

ARAPAOA KIWI TRUST NEWS

September 2022



What's new for Arapaoa Kiwi Trust

- Community Trapping underway
- Our Pilot Programme traps are out!
- The Council and Significant Natural Areas
- Be inspired, see what Capital Kiwi are achieving
- Connect with us on [facebook](#)



Our Community Trapping Programme is underway

After a six-month delay waiting for our traps to be built, we finally started distributing traps

to residents on Arapaoa Island and the surrounding mainland. We have nearly allocated all 60 of our traps, and are now planning to apply for more grants to purchase another 60.

We are plotting all of the traps on the trap.nz database as the traps are installed and we receive the gps coordinates. Hopefully next newsletter we may be able to provide some catch data, and show the distribution of the traps.

We are after more people who want a trap on their property. You need to be able to check the trap at least monthly. I especially want to place traps around Ruakaka, Bay of Many Coves, Spencer Bay area and on the southern side of Tory Channel to gain genetic samples of stoats on the mainland. But also more traps on the island.

If you already have your own traps, we would welcome you adding them to our database so we can also record those traps and catches - this will help us identify hotspots, and also help determine the trap density and coverage. Just let us know the trap type and GPS location.

A big thank you to our funders Lions Foundation and Redwood Trust along with those participating in our Community Trapping programme.

The photo above shows Neville Gratton setting one of the four traps he has placed in Te Iro Bay in Tory Channel.



Our pilot programme on Arapaoa Island has begun!...

Our trustees Steve Dawson, Mark Denzie, Ben Wybourne, and with the expertise of a

very experienced trapper Darren Peters from Good Nature, we installed and placed 48 traps and 11 cameras to date around the southern end of East Bay. This is the pilot trapping area as outlined in our Operational Plan. The traps placed were mainly Good Nature A24 stoat traps and we still have a large number of DOC200 traps to be placed, delayed due to slips on a track.



Our thanks to Lotteries who funded this first stage of the project to eradicate stoats and reintroduce kiwi onto Arapaoa Island in the next 5-7 years. Also, a thank you to Darren and Good Nature for coming out to the island and assisting us.

The Pilot Programme will verify and confirm the proposed methodologies of trapping, monitoring and organisational systems prior to rolling out the traps on a much larger scale.

The Council and Significant Natural Areas

Will introducing kiwi to Arapaoa give the council opportunity to put any restrictions on landowners?

Mike Aviss, Biodiversity Coordinator from Marlborough District Council says :

"The Council's Significant Natural Areas (SNA) project has been going for over 20 years. In that time Council has invested about \$1.5M into helping landowners achieve their dreams to restore the native species in SNAs on their land. This is in addition to the significant cost of initially having all the sites surveyed and described. There are approximately 800 such sites all over Marlborough, including on Arapaoa, and many contain rare and endangered species of plants and animals, some of which are unique to Marlborough. Council has never made any effort to legislate or regulate to put rules on Significant Natural Areas and has no plans to in the future. In Marlborough, involvement in the SNA project by a landowner is purely voluntary. It is not forced on a landowner and SNAs are confidential to

the landowner. It is however understood that Central Government has intentions to introduce a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, which may require the identification of all SNA's. Our district plan does already protect indigenous forest of a certain age, by requiring a Resource Consent to be approved prior to developing established forested areas that meet criteria.

Where kiwi still survive in the wild in New Zealand, for example in Northland, Taranaki, and Bay of Plenty, they are a bird often associated with farmland with a forested boundary. They happily feed on earthworms on farmland, if they can retreat to the bush by day, where they sleep and breed in their burrows. There is no perceived threat in what the Arapaoa landowners are doing, and no rules have been made in Northland to protect the kiwi feeding on private land. Likewise, we know that dogs are the biggest threat to kiwi and weka in the wild in New Zealand, however the best way to combat that threat in the Marlborough Sounds has been to offer avian aversion training for all dogs, including pig dogs, working dogs and pets. It is recommended but not required and DOC can only prohibit dogs from Public Conservation Land, it has no power over dogs on private land."

What's happening with other similar projects ...

The Capital Kiwi project spans 23,000 hectares, from Red Rocks in the south, to west of Porirua with around 4,400 traps set. A collaboration between locals, landowners, iwi and funders, Capital Kiwi is the largest community-owned stoat trap network in Aotearoa.

Arapaoa Kiwi has gained knowledge and help from Capital Kiwi in our initial setup. There are a number of similarities to both projects. See their [website](#)



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



We have a [facebook page](#) and would love it if you subscribed and shared our posts

To eliminate stoats from the island, we need to trap all the larger properties on the island. Gaining access to

- For more information please contact admin@arapaoakiwi.org.nz
- For property owners, our permission form is

these properties is critical to the project.

available for you here
- [PDF](#) or [Word formats](#)

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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