



**Te Korowai o Waiheke**  
TOWARDS PREDATOR FREE WAIHEKE

# **IMPACT REPORT**

## **PŪRONGO KAWEKAWE**

**July 2022 - June 2023**

*Ko te korowai he tohu ō  
te rangatiratanga*

The Korowai is symbolic of the  
utmost respect people have for  
someone or something that  
is precious to them





# IMPACT REPORT: JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

## Highlights

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Native bird numbers increased by 22% between 2020 and 2022

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Funding secured from Auckland Council and Predator Free 2050 Limited until June 2026

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Stoats now down to low numbers on the island, with genetic analysis showing between 2 and 4 breeding females in the 2022 denning season

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Ostend, Kennedy Point, and Rocky Bay rat operational trials completed; successful removal of rats in Ostend from a complex urban environment

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More than 95% of residential and commercial properties gave permission to host a bait station on their property in the Ostend and Oneroa trials

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26 jobs provided to locals by Te Korowai o Waiheke over the past year

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All staff attended Te Tiriti o Waitangi training and introductory Te Reo lessons, and were welcomed onto Piritahi marae as part of the opening of the Oneroa rat trial

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All Waiheke primary schools were involved in the 'Imagine if Waiheke was predator free' art competition, with winners displayed on Waiheke buses

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Internal promotions into key roles with Jenny Holmes appointed as Project Director and Owain Tanner appointed as the Rat Operations Manager

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More than \$1.4million of external funds invested directly into the local Waiheke economy over the past year.

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Beca Ltd and Centre for Social Impact research reports completed

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*I have been very impressed by the social, environmental and economic benefits generated by Te Korowai o Waiheke to date and am particularly impressed by the generosity of spirit they show through sharing their extensive knowledge gained over the last 4-5 years in stoat eradication and rat removal trials. This was highlighted to me earlier this year when Te Korowai o Waiheke hosted a national workshop on stoats. Te Korowai o Waiheke is showing how stoat eradication can be achieved in complex social and geographical landscapes. This is extremely valuable for the Predator Free 2050 Limited national kaupapa.*

Rob Forlong, CEO Predator Free 2050 Limited

*The network of already pest-free islands of the Hauraki Gulf are a haven for our wonderful native species. Eradicating pests from Waiheke would provide a greater diversity of pest-free habitat for a wide range of native species and continue to boost the biodiversity of Tāmaki Makaurau. Being able to do this on a semi-urban island would also be a great accomplishment and provide hugely valuable learnings for other eradication projects around the country and the world. It's great to see how the community-based approach, led by Te Korowai o Waiheke, is progressing towards eradication.*

Phil Brown, Auckland Council



## TIMELINE

JULY  
2022

### July/Hōngongoi 2022

#### Rocky Bay Rat Trial ends

The trial came to an end after a successful collaboration with Rocky Bay Ratbusters.



#### Community give feedback

Interns were out and about on Fullers ferries, at the Ostend market and outside Countdown asking people to fill out the annual community survey.

#### Rat Detecting Workshop

The team ran a “How to detect rats on your property” workshop - including instruction on how to use wax blocks, chew cards and motion-detecting cameras.

*The trustees are grateful for the ongoing high levels of community support for both the stoat eradication and the rat operational trials this year. We are also very excited about the year ahead with very low numbers of stoats left on the island and having appointed Jenny and Owain to the roles of Project Director and Rat Operations Manager and welcomed Kate Sedgley to the Trust. Thank you to all of the staff and trustees for their commitment.*

**Brent Impey,**  
Te Korowai o Waiheke Trust Chair

## Benefits to the community in the last year



**\$1.4M**  
invested into  
the Waiheke  
Community



**26**  
locals found  
employment with  
Te Korowai O Waiheke



**18**  
local businesses  
supported  
with regular work





AUG  
2022

## August/Here-turi-kōkā 2022

### Predator Free 2050 Limited visit

It was great to welcome Predator Free 2050 Limited's new CEO, Rob Furlong and Landscape Project Director, Brett Butland, to Waiheke for a project update.



### Stoat skull's give clues

A stoat skull analysis workshop was run by Dr Elaine Murphy - DOC Principal Scientist and part-time resident of Onetangi, with the island's stoat trapping team.



