



Te Korowai o Waiheke

TOWARDS PREDATOR FREE WAIHEKE



IMPACT REPORT

THE FIRST YEAR



IMPACT REPORT: THE FIRST YEAR

Highlights

Eradication starts: 1500 traps operational across the island

Just 12 months to get up and running: team employed, eradication planning, landowner permissions, and operational implementation.

Custom-made data management: Bespoke use of ARCGIS system and international trial of field team tracking.

High investment in local economy: 4 x staff, 11 x field work contractors, and 4 x youth casual workers; plus local bait supply, graphic design, illustration, printing, computer support, etc.

Training and skills development: 12 people in bird counts, 6 people in field camera use, 32 people completed stoat trapping inductions.

Community reconnects: Ex-school teacher Alistair McDonald, who successfully delivered New Zealand's first predator eradication on Maria Island in 1960, returns to Waiheke

Multi-partner delivery team: Man o War Station, Ngāti Paoa, Rarowhara, Whakanewha Regional Park team, the Waiheke Collective Stoat Project, local contractors and eradication volunteers.

70% awareness of Te Korowai o Waiheke in the local community.

98% community support for rat eradication

New project contributions: vehicle donations, pro bono legal advice and communications support, private landowners funding the programme delivery themselves.

The Te Korowai o Waiheke Trust would like to acknowledge the late Sir Rob Fenwick, in recognition of his role in creating the New Zealand Predator Free dream and his personal passion for making Waiheke Island predator free. We would also like to thank the funders for their dedicated support of this dynamic project – Predator Free 2050 Ltd, Auckland Council and Foundation North. And of course all those people involved in making the stoat eradication operational, we're excited to have taken the first step on our predator free journey."

Brent Impey, Te Korowai o Waiheke Trust Chair.

"This has been a phenomenal year of lots of hard work and of multi-tasking by many different people. For me personally I am consistently awed by the incredible people involved. In particular, thanks to project and delivery partners who are contributing their knowledge, enthusiasm, time and resources to the programme, and to the staff for going above and beyond to make the programme operational in a very short space of time. Getting the stoat eradication up and running within the first year was an incredible accomplishment that everyone is proud to have pulled off."

Mary Frankham, Te Korowai o Waiheke Project Director



TIMELINE

Management team on board

Mary Frankham was appointed Project Director in February 2019, followed by Jo Ritchie as Operations Manager and Jenny Holmes as Engagement Manager in April 2019. Immediate focus was planning: eradication operations, and communications and engagement.



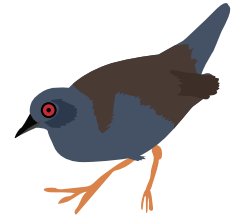
From left: Mary Frankham (Project Director), Jo Ritchie (Operations Manager) and Jenny Holmes (Engagement Manager)



“We’re excited that the first project of the Collective is up and running and providing inspiration for other projects to emerge”

Emma Morris, Waiheke Collective coordinator

MAY
2019



May - July 2019

Key planning phase - “Restoring our island song together”

Stoat eradication planning including review of all technical literature, Waiheke’s stoat pilot findings, and consultation and discussion with local trappers and the Technical Advisory Group.

Communications and engagement plans developed including market segmentation, core messaging and communications channels developed, and brand positioning workshop with community representatives.

JUNE
2019

JULY
2019





AUG
2019

August 2019

More jobs, and support from Giltrap

1. Field team appointed: More Waiheke locals joined the team.



From left: Paul Kviecinkas (Field Team Manager), Maryanne Read (Field Team Technician) and Phil Salisbury (Field Team Technician)

Paul is an ecologist, Maryanne a recent GIS and conservation graduate and Phil has many years practical experience in predator eradication on Rotoroa Island.

2. Giltrap sponsored vehicles

The Giltrap Group Trust donated two vehicles to the Te Korowai o Waiheke trust for use over three years as part of the eradication programme – one Nissan Xtrail and one Nissan Navara ute.



3. Social media presence expands

Lauren Baker, social media communications specialist, contracted to support Te Korowai's online presence.



September 2019

More from the community join in

1. Community event to celebrate twelve months since the launch of Te Korowai o Waiheke

Locals that attended loved getting the latest information in the predator control/eradication space from national “experts”.



Speakers: Kerry Lukies (Northern New Zealand Seabird Trust), Ed Chignell (CEO of Predator Free NZ 2050 Ltd), Grant Ryan (Cacophony Project)

2. Trolley derby

Te Korowai was approached to sponsor a trolley in the Great Gulf News trolley derby. “Rat or Tui” won two of the three divisions it was entered in!



3. 0800 BIRDSONG number established



October 2019

1. The team of New Zealand's first eradication returns to Waiheke

Alistair McDonald and some of this students from the 1960 Maria Island rat eradication were acknowledged for their contribution to initiating the predator free movement in New Zealand. Kevin Hackwell, Chief Conservation Advisor from the New Zealand Forest & Bird Protection Society, outlined how New Zealand had led the world for many decades in island predator eradications.



