

Arapaoa Kiwi Trust News

January 2025



2024 - Another Successful Year

What a year it has been. We have gone from 493 traps to 1003 traps installed. We have traps now the length of the island. We now have professional trappers servicing a number of our trap lines - it is just too big a job and distances too great to do it all by volunteers. Our total stoat catches have gone from 66 to 196. Our catch rates are all trending down which is good. January and February are our highest months for stoat catches as the juveniles are coming out of their dens. We are hoping with the higher number of traps that we really put a large dent in the population over the next two months (and rest of the year).

A project this size requires a lot of funding to buy traps and to service them. We have had incredible support from our grant funding organisation - The Rata Foundation, Lotteries Environmental & Heritage, Pub Charity, Lions Foundation, Redwood Trust, OneFortyOne, and Working for Nature.

A big thank you to our wonderful local businesses who have partnered with us over the last year - Wilderness Guides (Marlborough Tour Company), Interislander, New World Blenheim and Port Marlborough. This ongoing sponsorship funding assists the project with our costs for three part-time contract trappers who monitor and service traps and cameras monthly.

Also a huge thanks to all those volunteering - servicing the traps, cutting tracks, carrying traps and general assistance, and to all the landowners who allow us access onto your property for trapping.

This map shows the trap network as at January 2025



2025 focus

With three successful years, about 80% of the planned trap lines, traps and cameras are now operational and we will continue with the remainder of the rollout in 2025/6.

A total of 250 traps, equipment and various baits are planned to be installed for Stage 4 thus giving the project approximately 1300 traps and 60 cameras operating for the project.

Along with the installation of these new traps in Stage 4, trappers will also continue to monitor and service all the traps from the previous stages.



interislander

**Email Us Now to Enter
for a \$500 Interislander
Travel Voucher**

The Interislander has generously donated a \$500 voucher to one of our newsletter recipients. To enter, just [email](#) us your contact details and state how many years of operation the Arapaoa Kiwi Trust has been trapping on the Arapaoa Island. We will draw a winner from the entries, closes 31 January.

Current Trap Count

| Total traps | Stoats Caught | Others caught (eg rats) |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1022 (806) | 221 (177) | 1040 (837) |

Figures in brackets are from Sep 2024

| Cameras | Camera Nights | Stoats Seen | Cats Seen |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 48 | 24,040 | 75 | 643 |

We now have a YouTube Channel

We now have a YouTube channel with videos of the island and our trapping. We started this channel to show you a bit about what is going on in the project and to showcase the island and to show that it would be a great environment for kiwi in the future.

We are adding videos every month or two, so please [subscribe](#) so you get notified when new ones are published and please share with others.

Here are some of the videos that we have made:



Clearing the Cooks Lookout track - 4
[youtube](#)



Outward Bound - Arapaoa Kiwi 5
[youtube](#)



[Assembling Traps and Renwick Mens Shed](#)
[youtube](#)

Stoats on Camera

Baby stoats, called kits, are born in the spring. At birth, they are blind, deaf, toothless, and covered with soft fur called down. Teeth first come in at 3 weeks, and they can start eating solid food at 4 weeks and stop nursing at 12 weeks. The eyes and ears open at 5 to 6 weeks. The female will care for the young until they are self-sufficient at around 12 weeks. Around the beginning of December they leave the nests and we start seeing them on our cameras. We start seeing them in our catch data from mid December. January and February are our highest catch months.

When we catch a stoat, we try to determine the sex of it and record it. Catching a female is a big win - as that wipes out a whole family from next year!

Three stoats in front of a camera - the fish oil lure is in the piece of horizontal wood tied to the tree.



Visit our Website

We have just refreshed and updated our [website](#) with our thanks to Craig Brand.



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

Thank you to our grant organisations who annually provide us with funding and to our local sponsors who support the project:





interislander



NEW WORLD
Blenheim



**WILDERNESS
GUIDES**
marlborough sounds



Port Marlborough

Meet Arapaoa Kiwi Trust Team

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 is passionate about the Marlborough Sounds, its environment and loves to hike and sail. Email dale@arapaoakiwi.org.nz