### Community survey display

To give the community another way to have their say about predator eradication on the Island, hard copies of the annual survey were available on display at the Oneroa library.



## Community support is unwavering



**98%**  
support  
eradicating  
rats\*



**96%**  
support  
eradicating  
stoats\*



**96%**  
of residents in the  
Oneroa trial area  
signed up to take part

\*2023 Community Survey respondents



SEP  
2022

## September/Mahuru 2022

### Rocky Bay Rat Trial results meeting

A very engaged Rocky Bay community were interested in the trial results which showed that quarterly pulses have a long lasting effect and intensifying control with more frequent servicing of bait stations increases costs but not benefits.

### Co-hosting composting workshop

A free workshop was co-hosted with Waiheke Resources Trust for the community to learn about how to keep rats out of their compost.



### Korehāhā Whakahau wananga

Mary, Jenny & Miranda attended the Whakatane 'Taurikura Anamata wānanga' which brought together eradication projects and tangata whenua to discuss what partnerships looks like.



### Conservation week videos

The team made videos of practical things people can do to take action for nature, like trapping and rat proofing their compost, fitting in with this year's Conservation Week theme.

### Stoat Spotting Campaign begins

The public campaign kicked off to coincide with the start of stoat denning season. Posters, press advertisements and social media posts encouraged the community to report any stoat sightings, without delay!



### Maori Language week

Te Reo education social media campaign was very well received and focused on education around native birds and predators, with voiceovers added to clarify pronunciation.





OCT  
2022



### Steve Cook joins the team as Communications Manager

As an experienced marketer with a love for our island and environment, Steve was excited to be a part of the Waiheke Predator Free mission!

### Te Huruhi Kaitiakitanga day

Te Korowai o Waiheke enjoyed teaching the children how to set up and check rat monitoring devices at Te Huruhi School.

### Ostend Trial ends

The Ostend trial came to a close, having seen incredible support from the residential, industrial and commercial communities.

### Happy birthday!

Te Korowai o Waiheke's four-year anniversary event was a great chance to celebrate all of the progress to date. Dr Andrew Veale presented the latest stoat genetic analysis.



## October/Whiringa-ā-nuku 2022

### Ostend Rat Trial results community meeting

It was fantastic to achieve zero rat detections in this complex urban environment using a 25m x 25m grid of bait stations across the area that were serviced weekly. Phil Salisbury also designed a successful floating bait station for use in mangrove environments.



### 100,000 stoat trap services cake

The team celebrated the stoat traps being serviced over 100,000 times! That was a lot of hard yards walked by the team.



**100,000 Stoat Trap  
Services Complete!**





### Four stoat dogs on the island

Stoat detection dogs visited Waiheke Island and spent 25 dog days on the island and only found 3 areas of interest (red dots) and two scat (northeast corner of Te Whau Peninsula).



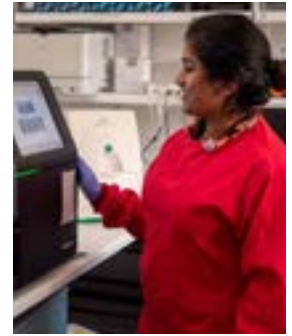
### Employment for Waiheke locals

Harri Raby and Tilde Sorensen started with the team, both Waiheke locals who have completed tertiary qualifications in environmental management.



### eDNA testing

Te Korowai o Waiheke sampled eDNA in streams located close to where detection dogs had indicated stoat activity, this was then sent to the laboratory for analysis.



### Aotea Festival

Rat Operations Manager Markus Gronwald presented the rat operational trials at the Aotea Festival.

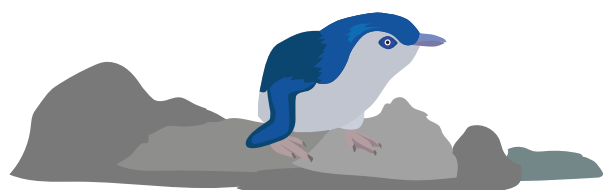
### Kennedy Point trial ends

The Kennedy Point trapping trial came to an end after six months of weekly trap checks.



