

Evening celebrates our special bird

By EMMA DANGERFIELD

The hutton's shearwater annual farewell takes place this weekend and comes in the wake of a successful translocation project for Kaikoura's special bird.

The evening kicks off at 5pm on Saturday with a chance to mix and mingle with refreshments served before guest speakers take to the stage.

Mark Solomon, Kaiwhakahaere of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, will be speaking, along with author, artist and conservationist Sam Mahon, who has known Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trustee Geoff Harrow for many years.

There will also be the local premiere of *The Mystery Bird*, which was made by Claire Clements and Sean Giffin as part of their masters degrees.

The movie, which is about 20 minutes long, is an artistic insight into the life of the hutton's shearwater.

It features footage from the Kowhai colony.

The other big event of the night is the charity auction, with some amazing items up for grabs, including 30 dozen Bluff oysters; a Whale Watch trip and merchandise; a parent and child deer-hunting trip in the Puhī Peaks reserve; three paintings by up and

coming Ngai Tahu artists; the chance to name the first chick hatched at the peninsula colony along with its whakapapa; a commercial paua diving trip; and a helicopter flight courtesy of Kaikoura Helicopters to Shearwater Lodge, Kaikoura's wilderness lodge, to have breakfast cooked for you and two friends.

If you have yet to buy your ticket for Saturday night's event at the Mayfair Theatre, they are available at the Kaikoura i-SITE, Kaikoura District Council and Paper Plus for \$20.

If you are outside Kaikoura, email admin@huttonsshearwater.org.nz to secure a ticket.



Up for grabs: Thirty dozen Bluff oysters are among the items in a charity auction at the weekend.
Photo: FAIRFAX NZ

We're opening doors for community projects

Hurry, applications closing soon!

Our Grass Roots Fund is now open for applications from groups looking for a helping hand with great community ideas, projects and initiatives.

Grants from \$500 to \$5,000 will be made.

Applications for this round of funding close 31 March. Show us what you're made of: visit www.fonterra.com/grassroots for application details and criteria - and get your foot in the door!

FONTERRA GRASS ROOTS FUND

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Dairy for life

PHARMACY CLOSED

The Kaikoura Pharmacy will be closed this Saturday, March 31.



Grateful thanks: The hutton's shearwater translocation efforts have been given a huge boost with a donation of \$10,000 from the Encounter Foundation. From left, Fabienne Fages, Geoff Harrow, Caleb King, Lindsay Rowe, Ian Bradshaw, Dennis Buurman and Lynette Buurman.
Photo: EMMA DANGERFIELD

Cash boost for trust project

By EMMA DANGERFIELD

The Encounter Foundation continues to make a difference to environmental projects: its latest funding project is the Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust, which is co-ordinating this year's translocation project.

Encounter Foundation trustees Dennis and Lynette Buurman and Ian Bradshaw visited the peninsula colony last Tuesday to present a cheque for \$10,000 to trust members Lindsay Rowe and Geoff Harrow. They also got to watch a chick being syringe-fed by visiting tourist volunteers Fabienne Fages and Caleb King.

All of the money will be allocated to the translocation project, where chicks are moved from the Kowhai colony to the man-made peninsula colony, where they are fed with sardines and protected in their burrows by a predator-proof fence before they are ready to fly off.

A total of 102 hutton's shearwater chicks were moved from the Kowhai colony to the Kaikoura peninsula colony two weeks ago.

Some of them have flown the nest already, while others continue to be fed around the clock until they gain enough weight to join the others on their journey to Australia.

The Encounter Foundation was established in 2009 with a view to supporting or initiating projects that primarily enhance the natural environment, both locally and further afield.

The accumulated funds are donated to projects as determined by the foundation trustees.

The money is collected through Dolphin Encounter's tour fees. By participating in the dolphin swimming or viewing tour, each customer is helping to protect Kaikoura's unique natural environment.

Some projects further afield are also considered worthy of financial support from the foundation, including sponsoring events such as the Albatross and Petrel Conference, to be held in New Zealand for the first time in August this year.