

ARAPAOA KIWI TRUST NEWS

September 2023



What's new for Arapaoa Kiwi Trust

- Stage Two progress
- Thank you to The Lions Foundation
- Quick Catch
- Next year's planning begun
- Catches & location of traps to date
- Spring has sprung and the stoat mating frenzy has begun

Stage Two Progressing Well

We are in the middle of installing the traps for Stage Two. So far we have installed 60 traps in the Koamaru/Onauku Bay Area in June, 35 traps in the Kilmarnock Forest and another 35 traps in Te Awaiti Bay in September.

Over the next two months, another 95 traps will be installed in the South East part of East Bay, 35 traps from Wharehunga towards Parea Point and 85 traps in the Arapaoa Forest and Deep Bay areas. A very big thanks to all the volunteers for helping install and service these traps.

Photos of Fi Bowler and Steve Dawson installing traps in the Kilmarnock Forest...



A big thank you to The Lions Foundation who continue to support our project. This year our Insurance was covered with funds from their grant.

Quick Catch!

One of our community trappers just recently rebaited her traps and caught a stoat within the hour!. Another stoat was caught on on a new trap in Te Awaiti within a day of installing the new trap. One of the comments we have heard recently is that the stoats really stink - probably males.

Stoat caught on trap installed the day before...



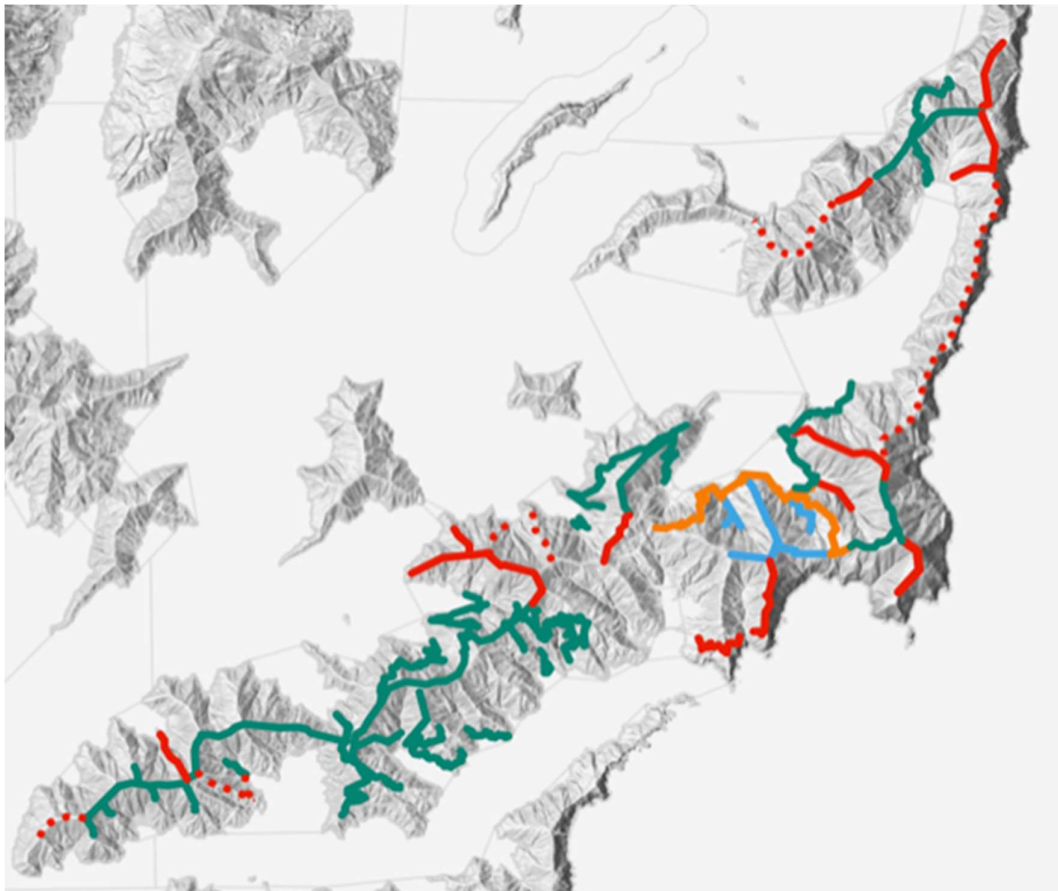
Next Year's Planning Begun

Planning is underway now for Stage 3 for 2024. Although we are only half way through installing this years traps, we have to be finalising our plans for next year so we can start applying for funding grants and sponsorship now. Our first application will be this month.

