



Te Korowai o Waiheke

TOWARDS PREDATOR FREE WAIHEKE



IMPACT REPORT

June 2020 - June 2021



Kākāriki - Red-crowned parakeet

*Nā te mahi ngātahi,
ka tau te kuaka ki tōnā tauranga*

When we work together, like the godwit we can
reach our destination no matter the distance



Oi - Grey Faced Petrel



Tūi - Parsons Bird



IMPACT REPORT: JUNE 2020 - 2021

Highlights

Trail camera analysis in February 2021 indicated that stoat numbers are down to low levels.

Minister for Conservation, Kiritapu Allen, visited the project.

Jobs for Nature funding received from Predator Free 2050 Ltd, creating seven new FTE roles.

Covid-19 management enabled trapping to continue during Level 3 lockdown.

Rat eradication pilot proposal endorsed and public communications and engagement started.

More than 20% of landowners/businesses in the rat pilot operational area signed up to host a rat trap or bait station within the first month of seeking permissions.

\$1 million invested directly into the local Waiheke economy since the project started.

“Te Korowai o Waiheke sets an ambitious target for stoat and rat eradication on an inhabited island, in the middle of Waihekeans going about their daily lives, farming, building and schooling, as well as being a high-profile tourist destination. It represents an opportunity to gain insights that can be applied nationally, and the project team is leading with the required curiosity and discipline to achieve significant change.”

Abbie Reynolds, CEO Predator Free 2050 Ltd

“It’s been impressive to see the growth of community support for this aspirational mahi and Te Korowai o Waiheke balancing this with the technical eradication needs. Auckland Council are a proud partner of this nationally important project and look forward to seeing the years of dedicated community control effort galvanised by this landscape scale korowai”.

Phil Brown, Head of Natural Environment Delivery, Auckland Council

“Te Korowai o Waiheke Trustees are very pleased with the stoat eradication progress in the last year. It now seems we are getting close to our goal of eradicating all mustelids from the island. It is also very exciting to be starting the rat eradication pilot, the first stage of eradicating rats from Waiheke. The trust remains committed to working towards a predator free Waiheke Island.”

Brent Impey, Te Korowai o Waiheke Trust Chair



TIMELINE

JUNE
2020

June/Pipiri 2020

Matariki Celebrations

Te Korowai o Waiheke joined Matariki celebrations with Waiheke Primary School at Whakanewha Regional Park, passing on environmental knowledge, bird identification, and the process of restoration to the next generation.



Community-led Planning Starts

The rat eradication pilot subgroup kicked off working on developing a proposal for the rat eradication pilot. The group comprises rat control contractors, community rat control group leaders and Te Korowai o Waiheke staff.

New Trustees Bring New Skills

Two new trustees joined the voluntary Te Korowai o Waiheke trust board.



Erika Barden



Wendy Thompson

JULY
2020

July/Hōngongoi 2020

Technical Specialists Share Insights

Carolyn King and John Dowding presented to Waiheke stoat trappers. Carolyn has been working with stoats for 50 years and edited the New Zealand handbook of mammals and John is a prominent ecologist best known for his work with NZ dotterels.



Trail Cameras Deployed

180 trail cameras were put out across the island to measure the abundance of stoats.

Hit the 20th stoat catch milestone!

“It’s exciting to be planning the first stage of eradicating rats from Waiheke - what a wonderfully crazy idea!”

Carola Cullum,
Hauraki Gulf Conservation Trustee



Pūweto - Spotless Crake



AUG
2020

August/Here-turi-kōkā 2020

New Field Team Member - Bonnie



Bonnie Harris joined the stoat eradication field team. Bonnie has a background in acting and wildlife conservation, and comes from Tasmania.

“The incredible volume of birdsong is the fruit of the labours in pest eradication.

You don’t always see the work being done, but you see the results. Just listen to the manu rere ke.”

Chris Bailey, Ngāti Pāoa

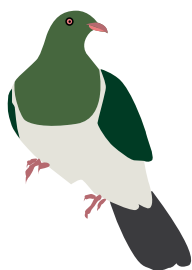
Level 3 Lockdown Managed

Successfully got through second Covid-19 Level 3 lockdown in the Auckland Region without impact on the stoat eradication programme.

Online Festival Presentations

Te Korowai o Waiheke shared two presentations at the Waiheke Festival, a series of online webinars.

- The complexities of eradication on an island where people live, work and play, Mary Frankham and Paul Kvecinskas.
- Life as a ranger during the pest eradication on Rotoroa Island, Jo Ritchie and Phil Salisbury.



