

ARAPAOA KIWI TRUST NEWS

July 2022



What's new for Arapaoa Kiwi Trust

- Community Trapping begins shortly
- Why a Dog Management Plan Is needed?
- Our Pilot Programme is soon to start
- Be inspired, see what Backyard Kiwi have achieved
- Recent funding received



What does kiwi on the island mean to you?

This means different things to different people...

- Maybe for conservation reasons, ensuring the kiwi population are protected for future generations

- I feel great by having kiwi at my backdoor and being able to involve my family and friends
- Love having wildlife thriving in the Marlborough Sounds, especially close to where I live. EG: Whales, dolphins, native plants, weka, birdlife, etc

Tell us your reason by [emailing us](#)



Community Trapping Programme underway soon

Sixty DOC200 stoat traps for our Community Trapping programme have been ordered and will arrive soon. Our thanks to the Lions Foundation and Redwood Trust for funding these traps. As part of the first stage of our project, we have several local residents and volunteers involved. A number of traps have already been allocated to interested residents who will locate traps near their houses, and on areas readily accessible to volunteers (beaches, reserves etc). Should you be interested in having a trap on your property, we still have a few traps still available. Contact us now.

Why A Dog Management Plan Is Needed?

We need to have a dog management plan in place at least three years before kiwi is introduced. We need to consult with you to develop a dog control policy that will work for the island. This is our suggestion below, based on consultation with other kiwi groups. Please let us know your thoughts.

It is going to be a huge privilege to have kiwis on Arapaoa Island. Imagine hearing the kiwis calling at night while lying in bed waiting to go to sleep. Maybe even seeing them if

out walking in the evening. Something most New Zealanders never get to hear or see. It will make Arapaoa Island even more special than it is, while knowing that we are all doing something to protect and grow our endangered national symbol. Another jewel in Marlborough's crown.

To allow this to happen and to keep the population thriving and growing, we need to protect the kiwi from our dogs. Dogs are the major threat to adult kiwis. Dogs are attracted by their smell and kiwis are very easily crushed by a dog. Kiwis are not like weka that can look after themselves.

There are many communities around New Zealand where kiwis and dogs share their space and the kiwis thrive, in urban, farm and bush areas. Examples are Kerikeri, Whangarei Heads, Whakatane and Ohope Beach, Taranaki, Stewart Island and many others. The communities ensure that their dog owners take care that their dogs won't get into situations where they will be attracted to the kiwi.



Kiwi aversion training is a big help, where dogs are trained to ignore and avoid kiwi. Owners are also given suggestions and advice on how to best protect the kiwi from dogs. Arapaoa Kiwi will be organising frequent aversion training sessions both on and off the island, free of charge. After the initial training session, dogs will require annual checking and possibly retraining. Again, Arapaoa Kiwi will organise. Although aversion training is a huge help, it is not 100% effective and as dog owners we need to take extra steps to keep the kiwi safe on this very special island.

Farm and working dogs are well trained and disciplined. When out on the farm, they are focused on their job, and are in control of their handler. When not working, they need to be still under your control and not roaming free. We strongly encourage aversion training, as you never know when your dog might encounter a kiwi.

Hunting is a favourite sport on the island, and pig dogs are frequently used. They are generally well trained, disciplined, and focused on their job. But they are not in direct

control of their owners while searching. These dogs must be aversion trained. We strongly recommend that GPS trackers are fitted to the dogs, so they can be easily located if lost. We don't want them lost roaming and hungry overnight. We will be working with hunting groups to organise the aversion training.

Pet dogs are the greatest risk to kiwi. Pet dogs are generally not as well trained or disciplined as farm or hunting dogs. Pet dogs often like to chase birds or anything that moves or smells. We strongly encourage aversion training for pet dogs, although it is not as effective on them as it is on other dogs. So, we need to take more care with the pet dogs to protect the kiwi. The dog should be in control at all times and not be roaming freely. If they are likely to run off into the bush, then they must be on a lead. If walking in the bush with the dog, then it must be on a lead.

It is sad that kiwis are not abundant, and something that most New Zealanders never get to see or hear. We want to be part of changing that and increasing the biodiversity of Arapaoa. With continued strong community support we can make this project succeed. Controlling and training our dogs will help with these goals.



Our Pilot Programme starts soon, an important stage of our project!

The pilot programme consists of the trialling of trapping, monitoring, administration and organisational systems on a small scale prior to commencing the full island project.

While a considerable amount of research has been undertaken already, with the formation of an Operational Plan and the setup of a Technical Advisory Group, the pilot programme forms the parameters in which the whole project will operate.

We will be installing DOC200 traps on approximately 6kms of existing dirt roads. We will be also installing Goodnature A24 self-resetting traps on walking tracks around 335 ha that is regenerating bush which is typical of the island habitat ranging from sea level to 400 metres. Trail cameras will be installed for observing the pest interaction with the traps and for pest monitoring.



What's happening with other similar project...

Backyard Kiwi is located at Whangarei Heads. They have kiwi roaming around parks, homes, holiday homes and farms. The project started with around 80 kiwi and now they have over 1000! See their [website](#) to be inspired!

KIWI FACTS need to know more, visit 'Save the Kiwi' [website](#)

Funding grants received since last newsletter...



Arapaoa Kiwi is pleased to announce that NZ Lottery Grants Board has funded our Pilot Programme.

A BIG THANK YOU TO NZ LOTTERIES.



Arapaoa Kiwi is pleased to announce that Redwood Trust has funded part of our Community Trapping programme.

A BIG THANK YOU THE REDWOOD TRUST.

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.

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



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