Taranaki Kiwi Trust
Annual Report 2026



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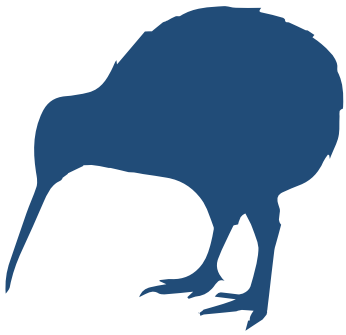
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Jono Walter– Kiwi Habitat Protection Leader

Jess Fancy – Community Kiwi Ranger and TKKR Kiwi Ranger

Toby Shanley – Kiwi Ranger

Harmony Kupe – Trapping Contractor

Tracy Skinner – Trapping Contractor

Ka Rawe Tūao / Fabulous Volunteers

Sue Hardwick Smith – Tōtara Block Project Leader and Kiwi Handler

Guy Oakley – Kiwi Handler and Vet

Jenny Oakley – Kiwi Handler and Photographer

Sam Hopkirk – Kiwi Handler

Matt Crawford – Trapper

Kevin Stokes – Kiwi Handler and Trapper

Lance Moseley – Kiwi Handler and Trapper

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Nadine Paterson, Administration Leader



Jono Walter, Kiwi Habitat Protection Leader



Toby Shanley, Kiwi Ranger



Jess Fancy, Community Kiwi Ranger

Topu Whakaahua Tautoko / Photography Credits

Jenny Oakley

Jess Fancy

Celine Filbee

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Jono Walter

Toby Shanley

Sian Potier



Tumuaki Pānui / Chair's Report

I started my term as Chair by asking the Board and team to think about a number of challenges that faced the Trust in the season ahead.

Many of our permit conditions meant that we had to remove transmitters from birds during the year, which led to reduced contact and less work directly with kiwi through monitoring and hands-on health checks. This interaction with kiwi is often the reward that keeps us all coming back for more hard days in the field and office. Although we have made fantastic gains in release numbers to numerous sites, the continued survival and expansion of these populations remain in our hands through predator control and habitat protection. It is vital that we keep up the fight and this year I am pleased to say we have done exactly that. We have continued to support and expand our volunteer army and effectively fund our projects in a constrained funding landscape. This comes down to the efforts of our stellar tried-and-tested team. They have been forced to shrink a little, work a little harder and smarter, and rely more on our volunteers, I thank you all for your efforts.

We are close to celebrating our 25-year anniversary and it is important that we position ourselves for the next 25 years: maintain momentum, relevance and financial stability. This will be done through investing in our Board, staff, contractors, volunteers, partner organisations, sponsors, funders and their successors. As we stand today the Trust is in safe hands – guided by the current team, the future looks bright.

This year the Board has worked through an extensive strategic review with many hard hours studying and debating our direction and value within the field of kiwi protection. We explored expanding our species focus, but agreed that we serve the province best by maintaining our core effort on Kiwi, knowing that this work contributes to the protection of other species. We have added a goal to publish our data to our strategic plan, recognising our long history of work and data collection. We hope that our contributions will add to and help inform key decisions in future protection of the North Island Western Brown Kiwi.

We have also agreed to work alongside the Taranaki Foundation to diversify our contacts, philanthropic reach and income streams. We look forward to seeing this relationship bear fruit.

It is with sadness this year we prepare to say goodbye to one of our long-standing staff members, Jess Fancy. Jess is now working part-time at Southern Ruahine Kiwi and hopes to transition to a full-time role in the future, and to a new base in Palmerston North. We wish her well and thank her for her contributions. She has grown immensely during her time with us and is a firm favourite of the team and volunteers. Thank you, Jess.



I would like to thank our co-managers, Celine Filbee and Sian Potier for their commitment and hard work, both powerhouses in their fields. And of course the staff and volunteers, for stepping up to every challenge and showcasing the Trust and its work in such a positive light. Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Board members for your dedication and generosity in giving up your time and sharing your expertise for this vital work.

I urge you all to keep on fighting for Kiwi, from rare to everywhere.

Sam Hopkirk

Kaiwhakahaere Pānui / Trust Manager's Report

The Trust has bounced back from the financial uncertainty of the last year, for the large part thanks to the Toi Foundation, who are our major funder. Their commitment to environmental and conservation organisations across Taranaki is second to none. Their contribution is aided by a myriad of other funders, a few principal sponsors and some extraordinarily devoted volunteers who exceed even our staff in the number of hours they contribute to mahi that protects kiwi, and increases kiwi numbers in the region.

We are staggeringly lucky to have a core team of staff who are recognised as experts in their field, both in Taranaki and, in some cases, nationally. They are the engine room of the Trust and between them they lead the delivery of our annual plan to realise our strategic goals. The real goodness these people offer is their flexibility, their willingness to say yes and their relationship skills. This makes them much loved and highly respected in the community. I am constantly reminded of how lucky I am to work alongside Sian Potier as Conservation Manager, Jono Walter as Kiwi Habitat Protection Leader, Toby Shanley our Kiwi Ranger, Jess Fancy our Community Kiwi Ranger, Nadine Paterson our Administration Leader and our Trapping Contractors, Harmony Kupe and Tracey Skinner. The team is backed up by a Board that makes smart, cohesive, well considered and informed decisions in setting the strategic direction of the Trust. The new strategic plan drafted by Trustees during the year set out aspirations that are achievable, having taken on board feedback from staff, volunteers and our stakeholders.

