



**Aotea Great Barrier**  
ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

# Annual Members Report 2021

A year in review -  
February 2022



Kererū - Guy McIndoe

# Haere Mai

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Dear members and friends,

Welcome to our annual report – later than in the past, as we move to align this to our financial reporting.

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When 2021 came to an end most of us were happy to see the back of it. But if there was a winner emerging from COVID-19 was it te taiao, the natural environment. While the island was closed to visitors for four months, some hard yards were done to make sure Aotea got a share of the Jobs For Nature conservation funding on offer. And many more were carrying on with the unrelenting business of predator control and advocating for Aotea's treasured places and wildlife. The outcome was worth it – more than \$5m committed to help rid Aotea of feral cats and rats, via Tū Mai Taonga. More about that below.

*Thank you again for your ongoing support and donations this year*



Tū feeding on harakeke – Rylie Arnell

Your support is vital to our work. COVID has constrained many regular funders and some have withdrawn or reduced funding altogether. So thanks especially to those who donate each month. Having this regular income is especially important to us in these times. Our small largely voluntary team depends on non-grant income for projects, so please get in touch if you would like to do more. It all helps in some way.

And we are grateful to our partners and funders including the newly elected **Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust, PF2050NZ Ltd, Foundation North, the Department of Conservation, Auckland Council, the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board and WWF New Zealand.**

# Highlights Package 2021

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Here is a taste of what we've been up to on your behalf to love/aroha, protect/tiaki and restore/whakahou Aotea.

We'd love your feedback. Get in touch with Hannah, our new coordinator on [contact.gbiet@gbiet.org](mailto:contact.gbiet@gbiet.org)

Ngā mini nui ki a koutou  
Kate Waterhouse|Chair

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## Tū Mai Taonga

COVID has lead to the Jobs For Nature funding pool and an opportunity to secure serious, long-term funding for the restoration of Aotea.

Tū Mai Taonga began in 2020 as a collaborative project to remove feral cats and reduce rats to low densities, beginning in the north of the island. In early 2021 PF2050 Ltd gave the project the Year 1 Jobs for Nature funding it needed to recruit a Programme Lead and other team members to help establish the project. Auckland Council also helped out.

The long-term goal is to remove these predators from the whole of Aotea, to ensure taonga species and ecosystems survive for future generations.

For the latest updates please go to [www.tumaitaonga.nz](http://www.tumaitaonga.nz)



Waitematuku creek – Lotte McIntyre

## Aotea Trap Library

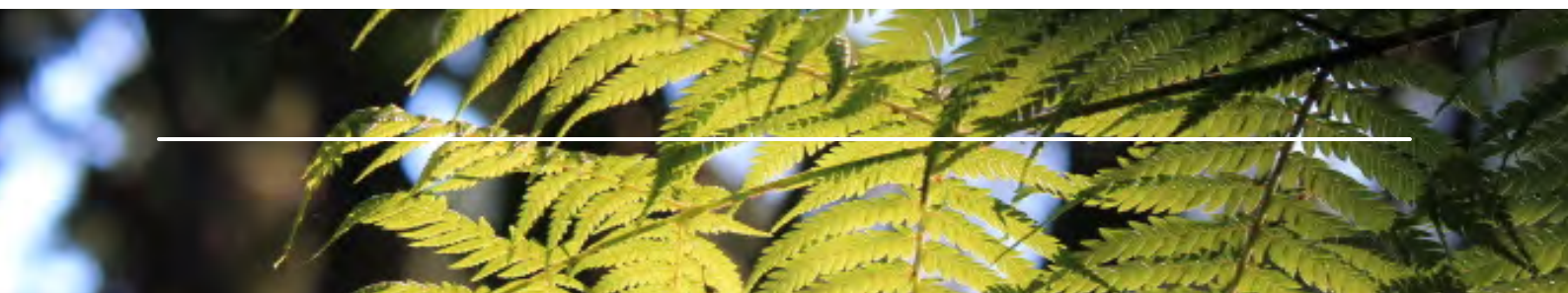
This awesome project continues, lead by Lotte McIntyre, and supported by funding from the World Wildlife Fund to the end of 2021, with Auckland Council providing the funding for traps and boxes. We are well on the way to getting half of the households on the island trapping rats, and new blocks of land are being added all the time. **Get in touch with Lotte** for gear and help to set up bigger trap networks.

## Aotea Bird Count

*now an annual event*

This island-wide bird count was set up with the objective of measuring long term changes in bird life and the effects of predators and different pest management approaches. We now have three years of data for most of the 16+ sample sites and we're looking forward to analysis of the results for 2021.

