

Annual Report 2022



Taranaki Kiwi Trust

Jenny Feaven
PHOTOGRAPHY

Deputy Chair's Report

It has been a rewarding year as Deputy Chair of the Trust stepping in when our Chair, Cathy Katene, was unavailable due to work commitments. I would like to thank and acknowledge Cathy for her leadership for the last two years, she has worked hard in the kiwi space both as a volunteer for the organisation and in her work for Save the Kiwi. This year the Trust doubled its workforce thanks to funding from Jobs for Nature which has allowed us to really consolidate the work we do, the Community Trapping Project is positively thriving and we are really seeing the fruits of Emma, Jono and Māia's efforts now. The involvement in the kiwi monitoring project on Taranaki Mounga has become an all-encompassing interest for my whole family and it is a real pleasure to work with Sian and Toby and seeing kiwi thrive in their new environment. The Haurapa Kiwi Project funded by TSB Good Stuff has made inroads on the hard question of monitoring kiwi using drones, but radio frequency interference is the next challenge we need to address for this project to achieve success. Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare - our partnership with Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust is now playing a significant role in increasing kiwi populations around the district after three years of translocations, I thank Doddy our Kiwi Ranger for championing this project. Our Community Kiwi Ranger Jess has also played a large part in the work at the Kōhanga and several of our other kiwi and education projects. Our Trust Manager Celine continues to keep all the balls in the air including securing the much needed funding for our operations. The many volunteers from minute takers to trappers and kiwi handlers continue to provide a huge service to the organisation, supporting and enhancing the work the staff do. At the time of writing there is one space to fill the board due to the resignation of first Eve Cozzie, and then Allan Collop for family reasons during the year. We thank both Eve and Allan for the part they played in the organisation. We hosted another stakeholders function at the Awakino River Lodge, a rather interesting venue made available by owner Garry Wyncherley, around fifty landowners, sponsors and volunteers enjoyed a convivial lunch.



Drew Castle

Pictured, DOC Biodiversity Range Raúl Johnson with the Castle boys at a kiwi release

Our Funders

JOBS | MAHI
FOR NATURE | MŌ TE TAIAO



TOI
FOUNDATION



TSB
Good stuff!



Fred & Eunice Rodie
CHARITABLE TRUST



Management Report

The twentieth anniversary of the Trust coincided with a banger year for the organization - a bit like becoming a rockstar, it takes twenty years to become an overnight success. Our projects all had the accelerator flat to the floor thanks to Jobs for Nature funding with our trapping team of three and three kiwi operations staff, who have melded into a cohesive unit who step up at take ownership of their areas of responsibility.

Our new depot in Inglewood, sponsored by Nick Jones of Rewild has worked really well. It is used for staff, board and other meetings, storage, pinball and a place to share ideas and solve problems with the smart team of people that frequent the building. This is all supported by free internet from Primo Wireless and pies that we have to pay for from Oscars on the corner! This space is important with most of the team working from home for the large part. LeAnne Blakelock joined us during the year and her help with finance, reporting, payroll and troubleshooting numbers, has been invaluable. We were also lucky enough to find a minute secretary and Sarah Jones has been the volunteer scribe at board meetings for about six months. The board, chaired by either Cathy Katene or Drew Castle continue to steer the ship with acumen. Their diverse skills facilitate good decision making, and their cohesion means that the morale and comradery are realised in the outcomes achieved by the Trust.

We are more than a little pleased with our new website which was launched to celebrate our 20th birthday on the 9th of October, we worked closely with sponsor Deanne McCrae of Kiwi High Performance Web Productions and the professionalism and functionality is excellent. During the busy translocation season we were struggling to keep up with the traffic through the volunteer page of the site. Our Facebook followers are now up to almost 2000 and we are managing to get a newsletter out on a reasonably regular basis to keep friends and supporters of the Trust updated on happenings.

