

Kiwi Corridor Project update

With Jobs for Nature and Save the Kiwi funding 2021 - 2025, our Trust umbrellas the expansion of the pest protection area to work in with neighbouring Otangaroa, upper Fern Flat and Mangamuka areas.

Our **2022 Planning Day** was held on 12 February up the end of Honeymoon Valley.

We had 19 people come along on the day, most of our contractors in the morning and the Governance Group had their meeting in the afternoon with several attending from further away via Zoom. Bernard our Project Manager gave us a great presentation of the project and progress to date.

Living far and wide spread around these hills and gravel roads, and with Covid awareness, we appreciated everyone's effort, putting faces to names, some of us meeting folks for the first time and some seeing this side of the range for the first time.

We all agreed our Project Manager and our nine Contractors have done a fantastic job over the past year. Some call it "tramping with a purpose" but it's so much more than that. It is tough work and you have to be fit and strong, determined, able to work alone, carry the traps up into the forest, observe and be bush savvy, be able to deal with smelly dead things and wanting to kill more! Feedback from 2021 and suggestions for 2022 is all being incorporated into us doing it all better.

We now have nearly 4000 ha of our planned 7000 ha project area with pest control management deployed. Over 1500 traps are out on 107 km of pest control tracks. Our project area includes public and private land on the Maungataniwha Range.



Map above showing location of deployed mustelid traps at March 31st 2022.

We are noticing more kukupa/ kereru and Miro Miro/ Tomtits around, and we are hoping our local remnant kiwi population will also increase.

One of our main funders 'Save the Kiwi' have hired an auditing company, KPMG, to go through all our systems and check that we are fulfilling all our obligations well. Lots of meetings, phone calls, Zoom and documents collated for this review. So far so good! We are now into our second year of using the Xero (a NZ company) accounting system for all our invoicing and accounts.

Project expansion 2022

We are helping establish a ridge trapline with the landowners on the edge of Shepherd Road, Fern Flat, they are doing a lot of track clearing and putting traps in place. Great to have more folks on the job.

New traplines are also being planned and established on neighbouring farms to the north west of our project area. We picked up 300 more stoat DoC200 traps made by Ngawha prison inmates - we do pay for them but thanks guys!

Photo: DoC200 double stoat traps ready to be back packed into site



Established traplines are being regularly checked and baited by our contractors.

Continued observation, improvements and trail camera intel are all useful to improve success.

Possum hunting focus ideal now

Over 1800 possums have been hunted out of Otangaroa and Honeymoon Valley so far this year. Tor, Miro & Bernard are continuing this leading into winter. Fur is being harvested by hand up in the forest and machine closer to base = \$4 per possum. Some bodies being buried in gardens, others being frozen for sale to a pet food manufacturer.

Preparation is also underway for our second year of possum monitoring in spring (10 randomised lines using same GPS points). Chew tags compare possum and rat numbers year by year in the same areas. This data measures and compares future trapping efforts.

Possum killing is an ongoing job for forest and ecosystem health, thanks to all out there doing their bit.



Getting numbers down in autumn before spring breeding really helps. We can give you a free SA2 possum trap and show you how to use it effectively - Come along to our Landcare working bee day in May (see notice in this Panui) or Contact Bernard



DOC 200 trap box with kiwi-excluding entrance
Image 2 of 4 (left: 10/20/200)

CLOSE X

Note that all our feral cat and possum traps are kiwi safe and set up on ramps 70cm above ground eg this SA2 cat trap on manuka ramp. All stoat traps are kiwi friendly with mesh protecting inquisitive kiwi from getting inside.

Timms traps (yellow and red plastic colour) for possums are ideal in home zones, but to be kiwi safe they should be set up on a ramp like this, so they can be slid out for baiting, cleaning etc.



Hupara Landcare's ramp and sliding Timms trap

Free offers to Honeymoon Valley residents:

Rat trap in a box - DoC200 stoat / rat trap in a box - SA2 Possum trap

We can show you how to bait and set them. Contact Bernard Coogan 021 206 6719

We have support to deal with these problem weeds on your properties:

ginger, jasmine, seedling pines

Contact Yvonne 09 4085588 027 6999 063

Honeymoon Valley Landcare Needs You!

Come along to our annual

FUND RAISING WORKING BEE

at Mangakawakawa/ Puhoi Reserve in the valley

Sunday 15 May 2022 9 am - 2 pm

(if too rainy then the following Saturday 21 May)

Meet 8.30 am at 500 Honeymoon Valley Road bus stop to carpool the 3km up to the Reserve

This 241 hectare reserve is owned by NZ Native Forest Restoration Trust, who support our Landcare work in the valley and we are grateful that they offer us this fund raising opportunity.

We are then free to use these funds for your valley landcare priorities.

Bring your visitors and Woofers!

We catch up with others and enjoy the day.

Every hour of work is \$25 funds for our group!! Last year we raised \$2000 which we have spent on tools.



We will be working on road and pest control track trimming, pruning, road clearing, and some cut and paste on gorse.

Bring

Tools and gloves if you have them, and we have tools available also.

We will have a safety chat, and remind everyone that volunteers work at their own risk.

Lunch and drinks are provided (please text Bernard 021 206 6719 for catering purposes). **Bring along something to share if you can**

Free Landcare pest traps and materials offered to valley residents on the day

Hope to see you there!

Did you know?