We did have a bit of a staffing shuffle during the year. Toby dipped his toe back into the corporate world at BTW, but again decided that being outdoors was the most important thing for him so returned to the fold. Too many days looking out the window at the sunshine had ground his gears pretty hard. Jess has reduced her hours to two days a week, having secured a ranger role on the Southern Ruahine Kiwi Project, with a long-term plan to relocate to the Manawatu to be closer to her family. We are fortunate that our flexible employment arrangements have meant we can retain Jess in the short-term to assist with trapping, administration and continue to carry out the Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare Ranger role. Jess will be a real asset to this new project, and as she's worked for the Trust since 2019 in some way, shape or form, it is fabulous to see her contributing her expertise to a new and exciting project, aimed at returning Eastern Brown Kiwi to the Ruahine Ranges. The most significant change was the resignation of Nadine, our administration black belt. With reduced hours for the Trust, she was looking for a bigger role and is now working for The BeGroup, managing the accommodation unit sales and purchases. Her efficiency, patience and kindness will be serving her very well as she assists the elderly in this retirement and lifestyle village. Fortunately, she still does the complex PAYE in a volunteer capacity and I have picked up the remaining admin work – a bit of a shock to the system to be thrust back into account payments and Xero coding. There were a few calls to Nadine to remediate the odd error while I reacquainted myself with this mahi.

The Trust's partnerships continue to thrive. As we do not own any land, we are reliant on building good relationships with our project partners to achieve our conservation work. Participation from hapū and iwi increases every year, and the Trust is fortunate to have mana whenua as our partner in conservation. We continue to be guided by their principles and increase our knowledge and commitment to tikanga Māori. The Trust's largest group of partners are the landowners in the Community Trapping Project. Their trapping efforts are protecting wild and translocated kiwi all over the region every day.

The ten-year Taranaki Mounga Project has now been wrapped up and transitioned to Taranaki Mounga Ltd, led by a new governance entity, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi. The Trust was honoured to be selected as the contractor that delivered the kiwi aspect of the project, and while money changed hands, this was a true partnership with very high levels of trust and an absolute alignment on the vision, with results that speak for themselves. Sian first started monitoring kiwi on Taranaki Maunga in 2016, as a precursor to the mammoth translocation effort starting on the maunga and Kaitake Range / Patuhā in 2021. Since then, 332 kiwi have been released into what is now Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki. We are looking forward to a bright future for kiwi in the national park and ongoing collaboration with stakeholders to deliver He Kawa Ora, the new management plan that is currently being drafted for the park.

Our most public and well-known partnership is with Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust and Ngāti Tupaia. The Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare has now translocated 264 kiwi to sites in Taranaki, Pōneke and the Waikato over seven years. The ambitious vision the two Trusts had way back in 2012 has now been fully realised. This is testament to the effort, energy and commitment of the trustees, staff, contractors, volunteers and externals like dog handlers James Fraser and Lesley Baigent, who have contributed many an unpaid hour to the cause, along with Tash Coad and Pete Kirkman, who continually strive to keep costs down for us. The support of Taranaki Mounga Project, Te Papa Atawhai, Save the Kiwi, Capital Kiwi, VetPath and South Taranaki Veterinary Services have also been intrinsic to the success of the partnership.

Other partnerships include kiwi translocation projects at Omoana with 800 Trust, Native Forest Restoration Trust, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngaa Rauru, Te Papa Atawhai and private landowners. Also the Tōtara Block, where South Taranaki Forest & Bird do an incredible job of trapping and kiwi monitoring, supported by Ngāti Tupaia. There is the Kaitake Range Kiwi Translocation Project, in which the majority of the on the ground mahi is carried out by the Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust with approval from Ngā Mahanga-a-Tāiri. The Tarere Kiwi Project, which is led by the Pātea Catchment Community, are working towards their long-term aspiration of translocating kiwi. Mt Hiwi Charitable Trust, Ngaa Rauru and other stakeholders in Omahina are now very close to realising that dream, and the outcome of a permit for that site will be in the hands of Te Papa Atawhai later in the year. We continue to look for ways to collaborate and work together with the East Taranaki Environment Collective, with the combined Trustees considering a range of options for the future. This is on the back of a successful monitoring partnership with the Collective, Ngāti Maru and Parininihi ki Waitōtara, who are leading the way in Taranaki – monitoring kiwi that are resident in a forest they are harvesting.

Our sponsors and supporters have stood by us for another year. Regional organisations play a part in our everyday operations by providing free or cheaper services, including Baker Tilly Staples Rodway Taranaki, Rewild, Primo Wireless and TimberCo. Grounded Kiwi continues to make regular donations, and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Kapuni contributes annually. Our national sponsor, Contact Energy, provides the resources that allow us to respond to any request to deliver education, advocacy and training. In the six years they have supported the Trust, we have delivered 337 events, reaching over 33,000 people.

