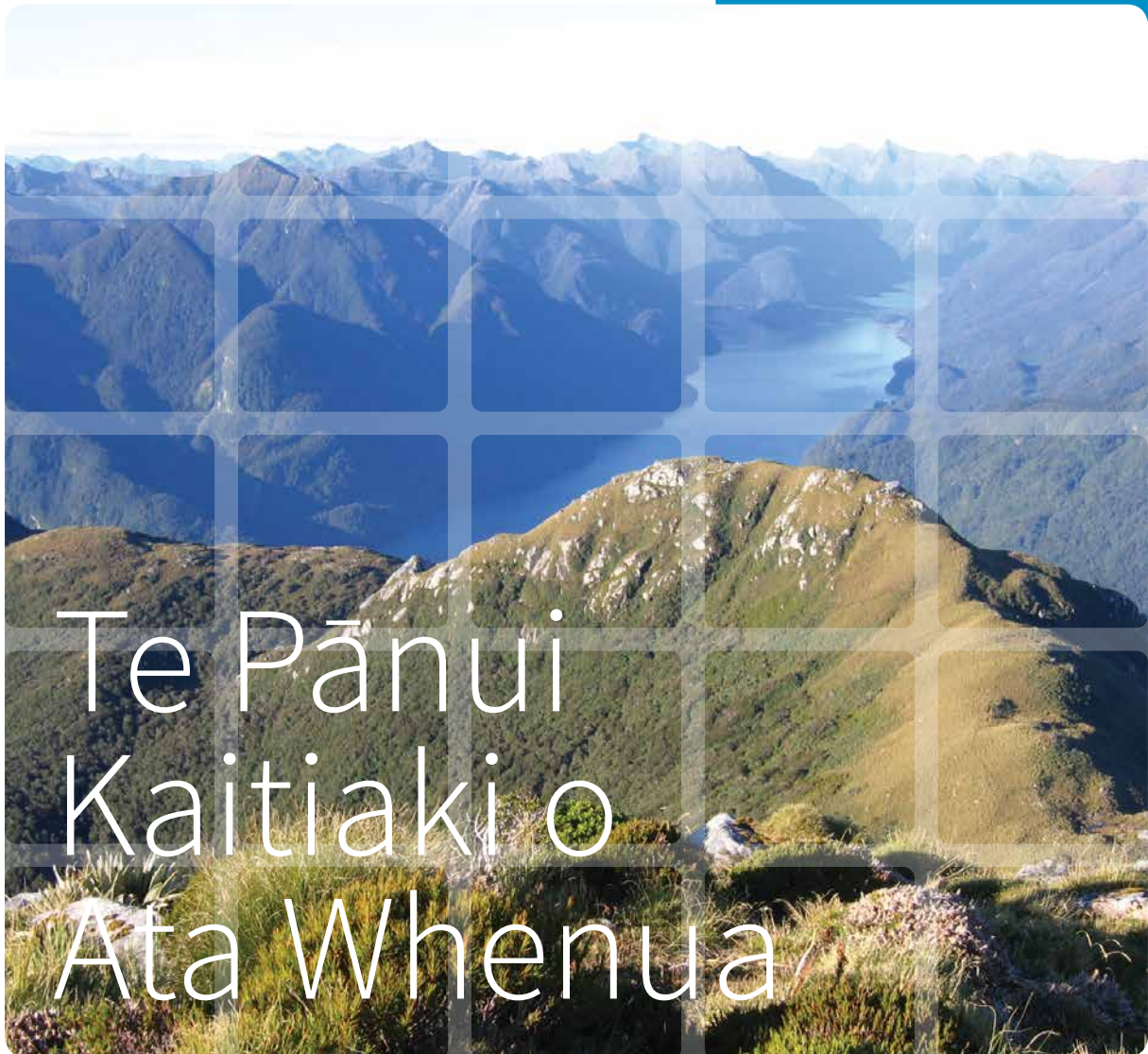


June 2018 | Issue 2



Welcome to Te Pānui Kaitiaki o Ata Whenua, the newsletter of the Fiordland Marine Guardians (the 'Guardians').

We plan to keep you updated on some of the issues we are grappling with in the region and **welcome your thoughts and feedback.**

Who are the ‘Guardians’?

The Fiordland Marine Guardians are an advisory committee who work with government agencies and their Ministers on managing the Fiordland Marine Area (FMA).



Anne McDermott

In this issue we talk to Guardian Anne McDermott.

