

ARAPAOA KIWI TRUST NEWS

April 2022



Great start to 2022 for Arapaoa Kiwi Trust

In a project this size, it seems everything takes so long. It takes a lot of work to apply for funding and funding decisions can take months. Since the last newsletter, we have received funding from Rata Foundation to help fund our administration and operational costs and we have received some funding from Lions Foundation to start our community trapping stage. A big thank you to both organisations.

With the community trapping, we will be placing traps with residents on the island and mainland - mainly near the shore and around buildings - easily accessible to the residents. They will need checking every week or three and reporting back to us. If you would like a trap or two, please contact admin@arapaoakiwi.org.nz. We have placed the order for the traps, but unfortunately won't be receiving them until June or July. We will also be applying for more funding for more community traps.

We have also applied for funding for our pilot stage - 12km of trap lines around two properties in East Bay. This will allow us to get all our systems in place for managing large numbers of traps and monitoring, as well as making sure our traps and methodology are suited to the island. Hopefully, we will have the pilot in place before spring, ready for the peak season for trapping stoats.

I had been planning on discussing dogs and kiwi in this newsletter. But I have put my priorities these last months on applying for funding and getting the operational plan complete. I will write about this topic in a future newsletter.

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.

Steve Dawson, Project Manager

The Project



Arapaoa Kiwi is aiming to eradicate stoats from Arapaoa Island and re-introduce kiwi to the island in the next 5-7 years. 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. Once the stoats are eradicated, trapping will continue, as we will get continual reinvasion with stoats. 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 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.

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



New Website:

Please visit our [new website](#). Our huge thanks to Craig Brand for designing our new website. Have a look at the [resources](#) pages - we have linked to a lot of videos about trapping, techniques, birdsong recognition etc. A lot of great resources. I hope to fill out a lot more about the project over the coming weeks



Facebook live:

Please follow us on [facebook](#). A big thanks to Dale Savage for setting up the facebook page and keeping things running on this.



Arapaoa Kiwi is pleased to announce that the Rata Foundation has funded our first year of administration and operational costs. THANK YOU RATA FOUNDATION.



Arapaoa Kiwi is pleased to announce that the Lions Foundation has funded part of our Community Trapping programme. THANK YOU THE LIONS FOUNDATION.

Importance of 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 cannot trap one property, there will be stoats there that will continue to breed, defeating all the work elsewhere on the island.

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
- Respect the owner and their rights
- Only access this property for trapping, monitoring, maintenance operations and for no other purpose including hunting or walking
- Only access tracks and trap lines agreed with the owner/agent
- Only trap and/or kill stoats and rodents – no goats, pigs, deer or other animals
- Advise the owner/agent by email at least 1 week prior to access. No access outside of the agreed timeframe
- Get permission from the owner/agent prior to any major track maintenance or cutting new access tracks or accessing non tracked areas or cutting / felling any trees or shrubs or using any machinery.

- Not carry any firearms of any type (including bows) or bring any dogs on to this property
- Provide regular updates and newsletters as to the project progress and numbers of animals trapped on owner's land.
- Maintain and observe a comprehensive health and safety policy
- 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).

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](#).

Help Wanted:

If you want to help in the project we would love to hear from you. Whether it be helping with 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

Do you have any great photos of Arapaoa Island or its animals or critters or fauna that you are willing to share for the website? Maybe of goats, pigs, birds, wekas, wetas, trees, shrubs, storms, sunrises, views, people, activities, trapping, pests, fish, seaweed, farming, ferries etc. Please forward to admin@arapaoakiwi.org.nz



Meet Arapaoa Kiwi Trust

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 bluwave@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



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