Kererū - Wood Pigeon

SEP
2020

September/Mahuru 2020

Stoat Summit

A stoat summit was held with key delivery partners and Dr Andrew Veale looking at stoat catch data to date, key challenges or learnings, and ideas for improving the effectiveness of traps.

Introduction To Conservation Skills

Te Korowai o Waiheke took part in the Introduction to Conservation skills event offered by the Waiheke Collective and Waiheke Adult Learning. Nicola and Phil gave the attendees an overview of animal pest control and bird identification. Whakanewha Regional Park Ranger Natasha Beletzky gave an overview of pest plant identification and control.



Trail Camera Footage Analysed

One stoat was seen on the Eastern end of the island from the 180 trail cameras deployed.



OCT
2020

October/Whiringa-ā-nuku 2020

New Field Manager - Frank



Frank Lepera joined the team as the new Field Manager. Frank has worked as an environmental science researcher for more than 16 years in the USA, and holds a Masters in Biological Science. Frank worked as the Event Manager at Batch Winery previously.

New Office Assistant - Miranda



Miranda Andrews (Ngāti Pāoa) joined the team doing part time administration support.

Hit the 30 stoat catch milestone!

November/Whiringa-ā-rangi 2020

Halloween

Halloween grotto at Beatty Parade, Surfdale office for the children of Waiheke Island to enjoy.



Compost Workshop Collaboration

“Keeping rats out of your compost” workshop held as part of the Waiheke Garden Festival together with the Waiheke Resources Trust.



Waiheke Walking Festival Walks

Two Waiheke Walking Festival walks were led by the Te Korowai o Waiheke team.



Te Roreomaiaea Loop in Park Point led by Mary Frankham and Sir Graham Henry.

NOV
2020



Te Matuku walk to honour Sir Rob Fenwick, led by Lady Jennie Fenwick, Bill Kermode, Roger France and Mary Frankham.



TE KOROWAI O WAIHEKE

Predator Free Wellington Talk

Predator Free Wellington Project Director, James Willcocks, and Engagement Manager, Emma Giesen, spoke at a well attended public talk on Waiheke sharing what they have learnt from eradicating rats on the Miramar Peninsula.



Bird Count Training

Five-minute bird count training with Tim Lovegrove was held for the stoat eradication team and the general public.



Monitoring Waiheke Bird Species

Five-minute bird counts conducted across the island in five different habitat types.



Minister Kiritapu Allen Visit

Minister of Conservation, Kiritapu Allen was hosted by the Department of Conservation and Te Korowai o Waiheke.



“Until recently we have caught good numbers of stoats in the Awaawaroa Valley. But now the catchrate has dropped dramatically. This makes me think Te Korowai has made serious inroads into stoat numbers island-wide, as we are not getting the usual reinvasion into Awaawaroa.

Rob Morton, Awaawaroa Ecovillage volunteer



Kākā - New Zealand Bush Parrot



DEC
2021

December/Hakihea 2020

New Operations Manager - Monica



Monica Valdes joined the team as Operations Manager from BC Parks in Canada. Monica is a forestry engineer and has 13 years experience working for the NZ Department of Conservation. She was the Operations Manager for the successful rat eradication on Taranga Island.

Co-created Rat Pilot Draft Proposal Endorsed

The rat eradication pilot draft proposal was co-created by staff and the rat pilot subgroup with input from technical advisors, funders and mana whenua. It was great to have the proposal endorsed as the way forward.

Christmas Celebrations

Rats, birds and a stoat took part in the Heart of Christmas celebrations at Artworks Theatre.



Hit the 50th stoat catch milestone!



“As I walk the stoat lines, I feel very happy to contribute to our goal to eradicate stoats from our island. Better still, it’s superb to know all our actions together are contributing to this being a reality. How cool is that?”

Rosemary Thorne,
Stoat eradication programme volunteer

JAN
2020

January/Kohitātea 2021

Funding Acquired For 7 FTE Roles

Te Korowai o Waiheke was named a recipient of the Predator Free 2050 Ltd Jobs for Nature funding, allowing the creation of seven new, fulltime equivalent jobs on Waiheke Island.

Traps serviced 30,000 times

Traps have been serviced 30,000 times as part of the stoat eradication programme.





