



## KAIKOURA'S BIODIVERSITY BROADCAST.

Once again woolly winter greetings to you all.....it's been nearly a year since a Biodiversity Bulletin came your way.....But the good news is there has been heaps on the go and more to come, (my job has been restructured in amongst it all) so there's loads to tell you about!!

You're probably wondering about the pictures above.....no it's not in Kaikoura!! They are from the climb to and the summit of, Nōtī Raureka - the main divide between the west and east coasts of the South Island, maybe more commonly known as Brownings Pass.....read on, I will tell you more in a bit.

As of December last year my position was restructured due to a colleague heading home to Auz - so now I have a role full of all things biodiversity & environmental planning/project management based, which needless to say is busy.....but great!!

I then headed off for three weeks in March 'finding myself' as some people put it, particularly my cultural self, on an Aoraki Bound course - a joint course between Outward Bound and Ngai tahu - a course that I would highly recommend to anyone, maori or non maori, young and not so young! It is one of the best things I have ever done! I now have a much better understanding of my own capabilities and limits, strengths and weaknesses, my history and whakapapa, an extended whanau (10 aged 18 - 56!) and a new found pride for being Ngai tahu. Check out [www.ngaitahu.iwi.nz](http://www.ngaitahu.iwi.nz) for more info on the course - its well worth it! (The pictures above are from one of the tramps we did....unbelievable!)

*'.....there is more in you.....'*

Anyway, enough gassing, time for another update - what's happening in the Biodiversity world of Kaikoura?.....

Regional Weedbuster Awards 2008  
[www.weedbusters.co.nz](http://www.weedbusters.co.nz)

These awards are run annually and are aimed at recognising the dedication and commitment of community groups, organisations and individuals. The awards pay tribute to 'local heroes' who give their time to enhance the environment, and who help raise awareness of weed issues within the community.

This year Sally Blunt of Bay Paddock Road, (where her and her husband Tim farm) was nominated in the Private Land category for all the work she does on their property, which also contains 6 QEII covenants.

Sally was thankfully recognised for her efforts and won the Private Land category. She was also judged best over all and awarded the Excellence award which is great news! The judges for the awards were Dr Bryan Jenkins (Chief Executive Environment Canterbury), Mary Lovell-Smith (gardening editor of The Press), Dr Jon Sullivan (of Lincoln University, Bio Protection and Ecology Division).

Sally was presented her awards and prizes at Junes Council meeting by Mayor Kevin Heays and supported by Helen Braithwaite (Weedbusters/Department of Conservation), Tom Kirkwood (Environment Canterbury) and Paul McGahan of Department of Conservation.

The prizes Sally received were donated collectively by **Kaikoura Nursery, Mitre 10 and CRT, Hort Research Christchurch and Department of Conservation.**

Sally's comments following the awards were – *'It was a great boost to get those lovely trees, tussocks and basket, the Vigilant, the vouchers and those two helpful booklets which Tim and I have been digesting over our morning cuppas!! I also very much enjoyed meeting Tom and Helen and learning a useful tip or two from them!! Could you please pass on my grateful thanks to all those who contributed in any way? (I shall endeavour to do the same if I get a chance!)... It wasn't as spookifying as I imagined it might be either!!!.....*

*The whole exercise made me aware that the grubbing et al one does around one's own block can have ripple pond results however gradual & that providing one keeps the delicate balance between dictating and suggesting, discussing and learning, progress in the right direction can be made! You do a great job and I love seeing the new plantings of natives that are going in round about the district and the progress here with thriving regeneration thanks to grants etc.! Look forward to planting Totara & Kowhai on our new drive'.*

Council would like to thank the sponsors for their generous donations and supporting these awards.



