

## Our Kiwi Corridor Project is growing 2021 - 2024

Thanks to Jobs for Nature/ Save the Kiwi funding that began in early 2021, our project is now linking up with folk in Fern Flat, Otangaroa and towards Mangamuka, aiming for 7000 hectares of pest controlled area. We are one of 12 projects funded by Jobs for Nature in the Te Tai Tokerau area. Thanks also to; Foundation North, NRC, Dept of Conservation, Native Forest Restoration Trust and Summit Forests.

- *Maungataniwha Range connects us all, we all live far and wide over the hills and up valleys*
- *This forest has been largely unmanaged for introduced pests until now*
- *Helping restore the Mauri of the forest and waterways, leaving a healthier Ngahere for future generations*



**A good start has been made on the ground with**

- 63 km of pest control tracks completed out of 120 km of planned
- 812 kill traps deployed targeting stoats, weasels and feral cats
- Traps baited and monitored monthly
- 9 Local contractors employed

Local pest control hunters have been working hard this year on tracks in the forest; some old, some new, on private land and in the Dept of Conservation forest that connects us all. Challenges include wet weather, steep terrain, carrying ramps, tools and heavy box traps deep into the forest and regular baiting. Thanks team; Bernard, Mandy, Paul, Cle, Tor, Rod, Jonny, Miro, Chris, Charley

Our contract trappers have had workshops this year with professional trappers on Pest Control methods, pest monitoring, First Aid, Health & Safety, and our pest catches are recorded on [www.trap.nz](http://www.trap.nz).

Possum populations are being monitored now for base line population levels to help us with future forest support. Our mature forest canopy is showing severe signs of accumulated possum browse in some areas on the tasty Rata, Taraire, Kohekohe and Puriri; some mature trees are in collapse.

A possum trap ramp network is being established on our tracks to support possum hunters for fur (currently \$110 kg) and the pet food market. Traps are put on these ramps to be above kiwi height so they pose no risk to kiwi. 1300 possums have been killed and composted in the upper valley this year.

**Bernard Coogan, Project Manager with a trailer load of “hardware” stoat traps ready to be carried into the forest**







**Track network planning over winter**



**Learning trail camera set up**



People are saying they are seeing more Miro Miro (tomtit), Kereru/ Kukupa and Tui, the Ngahere is producing more berries and bird food.

Our project is presently committed to no poison use, and this will be especially challenging in years to come with rats being so hard to eradicate with current methods. Automated self-resetting kill traps have been developed and we are trialling them, but hope in future they will become cheaper and more effective for a project like ours.

Predator Free NZ 2050 may well give us some solutions to this NZ wide problem.

**Tor laden with stoat traps**



**Camera photos showing some of what's out there!**



# Free Kiwi Aversion Training for Dogs

**Sunday 5 December 2021 9 am - 2 pm**

**at 710 Honeymoon Valley Road**

*All Honeymoon Valley dogs and owners welcome*

**Wild kiwi live in our valley, and have been observed (and killed) on domestic properties over the years. Our pest control is focusing on encouraging their successful breeding.**

**We encourage all local dog owners living in the valley to bring their pet dogs and pig hunting dogs. The 15 minute training session with Lesley Baigent, our local trainer ensures they are “kiwi aware”.**

Observe what your dog does coming across 4 different kiwi temptations full of feathers, scent, stuffed birds etc

Your dog will then be certified kiwi aversion trained.

Refreshers recommended every year to ensure that your dog shows continued aversion.

**Book in with Sandra 021 116 4207**

## **Kiwi care for dog owners recommends**

**Dogs not roaming**

**Dogs tied up or indoors at night**

**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**



### **OUR VALLEY LANDCARE CODE**

- Looking after the valley for our enjoyment and for future generations
- Working together whilst respecting everyones 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



## WEEDS UPDATE

Spring has sprung, everything is growing. We live in a special place, the wild native nature and riverside will regenerate and look after itself apart from some dominant self-seeding weeds that will grow in the forest understory

**Privet** is flowering white now; a good time to cut down at ground level and paste the root to kill it. We are working on pushing privet back down the valley, some good progress has been made in the past 2 years.

Birds carry privet seed first along roadsides and paddock edges. Target the flowering mother trees now so the seed cycle is broken. Cut trunk horizontal at ground level and paste.

A similar weed is cotoneaster (red berry bush) which is growing on the roadside near first half of the valley.

If you want to see how our forest could be taken over by privet then look at the area on the left of the road between Peria School and Peria Cemetery!

**Ginger** infestations in the upper valley have been targeted over the past 3 years and 80% killed, but seedlings continue to pop up deep in forest nearby on 7 different properties. Minimum is to stop the seed cycle with follow up over next few years - cut flower heads off, collect and burn if seeds present. Cut'n'paste stems with Metsulfuron gel.

Ginger has sprung up in a big way in Fern Flat and Peria Valley Roads in the last decade, it would be great to have some locals there targeting it especially along the river.

**Jasmine climbing weed** (with the lovely scented flowers!) was targeted on 4 properties this year, including land owners who have lived in the valley for over 40 years who have seen this grow into a big problem. We are concerned that it does not ramble and enter our river ecosystem forever.



**Depending on the scale of the weed problem, location of where it is growing, what species and the season; there are organic control options, hand control options and professional contractors available for larger problem areas.**

**Contact Yvonne 0276999063 to discuss your weeds or have her visit to assess and demonstrate control options.**

*Honeymoon Valley Landcare fund raises with our annual working bee to support valley land owners and we can offer free Gel to use on stumps. Electric Recipro saw available for loan for privet stumps cutting.*

[www.honeymoonvalleylandcare.org.nz](http://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	Trustee 4085 560	
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](mailto:honeymoonvalleylandcare@gmail.com)

**Tax deductible donations to: Honeymoon Valley Landcare 38 9016 0688584 00**