FEB
2021

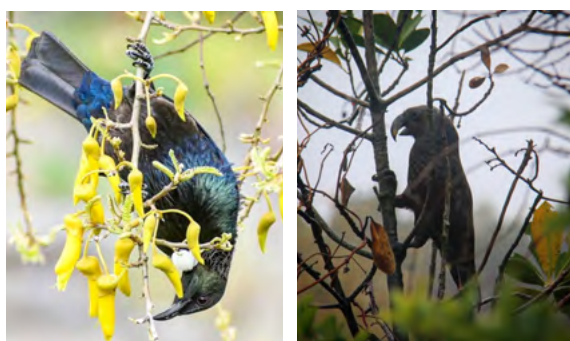
February/Hui-tanguru 2021

Through Another Level 3 Lockdown

First 2021 Covid-19 Level 3 lockdown saw successful pivot back to Level 3 HSE operations, with some restrictions on trapping access.

Photo Competition

“Backyard Birding” photo competition ran on Facebook and Instagram over the summer holidays. The winning photos are below:



Trail Cameras Deployed

180 trail cameras were put out across the island to measure the abundance of stoats.



Rabbit Population Monitoring

Rabbit counts were done in four different habitat types across the island.

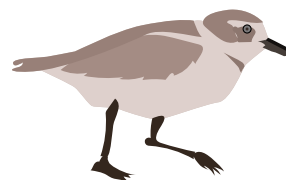
How Many Rabbits Competition

A competition was run to guess how many rabbits have been used in the stoat traps since they were opened in February 2019 – the answer 2151!

Hit the 70th stoat catch milestone

“We’re excited by the challenge and committed to doing our bit in supporting the efforts for a Predator Free Waiheke.”

Michael Tavares,
Waiheke Resource Recovery Park



Tūturiwhatu – Dotterel

MAR
2021

March/Poutū-te-rangi 2021

Full Access In Level 3 Lockdown

Permission gained to continue trapping during the second 2021 Covid-19 Level 3 lockdown.

New GIS Technician - Brett



Brett Clews started as the new GIS Technician. Brett previously worked as a GIS analyst with Queenstown Lakes District Council.

Review Of Stoat Programme

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) deep review of stoat eradication programme – praise for approach and work to date, advise that operations continue as ‘knock-down’ without any significant change except for reinforced focus on quality of delivery, with further review at the end of the coming summer (2021-22).



Technical Specialists Present About Stoats

Elaine Murphy, DOC Principal Scientist, and her husband John Dowding, an ecology consultant, gave informative presentations on the technological advances currently being trialled to help eradicate stoats and the impact of stoat predation on NZ shore birds.



Conservation Dogs Visit Waiheke

Miriam Ritchie brought four of her conservation dogs to Waiheke and spoke to the eradication team about how dogs could be used to find stoats in the “mop up” phase and to hunt out dens. At the Saturday Ostend Market she answered questions about conservation dogs from the general public. Phil Tarr and “Tane” (a local stoat dog in training) joined in both events.



Rabbit Population Plummet

Reports of large scale rabbit deaths across the island, particularly in the western end of the island, led to maintaining more frequent stoat trap servicing until the end of May.

New Communications Team Member - Jessie



Jessie Dean started in the Communications and Engagement Support role. Jessie has a Communications degree and previously worked for the Waiheke Gulf News covering events. She also worked in Te Matuku Bay doing plant and pest control.

“The programme would never be possible without the incredible collaboration across the motu, and huge thanks goes out to everyone in the eradication team - trappers, technical advisors, staff, mana whenua, volunteers, trustees, funders, and especially, people who are hosting traps on their properties. It’s so exciting to be getting closer to the eradication goals, and the possibilities that brings for our wildlife to flourish.”

Mary Frankham,
Te Korowai o Waiheke Project Director



APRIL
2021

April/Paenga-whāwhā 2021

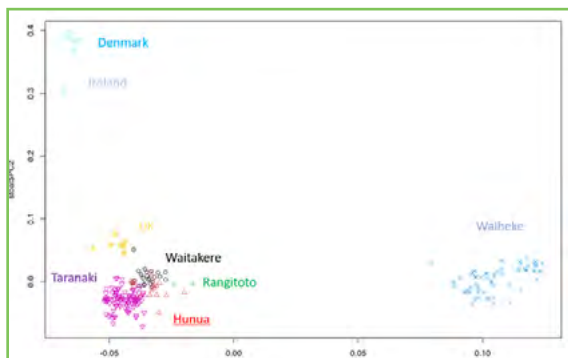
High School Students Make Traps

Waiheke High School Year 11 students made 50 DOC 200 trap boxes to be used as part of the island wide stoat eradication.



Waiheke Stoat Genetic Analysis

Dr Andrew Veale's genetic analysis of the stoats caught on Waiheke Island revealed that they have very low genetic diversity.



