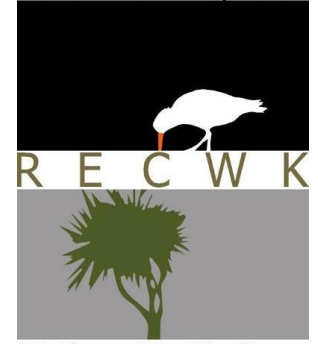


# River Estuary Watch

River-Estuary Care: Waikouaiti – Karitane

FEBRUARY 2019

River - Estuary Care



Waikouaiti - Karitane

## Rare visitor to Karitane

A Fiordland Crested Penguin was found on the peninsula track in January and the public were asked to keep dogs on leads and to avoid disturbing it by going to have a look.

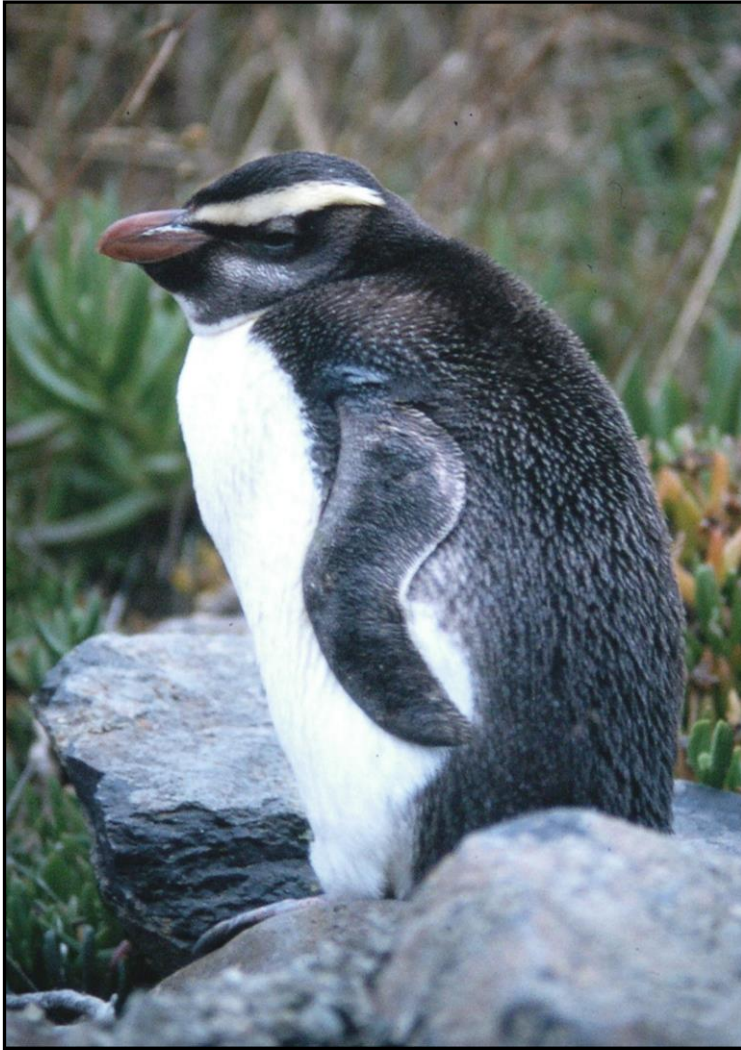
The Fiordland Crested Penguin – Tawaki - breeds in the south of the South Island and Stewart Island. It is one of NZ's rarer penguins and is now classed as 'threatened', its numbers having declined considerably due mainly to habitat loss, pollution and predation.

The young male had come ashore to moult, which can take about 3 weeks. While the new feathers are growing in, they are not waterproof so he would have been unable to go back into the sea to feed and would have been at risk of starvation. These penguins can lose half their body weight during the moult. He would also have been very vulnerable to disturbance in general and dog/stoat attacks in particular.



*Tawaki on his way to hospital*

Local people were quick to inform DOC and they got in touch with a Karitane resident who is a trained Wildlife Response volunteer and who was able to arrange for the bird to be taken to the Wildlife Hospital to be checked out. He was found to be in good condition and was transferred to Penguin Place to complete his moult.



