

Honeymoon Valley Landcare Trust

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

Free KIWI AVERSION TRAINING for DOGS

Sunday 14 October 10 am – 3 pm

here in the valley at the bus stop 500 Honeymoon Valley Road

Book in with Sandra 021 116 4207

It only takes 20 minutes and we are encouraging all local dogs that live in the valley, or go pig hunting to do this. Refreshers recommended every year.

The observer and trainer Lesley Baigent is a trained vet and dog owner herself. She keenly observes with you your dogs behaviour going past 4 different kiwi attractants, and it's very informative for you as the dog owner. If they take an interest in the first kiwi obstacle next to the track, a slight electric shock is applied. Almost all dogs respond immediately avoiding the next 3 kiwi obstacles. A great reassurance for you as the dog owner.

We know of at least 3 adult kiwi that have been killed by dogs in our valley over the years, one was just outside the back door of a house on Honeymoon Valley road. A kiwi was seen in winter 2017 on the road and they have been seen occasionally up our side roads.

Kiwi care recommends

Dogs not roaming

Dogs tied up or indoors at night

Dont 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 (65% - 95% effective)

Our winter kiwi call counting indicates we have several populations worth protecting.

Our pest control is focusing on helping young kiwi grow up without being predated by stoats, weasels, ferrets and feral cats. All our birdlife benefits from this pest control and re-baiting the traps is a nice way to get out into our bush regularly. The DOC 200 traps we use are very humane and easy to set and bait.



Reminder that we are focusing on our Spring Possum hit now, so our efforts help each other keep possum populations down. Jordan Hailstone and Hamish Harris took out over 250 possums a few weeks ago from our main track runs. Thanks guys.

WEED ACTION WORKING BEES

on occasional Sundays 10 am – 12 noon

Many hands make light work

We advise via text and email, feel free to call one near you!

Cut'n'paste using our tool kit, which is also available for loan.

Hand saws, flax knives (ideal for ginger) and an electric Recipro saw, rubber gloves

Backpack sprayers and 2 litre hand sprayer available for use on your properties.

Contact Yvonne re loan and if you need tubes of Met and Piclorum (Pic) chemical used on the privet.

Our main focus right now is Ginger, Privet, Cotoneaster – weeds that can carpet the native bush and prevent regeneration. Privet has been going further up the valley along the road so we are working back down the valley. Roadsides tend to have most of them where the birds spread the seed. We are using hand methods along the roadside, cutting stems and pasting chemical on the stub to prevent sprouting. Identify the big seeding plants and take them out first. Hand weed the little seedlings, quite easy right now in the wetter soil. You can choose to spray large privet infestations on your property.

Climbing weeds such as Jasmine, Banana Passionfruit etc are also top priority, generally requiring a spray. We have gear available for loan and the chemical also – contact Yvonne 027 6999 063

The ginger problem on several properties at the top of the valley had a professional contractor spray the large infestations over summer and autumn, thanks to some funding we received. Using the relatively low toxicity Metsulruron (Met) chemical.

We are using hand methods on outlying ginger plants and checking we have got all the clumps along the rivers edge. Observation and hand work will continue to be needed over the next 2 years to cull all outliers. Cutting the seed heads off and burning is the minimum to stop the seeding cycle, but the clumps need digging up or dab stems with the Met chemical.



**Ginger before and after on our river:
cut stems horizontal and quickly dab paste**

Privet and Cotoneaster method is the same



RIVER PROTECTION

Our river (called Peria Stream on the maps) has been identified as one of the cleanest rivers in the region. It is a reference site for water sampling and samples are taken at Coogans property. Several people are keen to look into options with NRC and other agencies to give our river more protection and a meeting will likely be called soon to look into it.

Ours streams water quality results are available. Let us know if you would like a copy.

Contact Shayne or Patrick Coogan if you are interested in helping work on our river protection.

GROWSAFE SPRAY ACCREDITED TRAINING OFFER

This is being offered free by NRC to someone in our group. This is worth over \$500 and maybe it will be useful for a residents other work. Travel to Kerikeri or Whangarei is covered, and it takes one day of your time. Contact us if you are interested.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE LICENCE for PEST CONTROL OFFER

Our group can sponsor a keen local pest killer to do the course and get their licence so they can use Cyanide etc. Let us know if you are interested.

FOSTERING OUR WILD KIWI

Kiwi counts 2018 have been entered into the National Register, we have one new listening site in our valley added

Kiwi Awareness signs for private land are available, there are 3 options supplied by Kiwis for Kiwis – contact Sandra if you would like one



Our Pest Control Strategy aims to increase bird life

Stage 1 established focusing on stoat, feral cats, possums

Reminder that trap baits should be refreshed fortnightly in summer and monthly in winter. Let us know if you need bait supplied.

Pest control track work will continue over summer for easier quad bike access on pest control routes

We are looking to expand our Pest Control Project area wider with Stage 2 development. NRC are encouraging us to become a **Community Pest Control Area (CPCA) project.** Let us know if you want to join in.

Materials are supplied and our group has to employ a professional contractor for baiting and trap reporting. We are keen to take our project to this next level but it requires us as participating landowners to support the project, perhaps paying a few dollars per hectare each year for the professional contractor, and fund raising also.

RAT CONTROL and POISONS some things to consider

Rat poison is not one of our Landcare supplies at present. Our DOC 200 traps will get some rats but they are targeting mustelids (stoats, weasels, ferrets). As we shape up our next stage with what pests we commit to, we will see if we can commit to rat control in an intensive way.

Two options of rat poison active ingredient - Diphacinone or Brodifacoum.

Some people prefer the Diphacinone as it's a non-secondary poison, but debate is hot in the Landcare group about the benefits of secondary poisoning being more effective as more pests killed with one hit. Watch this space, we have to get more informed! It is individual landowner choice.

Peria Charitable Trust owns large areas of land at the start of the valley where pines were logged late last year and continuing this year. We have had two positive meetings including viewing each others land. We look forward to working together to look after our valley.

Logging concerns

Potential weeds spreading after harvest eg privet

Pine seedlings sprouting and not managed

Road condition with diggers and heavy truck use has been difficult for residents

Informing residents if there future aerial spraying planned

Our Charitable Trust is focusing on action on the ground

Two meetings per year – autumn and spring

Donations are 33% tax deductible

Bank account 38 9016 0688584 00

Trustees: Shayne Waldron, Gerlinde Andraschko, Yvonne Steinemann, Gigi Gilchrist, Julien Atkinson

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