

ARAPAOA KIWI TRUST NEWS

January 2023



What's new for Arapaoa Kiwi Trust

- Our first year of operational
- Monitoring results
- What's next in 2023
- Stoat Samples
- Community Trappers
- Arapaoa Kiwi Trust feature in Marlborough Express news ... [see link](#)



A Successful Year for Arapaoa Kiwi

Our first year of operation is nearly complete and we are pleased to have achieved all our operational goals. Both the Pilot and Community Trapping programmes are now underway with 154 traps and 22 trail cameras deployed.

These first stages assist us with how the larger scale project will work in practice and also providing us with a platform to test logistics and spot any potential deficiencies before we begin the remainder of the trapping and monitoring.

Our Traps and Cameras

As at mid December we had the following traps and cameras installed:

- 53 Goodnature A24 traps (pilot programme)
- 45 DOC200 run through traps (pilot programme)
- 22 cameras (pilot programme)
- 56 DOC200 traps (community programme)

Summary:

- The run-through traps have recorded three kills (1 stoat and 2 hedgehogs).
- The community traps have recorded two stoats, 4 rats and 1 mouse.
- The A24 traps (which have a chirp cap which records the kills) have recorded 139 kills. These kills have been both in daylight and at night. Our top trap (in the Puriri Valley) has recorded 15 kills in about 10 weeks. Our other top traps have 12 and 10 kills. A number of traps have none. With the A24 traps, we don't know what has been killed, unless we happen to catch it on camera or we find a carcass nearby (we have found rats and mice at some traps - but the weka generally get to them very quickly).

We are now experimenting with different baits and hopefully we start getting more success in the DOC200 traps.



Trap 1026 which has 12 kills on the ridge above Wellington Bay



Success - one of our community traps in Hituau Bay

Monitoring - Results to Date

We have had 22 cameras in the field over the past three months observing traps and lures. We also have 8 zip motolures installed. These motolures are automated mayonnaise dispensers that release a small amount of mayonnaise every day. This is a special mayonnaise that is particularly attractive to stoats, rats etc. We are also trialing a couple of other simple lures.

Of a total of 1833 camera nights, we have observed:

- 235 Rats, 70 Feral Cats, 6 Stoats.

A total of 82,016 images were analyzed! - this takes a lot of time and concentration. In counting these, we have only counted one observation per night - eg if a rat came to the lure three times in one night, it is only counted once.

The big surprise to us all is the number of cats we are observing in the pilot area. Most cameras have images of cats. Both in daylight and at night. There are no domestic cats anywhere near the pilot trap lines.

The other surprising aspect of the monitoring is how few stoats we are observing. We are unsure if this is because of low stoat numbers, or because our monitoring is not optimal. So we are going to try to adjust some of our cameras and lures to see if that makes a difference. Yet we are still getting lots of images of cats and other pests.

Our big problem has been weka monopolizing the lures. They like the mayonnaise as well. Even when we raise the lure up on to a tree, they spend a lot of time trying to jump and fly up to reach the lure. We also have rats monopolizing the lures, so we have added A24 traps near the lures, and this has helped a bit.

We have recently installed another three cameras and another four motor lures to increase our monitoring network.

Monitoring systems and data collection will verify and confirm the proposed methodologies of our trapping, monitoring and organisational systems prior to rolling out the traps on a much larger scale. Our first report has been sent to our Technical Advisory Group for analyzing and feedback.

The Next Stage of our Project

Planning is underway for Stage Two of the Project rollout. This will cover the central part of the island and the land near Cape Koamaru. It will have about 63km of trap lines. We have started applying for funding for this. If successful, we will be starting mid next year.



Stoat Samples

We require samples of all stoats that you catch. Please cut off its tail, and put the tail in a small zip lock bag. Mark it with the location of the trap and date, put it in your freezer and then let us know so we can collect it.

These samples are important for us, as we will use them for genetically analysing the stoat population on the island as well as the nearby mainland. From this, we can determine how many stoats are swimming across to the island annually. This will help us determine the best method for preventing and catching migrating stoats once we have cleared the island of breeding families.



Our Thanks to our Community Trappers

We have nearly allocated all 60 of our traps and plan on increasing the programme by another 60 traps, subject to funding grants.

A big thank you to those volunteers participating in our Community Trapping programme.

Arapaoa Kiwi Trust feature in Marlborough Express news ... [see link](#)



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 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 Trustee. Steve is retired and lives in Waikawa. He traps for Kaipupu Point Sanctuary and Picton Dawn Chorus. Steve is also Past 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.

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