

## 2019/2020 – the year in review . . .



1. **Aotea Trap Library:** our trap library initiative has grown and with funding from World Wildlife Fund New Zealand, we now have a Coordinator. Lotte McIntyre has been handing out as many traps and trap boxes as she can get to the island. She is also exploring having the trap boxes made on island. Lotte is continuing to educate people on how to input their trap locations and catch data onto TrapNZ. Thank you to Auckland Council who are funding traps and boxes. Our funders allow our community to continue reducing rat numbers and protecting wildlife through this project.

2. **Aotea Bird Count and Okiwi Kākāriki Research:** we lead a collaborative process to deliver the inaugural island wide bird count with the objective of evaluating the trends in bird life and the possible effects of pest management. The bird count occurred in December 2019. The report along with a second report comparing data from 2007, can be found at <https://www.gbiet.org/bird-count>. The kākāriki project in Okiwi continues with another nest count and population observations in late 2019. There have been sightings of highly rat-sensitive kākāriki as far south as Medlands which is great news for the hard-working community group, Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision! Keep trapping Aotea.



restoration of the south of the island.

3. **Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision:** we support this group by acting as their umbrella funding organisation. We continue to work with the Ecology Vision facilitator and Auckland Council staff to help this group continue their good work. They gained funding from the DoC Community Fund to help **restore and protect** the wetland which Medland Road runs right through. This is a key step in the

4. **State of the Environment Report – Update on Our Birds:** trustee, Emma Waterhouse is project managing this, collating all the published data on our birdlife since 2010. John Ogden, DoC and others are assisting with data sets on dotterels, bitterns, pāteke, black petrels, gannets and more. The data from the Aotea Bird Count is also being included.



5. **Tū Mai Taonga/North Aotea Project:** initiated by the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee (ACPAC) this collaborative project aims to expand existing effort to remove feral cats from the north and to suppress rats. It is hoped this will lead to the return of kōkako and other taonga, such as black petrel, pāteke, dotterel, kākā, kereru and kākāriki. Bring Back Kōkako, remains a project of Ngāti Rehua, which is enabled by this work. A working group comprising of DoC, iwi and other local reps, Auckland Council and ourselves, has begun community research and is securing funding for a programme lead and detailed scoping.

6. **Marine Protection:** we submitted to the Sea Change ministerial advice process in support of the submission from the Auckland Conservation Board emphasising the urgency of action especially on crayfish, MPAs, reduced commercial catches and on seabirds. We are seeking funding for a State of the Marine Environment report for Aotea. We are still advocating for an appropriate planning response to marine dumping in the Auckland Region and presented at the Ports of Auckland dredging consent hearing in June 2020.

7. **National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity:** in March 2020 we made a submission to the draft of this policy to support better protection of taonga species in planning and development of our region.

8. **Aotea Plan and Local Board Plan:** we made submissions to both these local plans to give our support on the critical need for resilience in all environmental ecosystems – marine, freshwater, estuarine, terrestrial and related sectors such as tourism, construction and fisheries. Plus we informed you, our members of the opportunity to make a submission. Thank you to those of you who found the time to do this.

9. **Further Conservation Support for Aotea:** we supported a request from ACPAC to the Minister of Conservation to allow access to Hirakimata during Level

3 for cat trapping and black petrel chick monitoring. We also supported DoC Aotea's efforts to secure resourcing to address ongoing pāteke declines on Aotea. We have



also advocated to the office of the Director General of Conservation, Lou Sanson, to provide support to Aotea in line with that being provided to Rakiura | Stewart Island and Waiheke for conservation and restoration, with associated employment and community benefits. Finally, we held the first Aotea Conservation Workshop in November 2019, providing a forum for all organisations involved in conservation on Aotea to share values, goals, and priorities. This event will be repeated in November 2020.

10. **Predator free Rakitū:** the Minister for the Environment, Hon. Eugenie Sage, has announced that Rakitū Island is now rat free! Prior to this, monitoring showed the rats there were amongst the largest and in the highest density ever recorded in NZ. Rakitū joins more than 40 other pest free islands in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, including Rangitoto, Motutapu, Motuihe, Tiritiri Matangi and Hauturu | Little Barrier Island. They provide a safe haven for threatened native wildlife including takahē, kākāpō, kōkako, kiwi, geckos, skinks, bats, wetāpunga and tuatara. The 330-hectare Rakitū once had thriving, breeding colonies of seabirds, before rats were introduced. Kākāriki, ōi|grey-faced petrel, pōpokotea|whitehead, korimako|bellbird, toitoi|North Island tomtit and pīhoiho|New Zealand pipit all once bred there. We are keen to support DoC and Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai Aotea to restore Rakitū.

11. **Our Strategic Plan 2020 – 2022:** is now completed. Thank you to those stakeholders who gave us feedback on this. Please find this [attached](#).

### How can you help us continue to make a difference in 2020/21?

**Become a trustee:** none of this work is possible without a committed team. In particular we are looking for a part time treasurer to manage finances as we help more projects come to fruition by acting as an umbrella trust. Or you may have skills in community engagement, fundraising, communications, science or project management. If YOU are keen to make a difference restoring Aotea, get in touch with our Coordinator, Marea via 022 344 2438 or [contact.gbiet@gmail.com](mailto:contact.gbiet@gmail.com).

**Get trapping:** please get in touch with Lotte at the Aotea Trap Library [here](#) (or email [aoteatraplibrary@gmail.com](mailto:aoteatraplibrary@gmail.com)) and set your property up to manage rats in order to protect our wildlife.

**Make a donation:** thanks to those already doing this important work. Funding our work are our invaluable partners and funders including Foundation North, Department of Conservation, Auckland Council, the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board and WWF New Zealand. Thank you also to our members who donate regularly, either monthly or annually. With many of our members converting to a one-off life membership, membership fees are providing only a small proportion of our income. Please contact us if you would like to make a donation or upgrade your support. Thank you!



**Aotea Great Barrier**  
ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

### Donation Options

#### Annual:

- Individual: \$25
- Family: \$35
- Senior: \$20
- Student: \$15
- Corporate I: \$200 (up to 5 employees)
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#### Life:

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#### You can also:

- **sponsor** activities or projects,
- make a **significant donation** or
- become one of our **regular donors**.

Contact us at [contact.gbiet@gmail.com](mailto:contact.gbiet@gmail.com), otherwise our account number is ASB 12-3110-0058231-00.

All donations are tax deductible.

IF you know of anyone else who may be keen to join us, they can do so at

<https://www.gbiet.org/join-us>.

Thank you!

