

ARAPAOA KIWI TRUST NEWS

March 2023



What's new for Arapaoa Kiwi Trust

- **Community Trapping update**
- **Whats next... Stage Two**
- **Our Monitoring Cameras**
- **Feral Cats**
- **Local Volunteer Partners**
- **Bird Sighting**

Community Trapping Update

We are getting great results from the community traps. Over the six months we have had them deployed, we have caught 11 stoats, 16 rats and 1 weasel (on the mainland). Six of those stoats in the last 30 days. This is brilliant.

I know some of you are trying really hard and not catching anything, but don't be disappointed - please keep checking the traps and refreshing the baits. No stoats is a good thing!. It also helps give us an indication of the population patterns of the stoats. Monthly data of catches and non catches are logged on trapnz for our analysis.

We are very fortunate to have just received a grant from Pub Charity, and we have ordered another 40 traps for the community trapping. Our stoat samples on the island is going well, but we are now really wanting more samples from the mainland - both on the south Tory Channel area and on the west side of Queen Charlotte. If you know anyone that could have a trap and regularly service it for us in these areas please let us know.



**A big thank you to Pub Charity for funding further traps for our
Community Trapping Programme.**

Trap Count Table – as at 28 March 2023

	Resetting Traps	Strikes	Single Traps	Stoats Caught	Other Caught (e.g. Rats)
Community Traps	0	0	61	11	29
AKT Trap Lines	55	162	48	5	10

Stage Two of the Project

Stage 2 of our project is placing traps in around 4500ha in the centre of the island. We have applied for funding from both Rata Foundation and Lotteries for this. We expect to hear from The Rata Foundation soon, with Lotteries Environmental and Heritage by June. Should we not be successful with these funding applications, we will continue with the traps we have in our Pilot Programme, as well as our Community Trapping, while we apply for further funding.



Our Monitoring Cameras

We have 24 cameras around the pilot area, to help us understand what pests are out there and also to help us understand their behaviour.

Here is a shot of a stoat investigating one of our automatic mayonnaise lures and then having a good sniff in the A24 trap. Unfortunately it was not trapped this time, but hopefully it will return again and get caught.



Feral Cats

One of the big surprises from the Pilot Programme is the number of feral cats we are observing in our monitoring cameras. We have 102 observations of cats, compared to only 15 of stoats, in a total of 3512 camera nights. Like stoats, the feral cats will be having a huge affect on the bird life on the island.

We know that domestic cats are a big part of families, and are much loved. Feral cats are very different. They are wild, are very wary of humans (you don't see them often), and have to hunt to survive. Feral cats are a pest. So we have decided to now actively trap feral cats.

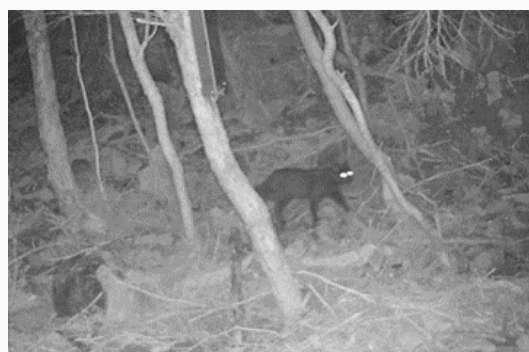
There are two methods we are using. Cage traps which capture the live cat are the most

effective. However they must be checked at least every 24 hours (by law). They can be used near where domestic cats are, as the cats are unharmed in the cage. The problems with cage traps is they can't be set and left (for more than 1 day) so they must be close and you need to kill any feral cat caught (not everyone can do this). They also get a lot of by-catch - weka and small pigs etc.

The alternative is a kill trap. This can be a modified possum trap, or a specialised (and approved) cat trap like the SA2. These traps are baited and they will kill anything that goes into it. Because of this, they are mounted on a sloping board to prevent weka and other non pests from entering. They can't be used where there are any domestic cats nearby - eg in the same or nearby bay.

We have successfully caught cats in both types of traps in the Pilot Programme area (no domestic cats nearby). We have purchased some SA2 traps with our latest grant from Pub Charity and these are available for the community trapping - provided there are no domestic cats in your or adjacent bays.

Please contact Dale at dale@arapaoakiwi.org.nz if you want a trap.



Thank you to Local Volunteer Partners

We are very lucky to have a couple of partners involved in our trapping on Arapaoa Island, this has made our Pilot Programme feasible.

Mark and Eian Denize - Mark is one of the Trustees of Arapaoa Kiwi Trust. They have an existing network of over 47 DOC150/DOC200 and a large number of rat traps on their property. Mark's knowledge and experience with trapping and being on site has really helped the project. He has also been experimenting options to catch the feral cats.

Puriri Preservation Limited - Puriri have worked closely with us and installed a network of 66 traps complimenting our trap network. The servicing of their traps is shared out amongst the shareholders and visitors. It is great seeing the enthusiasm from this group.

Together we have over 214 traps in the 395ha area of the Pilot Programme. This gives us a trap density of 1 trap every 1.8ha (average).

Both these partners have invested a lot of money and really helped the Pilot Programme to have a much denser network than we would have achieved just ourselves. This high density is giving us a lot of information and learnings that we will be using as we expand the trap network.

We have caught 10 stoats in the pilot programme area for the six months, but a number of the traps are A24 self resetting so we don't know how many stoats they have also killed. We are still getting camera recordings of stoats but mainly on the southern boundary.



Tieke (Saddlebacks) & Kaka spotted

We have reports from Onauku Bay (top of East Bay) that a couple of Tieke (saddlebacks) have been spotted, as well as a kaka. The Tieke have probably flown over from Motuara. We have only recently got community traps into this area, so it is unlikely the birds are a result of our trapping. But with five stoats recently caught in the area, we hope that these birds will establish themselves and sightings be more common.



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](#)

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 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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