

Friends of Galapagos New Zealand.

Chairman's Report 2010-2011.

Another quiet year, with rather less activity than last year, we have however maintained a good level of membership and have continued to provide members with interesting news and information about Galapagos.

Don Merton

In April we lost our patron, Don Merton, this was a very sad event for everyone, Don contributed hugely to wildlife protection not just in New Zealand, but worldwide, his strategies and techniques for helping endangered species are being used in Galápagos right now.

The Membership

We have a slight issue here with the speed with which we receive details of New Zealanders who have visited Galapagos, the number of visitors is also down quite a bit thanks to the ongoing world financial turmoil, We currently have 88 members plus 5 corporate members. This is a very serious decline over the last 12 months, and is partly at least due to the factors mentioned above, and a lowered rate of renewals.

Contributions to Galapagos.

No contributions were sent this year, but this is largely because our current focus is on bringing someone from Galápagos to New Zealand for training, We now have some funds available for this and are hopeful that we may be able to identify a suitable candidate in the future.

Newsletter

Our editor, Paula Warren has sent out two issues of our in-house newsletter this year, and we have also sent two issues of the international *Galapagos News*, now renamed *Galapagos Matters*, the most recent issue is due now.

Administration

Cathy Linton, who has handled the administration for the past 3 years resigned last year, Cathy did a great job and ensured that the administration side of the Society was in excellent order, many thanks Cathy for all your hard work. The post was taken over by Anne Parkinson, a long-time member of the Society, but sadly Anne finds that her other commitments have grown and she needs to step down, we are currently in the process of selecting a new Administrator and will keep you posted.

Talks and Presentations

I have only given one Galapagos talk this year, to the Mount Maunganui Underwater Club.

Julian Fitter
November 2011.