

ARAPAOA KIWI TRUST NEWS

February 2024



Stage 2 Completed

We have been busy since our last newsletter installing the remainder of traps in Stage 2 of our project. The map below shows all the traps we have installed on the island with the recent traps since September circled in blue. We now have 609 traps installed - incredible progress since we installed our first traps in September 2022.



Trap Count Table:

Updated 15 February 2024	Single Traps	Stoats Caught	Other Caught (e.g. Rats)
Community Traps	112 (111)	37 (31)	240 (226)
AKT Trap Lines	400 (357)	52 (33)	234 (134)
<u>Self Resetting Traps</u>	97 (90)		436 (349) Strikes recorded in last 12 months

(Figures in brackets are from the previous update in Dec 23 for comparison)



A big thank you to the Rata Foundation for another year of operational funding

What is next... Stage 3

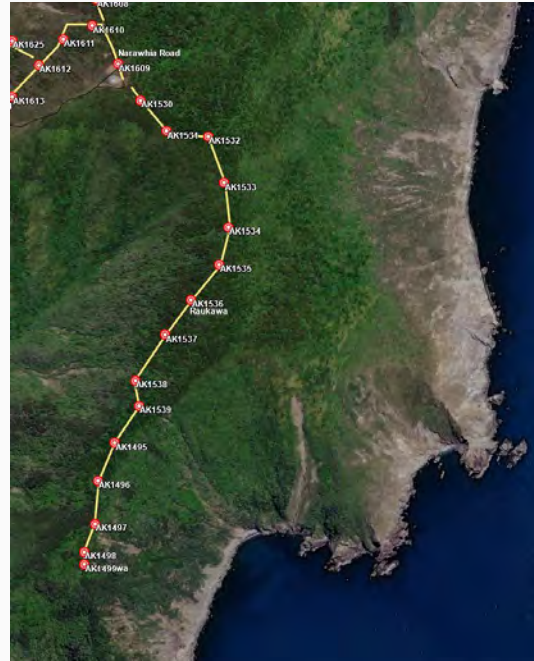
We are now planning Stage 3 for implementing in 2024. Grant funding applications are now underway with another 350-400 traps planned. This will raise our traps to nearly 1000 and then we will start making a real difference to the stoat population of the island. There will still be some gaps, which we will focus on in 2025. The map below has circled the areas we are planning to add trap lines for Stage 3



A BIG THANK YOU to Outward Bound 'Cobham Watch 710' and their instructors for cutting tracks and installing traps recently on Arapaoa Island.

Fantastic hard work with lots of fun and positive feedback. At the start of each day they had to first climb up to Narawhia - the highest hill on Arapaoa (559m), before starting their work.





Fantastic Community Driven Initiative

The old farm tracks above Onauku Bay (East Bay) and Oamaru Bay are getting very overgrown and hard to get through. The landowners have got together and organised to borrow a small bulldozer to clear the tracks to make them passable again. Arapaoa Kiwi has facilitated getting the dozer out to Oanuku Bay, as this will be a huge help for our trappers, and the cleared tracks will be a lot easier and safer for our trapping .

A big thanks to Kenny Barging for their sponsorship for this, and all the landowners who have donated to pay for the barging. The landowners are expecting to start clearing the tracks early March.

Photo is Deb Foster driving the bulldozer up



the beach to her shed.



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

The History of Kiwi on Arapaoa Island

We found an article that appeared in the Evening Post back in April 26, 1930. This article by Mr Stidolph compared the birds in Marlborough in 1930 with that recorded in 1895.

He says that back in 1895, a Mr Handley noted brown kiwi (he didnt specify where), and little grey kiwi were very rare in the sounds district, found at Port Underwood. He then goes on to say that in 1930, *"the only report of the brown kiwi was at Tennyson Inlet, where it was stated to be returning after disappearing for several year. Doubtless, however it still occurs in parts of Queen Charlotte Sound and Arapawa Island. Nothing was heard of the little grey kiwi."*

Digging out the original report from Mr Handley in 1895, it notes:

"brown kiwi where reported in portions of the forest country within the confines of the Queen Charlotte, Pelorus and Kenpuru Sounds. With individuals of Grey Kiwi confined the the high precipitous hills bordering Cook Strait, notably Port Underwood, from where a few are occasionally procured."

So what does this mean for us? Well it confirms the 2 species of kiwi in the Marlborough Sounds were the rowi (Okarito brown kiwi) and the little spotted kiwi (kiwi pukupuku). It says that rowi were still present on Arapaoa in the 1930s. It also confirms that the little spotted kiwi was already in big trouble by 1895 most likely through predation and habitat loss. Both rowi and little spotted kiwi are the 2 most endangered species of kiwi, with rowi now being the rarest. It is now confined to a small area near Okarito on the West Coast, with small translocated populations placed on small islands - including Blumine and Motuara in Queen Charlotte. I hope this helps our case for kiwi translocation to the island once we get the stoats under control.

Here are the links to the two articles. It is fascinating how much the birdlife was being impacted already in 1895. It talks about birds that have long disappeared form this region - saddleback,

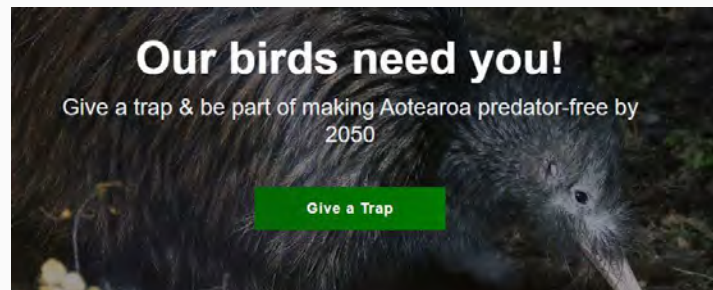
orange-wattled crow, the 4 types of parakeets, kaka, and that the parson bird (Tui?) was a rapidly diminishing species.

[Evening Post article April 1930](#)
[Biodiversity Heritage Library](#)

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.



Thank You!



Rātā Foundation



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



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