



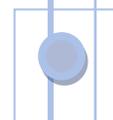
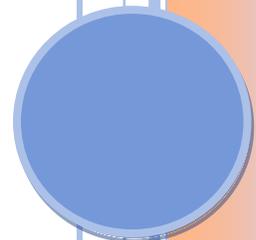
CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Marlborough Sounds Integrated Management Trust

A year of a change in strategy and approach, a lot of hard work, progress and impending milestones.

Eric S Jorgensen

6/30/2015



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The last twelve months have been busy ones for the Trust which has seen a change in strategy implemented and several milestone events occur. When taking time to ruminate on things I think we can be happy with both what we have achieved and the potential that lies ahead.

There can be no question that the collaborative approach we strive to adopt to ensure the long term health and management of the Marlborough Sounds ecosystems is the right one. We are slowly, but surely, building our reputation with all involved and the myriad of threads that need to come together are gradually aligning.

With many different initiatives at both national and local levels coming into play the next twelve months will be interesting, trying and critical for the Trust as we build towards an integrated and collaborative management approach to ensure the mauri of the Marlborough Sounds is protected and enhanced.

A quick retrospective of the year is the norm for the Chair's annual report and to expand on the above the last twelve months have seen:

Change in strategy:

Through 2013 and the first part of 2014 the Trust had created and utilised the Implementation Committee to develop and implement a plan for integrated management in the Marlborough Sounds. The Committee worked hard on designing a web based solution whereby any stakeholder could create and/or comment on any issue relating to management of the Marlborough Sounds natural environment. From this the notion was that issues would be socialized, different perspectives would be socialized, community 'norms' established from which policy and regulation could be developed.

The Trust however felt that such an approach would not result in all stakeholders coming together to jointly acknowledge, discuss and resolve issues around the table and then develop a shared or common management strategy for the Sounds; something that was seen as fundamental – an open and collaborative approach.

Hence The Trust dissolved the Implementation Committee and contracted the outside services of Phoenix Facilitation to assist with developing an alternative approach.

Community led collaborative management:

Through the second half of 2014 the Trust, together with Phoenix Facilitation, worked on designing an approach that enable the various stakeholders to collaboratively engage in the identifying of issues and finding the solutions. Out of this was born the brand 'Marlborough Marine Futures' and, more recently, the strap line 'Integrating management to sustain, enhance and restore the Marlborough marine environment'.

The Trust officially launched itself to the public with a low key but well received event at Kaipupu Point in December 2014. Among those in attendance were our local MP Stuart Smith, Councillor Trever Hook, Glenice Paine Chair of Manawhenua ki Te Tau Ihu Trust and Barry Maister, Chair of Kaipupu Point.

Work then began on preparing for the public workshop that would see the various stakeholders within the community come together for the first time. For me personally it was quite humbling to have over 80 participants come together on that first day. While a couple of sectors were not present the broad range and number of attendees highlighted that people do care about the future of the place and are prepared to come together to ensure that its' future wellbeing (mauri) is ensured. Of those sectors that were not present; the Trust will strive to engage with them directly to ensure that their interests are fully acknowledged as we move forward.

Through that first and subsequent workshops we have identified how different clusters of interests within in the community might come together, how we can all operate together to progress towards collaborative and integrated management and what support would be required. This is building a solid foundation for moving forward and we should be clear that these first steps are critical to future success.

Engaging the Agencies:

The Trust has appreciated the significant support of the Marlborough District Council. This support has not only been financial but also providing valuable input into developing our approach, aligning with Council's own policy development and management responsibilities and providing opportunities to inform and engage the wider community through forums such as the Sounds Advisory Group.

At a local level we have also enjoyed positive and valued input and feedback from the Department of Conservation which is equally appreciated.

Both the Trust and Phoenix have been communicating with central government ministers and staff to explain our ambitions and to build support for the process. Whilst this support may be coming to fruition more slowly than we had hoped for it is nonetheless building. As some of government's own initiatives draw closer the opportunity for the Trust and central government to work together will become more of a reality. Effectively the timing is not quite right but getting closer all the time. Once this occurs it will be a significant milestone for not only the Trust but the entire community of stakeholders across the Sounds.

Making Thanks:

It is important that we recognize the contribution to our work of many different organisations and individuals.

Again I'd like to recognize and thank the MDC for their significant financial support over the last two years, without this we would be struggling to make the progress we have.

Similarly thanks to the Canterbury Community Trust whom supported our work with a grant of \$20 000 last year; very much appreciated and necessary!

Both Peter Lawless and Rachael Ennor deserve to be recognized for not only their guidance, contacts and support along the way but also for, when funds have been tight, providing work pro-bono. Thanks to you both. I'd personally like to thank Charmayne King who does her best to keep me focused and on-time with my different tasks; sorry Charmayne; I'm always going to be a bit of a last minute person.

Four other people require acknowledgement also for giving their time, skills, knowledge and energy to this work and they are my fellow Trustees Raymond, Roy, John and Larnee. I really enjoy working with all our team; we come from wide and varied backgrounds and bring different perspectives but this one thing has bought us all together; not a bad thing at all!

Moving Forward:

There are many issues and activities out there today (and on the horizon) associated with the health of the Marlborough marine environment and its' management. To list some:

- Operational review of the Fisheries Management System
- Marine Protected Areas Bill
- The Davidson report to the MDC which highlighted – amongst other things – issues regards declining habitats
- MDC research into the Sounds' hydrodynamics & benthic core sampling
- Research into the loss of *Macrocystis*
- Next steps highlighted by the blue cod management group to improve the health of the fishery and important habitats
- The impending release of the MDC Regional Policy Statement and Resource Management Plan
- National Environment and/or Policy Statements for forestry and aquaculture, and
- The Sustainable Seas Science Challenge.

These, and other initiatives, cover a very wide scope, will be administered by a number of different organisations and involve a wide range of stakeholders. And they all have one thing in common; they will all impact on the health of the Marlborough Sounds environment. There will be significant overlaps across them all that will need to be carefully assessed and managed to ensure the best outcome for the marine environment and its' myriad of users. Really, never has the need for a truly integrated approach been greater.



Eric Jorgensen

Chair

Marlborough Sounds Integrated Management Trust