2. Stoat traps arrived!



3. W3 Women in Conservation event

Te Korowai organised an event at Waiheke High School profiling key women leading conservation groups/initiatives on Waiheke Island.



OCT
2019

October – December 2019

Landowners give permission to host stoat traps

Permission was granted from 256 landowners to host stoat trap/s on their property. This involved a mixture of door knocking, leaving letters, leads from neighbourhood groups, utilising the team's networks, stoat pilot contacts and Auckland Council contacting on our behalf (overseas only). Of the properties we needed permission from 54% were privately owned, 46% were held in trusts and companies and 44% had off island contact addresses.



NOV
2019

November 2019

Bespoke geospatial and data management system created to support the eradication

Te Korowai o Waiheke was pleased to receive a community conservation grant from ESRI technologies via Eagle Technologies, the New Zealand license holder. ARCGIS on line is a world leading geospatial and data management system, that allows us to record all customer relations and operational aspects of the stoat eradication programme in one central database. Scott Sambell from Ethos Environmental has designed the ARCGIS on line system to meet the specific Te Korowai o Waiheke requirements.





TE KOROWAI O WAIHEKE

November – December 2019

Community events

Te Korowai o Waiheke led and took part in many community events over this period:

- led a walk as part of the Waiheke Walking Festival through the Rangihoua wetlands and forests, looking at the native bird life and regenerating trees.



- ran two “Lend a Hand” days to give locals the opportunity to help get the stoat traps ready; by screen printing logos and attaching labels and cages to the DOC 200 traps.



- ran a workshop on how to manage predators in your garden as part of the Waiheke Garden Festival



NOV
2019

- ran a “muck in” event at Awaawaroa ecovillage to learn how to effectively site the traps.



- ran the Island Sanctuaries game as part of Te Ara Hura, the Path of Christmas community event.



DEC
2019



December 2019

New office premises

After a lengthy search the Te Korowai team moved into their own premises at 6 Beatty Parade in Surfdale. There is a shortage of commercial property on Waiheke Island, and needing both a workshop and an office further limited the options available.





December 2019 – January 2020

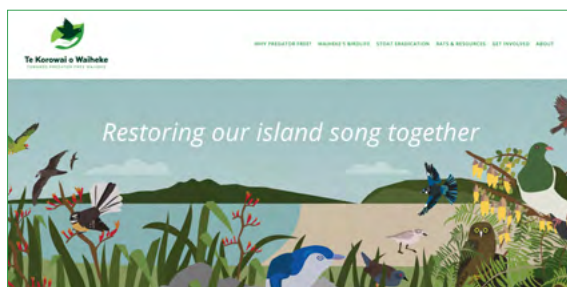
1. 1500 Stoat traps installed

1500 DOC 200 traps were installed at approximately one per six hectares across the entire island.

This involved a concerted effort from the Te Korowai field team, local contractors, volunteers, farm staff and Auckland Council staff. Some terrains were a lot more hard work than others!



2. New Te Korowai website launched



3. Community survey undertaken

In early December a survey of the whole project community was initiated - including full time and part time residents, boaties, businesses and tourists. It was conducted online and also in person with three Waiheke High School graduates running the interviews. The survey was designed and analysed in conjunction with Auckland Council and the Department of Conservation social scientists.

WAIHEKE RAT CONTROL STATISTICS

Did you know?

- 60% of Waiheke Islanders have undertaken rat control in the last 12 months
- 77% of people doing rat control are doing it by themselves on their own property
- 71% of people doing rat control use bait

DEC
2019



January – February 2020

1. Five minute bird counts

Tim Lovegrove, an ecologist and ornithologist from the Auckland Council biodiversity team, trained the eradication team on five minute bird count protocols. Bird counts were then conducted across six different habitat types on the island; coastal forest, inland forest, shrubland, open country, urban and wetlands. This formal bird monitoring programme will be repeated annually during spring/summer, to see trends in bird abundance throughout the eradication programme.



JAN
2020

2. Stoat traps pre-baited

The stoat traps were pre-baited with fresh rabbit and eggs to entice stoats to investigate the traps, before they were opened. Stoats are by nature cautious animals, so pre-baiting allows them to become comfortable with the DOC 200 traps that had recently been placed in their environments.





FEB
2020

February 2020

1. Piritahi Marae Waitangi Day celebrations

Te Korowai o Waiheke were invited to be part of the Waitangi day celebrations at Piritahi Marae. Children played the “Island Sanctuaries” game which involved running between the islands of the Hauraki Gulf, where they were sheltered by native birds, without being caught by the stoat and rats.



2. Trail cameras deployed

36 trail cameras were installed at four different island habitat types; coastal forest, inland forest, regenerating forest and wetlands, to gather information on stoat habitat preference and how they interact with and/or avoid traps. Trail cameras will also be used as part of the proof of eradication monitoring programme.