It was inordinately sad to have to farewell Justine Peacock, who passed away after a short illness early in the year. We are thankful that we still get to hang out with her partner Don Field on a regular basis and he is continuing the good work they did together trapping in North Taranaki. Hamish McCook from BECA in New Plymouth is still leading the team of trappers on the Mouna which he recently dubbed "legendary volunteer stoat smashers, weasel worriers and ferret fumpers". The work they do is very important in protecting the birds we release on the Mouna and they work alongside the First Gas staff and a new team from Craigs Investment Partners who both have their own traplines.

Emma Moffitt's team comprising Jono Walters cool headed experience and young Māia Gibbs effusive enthusiasm and ability to learn have combined to exceed all expectations, and the Community Trapping Project now encompasses over 26,000 hectares. We have forty-one landowners engaged in the programme and collectively they take care of over 3000 traps. This expansion has been made possible by funding for trap hardware by the Toi Foundation, Taranaki Electricity Trust and South Taranaki District Council. There are now several volunteers that are not landowners checking traplines and we have strengthened partnerships with other organizations including the Eight Hundred Trust, Native Forest Restoration Trust, Mt Hiwi Charitable Trust, South Taranaki Forest Bird and have even dipped our toe into the new waters of trapping on DOC land. We have provided our trapping expertise and on the ground grunt to the East Taranaki Environmental Collective and the Patea River Catchment Community.



Pictured, Jono, Maia & Emma showing off their athleticism

Funding from the Worley Foundation also supports this project and we have been working with Taranaki Regional Council to deliver trapping workshops to their staff at Worley in New Plymouth. Two generous donors and some funding from the Aotearoa Gaming Trust allowed us to purchase not one but two new quad bikes. There was a raucous

whoop whoop from the trapping team and, with new trailers to transport them on funded by the Toi Foundation, staff are safer and far more efficient.

Our apprentice Māia started late last year and is turning into a conservation machine, she has upskilled in an array of areas from trailer backing to minute taking and sailed through her Level 3 Pest Management qualification at WITT. Funding from Predator Free NZ has made it possible to employ and train Māia and a real comradery has been developed between all the organizations in Taranaki hosting apprentices.

The kiwi team of Jess Fancy and Toby Shanley headed up by Sian Potier have certainly been kept on their toes, and along with Chris Dodd, Kiwi Ranger at the Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare, our partnership with Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust we kept an eye on around seventy kiwi spread throughout Taranaki. Some of which stay well put at home while others go off on fifteen kilometre jaunts, keeping both Toby and his friendly pilots Tim Hardwick Smith and Jim Finer along with their sidekick John Cooper and the team from Pacific Pilot Training scratching their head as to their whereabouts. As always, the translocations from the



Kōhanga have been a highlight. But so too is the milestone of releasing the fortieth founder into the Totara Block and the survival and breeding rate of what is now twenty birds on the Kaitake Ranges. These birds are diligently monitored by volunteers from the Kaitake Range Conservation Trust, Sian has trained many of their members in the art of telemetry allowing the group to work closely with Toby. We managed to rustle up eight birds for release on Taranaki Mouna on behalf of Taranaki Mouna Project and have two more just waiting to be big enough to transfer.

Pictured, Sam Hopkirk and students at a Taranaki Mouna Project kiwi release

The volunteer team we call the ENP beepers have once more played a significant role in monitoring these birds and are key support for Sian and Toby. A baseline acoustic recorder survey was carried out to give us data to compare population growth in Te Papakura o Taranaki in future years. Sian has been working with two companies planning kiwi monitoring projects as a part of forest harvests.

Jess has provided much support to the Kōhanga partnership, both in the Sanctuary, at the Totara Block and in delivery of Operation Nest Egg for Save contracts for Save the Kiwi supporting Sian, Toby, Doddy and our volunteer handlers. Jess has now become one of our senior handlers and her knowledge of kiwi and diligence fosters excellent relationships with our partners in South Taranaki. She has spent much of her time this year working on the permit application for our next proposed release site at Omoana, and delivering many of our education and advocacy engagements. Again, much of our kiwi work is shouldered by volunteers: Sue Hardwick Smith continues to contribute hundreds of hours to the organisation and our other accredited handlers, Kevin Stokes, Sam Hopkirk, Jenny Oakley and Kelly Brider have been exceedingly generous with their time. The level of engagement of these volunteers continues to surprise me and I am inordinately thankful for their contribution.

