

ARAPAOA KIWI TRUST NEWS

January 2022



Welcome to the first newsletter of the Arapaoa Kiwi Trust

We are sending you this newsletter as we believe you may be interested in the Arapaoa Kiwi project. Feel free to pass this newsletter onto others who may wish to [subscribe](#), or if you do not want any future newsletters, please unsubscribe at the link at the bottom.

This newsletter covers three main topics – a brief description of the project, the current project status, and accessing property for trapping. It also has a request for help and a little about us.



The Project:

Arapaoa Kiwi is an incredibly ambitious project to eradicate stoats from Arapaoa Island

and re-introduce kiwi to the island in the next 5-7 years.

Arapaoa is the 13th largest island in New Zealand and will provide a huge area for the kiwi to establish themselves. The many existing species of birds including Falcons, Bellbirds and Tui will also appreciate the eradication of stoats. Hopefully, kaka, kakariki and other bird species will re-introduce themselves.

We will be aiming for a trap every 5-7ha, so around 1500 traps will be required. This will involve installing trap lines on most ridges, formed tracks, near streams and beaches and around various features that attract stoats. Traps will generally be placed every 100m on the trap lines. Different types of traps will be used in different locations. Some traps will require checking at least every month, while others every six months. With around 1500 traps on the island this is a huge job, and we will be employing trappers and contractors for this. Volunteers will be used for checking some of the traps on beaches (not private land).

Once the stoats are eradicated, trapping will continue, as we will get continual reinvasion with stoats swimming across to the island. We are intending to also trap the mainland near the island to reduce the population there, which should reduce the pressure for stoats to swim across.

The Arapaoa Kiwi project is inspired by the Capital Kiwi project in Wellington, which has been underway for the last 4 years, eradicating stoats from the 23000ha of land west of Wellington. They are about to introduce kiwi. See www.capitalkiwi.org.nz

Property Access:

To eliminate stoats from the island, we need to trap all the larger properties on the island. Gaining access to these properties is critical to the project. If we can't trap one property, there will be stoats there that will continue to breed, defeating all the work elsewhere on the island. You may have read recently about the D'Urville Island project being placed in hibernation because there were some properties where they could not gain access for trapping. See this [stuff article](#).

The funding organisations are very aware of the issue, and often it is a condition of funding that written property access consents are attached to the funding application. So this year our major effort will be gathering all the access consents.

We are very aware that property owners have often chosen to live on the island to get

away from everyone, and they don't want strangers wandering all over their land. So to help alleviate this concern, we will:

- Consider it a privilege to have access to this property, and not abuse this privilege
- Only access this property for trapping, monitoring, maintenance operations and for no other purpose
- Only access formed tracks
- Advise the owner/agent by email about 1 week prior to access
- Maintain and observe a comprehensive health and safety policy
- Respect the owner and their rights
- Get permission from the owner/agent prior to any major track maintenance or cutting new access tracks or accessing non tracked areas
- Provide regular updates and newsletters as to the project progress
- Hold public liability insurance

As well as this, we will endeavour to employ locals for the trapping. We will not be using volunteers on private property, without permission.

With the introduction of kiwi, there will be no restrictions on the property owner on how they can use their land. We will be introducing a dog policy, but it won't in any way restrict dog ownership or use. We will not be banning dogs (or cats). We will go into more on that topic in next months newsletter.

As mentioned before, access is critical for this project, and if the owner is still concerned, there are other options available and we may still be able to come to a mutually acceptable solution so the property is still trapped.

For more information please contact admin@arapaoakiwi.org.nz. For property owners, our permission form is available for you here - [PDF](#) or [Word formats](#).

Current Status:

A project of this size is quite complex, and seems to take an inordinate time to get started. There is also a lot of administration overhead. Unfortunately we can't just go out and purchase a lot of traps and put them around the island. Funding agencies have a lot of requirements. As of Jan 2022 we have:

- formed a charitable trust Arapaoa Kiwi Trust
- registered the trust as a registered charity
- applied for funding for the project administration
- formed a technical advisory group (TAG) of national experts
- drafted an operational plan (currently being reviewed by the TAG)

- contacting a number of landowners to discuss access

We are currently drafting an application for funding for a number of traps that we can distribute to various landowners on the island and on the nearby mainland. Our plan is also to apply for funding for a 350ha pilot trapping area in the southern end of East Bay to ensure all our systems and methodologies are in place. We are hoping to start this trapping in the second half of 2022 (funding applications often take 3-6 months).

We also plan to have a website up and running in the next 3 months, as well as a Facebook page.

Help Wanted:

If you want to help in the project we would love to hear from you. Whether it be helping with the website or social media, talking with property owners, trapping on your land, helping raise money, working with dogs or just general support, we would love to hear from you. Please contact admin@arapaoakiwi.org.nz.

Arapaoa Kiwi Trust - Who are we:

Steve Dawson - The Project Manager and Founding a Trustee. Steve is retired and lives in Waikawa. He traps for Kaipupu Point Sanctuary and Picton Dawn Chorus. Steve is also Acting Commodore of Waikawa Boat Club and a Coastguard volunteer. Steve owns a classic wooden launch and is passionate about boating and the Marlborough Sounds. Email steve@arapaoakiwi.org.nz



Mark Denize – Founding Trustee. Retired, has lived in Stingray Bay, East Bay, Arapaoa Island since 2001. Mark is actively involved in local conservation including Forest regeneration carbon credits, predator trapping and much more. Email markdenize@gmail.com

Ben Wybourne – Founding Trustee. Lives in Murchison and also in East Bay on the island. Email bluewave@mshop.co.nz

Dale Savage – Trust Administrator. Dale lives in Kumutoto Bay and is passionate about the Marlborough Sounds, its environment and loves to hike and sail.
Email dale@arapaoakiwi.org.nz

