

## Cougar Line Responsible Tourism Statement

Cougar Line welcomes visitors to the pristine Marlborough Sounds. We respect the history and cultural heritage unique to this region. We wish to protect the native flora and fauna of the sounds for generations to come. We greatly respect the natural marine environment and value the local community who choose to live and holiday in the area.

To this end we will be undertaking a number of actions. Many of these you will not see but some you may notice. Our staff are fully trained and aware of our environmental philosophy.

Our new premises on London Quay in Picton were designed by architects Warren and Mahoney are built to the latest environmentally friendly standards. We have chosen natural materials for the interior fit out in keeping with this practice.

We will use environmentally friendly cleaning products wherever practical in our office and boats.

We will recycle our waste by separating glass, cans, paper and plastics. This will help reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. We will also assist holiday baches and resorts to remove rubbish from remote locations in the sounds.

In purchasing products we will endeavour to use as first choice recycled products when available. Our local suppliers will be preferred when we are purchasing goods.

Our company has long held a Department of Conservation Marine Mammal Watch permit. This enables us to interact with wildlife as we encounter them on our travels. Our staff all know and understand the guidelines that accompany this permit. We also hold concessions for guided walks on Motuara Island and Blumine Island as well as The Queen Charlotte Track.

We encourage visitors to the Queen Charlotte Track to donate \$5.00 towards the Track Tribute fund which is dedicated to the sustainability of this iconic attraction.

We support the Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust Wilding Pine project by donating our services and funds. This reinforces our commitment to the natural environment by eradicating introduced pines and encouraging regeneration of the native forest.

We also support research which will encourage the survival of the native species in the area. In particular we have supported post graduate study of the South Island Bush Robin. This ongoing study is being carried out on Motuara Island and Allports Island.

Our vessels are maintained to a very high standard and the Company has embarked on a 3 year programme of fleet engine replacement to ensure the latest technology is used to allow lowest possible fuel consumption and control of exhaust emissions.

Wherever possible we will encourage our passengers to follow sustainable practices with our staff leading by example.

Jill and Mark Evans

Directors

Cougar Line Ltd