### Waiheke High School Employment Fair

Te Korowai o Waiheke had a stand at the inaugural Employment Fair and enjoyed talking to students about career opportunities in conservation.





NOV  
2022

## November/Whiringa-ā-rangi 2022

### The Great Waiheke Kākā Count

There were 357 kākā submissions in 2022 an increase from 313 in 2021. The largest “hoon” (group of kākā) was an amazing 11 birds. It’s wonderful that kākā seem to have really made Waiheke their home now. We’d also like to thank Native Bird Rescue - Waiheke Island and Forest & Bird, Hauraki Islands Branch for co-promoting this event.



### The Scottish Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) visit

There was a great exchange of ideas, and presentations from a variety of community groups at the Waiheke Sustainability Centre to compare conservation practices & ideas between our two countries.



### Waiheke Walking Festival “Predator Free Walk”

Te Korowai o Waiheke hosted an educational walk around Kennedy Point looking at both trapping and monitoring tools with Markus, Jenny and Mary. This area was part of the 2022 Kennedy Point rat trial.



*“Te Korowai o Waiheke continues to be a crucial colleague, mentor and motivator for our volunteers, project management team and all our residents on the Coastal Custodians Pest & Weed project. The rat eradication is an inspiration to us all. Look to our young forest floor and one observes significantly more seedlings sprouting including great feeder trees like Pururi, raise our eyes to the sky and we see massive increase in native bird life.”*

Graeme Moore, Coastal Custodians

DEC  
2022

## December/Hakihea 2022

### Kennedy Point Rat Trial results meeting

The Kennedy Point community were interested to hear that traps had hugely reduced rat numbers on their peninsula but had not been able to completely remove them after six months of weekly trapping.

### Love our Gulf event

Te Korowai o Waiheke enjoyed hosting a stand at the Forest & Bird Arohatia Tikapa Moana/Love our Gulf event at Piritahi marae.



### Te Ara Kirihimete

Te Korowai o Waiheke were part of the 'Te Ara Kirihimete Procession of Raumati/Summer at the Old Blackpool School hall. The children that attended loved taking part in the Island Sanctuary game.

### All hands on deck

Te Korowai o Waiheke were very grateful to international students Lena and Pascal, who helped to retrieve the coastal traps on the Kennedy Point peninsula with Team Leader Phil Salisbury. Volunteering with local charities is facilitated by Waiheke High School - and the project always welcomes volunteer help.



### Field Team training

Stock training and working around aggressive dogs training took place for 13 field team members, contractors and volunteers. Thanks to Auckland Council for running these courses.

## Continued increase in native bird abundance



**22%**

increase in native  
bird abundance  
comparing 2020 to  
2022.



In **3** out of **5**  
habitats monitored  
there was increased  
bird abundance.



**357**

submissions in the  
Great Waiheke  
Kākā Count 2022,  
a 14% increase vs  
the previous year.





JAN  
2023

## January/Kohitātea 2023

### Under The Story Tree

Te Korowai o Waiheke loved being part of the 'Under The Story Tree' holiday programme with fabulous local story teller Tanya Batt. The Island Sanctuaries game fitted in perfectly with the 'The Cloak of Protection' programme theme of exploring the manu/birds of our Island. It involves getting from one side of the Hauraki Gulf to the other without being "tagged" by the stoats and rats that live on Waiheke and Ponui Islands.



**110,000 Stoat Trap  
Services Complete!**



### Photo Competition inspires

We were astounded by the quality and quantity of submissions to the first round of the Backyard Birding Photo competition, the top 10 finalists were chosen and given to local professional photographer Peter Rees to judge. The winners of round one were Mason Blackwood for his captivating photo of a tūi taken on Waiheke in Kennedy Point and Janice Pinnegar for her breathtaking photo of two swallows taken on Kawau Island.



Photo: Mason Blackwood



Photo: Janice Pinnegar





FEB  
2023

## New year, new staff

Billie Curran re-joined the rat team as Engagement Co-ordinator to secure permissions and maintain engagement for the Oneroa Trial. A new field technician, Rory Johnson also joined the team for the 2023 Oneroa rat trial.