Our Gifts in Will programme is now fully set up, with all processes in place for those who would like to make the Trust a beneficiary in their will. Most notably, a new fund has been set up with the Taranaki Foundation, which protects the capital of monies donated by people who would like to leave a lasting legacy, rather than a one-off bequest.

The individuals and businesses that efficiently deal to critters on Taranaki Maunga are making a priceless contribution to protect wild and translocated kiwi on the eastern slopes. Those individuals and organisations – FirstGas, Craigs Investment Partners and the Egmont Alpine Club – are very important stakeholders in the kiwi programme on Taranaki Maunga, alongside the work DOC and Taranaki Mounga Ltd are doing.



It takes a village to raise a kiwi, and every year our village seems to get a little bigger and better!

Celine Filbee

Tiaki Kaiwhakahaere Pānui / Conservation Manager's Report

It has been another busy year for the Taranaki Kiwi Trust operational team, with many successes and a few challenges along the way. There have been a few staff and role changes throughout the year, but the team's commitment has remained. Together we have continued to meet key operational goals and strengthen relationships with landowners, iwi, conservation organisations, partner agencies, volunteers, and our wider community.

Our Community Trapping Programme (CTP) is going well under Jono's leadership. Passionate landowners and dedicated volunteers continue to invest many hours checking traps and protecting kiwi habitat across the region. This year, Jono completed another round of acoustic recorder surveys across one-third of the CTP properties, with encouraging results. These results reflect the dedication of everyone involved in predator control and habitat protection. Volunteers also continue to provide invaluable support, working alongside landowners to ensure traplines are regularly checked and maintained.

Within Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki, the TKT volunteer trapping teams continue to do a fantastic job. Over the past year they removed 21 mustelids from the landscape, including 6 ferrets. Ferrets remain one of the greatest threats to kiwi, both within the national park and across the wider Taranaki region. While we continue to refine our trapping techniques, Taranaki Kiwi Trust is constantly looking to improve our understanding of ferret behaviour and develop more effective ways of detecting and removing them from the landscape.

Education and advocacy have also been a major focus over the past year. A new partnership with Taranaki Outdoor Pursuits & Education Centre (TOPEC) has created exciting opportunities to introduce students attending school camps to kiwi conservation and the importance of protecting our native biodiversity. The TOPEC team also helped out during the busy kiwi translocation season. We are also really excited to now be able to offer Kiwi Avoidance Training (KAT) through TKT. Toby is now a qualified KAT trainer, and over the coming months we will be offering training events throughout the region. This work will complement the KAT events already delivered by DOC and other trainers, ensuring KAT training is accessible for dog owners wanting to do their bit to protect kiwi.

Kiwi translocations were a major focus for us again this year. We successfully released 84 kiwi into Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki from Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari and Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare. A further 34 kiwi were translocated from Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare and released in Pōneke and Omoana, contributing to the restoration of kiwi populations beyond Taranaki. As always, the translocation season brought its share of challenges. Severe weather and road closures meant plans changed at short notice, requiring the whole team to adapt quickly and work collaboratively to ensure translocations could still go ahead.

Successful translocations are defined by measurable outcomes such as high survival rates, the establishment of healthy, self-sustaining populations, and the return of kiwi to landscapes where they once thrived. These outcomes tell us our conservation efforts are making a real difference. There is another measure of success that is much harder to quantify, yet equally important – the impact these translocations have on people.



Every release brings together mana whenua, volunteers, landowners, tamariki, conservation partners, and local communities. They provide an opportunity to tell the story of kiwi conservation, inspire future kaitiaki, and remind us all that protecting kiwi means protecting the health of our forests and the many other species that call them home. By connecting communities with kiwi we are hopefully helping to inspire others to protect Aotearoa's unique biodiversity for generations to come.

Sian Potier

Kiwi Aroturuki Kaupapa / Kiwi Monitoring Projects

Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki

The Trust has worked in close partnership with the Taranaki Mounga Project (TMP), with support from Te Papa Atawhai (DOC), for a decade. Together, we have achieved nationally recognised conservation outcomes, overcome numerous challenges and built some great friendships. The partnership started in 2016 with the monitoring of 25 kiwi on Taranaki Maunga and peaked with the translocation of 332 kiwi over five years to boost the existing kiwi population on the maunga, and reintroduce kiwi to the Kaitake Range / Patuhā, where they had become locally extinct for decades.

Sian vividly remembers the first conversation about the grand idea of returning kiwi to the Kaitake Ranges. It took place over a beer in an Inglewood pub with Sean Zieltjes from TMP, the late Simon Collins from the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust, and Pete Morgan from the Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust (KRCT), which at the time had only about six members. That day it was agreed that returning kiwi to the Kaitake Ranges within five years was an achievable goal. In the end, we exceeded those expectations, with the first kiwi reintroduced to Kaitake just two years later, alongside large-scale translocations to Taranaki Maunga.

Then came the monitoring – we already knew how challenging kiwi monitoring in this environment could be. The Wildlife Act translocation permit awarded to TMP initially required forty kiwi to be monitored across the two sites, but following the establishment of an improved ferret control network by DOC and TMP – with the assistance of a huge volunteer workforce to check the traps, this was reduced to thirty. The programme was overseen for the duration by TKT's Kiwi Ranger, Toby Shanley, who provided training, advice, support and resources to the volunteers, and has been known to abseil off a bluff to retrieve a dead bird for autopsy, such was his commitment to the project.