Stage 3 will aim to maximise our coverage of traps on the island so we can start having a real affect on the stoat population of the whole island. Stage 3 is planned to have 400 traps, consisting of DOC150 traps and Goodnature A24 traps.

Along with these new traps, we will also have to continue servicing all the traps from the Pilot programme and Stage 2. With Stage 3, we will be using some contract trappers for some lines, as there are just too many traps for volunteers. This will bring our trap numbers to around 1000 once installed.

This map below shows our traplines including the Pilot, Stage 2 and Stage 3. There will still be some gaps which we will fill in for Stage 4 (2025). All depends on funding!



Trap Count Table

Trap Counts and catches as reported at 14 September. Numbers in brackets are as at 26 June - the last bulletin.

<i>as at 14 Sep 2023</i>	Resetting Traps	Strikes	Single Traps	Stoats Caught	Other Caught (eg rats)
Community Traps	0	0	108 (106)	30 (23)	195 (132)
AKT Trap Lines	72 (56)	273 (238)	256 (105)	15 (9)	91 (77)

Map showing all the Arapaoa Kiwi trap locations (as at 14 September 2023)



Stoats in Spring

We have had a couple of comments that the stoats caught in September are really smelly. This is likely to be the males roaming for females to mate.

Extracted From - <https://predatorfreenz.org/research/stoat-mating-season/>

Each spring, pregnant female stoats find a cosy den to hunker down and give birth to 5-12 young (kits). No sooner than her kits are born, a male stoat will wander in and mate with the mother. Afterwards, he might turn his attention to any female kits in the den. Because the kits are still blind, toothless, and furless, their fertilised egg float around in the uterus in what's called 'delayed implantation'. The following spring, about 10 months later, the fertilised embryo will implant. Both kits and adult females are capable of this reproductive feat. It's a masterstroke in survival.

After giving birth, a female stoat must eat half to three-quarters of her body weight every day to produce enough milk for her kits. It gets even harder when the young kits are weaned because she must find enough food not only for herself but for the growing young. Stoats can starve within 24 hours if they don't find enough prey.

Sponsorship Needed

While we receive funding from various organisations (and are very grateful for their funding), it has to be applied for each year, it is contestable, and is not guaranteed. We are also relying heavily on volunteers and we are quickly reaching the limit of trapping that can be sustained by volunteers. We are now seeking corporate funding and sponsorship to employ contract trappers and other staff going forward.

If you know of any companies that would be interested in being part of this exciting project, or know a person we could contact directly, please contact Dale our trust administrator with details - email dale@arapaoakiwi.org.nz

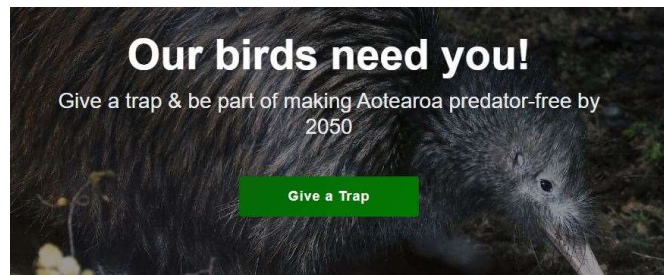


We have a [facebook page](#) and would love it if you subscribed and shared our posts

Our goal is to restore the islands natural environment and re-introduce, protect and keep safe our kiwi for generations to come. The goal is to remove pests, restore birdlife and create a large island habitat suitable for the kiwi population recovery and growth.



Give a trap to Arapaoa Kiwi Trust using [GIVE A TRAP](#) platform and they will organise the supply and delivery of the trap directly to the us.



Meet Arapaoa Kiwi Trust

Steve Dawson - is the Project Leader, Volunteer and Founding Trustee. Steve is retired and lives in Waikawa. Steve is a coastguard volunteer and is also Past Commodore of Waikawa Boat Club. 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

