Point area by extending the Badlands Track by 10 stations. (edited excerpt from Motu Kaikoura Sanctuary rat management programme - progress report (No.3) - Michael Lee Trustee. December 2016.) A full version is available on request.

Lodge Replacement

Our plans to replace the communal building destroyed by arson continue. No significant additional funding, to supplement the insurance we held and grants obtained, has been secured this year but the architects have now been commissioned to go to detailed design on a reduced building and other ways of supplementing the funding we have – such as volunteers, supplier discounts etc - are being pursued. The next year could well be a make or break year.

Bird Monitoring

Monitoring of the island's bird population was undertaken by trustee Mel Galbraith in December 2016 with positive increase in birds recorded including long tailed cuckoo, 3 pateke ducklings at Bradshaws, kereru on the grass and banded rails.

Staffing

In April this year, the Trust employed a part time ranger, Clint Stannard, to undertake a range of duties on the island. We are pleased to be taking this step which we trust will bring continuity, consistency and innovation to our plans for the island.

Infrastructure

Work continues steadily on the restoration of the building at Bradshaws. Thanks to a grant from Pub Charity we have been able to replace our boat's outboard motor.

And all the other things necessary to keep the island running ... continue

As well as all the other things we have been investigating or have in train ...

Including: sale of carbon credits, review of weed management plan, website upgrade, review of management plan.

Thanks

I would like to thank the Motu Kaikoura Trustees for their work over the year. We have held 9 Trust meetings. 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 other volunteers. I would also like to thank our on-island workers for their sterling work over the year – Clint, Jacinda, Robbie – THANK YOU.

Thank you all.



Harry Doig
Chair
June 2017



Hillcrest Girls' Motu Kaikoura Visit

30 Hillcrest girls got accepted into the Great Barrier Experience, this is a 5-week program where we stay at Karaka bay, Orama. During this time, we are split into 3 groups of 10 and have an instructor from Hillary Outdoors.

During the week days we spend time with them doing outdoor activities such as surf kayaking, coasteering, hiking, abseiling, rock climbing and many more activities that we wouldn't be able to do at home.



A highlight of our trip was definitely sea kayaking to the various areas of Motu Kaikoura, such as Bradshaw Cove and Sunset Cove. At Bradshaw Cove, one group alongside camping there, did a 3 hour coasteer and snorkel which was said to be a highlight of their trip so far.

During the coasteer, we climbed over rocks, squeezed through a very tiny cave and jumped into the water at various places. Also during the snorkel some students swam with stingrays, which was said to be a great way to end the day. The next morning the group set off on a small

tramp up to the lookout point, this was a well-rewarded trip as the view was incredible.

All three groups have sea kayaked out to Sunset cove, this was also another highlight of our experience. Sunset Cove is very unique, kayaking into the cove is for sure a sight to see, then you get to experience an adventurous walk up to the camp site, which we wouldn't recommend doing in the dark but however it still is a lot of fun!



On top of that one group was even lucky enough to experience the beautiful sunset. Before they left Sunset Cove, one group decided to do a mini beach clean-up which was said to be a good example of initiative by their instructor.

Overall this has been a once in a lifetime opportunity, which has pushed our limits, tested our independence, and strengthened our ability to work as a team and take on leadership roles.

We are very grateful to the people that made this experience happen for us, and are very thankful to the people on Great Barrier Island for making us feel welcomed and accepting us into their community. We all hope that one day we will be able to return to this island and give back everything it gave us

By Renee Mayall, Isobel McNamara and



Siobhan Jones

A botanical update

Maureen Young

Since the Perimeter Track has been completed I have walked most of it, recording and collecting plants to add to the list of species that has been compiled over the years. However, I had not covered the portion of the track between Mt Overlook and Bradshaw Cove, and felt the need to close the circuit. I asked Rod to sing out when he was flying over for a few hours, so I would have a chance to do so.

Wednesday 5 July was such a day, and after a good flight over with Caleb in charge of the plane, I set off without wasting time onto the Overlook Track. Once I took the branch onto the Overlook-Bradshaw Track I very soon stopped to admire 3 plants of the bush cabbage tree (*Cordyline banksii*). I had been told of its presence on the island, but it was good to see it for myself and record it as a new species to the list. Previously only one plant of the common cabbage tree had been recorded.



Cordyline banksii

Pterostylis alobula



Two orchids were my next excitement (it takes very little to excite a botanist). On my first trip to the island when the deer were still present, I had spotted a little greenhood orchid, *Pterostylis alobula*, growing on a small shelf on a rock face that was out of reach of the deer. As far as I know it has never been seen since, but there on the track were a dozen or so rosettes and two flowers.

The second was a tiny ground orchid, *Cyrtostylis oblonga*, that had been recorded by some unknown person but had not been seen by anyone in the botanical team, and again right on the track were a couple of dozen plants in early bud.



Cyrtostylis oblonga



Passiflora tetrandra

I was pleased to come to the first gully and see that it had a good population of broadleaf trees, mainly puriri, as these patches are important as a seed source for regeneration. The native passionfruit (*Passiflora tetrandra*), previously only recorded from one plant on the edge of Tairea Gully, had taken over as ground cover covering a large area.