While monitoring was hard work, expensive, and not always the most glamorous part of the project, it provided a wealth of valuable information on kiwi survival, breeding success, and dispersal. We quickly discovered that many sub-adult kiwi enjoyed a long hīkoi following release, making the challenge of keeping track of individuals all the more interesting for Toby and the volunteers. The monitoring also provided a wealth of opportunities for the ever-growing KRCT, whose numbers have expanded to over 170 members, and a small group of long serving volunteers from TKT. This monitoring would not have been possible without the thousands of hours contributed by these exceptional people.



Sue Hardwick Smith with Tāne Houston from Taranaki Mounga Project, Ngāti Tupaia, and Rotokare Scenic Reserve trustee at a maunga kiwi release

Sean Zieltjes, Sera Gibson and Tāne Houston from TMP have been incredible leaders and partners to work alongside, and we have lasting relationships with some of their kaimahi. Sean has endured more kiwi meetings than he probably ever wanted to and was instrumental in keeping us all in line when the topic moved away from the issues at hand. Our Trust Manager, Celine, has enjoyed a forthright action and outcome-focused relationship with Sean when making decisions for the project. Tāne has grown into a recognised and respected leader in the translocation space, bringing extensive technical knowledge, tikanga Māori, enthusiasm, and an unwavering commitment to collaboration. The support from TMP has also been instrumental in helping TKT strengthen and build strong and meaningful relationships with iwi and hapū around the maunga.

The partnership between the two organisations has enabled us to achieve major milestones, engage and inspire large numbers of people through kiwi release events, and provide valuable training opportunities for the next generation of conservation kaimahi. Together, we have shown what can be achieved when organisations, communities, iwi, hapū, and individuals work towards a common goal. While TMP will continue in a new form as Taranaki Maunga Ltd, the strong relationships and shared commitment to restoration will continue under He Kawa Ora, the new management plan, alongside DOC / Te Papa Atawhai, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi and several iwi, hapū, individuals and community groups to protect and support the long-term success of the national park's kiwi population, including a collaborative long-term monitoring plan. We are collectively excited about the future of kiwi and the restoration of other species across Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki.

Over the next two years, we will continue releasing smaller numbers of kiwi onto Taranaki Maunga to help boost the population and increase genetic diversity. As predator control expands, we look forward to working with iwi and hapū to explore opportunities to support kiwi recovery further south on the maunga.



The gift of kiwi – from Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari and Ngāti Korokī Kahukura destined for Taranaki Maunga

Mangaoapa Kiwi Project

This project is a great example of collaborative conservation, with multiple organisations working together to learn more about kiwi living within plantation forestry. Parininihi ki Waitōtara owns the 400-hectare plantation pine block, which sits within the Ngāti Maru rohe. TKT has been monitoring kiwi within the block for the past three years, with support from East Taranaki Environment Collective and NZ Forestry.

Monitoring has been going well, and we are starting to see some interesting patterns in kiwi habitat use. Initially, kiwi spent time between the pine plantation and native forested areas. Following harvesting, however, the birds have been spending all their time in the remaining native gullies. Parininihi ki Waitōtara is planning to increase native vegetation cover during the replanting phase and increase predator control throughout the block, which will benefit the kiwi population long term.



Kiwi in Plantation Forestry

For the past couple of years, TKT has been offering free on-site kiwi briefings for forestry contractors and managers. The briefings ensure contractors and managers know what to do if they encounter kiwi or kiwi nests, work through an emergency procedure plan, and provide local contact numbers so kiwi handlers can be called to assist if required.

The programme has been going really well and provides TKT with a valuable opportunity to engage with and educate a sector of the community that may otherwise have limited contact with kiwi conservation. It has also resulted in some great outcomes, with several landowners and managers becoming more interested in what they can do to protect kiwi, including predator control.

Omoana

For the third consecutive year, kiwi were translocated from TKKR to Omoana, taking the total number released to 59. A further 21 kiwi remain on the current permit to be released in 2027/28.

This year, three birds well known to the TKKR volunteer team, Lunar, Mr B, and Kare, were all re-homed to Omoana. Lunar and Mr B were monitored within the reserve for several years, with volunteers regularly tracking them, monitoring their breeding success, and assisting with annual health checks. Kare was the partner of a monitored founder Robbie, so she was often found in the same burrow as him at annual health check time. As none of these three birds were founders, the decision was made to transfer them to Omoana. This will allow their former partners, who are all founders, the opportunity to find new mates and therefore increase the genetic diversity within the kōhanga population.

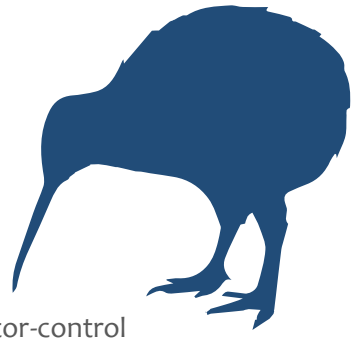
It was a bittersweet day for the TKKR volunteers, who had spent years monitoring these kiwi. A special release event was held to give the volunteers the opportunity to farewell these three birds, and to name several others who were released at the same time. It was a meaningful way to recognise and thank everyone who has contributed to the kōhanga monitoring project over the years. We know that all kiwi are in safe hands at Omoana, protected by an extensive trapping network. We anticipate they will live long and productive lives in the wild.