### QEII covenants on the go in Kaikoura.....

Since the beginning of 2004 when there was not a single registered QEII covenant in the Kaikoura district, there are now:

Summary July 2007:

- 5 registered covenants (total 875ha).
- 9 approved and being progressed towards registration.
- 2 Landscape Protection Agreements approved between Council and QEII for protection of road reserve areas high in biodiversity values.
- Total area of all 11 – 189ha.
- 1 prospect subject to Board approval (0.7ha)
- And 6 other ‘expressions’ of interest on the books.

Summary June 2008:

- 7 registered covenants (totalling c. 891ha)
- 10 approved covenants (c.576ha)
- 2 Landscape Protection Agreements approved between Council and QEII for protection of road reserve areas high in biodiversity values. (c.1.25ha)
- 3 expressions of interest on the books.

*Mo tatou, a mo ka uri, a muri ake nei – for us and those after us.....*

### Kaikoura's own CONSERVATION PARK – Ka Whata Tu O Rakihouia

With the additions of land to the public conservation estate, as a result of the recently concluded Tenure Review of Muzzle Station, Department of Conservation have decided to promote the concept of a ‘Conservation Park’ based around existing land held in the Inland and Seaward Kaikoura Ranges under the Conservation Act 1987. The park, recently opened by the Minister of Conservation is named Ka Whata Tu O Rakihouia and covers approx 88,000 hectares (subject to confirmation of land areas when survey plans are completed on some conservation units). The land was previously held as individual conservation units. Recognising them collectively as a Conservation Park will promote their management as a single entity.

*Some interesting bits and bobs about the park area.*

- The Inland and Seaward Kaikoura ranges contain a remarkable diversity of plant communities and species due to the range of altitudinal zones, the variety of soils/geological substrates and also to the variation in climate from east to west.
- The Inland and Seaward Kaikoura ranges are part of one of the five main centres of endemism in New Zealand. A special feature of the area is the flora associated with screes, bluffs and limestone landscapes. Several species of Marlborough rock daisy (*Pactystegia* sp), pink tree broom (*Carmichaelia glabrescens*) and weeping broom (*Carmichaelia stevensonii*) are just some of the spectacular plants endemic to South Marlborough.
- The Inland and Seaward Kaikoura ranges support a large number (over 30) of nationally threatened plant species.
- The Kaikoura ranges also represent the northern and southern limits for some plant species, including the northern most population of the nationally threatened climbing broom (*Carmichaelia kirkii*) which has a threat category of Nationally Endangered.
- The Inland and Seaward Kaikoura ranges support a diverse range of indigenous animal, especially insects and lizards.
- A rare speargrass weevil is only found in the Seaward Kaikoura ranges and some Canterbury sites.

- Giant weta date back to the dinosaur age and are only found in New Zealand. The Kaikoura ranges are the only place in New Zealand where 3 of the 11 recorded species of giant weta occur; the bluff weta, the scree weta and the Kaikoura Giant weta. The latter is endemic to the Kaikoura ranges.
- The Clarence River is an important habitat for the Canterbury and Dwarf galaxiids, as well as the long-finned eel.
- The Kaikoura ranges supports eight gecko species and four skink species.
- The black-eyed gecko is of particular significance as it is New Zealand's only alpine lizard and the Kaikoura ranges are its main stronghold.
- The kea, the world's only alpine parrot, although persecuted by humans and introduced predators, and still declining, is still found in relatively good numbers in these alpine ranges.
- Similarly, the eastern race of NZ falcon (karearea), often rarely seen elsewhere in New Zealand, can still be found in reasonable numbers in this part of the South Island.
- The forested slopes and shrublands of these ranges support good populations of indigenous birds including; titipounamu (rifleman), korimako (bellbird), tui, pipipi (brown creeper), toutouwai (NZ robin), tui and kereru.
- The Seaward Kaikoura range is the only known breeding site for the nationally endangered Hutton's shearwater. This shearwater is one of the few shearwaters that still come ashore to breed on New Zealand's mainland.