We have had another record year for education advocacy and training engagements. The load has been spread across the full team, but the bulk of this work is still lead by Jess and Sian. A three year partnership with Contact Energy has been intrinsic in the continuation of this programme and there are no shortage of people keen to hear about the work the Trust does. Training sessions have become more popular with telemetry topping the bill but we have also delivered kiwi handling, trapping, acoustic recorder deployment and GPS, navigation and safety training. The Toi Foundation and the Fred & Eunice Rodie Charitable Trust have also made contributions towards staffing in the education space.

Kiwi continue to thrive in Rotokare Sanctuary providing us with what has been thirty to forty birds each year for export. We came agonizingly close to achieving our goal of forty founder birds in the Sanctuary, but the egg we had high hopes for was unviable so we had to settle at thirty-nine. We sadly farewelled our kiwi ranger Chris Dodd at the end of the year, he has moved on to another kiwi project in Te Anau. Doddy, as we all know him, was the catalyst to help us realise the aspirations of the partnership. His employment was instrumental in turning what was a grand idea into a reality, we have had some incredible successes in the last three years and they have for the large part been led by Doddy and he will be very much missed by everyone involved in the partnership.

Our partnership with MG Taranaki continues to thrive, they still provide a sponsored vehicle and service our two new vehicles. Sue Goble & Jimmi Guilloson are very supportive and proactive about any vehicle related issue, so if you are looking for a new MG or a new vehicle give either of them a call, they are now based both in Hawera and Gill Street New Plymouth.

We also received sponsorship or donations from the following businesses during the year; collectively these contributions are very valuable to the Trust – Contact Energy, Cactus Outdoors, Baker Tilly Staples Rodway, Hunting & Fishing New Plymouth, Worley, Ballance Agri-Nutrients, and The Mad Butcher. I would also like to acknowledge the many people that made donations to the Trust which assist with our every day running costs.

Community Trapping Project Report

2021 – 2022 has been a fantastic year for the Community Trapping Project. Our team of Emma, Jono and Māia now having experience and confidence to work on the creation of new projects, the expansion of existing projects and the tidying up those projects in need of some love. As always, our relationships with our private landowners and other organisations such as TRC, DOC and East Taranaki Environment Collective have remained our top priority. We've also been developing relationships with iwi organisations and are very excited to have their support with some of our traplines. We've spent much of the year focusing on delivering top quality trapping, largely inspired by John Bissell's presentation and inspiration. This has meant that we've invested a lot more time in trap maintenance and landowner education. Going forward, we're hoping to maintain this passion for awesome trapping in our team and landowners to focus on getting more cat traps and DOC250's on the ground and to get some new properties joining us in the fight to protect our kiwi!

We've continued with the roll out of Steve Allen cat traps now on 22 properties, as well as DOC250's now on 34 properties. Our forty projects now boast a total of 3041 traps (2610 of which are owned by TKT), bringing our total hectares protected from 19,078 last year to 26,831. We have expanded significantly around Mt Hiwi, where our lines on Omahina and Braemore Roads have added 222 traps to the area, and Omoana, where our new trap lines on DOC land and Native Forest Restoration Trust blocks have helped to close the gaps between existing traplines.

Apprentice Māia Gibbs has got through a lot in the nine months she has been with the Trust, having developed a range of skills and attended many formal and informal training sessions; she can confidently navigate the ngahere on her own for pest control or monitoring. She is still learning kiwi handling, tracking and monitoring. Māia has attended eight formal training courses, supported five other conservation groups, participated in fifteen informal training sessions from the Tiriti O Waitangi to Kokako listening and lugged traps into eleven new traplines. We set Māia the challenge of doing 2 million steps in a year, she strapped on her fitbit and hit the target with over a month to spare! This initiative resulted in a Give-a-little donation being made every time we posted an update on her steps on our website.