Anne’s interest in the FMA and the Guardians goes back to the very first public meeting she attended over 20 years ago. Anne was appointed as a Guardian in 2006. She is also an active member of the Southland Tramping Club, contributing time to track maintenance and servicing trap lines in Southland (including Fiordland) and a trap line volunteer and statistician for the Bluff Hill Motupohue Environment Trust. Anne is proud to be part of the growing conversation around ‘Predator Free Bluff’.

Anne, you now live in Bluff. Have you always lived in Southland? I grew up on a sheep and beef farm in the small community of Brydone and moved to Invercargill when I started my working life. I have lived in Bluff with my husband Cliff for 6 years. Living alongside fisher people here means I can keep my finger on the pulse with some of the issues that affect Fiordland. I look out my window and see boats heading out of the harbour.

Knowing where they are going interests me. At night I see the cruise ships all lit up.

And where did your interest in diving and fishing come from? Cliff was a competitive water skier. Our meeting was my first introduction to the lakes and sea, and boating in general, especially through his involvement with the Southland Water Ski Club.

Tell us about your first trip into Fiordland. It was in 1986 when the Ski Club hired the Deep Cove Hostel for a week. Forty of us fished and explored the Doubtful Sound complex. Cliff and I went with a friend in their runabout and my first impression was “WOW!” ...and that was from above the waterline. I was totally blown away with the scenery and remoteness. Members of the Club took Cliff for a dive and he was hooked. A year later I completed a PADI dive course and I haven’t looked back since. Now I had a chance to see what was under the water – black coral, sea pens, blue cod, and sharks!

What does being a Fiordland Marine Guardian mean to you?

Being a Guardian is a privilege and a responsibility. Working with the agencies has been a fascinating experience, and also a steep learning curve for me personally. Seeing the benefits come to fruition for Fiordland is very rewarding.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the work of the FMG and their vision for the FMA in the next 5 years? The challenges are numerous but by far the biggest is biosecurity because of Fiordland’s remoteness and the many ways people can access the area. Communicating with users of the FMA is part of this challenge as is tourism and the increase in visitor numbers to this special area.

What is your favourite kai moana?

I enjoy all kai moana but probably my favourite would be cooked oysters, followed by paua and scallops. Not far behind would be blue cod and crayfish.

Guardians trip into the Fiords

The Guardians had an excellent trip into the fiords in November. As individuals we spend time in the FMA for work and recreation. This trip was a rare opportunity to be together for three days on board the *GV Southern Winds* and visit key sites that have been the focus of considerable discussion and work over the past few years. Much of our time was spent in Te Puatiha/ Breaksea and Tamatea/Dusky Sounds.

There has been a notable increase in resource consent applications and visitor numbers over that time. It is our responsibility as Guardians to consider the real and potential cumulative effects of everyone's use of the FMA. Effects can be broad scale or create undesirable changes at the local level such as limiting access to safe anchorages or depletion of kai moana at popular fishing spots. Our collective assessment is best achieved by having a good understanding of the area (broadly and locally) and how people use it.

We wish to thank the Department of Conservation for their support and making our trip possible.



Guardians taking a first-hand look at the spread of *Undaria* in Breaksea Sound

The Pathways Plan and the Clean Vessel Pass 12 months on

Boaties heading into Fiordland have shown they understand and appreciate the value and significance of the area through their commitment to the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan, which was launched last year.

Marine biosecurity officer Shaun Cunningham says more than 200 Clean Vessel Passes have been issued and although some boats have still been found without a Clean Vessel Pass, compliance with biofouling standards in the plan has been very good.

The Pathway Plan sets out rules for all vessels, regardless of size, entering within one nautical mile of the landward boundary of the FMA. Rules include ensuring all vessels hold a Clean Vessel Pass (CVP), which is free to apply for and needs to be renewed annually.

While obtaining a CVP is mandatory and valid for 12 months, the intention of the pass has always been to provide a tool to support operators in ensuring vessels entering the FMA are free of marine pests. **We are really pleased to see this level of compliance but are also interested to hear how the CVP process has been for you.**

No routine monthly vessel inspections in Bluff and Stewart Island from May to October '18

For the past few years the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has contracted Young Fishing Limited to undertake hull inspections of known Fiordland-bound vessels based in Bluff and Stewart Island for the presence of marine pests including *Undaria*.