## Permissions begin for the Oneroa Rat Trial

It was clear early on in the permission process, that support for the Oneroa trial was very strong in the community. The main challenge was being able to contact owners of holiday homes and rentals, however the intrepid permissions team of Phil, Billie, Owain and Charlie were very successful in contacting almost everyone.



## February/Hui-tanguru 2023

### Oneroa bait stations installed

With strong community support and many residents already signed up to be a part of the rat trial, the process of installing over 1,600 bait stations began.



### Creative Sundays

Te Korowai o Waiheke had a stall at the 'Tamariki Play Hooray' as part of the Artworks Creative Sundays. The children enjoyed colouring in their favourite bird and making it into a headband.





MAR  
2023

**Core funding secured to June 2026 from Auckland Council and Predator Free 2050 Limited.**

### On stage at Artworks

Te Korowai o Waiheke took part in a play developed by Artworks Theatre Creative Sundays - the lead character gets a job with Te Korowai o Waiheke when he discovers his life purpose is to help the ngahere.

### Te Tiriti o Waitangi

100% of Te Korowai o Waiheke staff attended a thought provoking Te Tiriti o Waitangi course.

### Backyard Birding Photo Competition round 2

Many great entries from round two of the Backyard Birding photo competition were judged by local photographer Peter Rees. The winners were Nerys Davidson (Kererū) and Mike Wilson (Kākā) - below.

## March/Poutū-te-rangi 2023

### 2023 Landscape Project Hui

Mary, Frank, Steve, and Owain took part in the Predator Free 2050 Limited hui in Dunedin both as panelists and attendees. It was great to meet people from other Predator Free 2050 Limited landscape projects across New Zealand, and discuss a number of hot topics.

### Predator Free 2050 Limited and DOC Jobs for Nature boards visited Te Korowai o Waiheke

### Dr Luis Ortiz-Catedral visits

Kākāriki monitoring conducted at Whakanewha Regional Park and Awaawaroa with Dr Luis Ortiz-Catedral, followed by a talk with the team to learn how to identify kākāriki.



Photo: Nerys Davidson



Photo: Mike Wilson





APR  
2023

Te Reo lessons for all staff started for an 8-week duration

Beca Ltd research report reviewed by the Technical Advisory Group

Organised bringing AJ from Zealandia to run a ‘Living with Kākā programme’ at Waiheke Primary and Te Huruhi primary schools

### ‘Imagine if...’ series launched

This social media series highlighted the potential outcomes of making Waiheke Predator Free – from the birds that could return, to the forests that would be regenerated.



## April/Paenga-whāwhā 2023

### Outstanding community support

After weeks of doorknocking and pounding the pavements of Oneroa – the permissions team gained the overwhelming support of over 95% of residents and businesses to take part in the trial.



### Rat team ready to go

After an informative week of training, the rat trial field team were raring to get started servicing bait stations.

### Stoat dog handler training

Tilde started training with Zip, to be an island based stoat detection dog and handler team.

*“As a participating resident of the Kennedy Point trial, and then later, in my work capacity, in the Oneroa trial, it has been heartening to see the wide-scale support and action of our community in response to this project. It is especially encouraging to see my local KP community continuing to engage in the project with regular posts and photos of deceased rats on our neighbourhood social media page. Te Korowai o Waiheke and this project have generated a much greater awareness of the issue and, most importantly, have created behaviour change in our community – essential if Waiheke is to be able to sustain the fantastic results achieved under the leadership, skill and dedication of Te Korowai o Waiheke and the project team.*

Denise Whitfield, Ray White Waiheke



## TE KOROWAI O WAIHEKE

### Mary sets sail

Mary Frankham left the team for a family adventure, sailing in the South Pacific. Te Korowai o Waiheke trustees, staff and volunteers celebrated her achievements and efforts in setting up the project, and thanked her for her leadership over the past four years.



### ‘Imagine if...’ school competition starts

Charlie toured all of Waiheke’s primary schools to brief the children about the ‘Imagine if Waiheke was Predator Free’ art competition.



**120,000 Stoat Trap Services Complete!**

### Waiheke Festival participation

Te Korowai o Waiheke had a stand at the 2023 Festival, organised by the Waiheke Collective. Dr Margaret Stanley (from our Technical Advisory Group) spoke on how to make your backyard more attractive to birds.