Pictured, Raúl Johnson DOC, Jarod Baker & Ian Gavin from Eight Hundred Trust working in Omoana with Jono & Māia

Kiwi Operations Report

The Trust monitored a total of thirty-eight kiwi in Te Papakura o Taranaki, during the year nineteen kiwi were rehomed there bringing the total number released in Te Papakura o Taranaki over the years to one hundred and forty seven. Eighteen kiwi are currently being monitored on Taranaki Maunga, these birds have dispersed from their release sites and are currently as far north as Mangorei Road and to Pembroke Road to the South. Two of the monitored male kiwi incubated eggs are Silver and Dale. Silver's female partner Rockstar died from misadventure last year, however he moved on quickly with one of the newly released female kiwi Ngana. Dale successfully incubated two clutches, but Koko did not breed, which is unusual as he has reliably had two clutches for the past four seasons. Two males, Ata and Rangiora were released part way through the season late, both are young so may not breed for a couple of years. Health checks and transmitter changes were completed and all kiwi were in moderate to very good condition, all had gained weight apart from Dale who had only just completed the incubation of a second clutch. There were six volunteers helping to monitor kiwi in Te Papakura o Taranaki, all of these volunteers have been assisting the program since 2018. An estimate of volunteer time spent tracking these birds this year is five hundred and ninety hours.

We monitored twenty kiwi in the Kaitake Ranges. The second year of releases after monitoring the first cohort released in 2021. These birds all paired up and established small territory sizes very close to each other near the Patuha Track with the exception of Ash and Kowhai who have ventured further to the Northwest near the Lewis Loop Track. They all attempted to breed during the season and three of the five nest attempts were successful. All kiwi were in moderate to good condition at their health checks and all had gained weight apart from Spencer who was just 50g lighter than he was in 2021. The Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust volunteers have played a huge role in helping us keep track of the kiwi in the ranges. Te Ara Taiao also came on board to help out as well as members from Ngāti Tairi and Ngā Mahanga. We estimate the volunteer time spent on tracking kiwi in the Kaitake Ranges was three hundred and fifty hours.



Pictured, Māia with Booma at Rotokare Sanctuary

We carried out an acoustic recorder survey in areas of Te Papakura o Taranaki. Concentrating on the Eastern slopes of the Maunga and the high areas of the Kaitake Ranges. The purpose was to establish another long-term monitoring tool alongside five yearly call surveys allowing us to monitor both hard to reach areas and flatter parts of the park. On Taranaki Maunga kiwi were detected at eleven of the twenty-five sites. The highest call rates were found on the Holly Hut Track, the Ram Track and the Kokowai Track. This result was expected as this is the area where kiwi have been released for many years. In Kaitake only one site detected kiwi, this was near a known pair's territory, both male and female calls were heard in the area where the translocated kiwi are clustered together.

We continue to monitor eleven males in the Kōhanga to help ascertain breeding rates and modelling tells us that we can expect to export in the region of thirty to forty birds annually. This bodes well for establishing new and bolstering existing populations in the region with the new site at Omoana on track to receive kiwi as early as 2023. Thirteen birds remain on transmitter at the Totara Block to monitor ongoing survival rates at this new site.