MPI wish to inform everyone that as of 1 May until 31 October 2018 there will be no routine monthly vessel hull inspections for marine pests undertaken by Young Fishing Ltd in Bluff and Stewart Island. However, if you are travelling to Fiordland over this time on-request inspections are still available.

To arrange an on-request inspection during this period, please contact Young Fishing Ltd on **027 680 1258** or youngfishingco@xtra.co.nz

Applying for a Clean Vessel Pass

Apply for a CVP is a simple process that can be completed online at www.es.govt.nz/fmpp or by calling Environment Southland on **0800 76 88 45** to receive a hard copy form.

Since 1 April anyone applying for a CVP has been offered a copy of *'Beneath the Reflections'* as our way of saying thanks for doing your bit to safeguard Fiordland's marine environment and fisheries.

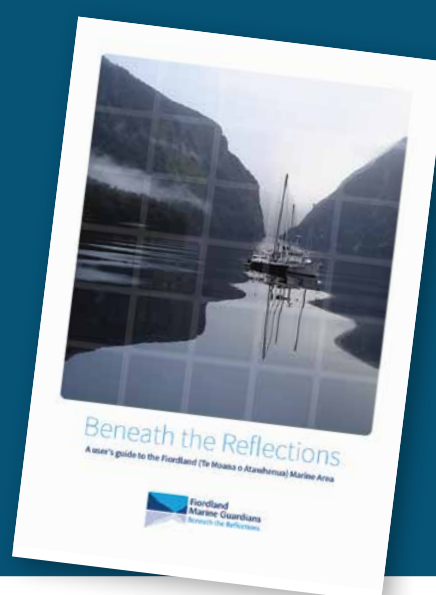
New user's guide

In July last year we released a new edition of *Beneath the Reflections – A user's guide to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area*. The guide is packed with information, stunning images, and some really important updates. We would really like to encourage people to replace their original copy (now over 10 years old!) so you are up-to-date with all of the rules and regulations. The guide is available online at www.fmg.or.nz or you can purchase a hard copy from DOC's Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre:

Lakefront Drive, Te Anau 9600

☎ +64 03 249 7924 ✉ fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz

Printed copies cost \$25.00 if collected from the visitor centre or \$30.00 if posted within New Zealand.





Guardians make a case for developing new vessel haul-out facility in Bluff

The Guardians are growing increasingly concerned about the availability of facilities for hauling out vessels on to the hard in Bluff, founded on feedback from vessel operators. We have been working with leaders in the community to raise the issue and centralise the discussion, with a goal to motivating action on future planning. Our interest is primarily about marine biosecurity and safety; however, a facility in Bluff that can meet current and future demand is essential for the kind of operational efficiency that underpins economic growth in the region.

In addition to vessel maintenance and requirements for regular out-of-water inspection and independent survey, the implementation of the 'Pathways Plan' has resulted in a heightened demand for vessels to be taken out of the water, often at short notice, to meet clean hull standards.

There is only one facility in Bluff, the synchrolift, capable of hauling a wide range of vessels out of the water onto hard-stand facilities. It is owned and operated by Southport and resides within their operational port terminal on the North East corner of Island Harbour.

We understand that the synchrolift is frequently over-subscribed. Feedback

from the community is that users are being exposed to increased operational risk as they move significant out-of-water maintenance and survey work to other ports such as Chalmers, Dunedin or Lyttelton.

A number of challenges will need to be overcome to develop a new facility in the region. These challenges are arguably what have prevented a facility from being developed already. However, given the breadth of users, the level of demand, and the economic and environmental benefits, we are confident these challenges can and should be overcome, for the future prosperity of Southland.

An accessible and efficient facility would also provide a way for vessel operators to comply with biosecurity rules and regulations, both at a national and local level (Craft Risk Management Strategy; Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan). These rules and regulations act to reduce the spread of marine pests throughout Southland, which ultimately delivers protection from marine pests for some of Southland's most precious stretches of coastline.

As always, we welcome your feedback on this matter.

Nominations sought for new Fiordland Marine Guardians

The appointment terms for three of eight Guardians will end on 31 October 2018. The Minister for the Environment has statutory responsibility for the appointment and reappointment of the Guardians. The Ministry for the Environment are now running a process to identify three candidates for appointment as Guardians and will seek nominations from a wide range of sources.