L-R Rangers Koby Gavin and Anthony Ward with Miranda Wells all from the 800 Trust

Our team has continued to work alongside 800 Trust, Native Forest Restoration Trust and a private landowner to maintain regular trap checks throughout the area, including on DOC land, helping to protect the growing kiwi population and other native wildlife. A total of 117 stoats, 75 weasels, and 17 cats were removed from the area over the year, alongside a large number of rats and hedgehogs.

Tōtara Block



A lot has been happening in the Tōtara Block over the past 12 months, with South Taranaki Forest & Bird (STFB) continuing to put in a fantastic effort to maintain and strengthen predator control. Their ongoing commitment is a vital part of protecting kiwi and creating a safer environment for the many other species that call the area home. A range of predator-control and monitoring methods have been trialled, including camera monitoring, live-capture cages fitted with sensors, and even rabbit distress calls to investigate whether they might help attract ferrets and stoats. Alongside these trials, the regular checking and upgrading of the extensive trap network has continued.

Sadly, despite all these efforts, one of the three monitored kiwi died in autumn 2026. In response, the team has ramped up monitoring, with additional cameras, including remote thermal AI cameras and more live-cage traps deployed across the block. Some of the cages have even been trialling rabbit bedding as a possible lure. These efforts have already paid off, with several cats detected and captured, although the elusive ferrets have so far managed to stay off the radar. Raúl Johnson and his specialist ferret dog have also spent time working across the block to help build a better picture of ferret presence. Thankfully, the remaining monitored kiwi, Hui and Hartley, continue to be safe, well, and – importantly – breeding, so there is still plenty of good news to celebrate.

In June, STFB hosted trapping guru Cam Speedy at the Tōtara Block for a health check of the trapping programme and a discussion around ferret trapping and the other pests being targeted. Jessie Morgan, CEO of Predator Free NZ, also joined the team for the morning, adding further expertise and ideas to the conversation.

Two kiwi call surveys were carried out in 2026. These results plus those of previous years are tabled below. The block was surveyed in 2020, just prior to kiwi being translocated. There are eight listening stations, and listening is carried out for two hours each time.

Date	Total number of calls heard	Calls/hour
May 2020	1	0.006
June 2020	*10 adult kiwi released*	
July 2020	22	1.37
May 2021	*20 sub & adult kiwi released*	
July 2021	36	2.25
May 2022	*10 sub adult kiwi released*	
August 2022	69	4.31
May 2025	*3 kiwi released*	
April to June 2025	*Ferret predations*	
June 2025	17	1.06
July 2025	25	1.56
March 2026	*1 death (unknown cause)*	
June 2026	15	1.07
July 2026 (windy)	14	0.77

Thanks to some hardworking individuals, the hut is now sporting a new solar power unit for lights, as well as providing the opportunity to support a gateway function for remote sensors in future. A flash new shower with hot water has also been installed.

A particular highlight was when a kiwi was spotted crossing Aorere Road at night. This encouraging observation reinforces the importance of the team's continued predator-control efforts and the vital role they play in protecting kiwi in the Tōtara Block.



Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi o Rotokare

Our partnership with Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust

This kiwi season, we made the difficult decision to remove the transmitters from our eleven monitored males, bringing the long-running monitoring project to an end. This decision was not taken lightly, and there was very robust debate between the leadership group members, along with feedback from Te Papa Atawhai kiwi experts, and the views of our valued volunteers. We learnt a lot about kiwi breeding and productivity during this project, and we are now working on securing funding to document our findings. We were very fortunate to have an amazing team of volunteers who enjoyed keeping an eye on these birds. However, we reached a point where we were no longer gaining enough new information from this monitoring project to justify continuing. Some of these birds had been on transmitters for several years, so this was ultimately also the best decision for the welfare of the kiwi. We are sad to say goodbye to our monitored males, but we will hopefully come across them again during our annual kiwi dog surveys.

On a brighter note, this final season of monitoring indicated a very successful breeding season. Ten out of the eleven males attempted nests this year, with nine successfully hatching at least one chick. Even more excitingly, three of these males had *two* nests, something that has been very uncommon with the monitored TKKR birds.

As usual, we had a great week with the kiwi conservation dogs conducting our annual mark-recapture survey and fitting transmitters to birds that were large enough for translocation. We caught a record number of kiwi this year – 87 in total, with 54 of these being suitable for release outside of the reserve. Three of the monitored males were also eligible for translocation, taking the total number of eligible birds up to 57.