**[Find them here](#)**



# More Highlights

## Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision or OME as its known

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We act as the umbrella trust for funding this project and work with the Ecology Vision facilitator, Auckland Council staff and DOC to help this group do their good work, which is focused on restoration of the wetland. Every year there's more interest from residents and landowners in their local ecology.

Please get in touch with Lotte McIntyre or Selina Ward on 022 384 5068 to know how you can get involved or support this local project.

## State of Our Birds

This major survey of Aotea's birdlife will be published in 2022. It is the result of decades of work by Science Advisor and founding trustee John Ogden, and a team of trustees and supporters. It brings together all the published and unpublished bird data the team could access for all species but focusing on key species and the key issues for their survival.

## Restoring Rakitū

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Rakitū is slowly recovering after being declared rat free in July 2020. DOC staff continue to monitor changes, although the effort has been hampered by COVID restrictions. Anecdotally, the forest and birdlife is noticeably improving but a full restoration plan is still to be worked through with Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai Aotea. The 330 ha island sits in the seabird highway and should have 5-7 seabird species breeding on it, like the Mokohinau group to the north. We know that Kākāriki, ōi/grey-faced petrel, pōpokotea/whitehead, korimako / bellbird, miromiroi / North Island tomtit and pīhoiho/New Zealand pipit and even tīeke / saddleback all once bred there.

## Advocacy and communications

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We were prevented by COVID restrictions from holding the 3rd Aotea Conservation Workshop – which brings together all organisations working in conservation on Aotea. However, we have begun work on a series of gorgeous posters showcasing Aotea's wildlife in their forest, marine and freshwater habitats – watch out for these in 2022.

New trustee Barry Scott took up the reigns as editor of **Environmental News with [issue #44](#)** distributed in Winter 2021 and **[Summer issue #45](#)** just released. All articles are strongly anchored to the science.

## Marine restoration

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Through Kate Waterhouse, as a member of the Auckland Conservation Board, we provided feedback on the proposed implementation of Tai Timu Tai Pari, the Restoration of the Gulf, which is the name now being given to the implementation of Sea Change. While the measures still don't ban trawling and dredging from the Gulf, and only 17% is protected (the target is at least 30%),

the big news for Aotea is the inclusion of Aotea as an Ahu Moana site.

This means, in short, iwi and community develop the measures. The process is to be determined but there is a lot of support for it, to ensure that Aotea's marine taonga can be protected and restored. We will seek funding in 2022 for a State of the Marine Environment report for Aotea to support his work with data.

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# Changes in our Team



**Hannah Smith**  
Coordinator

We welcomed Hannah Smith to the Coordinator role as Marea Gorter and family sailed into the sunset for life on their yacht after three years in the role.



**Lynda Moran**  
Treasurer

We also welcomed the amazing Lynda Moran as part-time treasurer to ensure we can help more projects to fruition as an umbrella community trust.

**Barry Scott, Bree Biederman and Selina Ward** took up roles as new trustees



**Emma Waterhouse**

And tragically, we lost the incomparable Emma Waterhouse to cancer in March 2021.

[See Environmental News Winter 2021 for her obituary.](#)

# How can you help us keep making a difference in 2022?

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## Volunteer

None of this work is possible without a committed team. We are always looking for new trustees and volunteers.

You may have skills in community engagement, fundraising, communications, marine, freshwater or terrestrial science, or project management.

If you have a little time to spare and are keen to make a difference to restoring Aotea, please get in touch with our Chair via coordinator Hannah, on 021-0827-2377 or [contact.gbiet@gmail.com](mailto:contact.gbiet@gmail.com)

## Funding our work

With many of you converting to one-off life membership, membership fees are a small proportion of our income. Please contact us if you would like to upgrade your support to a regular donation, or a one-off donation for a cause you want to support directly.

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[contact.gbiet@gmail.com](mailto:contact.gbiet@gmail.com)



Kākā over Port Fitzroy – Stuart Farquhar

## Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust Donation Options

Annual: Individual: \$25; Family: \$35; Senior: \$20;  
Student: \$15

Corporate I: \$200 (up to 5 employees)

Corporate II: \$300 (over 5 employees)

Life membership: Individual: \$250; Family: \$330;

Senior (> 65): \$200

You can also **sponsor** activities or projects, make a **one-off** donation, or become a **regular donor**. Our account number is ASB 12-3110-0058231-00.

Please put your name and the type of donation in the details. All donations are tax deductible.

[Click here to donate today](#)

*Thank you in advance!*



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