**an average POSSUM eats 300 gm vegetation per day = 550kg over lifetime
they live for an average of 5 years but can live to be 13 years old**

*People used to think that possums only ate plants, but in 1993 possums were filmed eating the eggs and chicks of endangered kōkako. They have since been filmed **eating the eggs, chicks and even adults of many other native birds including kererū, kiwi, harrier hawk, fantail, muttonbird, and tūī. They also eat the nectar and berries that native birds like to eat so there is a lot less food for the birds.***

- they are nocturnal and feed at night
- often follow the same track, forming flattened paths about 20cm wide
- have an average home range of 1-2 hectares in forest and can have multiple nest sites
- have favourite trees that are visited regularly, leaving extensive scratch marks in their bark and heavy browsing of leaves and fruit, they can cause canopy collapse on favourite species such as rata, taraire, puriri
- their dislike of wet weather makes control much more successful during fine weather



Northern Rata with red flowers stands out this summer in our project area that has had a reasonable amount of possum control over the years

Mature Taraire trees showing possum browse on young growth contributing to canopy collapse.



OUR VALLEY LANDCARE CODE

- Looking after the valley for our enjoyment and for future generations
- Working together whilst respecting everyone's privacy on their land
- Increasing native birdlife and the health of our surrounding forests
- Reducing problem weeds in our valley
- Maintain our high water quality and natural native stream side vegetation

Cats and dogs in our project area

It is estimated there are 2.5 million feral cats in NZ and we have our share in the our feral cat traps are only set up well within our project forest area, and we have our trail cameras and caught a few.

We are worried about recent wandering dogs seen by Contractors and recorded on cameras well up in the Forest Park project area. They do not have collars, and we note breed, colour, size, where and when they were sighted.

“Know Your Dog Workshop” for 2 hours (without your dog) is being offered soon by local retired vet and dog handler Lesley Baigent. A great opportunity to learn more on tips to help dogs learn, how to “speak” dog, and simple things you can do to keep kiwi and dogs safe.

Kiwi care for dog owners recommends

Dogs not roaming

Dogs indoors at night or tied up when kiwi are out and about

Don't walk your dog in the bush unless on a leash

Be responsible with your visitors dogs

If you live near kiwi habitat then have your dog Kiwi aversion trained, which is 65% - 95% effective



bush. Note that seen cats on

our trail their

Kiwi Call Count Survey dates for 2022: 19 May - 8 June and 17 June - 7 July

It's that time of year soon to sit out in the dark and listen out for those precious kiwi we've been working hard to protect! This monitoring method involves recording all kiwi calls heard over a 2 hour period on four nights.



These special dates are chosen each year by the national Kiwi Recovery Group, to coincide with the darker phases of the moon, as kiwi are thought to call less during a full moon.

We will also be setting up some Kiwi Listening Devices again this winter to collect more info out there in the forest.

If you want to watch a feisty adult kiwi chase a possum out of its burrow then look this video up on You Tube:

Northland brown kiwi fights off possum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksQX2jIWhw>

Free in Peria - no dogs, just owners!

KNOW YOUR DOG WORKSHOP

Bush Fairy Dairy

Come along and learn about:

Dogs - What makes man's best friend tick

How dogs learn - Simple tips to help them learn

What are dogs telling us -

How to "speak" dog

Dogs under control - What this means, how to get there

Dogs and wildlife -

Simple things you can do to keep kiwi and dogs safe

**KIWI
COAST**

FREE WORKSHOP

Date: 22 May 2022

Venue: Bush Fairy Dairy

Time: 1pm-3pm 1195 Oruru Rd

No dogs - just owners!

To book email lesley@kiwicoast.org.nz

Workshop led by retired vet and dog handler Lesley Baigent

as part of our **Landcare Info & Demonstration Day**
at Bush Fairy Dairy **Sunday 22 May 2022** 10 am - 3 pm

1195 Oruru Road, Peria (near Fern Flat turnoff) *All welcome*

Living amongst and with our native Biodiversity in Peria
Landcare Info & Demonstration Day at Bush Fairy Dairy
Sunday 22 May 2022 10 am - 3 pm
1195 Oruru Road, Peria (near Fern Flat turnoff)



drop in for free All welcome
**Local information and networking to support our community
and environment**

Demonstration of pest traps you can use

Rat traps - DoC200 stoat / rat trap in a box - SA2 Possum trap

How to bait and set them

Weeds on your stream and property

Long term problem species to target

Strategies to deal with them

Know Your Dog Workshop (for owners not dogs) 1 - 3 pm

Many thanks to our funders;

Save the Kiwi / Jobs for Nature

Foundation North

Kiwi Coast

Department of Conservation

Predator Free 2050

Northland Regional Council Bio Fund

Summit Forests NZContacts:

www.honeymoonvalleylandcare.org.nz

***Working together to create a sustainable, healthy Honeymoon
Valley ecosystem, for the enjoyment of all community members
and for the benefit of present and future generations.***

Shayne Waldron	027 337 7925	Trustee	Finances and Fund Raising
Loie Webb	4085 560	Trustee	
Yvonne Steinemann	4085 588	027 6999 063	Secretary and Weed Action
Bernard Coogan	021 206 6719		Pest Control Project Co-ordinator
Sandra Carey	021 116 4207	Trustee	Kiwi Dog Aversion Training
Gerlinde Andraschko	4085 570	Trustee	Health and Safety
Julien Atkinson	021 774 426	Trustee	Biodiversity
Wayne Parsonson	021 0343 2118		Possum trapping

Facebook : **Honeymoon Valley Landcare** News and photos with over 100 friends

Email to be on our contact list: honeymoonvalleylandcare@gmail.com