*Fiordland Crested Penguin seen in Karitane a few years ago – possibly also moulting*



*Fiordland Crested strolling along the road in Aramoana*

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE,  
set up for us last year. It has lots of background information, newsletters  
going back 10 years and updates and pictures of our ongoing projects**

**<https://riverestuarycare.wixsite.com/riverestuarycare>**



## Bird Monitoring Group



**We need more people!** We meet at the hall every 6 weeks at low tide and drive between 12 sites on the estuary and Merton arm to record the numbers of different birds. Counting usually takes no more than 2 hours

You don't need to have any skills or knowledge about birds, just an interest. If you can only recognise a duck, that's a start – it's not difficult and there are always some experienced bird spotters to help and often there's tea and scones afterwards!

The next sessions are **Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10.20am.**

The session will be put off to another time if it is raining or very windy on the day.

**Contact Dave on 0220991202 if you would like to give it a go.**



*Left: Spoonbill*



*Right: Godwits*



## Karitāne Māori Tours

*The signs have been out on Coast Road for a while and there is a lot of interest, so we talked to manager Alex Whitaker and he gave us this information.*

Karitāne Māori Tours is owned and operated by Kāti Huirapa ki Puketeraki, the local Maori iwi (people) of the area who wanted to share their passion for waka (canoes) and cultural practices with people from all over the world.

Our waka are a combination of old and new, double hulled and outrigger. The revitalisation of waka on our river follows the strong cultural traditions of the past on the Waikouaiti River and links the people of Kāti Huirapa to the landscape.





## ***Ecology and our Environment***



Karitāne Māori Tours is proud to involve visitors in the restoration of our natural environment.

Our waka tours take our visitors to Ohinepouwera (the Spit), where Kāti Huirapa has developed a 200 year planting plan, replacing exotic species with native plants.

Our whenua tours explore the Huriawa peninsula, where the native plant species are also being reintroduced, restoring the landscape back to nature.

Every time we take visitors to the spit, we take native plants with us. We show visitors how to plant and explain the replanting project we have underway.

We are based at 128 Stornoway Street in Karitāne, [karitanemaoritours.nz](http://karitanemaoritours.nz)

If you are passing, call in and say kia ora!, Ngā mihi, Alex.

***Taiwanese visitors planting on Ohinepouwera***



***Visitors clearing and planting on Ohinepouwera***

## Do you want to help out?

River - Estuary Care



### Would you like to volunteer?

Rivercare projects work because people volunteer time, advice, and donate funds, plants & materials.

- Would you like to be notified if we are having a planting day in the field or a potting-up day at the shade house?
- Are you keen to help in other ways?

Please contact Patti Vanderburg [zburg8113@gmail.com](mailto:zburg8113@gmail.com)

To become a friend of the River and Estuary Care: Waikouaiti—Karitane	Phone or email Brad – 03 4658334 or <a href="mailto:brad126@xtra.co.nz">brad126@xtra.co.nz</a>
Should you wish to kindly make a donation	<p>Online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enter our name: Waikouaiti-Karitane Rivercare Group Inc) (this will appear on your statement)</li> <li>▪ Enter our bank account number 060942 0190792 00</li> <li>▪ Enter your name and reason for payment e.g. donation to friend of Waikouaiti-Karitane Rivercare Group (Inc) (this will appear on our statement)</li> </ul> <p>or post donation to 1333 Coast Road, Karitane</p>

### **River-Estuary Care Waikouaiti - Karitane**

Active since 1999 – Incorporated in 2001

Coastal Otago Conservation Award for 2005

#### **Objectives**

- To restore balance to Papatuanuku (Mother Earth).
- To have a well-informed community about our river and estuary.
- To have our community participating in sustainable resource practices.
- To have a healthy, productive river and estuary ecosystem (fishing, biodiversity, general health).
- To promote an understanding of the inter-relatedness of our river and estuary ecosystem with adjacent ecosystems.

**Anyone interested in supporting the above objectives may join!**

**Would you like to help with a project this year? Then contact**

- Newsletter – Hilary Yeoman. Ph 465 7687
- Revegetation project – contact Andy Barratt. Ph 021 890 048
- Education, information and advocacy project – contact Patti Vanderburg. Ph 465 811
- Birdwatching – contact convener Dave Yeoman. Ph 0220991202

Produced with assistance from the Otago Regional Council