Keeping track of this many kiwi over the following three months was no small task. Our fantastic team of volunteers worked tirelessly to monitor these birds as they moved around the reserve, making it much easier to locate them when it came to catching and translocation time. A huge shoutout to Jenny Kerrisk and Dave Brookes who were out there multiple days each week doing this mahi. This was also Dave's first year tracking kiwi, and he sure was a quick learner! In the end, one kiwi went missing, so 56 were successfully released into their new homes across the motu. Nineteen went to Omoana, 22 to Taranaki Maunga, and 15 to the Capital Kiwi Project at their Mākara home, following a bit of a big-deal release event at the Beehive. This was a highlight of the release season, and Jess and Duke the Kiwi even made a brief appearance on One News.



L-R Georgina Goble, Jenny Oakley, Jenny Kerrisk, Robert Goble, Jess Fancy, Pete Kirkman, Fiona Gordon, Guy Oakley, Alan Rogers, Christine Stockum and Adrian Cleary on the Mākara Hills after releasing birds into the Capital Kiwi Project.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the team at Taranaki Veterinary Centre, who assisted retired vet and volunteer Guy Oakley with kiwi health screening. The group of vets contributed around 80 hours of work alongside Guy, which was generously sponsored by TVC. They are seen here checking a bird before it heads off to a new home.





We are also immensely grateful to VetPath, who have supported us over the past few years by sponsoring the processing of our pre-translocation health screening samples, and assisting with the purchase of a microscope. Their ongoing support has made a huge difference in our ability to prepare kiwi for their next chapter in the wild. Rochelle Keatinge of VetPath, (pictured) endured a long drive via the Forgotten World Highway to attend a translocation and was thrilled to be able to get up close with a kiwi

VetPath NZ

TARANAKI VETERINARY CENTRE

Kiwi Rangahau / Kiwi Surveying

Acoustic Recorder Devices (ARD)

ARD surveys were sporadically undertaken across CTP properties from 2014-2019, with a three-year rotating survey schedule established in 2020. The results presented below include comparable monitoring sites where the same locations have been surveyed repeatedly and excludes data from surveys prior to 2018. Kiwi call rates varied considerably between properties and individual monitoring sites. Some sites recorded consistently high call rates, while others recorded low or no kiwi calls. Changes between survey years were also variable, with some sites showing increases, some decreases and others relatively little change.

Across the three survey cycles, kiwi were detected at most monitoring sites in each survey round. The proportion of sites detecting kiwi was highest in the more recent surveys, although the number and location of sites surveyed varied between years. Results show variation between cycles and survey years, with mean call rates generally increasing across Cycle 1 and Cycle 2, while Cycle 3 showed a slight decrease between 2022 and 2025.

Average call rate per hour across three monitoring cycles

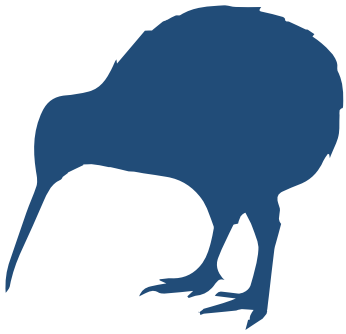
2018 - 2020	2021 - 2023	2024 - 2026
0.62	0.82	0.80

Cycle 1 Property Data

Property	Calls/hour 2020	Calls/hour 2023	Calls/hour 2026	Percentage increase/decrease since first survey
1 – North Taranaki	1.23	1.68	2.1	+70%
2 – South Taranaki	-	-	0.5	-
3 – South Taranaki	0.73	0.86	0.7	-4%
4 – North Taranaki	0.28	0.74	1.5	+436%
5 – North Taranaki	0.37	0.8	0.55	+49%
6 – South Taranaki	-	1.36	0.6	-56%
7 – Central Taranaki	0	0	0	0
8 – South Taranaki	2.23	3.23	1.25	-44%
9 – North Taranaki	0.92	1.5	1.32	+43%
10 – South Taranaki	-	0.21	0.54	+157%
11 – South Taranaki	-	-	0.25	-
11 – North Taranaki	-	-	4.5	-
12 – South Taranaki	1.25	2.05	2.175	+74%
13 – South Taranaki	0.88	1.38	0.6	-32%
14 – South Taranaki	-	0	0	0

Call rate averages across all properties in Cycle 1

2020	2023	2026
0.9	1.13	1.03



Cycle 2 Property Data

Property	Calls/hour 2018	Calls/hour 2021	Calls/hour 2024	Percentage increase/decrease since first survey
1 – North Taranaki	0.35	0.25	0.38	+9%
2 – North Taranaki	-	-	-	-
3 – North Taranaki	0.35	1.48	-	+323%
4 – Central Taranaki	-	0.15	0.04	-73%
5 – North Taranaki	0.3	0.05	0.53	+77%
6 – North Taranaki	-	-	0.25	-
7 – North Taranaki	-	0.57	0.42	-26%
8 – North Taranaki	-	0.03	0.92	+2967%
9 – North Taranaki	-	-	2.62	-
10 – Central Taranaki	-	1.1	0.59	-46%

Call rate averages across all properties in Cycle 2

2018	2021	2024
0.33	0.52	0.64

Cycle 3 Property Data

Property	Calls/hour 2019	Calls/hour 2022	Calls/hour 2025	Percentage increase/decrease since first survey
1 – Central Taranaki	-	0.43	0.35	-19%
2 – Central Taranaki	-	0.7	1.08	+54%
3 – Central Taranaki	-	1.2	0.75	-38%
4 – Central Taranaki	-	-	0	-
5 – Central Taranaki	-	0.25	0.88	+252%
6 – Central Taranaki	-	0.8	0.41	-49%
7 – North Taranaki	-	0.95	1.07	+13%
8 – North Taranaki	-	1.58	1.18	-25%
9 – North Taranaki	0.6	1.7	0.3	-50%
10 – South Taranaki	-	-	0.13	-

Call rate averages across all properties in Cycle 3

*Only one Cycle 3 property was surveyed in 2019, affecting comparative yearly averages.