New Monitoring Lead - Markus



Markus Gronwald started as the Monitoring Lead. Markus has completed a PhD thesis in rat behaviour and monitoring, and was involved in a successful ground based rat eradication in French Polynesia.

Office and Workshop Expansion

The office and workshop expanded at Beatty Parade in Surfdale to include the shop next door.

Community Picnic

Te Korowai o Waiheke took part in a Community picnic together with the Waiheke Collective and the Waiheke Resources Trust.



Demolition Derby

Lolly scramble at the Easter Demolition Derby.



Traps Serviced 40,000 Times

Traps have been serviced 40,000 times as part of the stoat eradication programme.

Trail Camera Footage Analysed

Only two stoats were seen after analysing footage from 180 trail cameras, giving the relatively low detection rate of 0.0008/100 camera days. One stoat was seen in the middle and one in the eastern end of the island.





New Financial Assistant - Linda



Linda Sorenson started as the new part-time Financial Assistant. Linda has been running her own bookkeeping business since 2019 with fifteen Waiheke business clients.

Hit the 80th stoat milestone!

May/Haratua 2021

Three New Staff Members

Three new community liaison staff started to implement the permissions phase of the rat eradication pilot. Giselle Shaw, Rob McAuliffe and Nicola Bowman all have varied and extensive community experience.



1000 Rodents Caught

1000 rodents caught in the DOC200 stoat trap network since the stoat eradication started.

Rat Pilot Strategy Endorsed

During the first quarter of 2021, the rat eradication pilot proposal was developed into a strategy. This strategy was endorsed by the rat eradication pilot subgroup, technical advisors, funders and the Te Korowai o Waiheke Trust.

MAY
2021

Rat Pilot Communications Developed

New communications imagery and copy created for the rat eradication pilot.

Presentation About Kākāriki

A great turnout to listen to Dr Luis Ortiz-Catedral talk about kākāriki, a New Zealand parakeet. Luis has studied wild parrots in New Zealand and Australia for 17 years and completed his post graduate studies on translocation techniques for kākāriki.



Predator Free 2050 Limited Landscape Project Hui

PF2050 Ltd project hui to share information and ideas and connect with 17 other large landscape-scale predator free projects throughout New Zealand funded by PF2050 Ltd.

Financial Systems Updated

New internal financial reporting system developed.

Rat Eradication Pilot Launched

Rocky Bay community meeting was held to launch the rat eradication pilot, with great feedback and local involvement.



JUNE
2021

June/Pipiri 2021

Rat Eradication Launch continued

Community meetings were held in Ostend and Shelley Beach to launch the rat eradication pilot, with good attendance and lots of questions.



Ostend



Shelley Beach

New Rat Pilot CRM Developed

Rat pilot Customer Relationship Management (CRM) created, tested and implemented.

Rat Pilot Permission Process Starts

The community liaison team started knocking on doors to get permission from landowners/businesses in the rat pilot operational area to host a rat trap or bait station on their properties.

National Predator Free 2050 Hui

A combined gathering of government, iwi, projects, research, business & NGO's in Wellington.



Pīwakawaka - Fantail

School Presentations

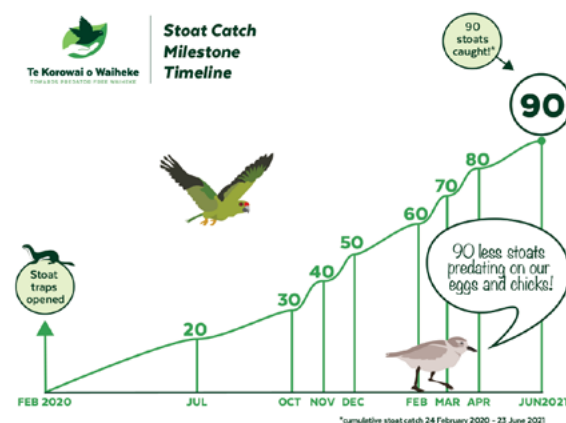
Rat eradication pilot presentations at all three schools that are in the pilot area.



Waiheke High School Careers Evening

Te Korowai o Waiheke stand at the Waiheke High School Careers evening to share the unique opportunity for young people on Waiheke to get involved in the eradication programme.

Hit the 90th stoat milestone!



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 and contributing supporters.

KEY FUNDERS



CONTRIBUTING SUPPORTERS



Restoring our island song together

*Te whakarauora a te tangi
o te manu tīriori*

0800 BIRDSONG

www.tekorowaiowaiheke.org