If you wish to nominate a candidate, learn more about the appointment process or have a question about it please contact

Allison Bockstruck, phone – 022 0684921, email – info@fmg.org.nz

Work with agencies, University of Otago and Ngāi Tahu on *Undaria* in Breaksea Sound

Earlier this year Guardian Stewart Bull attended a meeting with representatives from the agencies, the University of Otago Department of Marine Science and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRoNT) to discuss the current *Undaria* situation in Fiordland. All representatives were aware of *Undaria*'s invasive nature and potential to modify Fiordland's marine ecosystem, and agreed there was a need to control *Undaria* in Fiordland providing this was undertaken strategically.

In February, Dr Chris Hepburn (Department of Marine Science) and Derek Richards, Nigel Scott, and Dr Daniel Pritchard (TRoNT) participated in our joint meeting with the agencies. We discussed the control of *Undaria* at the Acheron passage/ Saturday Cove edge of the infested area and reducing the biomass of mature/reproductive plants in the heavily infested areas. The goal would not be complete eradication, but rather to take steps to contain the infestation. Both approaches would help address spore dispersal and limit the chance of reproductive plants drifting out of the existing infested area.

Research to support both the control effort and the development of a long-term containment plan for *Undaria* will be led by University of Otago and TRoNT. A key element of this work will be identifying the most likely places for *Undaria* to establish beyond the current infestation. We intend to provide you with regular updates about this important work.

Find out more

For more information about the controlled area in place in Breaksea Sound in response to the establishment of *Undaria* visit the Environment Southland website under News and Notices www.es.govt.nz

For all enquiries about *Undaria* in Breaksea Sound please contact: Shaun Cunningham, Biosecurity Officer at Environment Southland [03 211 5115](tel:032115115) or shaun.cunningham@es.govt.nz



VHF project vital link for Fiordland boaties

Getting access to help in an emergency just got easier for boaties in Fiordland, with the completion of the second stage of a VHF project.

Harbourmaster Lyndon Cleaver says communications in the most remote areas of Fiordland have always been difficult and expanding the VHF network has been a challenging exercise.

The project, led by Environment Southland, began in 2011 with the siting of a standalone transmitter on Mount Clerke, Resolution Island, Tamatea/Dusky Sound.

The second stage involved installing a repeater site on Wednesday Peak and establishing a link back through to Mount Clerke. Wednesday Peak involved a co-siting arrangement with the Southland VHF Users Association, GNS Science and Maritime New Zealand who also have equipment in this spot.

Lyndon Cleaver commented that linking up the Mount Clerke and Wednesday Peak sites provides almost complete cover from Mount Clerke to Bluff, which dramatically improves communication options for boaties.



View from Mt Clerke

Online information about the Fiordland Marine Area

We are in the process of developing a new website for the Fiordland Marine Guardians to be launched later this year. The new structure will follow the design of our publication *Beneath the Reflections*. In addition to presenting an overview of the user guide and some of its content, the website will provide information about current and former Guardians, FMG-agency meetings and events and a user-friendly contact form.

Our site will also link you directly to the most applicable government web pages on the agency sites. One example is the MPI web portal for visitors to Fiordland which was launched last year. Check it out by searching on 'Visiting Fiordland MPI' on the Ministry for Primary Industries website.

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/travel-and-recreation/outdoor-activities/visiting-fiordland/>

Congratulations

In February, Guardian Kerri-Anne Edge Hill was awarded a Community Trust of Southland Leadership scholarship to support professional development training in Wellington. Kerri-Anne's course was on Community Based Social Marketing, an approach to achieving broad sustainable behaviour in communities. Community Trust of Southland Leadership Scholarships are available to residents in Southland who provide support to a community, Māori/iwi or not-for profit organisations.



FMG-AGENCY MEETINGS

NEXT MEETING
Friday 24 August in Invercargill.

Agenda items are due Friday 3 August.

For more information visit www.fmg.org.nz

All welcome

Our quarterly FMG-Agency meetings are open to the public and agenda items can be brought to the Guardians for discussion at these meetings. The agenda is set three weeks in advance of a meeting.

Te Panui Kaitiaki o Ata Whenua is available online at www.fmg.org.nz or via e-mail.

In the interest of sustainability we encourage people to opt for an electronic copy. Please e-mail info@fmg.org.nz to update your contact details or to switch to electronic communication with the Guardians.

Thank you!

The Guardians would like to thank the following individuals and agencies for photographs: A. McDermott, G. Hill, R. McLeod, K. Grange, K. Blakemore, V. Zintzen, J. Davies, G. Read, DOC, MPI and NIWA.