2019	2022	2025
0.6*	0.82	0.80



Tārore Kaupapa / Trapping Projects

Community Trapping Project

As usual, it was a busy year for Jono's CTP team, working through the monthly trap checks he and Jess do at Omoana and chipping away at the audits on the 42 traplines in the project. Their workload was lessened a bit with a new contractor, Tracey Skinner, taking over the monthly checks on several of the trapping projects in the Omahina area. A number of new volunteers were set up with traplines around the region as well. These people make quite a contribution to our trapping effort and are very much appreciated by both the Trust and the landowners who own the properties they work on. There were several ferrets caught around Omahina, which required a boost in trapping efforts for a short while in August and again in January. Around 100 cats were caught during the year over the whole project. Feral cats and ferrets are the biggest threat to adult kiwi so it is important to continue targeting these pest species, as well as stoats, which are a major threat to younger kiwi. Although stoats and weasels continued to be caught throughout the year, there was a sharp spike in stoat catches in January and February. As always, rats and hedgehogs tend to be the most frequently caught species, which contributes to the protection of other native species on the properties where we operate.

Two sites in South Taranaki are in the pipeline to receive translocated kiwi in the future: Omahina, inland from Waverley, which is centred around the Mt Hiwi Charitable Trust's Key Native Ecosystem site and Lake Moumahake, owned by Ngaa Rauru, with public conservation and roads surrounded by a halo of private land. The other site is Mangapuni in Pākaraka, where Harmony Kupe has been assisting the landowner with trap checking.

Here are the trap tallies for the last four years, a total of 16,845 critters nailed!

Species	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Cat	94	59	113	99
Rat	2525	3222	3340	3963
Ferret	28	1	9	5
Stoat	709	380	411	395
Weasel	89	65	79	102
Other	912	940	897	1048
Totals	**4357**	**4667**	**4849**	**5612**



Jono's office in the eastern hill country, overlooked by Taranaki Maunga

Taranaki Maunga Trapping

There are many, many volunteers and organisations that carry out trapping work on Taranaki Maunga, the Trust has 11 traplines on the eastern slopes protecting the kiwi released there. Some very good, keen volunteers check traps along with staff from Firstgas, Craigs Investment Partners and members of the Mt Egmont Alpine Club.

These are the trap catch figures for the last few years, noting the catch numbers slowly increasing to similar numbers to those prior to the 1080 drop in 2024.

Species	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Cat	3	1	1	3
Ferret	5	2	3	6
Goat	1	0	0	0
Hedgehog	5	0	6	6
Mouse	16	11	12	37
Rabbit	1	0	0	0
Rat	1066	798	533	984
Stoat	28	77	14	15
Weasel	2	5	3	26
Unspecified	34	7	5	19
Total	**1161**	**901**	**577**	**1096**

Trapline Volunteers

Trapline	Person/Organisation
Mangorei Track	Volunteers
Maude Track	Volunteers
Mangorei – Maude Boundary	Volunteers
Kiri Loop	Craigs Investment Partners
Mangorei – Plymouth Boundary	Wayne Butt
Top of Plymouth	Steve Boot
Mangorei Hunters	FirstGas
FirstGas Maude	FirstGas
Ōakura Line	SGS Volunteers
Kapuni Line	Mt Egmont Alpine Club
Second half of Kiri Loop	David Riley

PRIMO CONNECTING YOU
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REWILD
Grounded Kiwi

Mātauranga, Whakapiki mē Whakaako / Education, Advocacy & Training

It has been another positive and proactive year for the Trust's education and advocacy programme, which is sponsored by Contact Energy. Kiwi releases continue to be a fantastic way for us to engage with a wide range of people and share our passion for kiwi conservation. More than 300 people attended kiwi release events to welcome birds from Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari in the Waikato to Taranaki Maunga and the Kaitake Range, with an additional 430 people attending releases at Omoana and on Taranaki Maunga for birds sourced from the Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare. TKKR kiwi were also taken to Parliament, where Jess and Fiona were kiwi handlers for the event. The visit received coverage across several media outlets and provided a great opportunity to showcase collective kiwi conservation in action.

During the year, we also began working more closely with TOPEC, offering kiwi talks and practical kiwi monitoring sessions for school camp groups. The students have really enjoyed getting involved, and we were able to bring a TOPEC group along to a kiwi release event at York Road. We look forward to continuing to build this partnership and providing more opportunities for young people to connect with kiwi conservation in the years ahead.