Some distance away *Clematis paniculata* was behaving in a similar way. Of the two tree daisies commonly seen in our district, one (*Olearia furfuracea*), was unpalatable



Clematis paniculata



Olearia furfuracea

to the deer and is one of the commonest shrubs on the island. The other, (*O. rani*), which has softer leaves, had not been recorded there. However, I found one seedling and hope that where there is one there will be others. My second new record!

Time was moving on at this point, and I did not want to keep the men waiting, but fate was to intervene. The track seemed to disappear into thin air and I considered that my only option was to go cross-country to where I could see the Bradshaw inlet.



Those of you who have bush-bashed on Motu Kaikoura will appreciate my plight, however, I was out onto the Bradshaw Road just before 4 pm and was very relieved to hear the engine of the quad bike approaching. The plane lifted off just a few minutes after the proposed take-off time.

Thanks to New Zealand Plant Conservation Network for the photos
<http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/>



2017 CHAIRPERSON - ROD MILLER

Firstly, I would like to thank Harry Doig for his years of chairmanship. Each year brings old and new challenges. I first become involved with Motu Kaikoura Trust after I had landed on the airstrip and realised its potential as an important access to the island. I then set about upgrading it and having it approved by Civil Aviation. I became a Trustee in 2005. To date I have landed there 390 times.



I have always been interested in conservation and have received numerous conservation awards for our efforts on the farm with planting of the Te Kapa River banks, fencing wetlands and our own bush blocks.



I am enjoying my involvement with Motu Kaikoura being the general fix-it-man and plan to continue restoring Bradshaw House, the progression of our new lodge and the many other projects that need attention on an island off an island.

It is good to see the continued use of the island by Hillary Outdoors.

I will continue to promote Motu Kaikoura as a scenic reserve, open to the public to respect and enjoy.

Rod Miller being presented with a cheque for \$600 from Warkworth Rotary for Bradshaw House.



Winter catchup

Kia Ora everyone,

Just a brief recollection of events from us this issue, this Winter we have been so busy and it seems like life just gets busier and busier!

Visitors, restoration of man made and natural habitat as well as the 'War of attrition' on rats and risk management..these are some topics we have been covering.

Recently we had a community involvement experience request from the Hillary Outdoors organisation. Ten girls hailing from Hamilton and their instructor, Tom, came over for the day to come and ask us questions about life out here, and a multitude of other things. We took them for a walk, pushed some in a swing and shared a laugh when some became too dizzy from spinning around inside a recycled mussel buoy swing to walk straight afterwards!

All of the girls seemed happy to be out here but a couple of them in particular seemed to really shine with their humour and zest for life, so it was a pleasure to have them spending some time out here.



Replanting the unused road has been another activity we undertook lately, all of the clay was washing down into the sea and it was too steep to use in winter, so the new track is working well and in a couple more years there will be more flax nectar around for our native wildlife.

Some of the large poisoned pine trees are at the stage now where they are getting so rotten that it's a common sight now to see big broken branches that have fallen down onto the track during wet and windy weather. Clint felled a couple of these towering terrors that were rotting while standing, away from the track so that is one place now that I feel safer walking by!

Restoration of the house at Bradshaws cove is going great, a new paintjob has been progressing with a keen group of volunteers, and the fireplace has been finally installed!

Rod Miller took some photos of the occasion, along with some mulled wine to share with everyone when we all gathered around to christen the fireplace.

Cheery times indeed in this temperate winter wonderland!

*That's all for now,
Jacinda Stannard and family*



UPDATE ON BRADSHAW HOUSE

An onslaught was made on work on Bradshaw House in June this year. Dean Watson and his trusty assistant John helped by Clint with the digger rebuilt the entire chimney and fireplace – a work of art. At the same time Jon Nicholson and three of his Rotary friends scraped, waterblasted and painted approximately half the walls as well as two coats of paint on the roof – Rotary team lived on Jon's boat moored at Bradshaws and they even had time for a bit of fishing.

The rest of the party was accommodated at headquarters with me being camp leader and cook.

A good productive time was had by all. THANKS TO EVERYONE.

Rod Miller



Newly assembled concrete mixer



Jon Nicholson with Rotary Team

Thanks to APECT via Warkworth Rotary for donation of \$500 for Bradshaw House.

BRADSHAW HOUSE CHIMNEY AND FIREPLACE- Dean creating a masterpiece.



We would like an appropriate old fire screen if anybody has one they would like to donate! Thanks.





FIREPLACE IN ACTION



Stannard Family enjoying the fire lit by Rod Miller

MOTU KAIKOURA TRUST SUPPORTERS

C/- Rosalie Miller
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WARKWORTH 0982

rosaliegmler@hotmail.com

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

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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

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*“Having vision is not enough.
Change comes through realizing the vision
And turning it into reality.”*

Sir Peter Blake

www.motukaikoura.org.nz