### The name - what's it mean?

**Ka Whata Tu O Rakihouia** - Rakihouia was the son of Rakaihautu who according to the oral histories, dug up the lakes of the South Island. Rakaihautu landed up around the Motueka/Nelson area and walked up or down the interior of the island creating the lakes. His son Rakihouia brought the Uruao canoe along the east coast of the South Island. On board the canoe was his wife, Tapuiti, who was hapu (pregnant); she had a craving for birds' eggs. At Kaikoura, from their canoe, they noticed the flight pattern of the Hutton's shearwaters going to and from the mountains. He sent his men to investigate and arrived back with many eggs. He then named the mountain ranges Ka Whata Tu o Rakihouia (The standing food stores of Rakihouia).

Department of Conservation Fact Sheet Feb 2008

### Arbor Day June 5<sup>th</sup> 2008

This was a national event to draw attention to the importance of trees in our society. This year Arbor Day coincided with World Environment Day with this year's theme being 'CO<sup>2</sup> Kick the Habit'. 2008 is the first year that World Environment Day was hosted in New Zealand.

Therefore Kaikoura District Council and Trees for Travellers worked together to coordinate a community event for Arbor day – the aim was to plant 500 trees on Council reserve land at Jimmy Armers Beach with local volunteers from tourist operators, various interest groups and business. 670 trees were planted on the day!!

It gave people an opportunity to show their commitment to our local environment, offset carbon and increase local biodiversity.

We had a great turn out of volunteers, approximately 35 or so from Whale Watch, Dolphin Encounter, Fonterra, Top 10 Holiday Park, Hapuku Lodge & Tree Houses, Kaikoura Night Skies, YHA, Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation, Trees for Travellers, Innovative Waste, Kaikoura Ladies Lions, Council staff, the Mayor and various other individuals.

Food and drink was donated to the cause by Hapuku Lodge and Tree Houses, The Kaikoura Food Company, Good Water, and Kaikoura New World.

Council would like to extend its sincere thanks to all those involved.



Top left – Mike Kennedy, Sally Kennedy, Woody and Lorraine Diver chilling out before morning tea.  
Top right – The hillside at Jimmy Arnors Beach dotted in people and plants – and what a view for the day!  
Bottom – Me, armed with a rather large knife for dealing to a few that needed bit of a tickle up before planting.

### Funding opportunities.

If you have a project in mind, but short of funds and not sure how to tackle those application forms or where to start, give me a call – I am happy to help and can put together applications on your behalf.

**KDC's Biodiversity Contestable Fund** – Closed now till further funding secured.

**Ecan's Enhancement Fund** – **OPEN NOW** - The Environment Enhancement Fund is a contestable fund which provides grants of up to \$5,000 to individuals and groups working to protect and enhance Canterbury's indigenous biodiversity. The Fund can also be applied to for recognition of past work. The fund is open from 1 June to 31 August each year and funding is announced that December. [www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz).

**Transpower Landcare Trust** – Close off dates are 28 February and 31 August for grant applications up to \$5,000 (GST inclusive). Two funding rounds per year. [www.landcare.org.nz](http://www.landcare.org.nz)

**Sustainable Farming Fund** – “Funding projects that help rural communities help themselves”. Each year Sustainable Farming Fund provides up to \$9.5 million in grants for projects that contribute to the on-going economic, environmental, and social well being of the country's primary producers. [www.maf.govt.nz](http://www.maf.govt.nz)

**Biodiversity Advice & Condition Funds** – are a government initiative to enhance management of indigenous biodiversity outside public conservation lands (i.e. only private land - including Maori land - is funded). This includes areas of native vegetation, wetlands, and the habitats of native fish, birds and other species. Applications are invited twice a year from private landowners and community groups. The funds are currently **OPEN**. [www.biodiversity.govt.nz](http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz)

**NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust** - The primary purpose of the Game Bird Habitat Trust Board is to distribute funding for the development and enhancement of wetland habitat for the benefit of game birds and other wetland inhabitants. [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz).

