

Volunteers recognised

Three Kaikoura people have been recognised for their outstanding contribution to serving grass-roots sport in Kaikoura.

Kaikoura Rugby Club captain Dean Hamilton was named the Kaikoura Sport Volunteer (Sport Maker) of the year.

Hamilton is the "behind the scenes" man at the Kaikoura Rugby Club, picking up all the tasks that need to be done to keep the club running.

As one Kaikoura rugby player put it, "the guy does everything". From washing the kits, marking the grounds, running the bar, sorting the sponsors, the travel, the cleaning up, the opening and closing.

The list is endless and the amount of hours of effort and passion he puts into the rugby club made him well worthy of winning the accolade. Like a true humble Kiwi, he looked shocked on learning of his award.

Hamilton was also the manager of the Kaikoura senior rugby team which won the 2014 Marlborough division two championship.

Hamilton said he "just does it as it needs to be done".

Runners-up for the ultimate award were Shelley Fissenden, for netball, and Richard Cotter, for junior rugby.

The function on Wednesday at the Lobster Inn recognised volunteers in all sports, including the coaches, officials, committee members, fundraisers, and anybody else who had given up their time for the benefit of others in the sporting community.

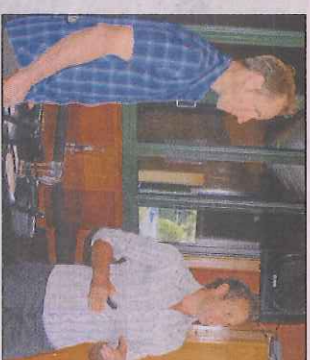
Sport Tasman community sport and recreation advisor Laura Stokes said the group appreciated all the people who helped get Kaikoura people more active more often, and the awards evening was a way of showing that appreciation.

"The 'sport makers' make



Making it happen: Sport Makers' were honoured at the annual awards last week. From left, Dean Hamilton, Shelley Fissenden and Richard Cotter, and Laura Stokes of Sport Tasman.

Adventure racers: Guest speakers Daniel Moore, left, and Jeremy McKenzie.



Absolut Wilderness, which placed third at this year's GodZone event held in Kaikoura.

McKenzie was nominated for Sportsman of the Year at the prestigious Marlborough Sports Awards last week.

McKenzie said the team sport requires the four team members to pull together, find the route and get along with each other even when exhausted and under pressure.

They talked to an attentive audience through every stage of the GodZone course describing in entertaining detail all the trials and tribulations they went through during the experience. They also gave credit to all the volunteers behind the scenes who helped make the event happen for them.

Sport Tasman's Laura Stokes said she was very grateful to them both for taking the time to share their inspiring story.

Bumper season for little penguins

The Penguin Education and Awareness Programme (Peap) has hatched for its third consecutive season.

Peap is run by the Kaikoura Ocean Research Institute (Kori), Coastguard Kaikoura and long-time penguin researcher Lindsay Rowe. It is focused on the little penguins (*Budyptula minor*) that live and breed in the South Bay colony next to and within the Coastguard building.

The little penguin is the world's smallest penguin (weighing only 1kg) and can be found along the coastlines of much of New Zealand. It is also found in Australia where it is called the fairy penguin.

Since they are small and flightless, but need to come ashore to rest and rear their chicks, they

are heavily threatened by predation from dogs, cats and rats in the areas where they breed. The total population around Kaikoura is unknown but the main concentration is at South Bay.

To reduce the risk of predation, Alastair Judkins has built 10 penguin nest boxes with four new boxes introduced early this winter.

"All four of these new boxes have already been used by penguins and three boxes have been used for successful breeding this season which is very exciting and encouraging."

Judkins and his wife Dr Jody Weir, along with Rowe, monitor the colony to ascertain residency patterns, site and breeding pair fidelity, and chick development from egg to fledging.



Baby blue: Blue penguin chicks hatched at the South Bay colony are looked after by both parents until they are ready to "fly" the nest.

Individuals are identified by small stainless steel flipper bands

and microchips (just like in dogs) so they know some penguins have been returning to breed there since monitoring began 10 years ago.

So far this breeding season there have been 18 eggs laid (little penguins usually lay two eggs per clutch). The first eggs were laid about July 20 and the first chick hatched on August 20, after an incubation period of about 30 days. Both parents share the rearing duties until the chicks fledge after roughly eight weeks.

"What has been really interesting is that this year, some of the early breeding pairs have already fledged their chicks and have laid a second clutch of eggs. A combination of factors lead to reproductive success, including sea surface temperatures and the

amount of food available for adults. We hope these second clutches will fledge successfully as well, making this a bumper breeding year," Weir said.

The penguin programme allows visitors to learn more about the behaviour, ecology and conservation of the little penguins and view wild penguins in a dedicated viewing area. It costs \$40 per person and proceeds help Kaikoura Coastguard.

Thanks to Kori's sponsor-a-penguin programme, Peap is free for local school groups. Contact Kori via email, website or phone if you would like to sponsor and name a penguin or if you would like to take part in the programme. kaikourakor@gmail.com, kori.org.nz

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