3. New Te Korowai o Waiheke video “live”

The Te Korowai o Waiheke video on the Fullers ferry, at the Waiheke cinema and on the Te Korowai website was updated to better represent the scope and people involved in the project.



February 24th 2020 STOAT TRAPS WERE OPENED!

A trap opening karakia was led by George Kahi (Ngati Hura and Ngati Kapu) at Awaawaroa Ecovillage to bless opening the first trap. Mary Frankham acknowledged all the hard work that had been done by many community groups and individuals to get to this important milestone. Over the following ten days 1500 traps across the island were opened and baited with fresh rabbit and eggs. All fresh rabbit is supplied by local contractors.



MARCH
2020

March 2020

1. Auckland Council partnership agreement signed

A new funding partnership agreement was signed reflecting Auckland Council's respect for community-led governance, while upholding their own local government obligations. The agreement was signed by Barry Potter (Environmental Services- Auckland Council) and Grant Leach, Te Korowai o Waiheke Chairperson.



2. Rat eradication pilot community workshops – March 5-7th

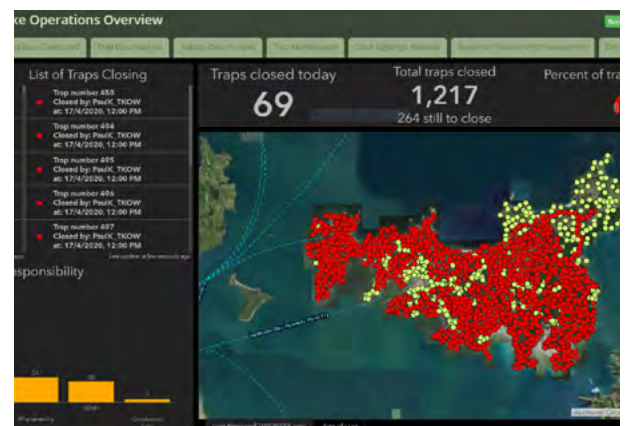
Three community workshops were facilitated by Biz Bell from Wildlife Management International to: discuss the difference between predator eradication and control, identify the risks and challenges perceived by the community, and to determine the key stakeholders and their desired levels of involvement in a rat eradication pilot.



March 24-25th 2020

Stoat traps closed due to COVID 19 lockdown

The Te Korowai field team, contractors, volunteers, Auckland Council staff and farm staff worked hard to close down as many traps as possible as New Zealand went into lockdown.



“We’re enjoying being part of the stoat eradication as it fits in so well with the work we have been doing on the Rarowhara farm since 1998 re—vegetating and re-foresting to provide great habitats for native birds.”

Joe Muir, Rarowhara farm manager.





APRIL
2020

April 2020

1. Backyard birding videos with Tim Lovegrove developed in conjunction with NZ Geographic and the Department of Conservation.

Tim, an ornithologist from the Auckland Council biodiversity team, provides tips on how to identify birds likely to be found in Waiheke Island backyards



has very powerful whistling flight which is caused by little slots in

2. Trail camera footage analysed from the 36 cameras deployed for two weeks in February.



Stoat caught on camera

“As a volunteer with Te Korowai I have really appreciated the support and encouragement I have received working to eradicate stoats on Waiheke. Through attending workshops and meeting experts in this field I have learnt new techniques to increase the likelihood of trapping these wily animals, and feel I am making a significant contribution towards the success of this programme.”

Judy Woodcock, volunteer





May 2020

New Chair and first patron for the Te Korowai o Waiheke Trust

Chairperson of the Te Korowai o Waiheke Trust was rotated from Grant Leach to Brent Impey. Brent is an existing member of the trust and a highly respected director; an avid trumper, bird spotter and proponent of the predator free mission. Grant also remains on the trust and tribute was paid to his contribution as Chairperson since January 2018. Grant was instrumental in the funding application, charitable trust establishment and the initial operational phase of the project.

Sir Graham Henry has also come on board as the inaugural patron of the Te Korowai o Waiheke Trust. Sir Graham is a well known Waiheke Island resident, who is a big supporter of the New Zealand environment and the Waiheke Island community.



MAY
2020

May 25th 2020

Stoat traps re-opened!

Once New Zealand entered Covid 19 Level 2 and all partner health and safety requirements had been met the field team were very happy to be opening the stoat traps again. The traps were baited with fresh rabbit and eggs initially, prior to going to long life lure over the winter months.



“Waiheke Island will be the World’s largest successful stoat eradication by an order of magnitude”

Dr Andrew Veale, Vertebrate Pest Ecologist,
Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research



*Te Korowai o Waiheke is grateful for the ongoing support of
iwi partners Ngāti Paoa, the Waiheke Collective and all its
participants, the Technical Advisory Group, key funders and
contributing supporters.*

KEY FUNDERS



CONTRIBUTING SUPPORTERS



Restoring our island song together