**HPF – Habitat Protection Fund** – three rounds a year, 1 June & 1 October & 1 February. Funding is provided for **local habitat protection groups** working to protect areas of high conservation significance in their community. [www.wwf.org.nz](http://www.wwf.org.nz)

### *KDC's Biodiversity Contestable Fund – successful applicants in 07/08 round.*

The third round of KDC's Biodiversity contestable awarded funds to 5 successful applicants.

To give you an idea of what was funded -

- Bob Bell, Hapuku – weed control & planting of natives in QEII area.
- Local Branch of Forest & Bird – restoration of wetland, trial area for longer term project.
- Lindsay Rowe – protection work of Blue Penguin population, South Bay.
- Trevor Bolton – part fencing of QEII wetland area.
- Brett Cowan & Colleen Lee – weed removal and native planting in urban the area.

### *Some good news.....*

#### *The future of the Biodiversity Contestable Fund.*

When Council originally set up the Biodiversity Contestable Fund it was for a three year period only and to be reviewed at the conclusion of that period. The 07/08 round was the third and final of that arrangement.

A review and recommendation for continuation of the fund was reported to the June Council Meeting. I am happy to say that:

Funding has been secured for the 2008/09 financial year,

\$15,000 a year of reserve fund contributions has been allocated to the ongoing implementation of the fund,

And that this is included in the 2009-2019 draft LTCCP.

.....yay!!!

### *KAIKOURA'S BLUE PENGUINS – project underway.*

There is a small population of Blue penguins living under the Kaikoura Coastguard building in South Bay. They have existed in Kaikoura and have been making this building (and the surrounding area) their home for many years, this being the only significant breeding 'colony' on the Kaikoura Peninsula. The colony has been dispersed in the past with birds living under houses/sheds (not always with the blessing of the owners!) and subject to predation by dogs/cats etc.

More recently the penguins have tended to concentrate in the vicinity of the Coastguard building. That they are still found in the area testifies to their resilience, but the small number means that they are always under threat and any significant loss of numbers could make the viability of the colony doubtful.

Project proposal – to ensure the continued survival of a population of blue penguins at South Bay by:

- Providing a safe refuge with enhanced facilities for breeding and colony growth,
- Monitoring and managing long term the state of the colony including potential relocations to another site,
- Developing educational opportunities for schools.

Project being carried out by –

Lindsay Rowe in conjunction with and supported by the Kaikoura Coastguard. The project is also supported by Department of Conservation and Kaikoura District Council. Lindsay is an ex Landcare Research Scientist and now semi retired. Lindsay has carried out research and monitoring work on the Blue Penguin population voluntarily for a while now. His experience with birds dates back to the 1950's.



## CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS.

Council has over the last few years been building up relationships with two international volunteer organizations, for conservation based work around Kaikoura.

BTCV – British Trust for Conservation Volunteers [www.btcv.org.uk](http://www.btcv.org.uk)

ISV – International Student Volunteers. [www.isvonline.com](http://www.isvonline.com)

The groups come to Kaikoura, are hosted by the Council and their two week work programme coordinated by Council. Work/projects for the two weeks usually comes from Council, Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation, and Trees for Travellers.

Projects range from riparian and esplanade plantings, weed control, track work, reserve plantings, and nursery work.

Groups for 2008 – May, Aug/Sept, and Oct.

The groups enable Council in particular to undertake conservation based work that would otherwise stay on the back burner due to lack of ‘hands on deck’ and resources. They help create some good biodiversity based outcomes in the area and allows the agencies to work closer together for a common good.



## The Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Strategy.

Biodiversity loss is a significant issue affecting New Zealand, Canterbury and the Kaikoura district. Unfortunately the management of biodiversity is extremely complex, and the need for a more coordinated and cooperative approach was identified. A regional biodiversity strategy, developed with input from key stakeholders involved in biodiversity management in the region, was seen as a way of achieving this. Environment Canterbury facilitated the development of a Biodiversity Strategy for the Canterbury region with a stakeholder advisory group.