### “Do Good Days” launched

During the permissions phase, the team noticed a number of overgrown gardens, which the owners did not have the capability to tidy. So they rolled up their sleeves and cleared overgrowth and weeds, which also made the area less attractive to rats.







MAY  
2023

## May/Haratua 2023

### Oneroa rat trial starts with a pōwhiri

The team was honoured to be welcomed on to Piritahi Marae with a pōwhiri, on the first day of the Oneroa rat trial. Piritahi Marae was part of the Oneroa trial area.



### Markus leaves for Manaaki Whenua

It was with mixed emotions that the team farewelled Markus, whose knowledge and expertise were so well respected within the organisation and the community. However it's not goodbye as Markus is now working at Manaaki Whenua, and continues to provide technical support to Te Korowai o Waiheke.



### Eastern Songbird Festival

Jenny presented on the Te Korowai o Waiheke programmes of work at the East Auckland Songbird Festival.

### Bus back artwork winners chosen

Thanks to Ngāti Pāoa fashion designer and artist, Jeanine Clarkin for judging the wonderful pictures from the 'Imagine if Waiheke was Predator Free' art challenge.



*"I loved that Te Korowai o Waiheke used the art from the tamariki of the island, to help amplify the visibility of the amazing work being done in the environment."*

Jeanine Clarkin, Ngāti Paoa fashion designer



JUNE  
2023

## June/Pipiri 2023

### School art competition ends

The 'Imagine if Waiheke was Predator Free' School art competition reached it's crescendo, with the winners art displayed on the back of five of Waiheke's buses and a display of all entries in place for a month at the Waiheke Community Library. A big thanks to Auckland Transport and Waiheke Bus Company for helping to make it happen.



### The New Zealand Garden Bird Survey

The survey is a long-running citizen science project, and the data set is a great way to gauge bird populations and the health of the environment. The survey was co-promoted with Native Bird Rescue and Forest and Bird Hauraki Branch.



### Te Korowai o Waiheke - the story so far!

An evaluative case study was compiled by the Centre for Social Impact, commissioned by Foundation North.

This case study shares the story of Te Korowai o Waiheke to date, including its context and journey, the impact so far, strengths, challenges, and key learnings about what it takes to eradicate stoats and rats from an urban island.



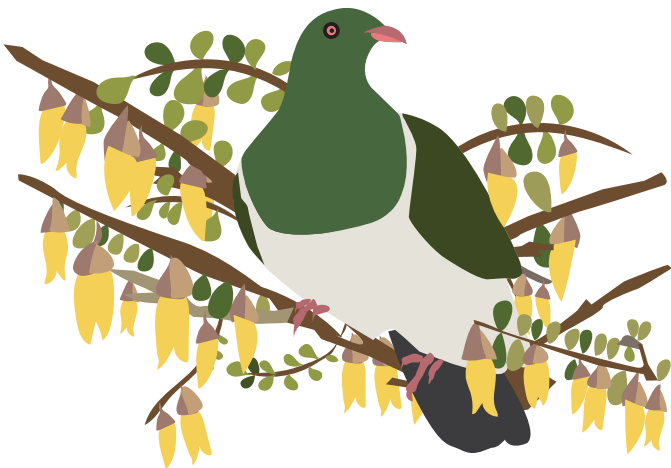
### Key promotions from within

There were two internal promotions, with Jenny Holmes appointed as Project Director and Owain Tanner as the Rat Operations Manager.



*“The commitment of the trapping team and community to catching the last stoat on the island is inspiring, and we’re greatly encouraged by genetic analysis showing that there are very low numbers of stoats left on the island. It is also exciting to be in the second year of trials to learn what will be needed to eradicate rats from the island. Along with incredible community support, every insight takes us a step further on our journey towards a predator-free Waiheke.”*

Jenny Holmes,  
Te Korowai o Waiheke Project Director



*Te Korowai o Waiheke is grateful for the ongoing support of iwi partners Ngāti Pāoa, the Waiheke Collective and all its participants, the Technical Advisory Group, key funders, contributing supporters and the many residents and community champions controlling predators on Waiheke.*

## KEY FUNDERS



## CONTRIBUTING SUPPORTERS