Education, Advocacy & Training Report

All have the staff and many of the trustees and volunteers have assisted with this programme that is supported by Contact Energy. This year we have worked with several of schools on a variety of projects. Makahu have learnt about telemetry and acoustic recorders, the principal Chris Mattock has since completed videos on the topics of telemetry, acoustic recorders, and dog aversion training. As part of the advocacy role for Mt Hiwi Charitable Trust, Jess has given talks/demonstrations on kiwi facts, habitat, and predators/trapping to Waverley Primary School. This work will continue with kiwi signs and telemetry and ultimately a field trip to Mt Hiwi. A student from Green School NZ approached us to see if he could work alongside our rangers one day a week over four weeks. He spent three days with Sian tracking kiwi and was lucky enough to tag along for a bird's annual health check and transmitter change and spent one day alongside Emma checking traps. We had amazing feedback from the school and the student loved his time with us. Emma assisted the East Taranaki Environment Trust deliver the annual Boys' High prefect field trip to Purangi. Around 40 keen students spent the day re-baiting and re-gassing hundreds of A12 and A24 traps. It was fantastic to see the next generation being so passionate and capable.



Jess undertook some training with PKW cadets, this involved recorder deployment and recorder analysis including a field trip to Mangaoapa Forest followed by a day at Rotokare Sanctuary to learn about kiwi listening surveys. Sian and Toby have spent time getting the Kaitake Range Conservation Trust inspired and trained to help keep track of the kiwi in the Ranges. The local hapū were also invited along to these training sessions and the result is that the group now does approximately ninety percent of the kiwi tracking work in the Ranges.

Pictured, Jenny Oakley with the Rotokare Ambassadors at a kiwi release

Te Ara Taiao is a collaboration between Ngā Mahanga a Tairi hapū, DOC and community groups. It aims to enhance connections between schools, hapū and community so that students can get involved alongside others and develop leadership to enhance the mauri and ecology of the Kaitake Ranges. Sian has been working alongside Tane Manu, the Te Ara Taiao co-ordinator, to support the program. The students and hapū have shown a strong interest in learning more about the kiwi released into the Kaitake Ranges. Tupu-ā-nuku is an environmental education program run by Ngāti Maru designed to allow pathways into the environmental workforce. Sian held two one-day wānanga with a small group of rangatahi with the purpose of inspiring and educating them. During the wānanga topics such as predator control, telemetry and the importance of protecting the ngahere were discussed. Toby ran a GPS, navigation and safety course for volunteers and Jono delivered a trapping workshop to Worley New Plymouth thanks to funding from Worley Global.

One of our major advocacy efforts from the past year was the TV advertisement that was created in partnership with Xero accounting software. With Celine organising the finer details, a crew from TVNZ and Xero travelled to the Totara Block in November to film a kiwi harness change. After a 5am start Jess and Jenny Oakley caught Buster the kiwi, and the film crew spent the day capturing footage of the harness change, the scenery, and Sue discussing how the trust uses Xero. The ad featured on TV for the month of January. Much advocacy work has been done by Jess and occasionally Celine in the Waverley area and talks have been delivered to a raft of interested groups by all staff. Jess has been working with Wild for Taranaki on their newest website feature – the Action Hub. This will allow organisations to feature projects online and look for volunteers for specific locations or events. Celine had the opportunity to meet Ministers Kiri Allen, Phil Twyford and David Parker and managed an audience with the new Director General of DOC, Penny Nelson, to discuss the Trust's projects and challenges.

In January we hosted three workshop sessions with trapping guru, John Bissell, with the support of Wild for Taranaki. The first was aimed landowners and volunteers and saw a great turnout at the Inglewood TET Stadium. We covered the importance of quality trapping; techniques for making traps appealing to various target species; and shared our challenges and successes with pest control. The second of these sessions was aimed at apprentices and workers who were new to pest control, and aimed to inspire and motivate them by discussing the importance of quality trapping; the personal and professional opportunities available in conservation; and sharing ideas about trapping and how we can work together to achieve our goals. The third session was open to all Taranaki organisations who play a part in the region’s conservation and was a fantastic opportunity to all be reminded of what we’re doing, why we’re doing it, and to have a chat about successes, failures, goals, and experiences with trapping.



Pictured, Buster, the kiwi that featured in the Xero advert

Sponsors & Supporters



MG Taranaki



www.taranakikiwi.org.nz



Kiwi from Rare to Everywhere