One of the key concepts behind the strategy is that it is a region-wide strategy rather than Environment Canterbury's strategy. Adoption of the Strategy was sought from all key agencies and stakeholders involved in biodiversity management in the region.

The Strategy is a non-statutory document. It is intended to sit alongside existing statutory documents and other instruments relating to biodiversity, and to provide guidance and a common focus for policy and decision-making, resource allocation, and the development of local strategies, action plans, and/or programmes.

Environment Canterbury is currently advertising for a Regional Biodiversity Coordinator. A successful funding bid was made to the Condition Fund to provide for the job. The role will co-ordinate and facilitate implementation of the Canterbury Region Biodiversity Strategy by working with Strategy Partners, community groups, landowners and other stakeholders.

Kaikoura District Council adopted the strategy in September 2007.

The official launch of the strategy took place on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2008.

See <http://www.ecan.govt.nz/Our+Environment/Land/Biodiversity> for more info.

## SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS PROJECT (SNA).

This project is ticking along and doing its own thing temporarily while I find my way through the additional projects that my restructured role brought with it.

Our contract ecologist was out of action for a while with a hip replacement (though I understand he is chomping at the bit now!) and obviously winter doesn't lend itself well to survey work – so the project will be getting a 'hurry up' soon.

Quick reminder of what the project is -

- ❖ "SNA" stands for 'significant natural area'. It is a short hand way of referring to Section 6(c) of the Resource Management Act 1991. Section 6(c) requires every Council to recognise and provide protection for areas of significant indigenous (native) vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna as a matter of national importance.
- ❖ It's basically about promoting the protection and management of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and fauna through partnership agreements with landowners.

Want info about Kaikoura District Council's SNA project?

Give me (Jodie) a call on 03 319 5026 or see the other contact options at the end of the newsletter.

## CONFLICT IN PARADISE

*The Transformation of Rural New Zealand*

I recently attend the above conference held in Auckland.

Foundation sponsor – Ministry Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)

Organised by - The Environmental Defence Society (Eds)

In association with – Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Lincoln University, and New Zealand Landcare Trust.

It was a very jam packed and useful two days, full of many interesting and informative speakers covering issues around –

- Where have we come from – sustainability or collapse, environmental history of NZ landscapes, current state of the rural environment, exploring future scenarios of rural land use change.
- External drivers – the NZ Brand - opportunities and risks.

- Where do we want to go – Sustainable land management in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – the challenges and opportunities.
- Sustaining the country – ideals, opportunities and imperatives for future rural landscapes.
- The rise of Green Consumerism
- European approaches to achieving sustainable land management.
- Water management
- Peri urban and coastal development
- Sustainable land uses – how to secure both environmental public goods and economic viability in the rural sector
- Town v's country – changing beliefs and values of rural and urban New Zealanders.

Because there was so much covered that has relevance in many areas that you may be interested in, I would recommend that you keep an eye on the Ed's website for when the conference papers will be published on site. [www.edconference.com](http://www.edconference.com)

*The BIGGER picture - What's happening aboard?*

### **ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity Project**

Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) is a global urban biodiversity pilot project running from 2006 to 2009 and working with a select group of local and regional authorities from around the world. Its overarching aim is to improve biodiversity management at the level of local government. LAB also aims to profile and promote the importance of urban biodiversity and the role of local government in its management, and to coordinate the sharing of experiences, successes and challenges among a diverse group of participant cities from around the world. The Project forms the first step in a broader ICLEI Biodiversity Programme.

### **ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability**

**ICLEI** is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. More than 700 cities, towns, counties, and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership. ICLEI works with these and hundreds of other local governments through international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programs.

Check out this link to read #3 newsletters.

[www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)

That's about all for now – hope all is well.

If there's anything you would like to discuss, questions, queries etc, please feel free to get in touch. You can find me at:

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Mihimahana (Warm regards)

**Jodie Denton.**  
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