We continue to lead the way with kiwi training across the region. This year, we delivered kiwi call count survey training for members of the Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust, helping build local capacity to monitor kiwi populations. Prior to the kiwi handling season, Sian also delivered a kiwi handling refresher course for staff from the Taranaki Mounga Project, DOC, Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi, and TKKR volunteers. This short refresher ensured everyone started the season with a consistent understanding of handling procedures and knew how to respond appropriately in different situations. We also endorsed the kiwi handler sign-off for Brandon Kingi from DOC, further increasing kiwi handling capacity across the region.

contact

Taiao Hourua / Partnerships

- Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust – Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare
- Taranaki Mounga Project – Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki Kiwi translocation and monitoring
- Save the Kiwi – Kiwi translocations Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki
- Mt Hiwi Charitable Trust – Omahina kiwi release site development
- Pātea River Catchment Group – Tarere kiwi release site development
- Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari – Kiwi translocations to Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki
- 800 Trust & Native Forest Restoration Trust – Omoana trapping & kiwi monitoring
- Parininihi ki Waitōtara, Ngāti Maru, NZ Forestry & East Taranaki Environment Collective
  - Mangaoapa Forest Kiwi monitoring & research
- Taranaki Regional Council – Community Trapping Project and development of 4 kiwi release sites
- South Taranaki Forest & Bird – The Tōtara Block trapping and kiwi monitoring
- Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngaa Rauru, Te Atiawa – Kiwi translocation and release site development
- Ngāti Tupaia Hapū - Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare, Tōtara Block kiwi monitoring
- Ngāti Hawe, Ngā Mahanga-a-Tāiri, and Pukerangiora hapū – Kiwi translocations
- Ngāti Korokī Kahukura hapū – Kiwi translocations Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki
- Capital Kiwi – Kiwi translocations
- Department of Conservation – Trapping Taranaki Maunga, Tahunamaere Scenic Reserve, Tarere Conservation Area & Kiwi Avoidance Training



Sian with DOC kiwi handler Brandon Kingi, collaborating to release kiwi on Taranaki Maunga with members of the public, DOC and iwi.

Te Tau / The Numbers

Kiwi translocated	105
Monitored kiwi	44
Founder population Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare	40
Kiwi exported from Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare	56
People directly involved in releasing kiwi in Taranaki	90
People attending kiwi release events in Taranaki	1200
Advocacy, training and education engagements	56
Total traplines Community Trapping Project	41
Predator traps deployed Community Trapping Project	2,568
Protected hectares Community Trapping Project	23,112
Pest caught in the Community Trapping Project	5,612
Total traplines Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki	11
Predator traps deployed Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki	479
Pest caught in Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki	577
Total staff hours	6,890
Total volunteer hours	7,859



Ettiene Mostert from PowerCo, was lucky to be selected to attend Ngaruru's health check off the York Rd Loop Track on the maunga with Sian. PowerCo provided funding for kiwi transmitters for the Kaitake Range monitoring project.

Te Pūtea / Finance

The Trust remains in a strong financial position, the most notable event this year was the establishment of a dedicated fund with the Taranaki Foundation, this was carefully considered by the trustees as part of implementing our Gifts in Wills programme, resulting in a lump sum being transferred to TF to initiate the fund. This makes provision for individuals who prefer to gift a sum of money that retains its capital base in perpetuity with the dividend used for Trust operations. The majority of our income is still derived from funders, the most significant of which is the Toi Foundation, but many other philanthropic organisations have made contributions supporting our work. Contract income is an extraordinarily important income stream as these funds are not tagged to specific projects and allow us to be agile in responding to unfunded opportunities, and pay for the everyday expenses of running the Trust.

Total Income	**$545,604**
Funding	$363,083
Donations	$9,320
Sponsorship	$40,703
Contract Funds	$113,705
Other Income	$18,793
Total Expenses	$485,387
Staffing & Contractors	$360,780
Honorarium & Hospitality	$6,127
Vehicle Expenses	$19,165
Subscriptions, Administration & Office Expenses	$18,585
Repairs, Maintenance & Field Equipment	$8,563
Depreciation	$60,325
Other Expenses	$11,842
Surplus for the Year	**$60,217**
Cash Reserves	**$169,541**



Kiwi release at Pukeiti, with thanks to Ngā Mahanga-a-Tāiri, Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, Ngāti Korokī Kahukura, Taranaki Regional Council, Toi Foundation and Taranaki Mounga Project

Kiwi Kaupapa Rōpū

TARANAKI MOUNGA
He Kawa Ora – Back to Life

ROTOKARE
SCENIC RESERVE TRUST

Save the kiwi

800 TRUST

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

EAST TARANAKI
ENVIRONMENT COLLECTIVE

Taranaki
Regional Council

Kaitake Ranges
CONSERVATION TRUST

TARANAKI
CATCHMENT COMMUNITIES

Forest & Bird
GIVING NATURE A VOICE

Mt Hiwi Charitable Trust

TE KĀHUI MARU
TE IWI O MARUWHARANUI

TIAKI TE MAURI O PARININIHI TRUST

PARININIHI KI WAITŌTARA
He Tāngata, He Whenua, He Oranga

native forest
restoration trust



Predator Free NZ trapping workshop at the Tōtara Block
L-R Matt Kyle, Cam Speedy, Jono Walter, Sue Hardwick Smith, Jen Roberts, Jessi Morgan

