

We are writing to you with this latest issue of the Bush Telegraph to let you know how we have used your financial contributions and what we have achieved in the last fiscal year.

Accomplishments

1. **Predator Free NZ** (PFNZ 2050) Expression of Interest October 2017: GBIET Chair co-lead the development of this EOI working with a collaborative group of mana whenua, local board, Auckland Council, local sanctuaries and landowners, DOC and specialist advisors. The proposal laid out a 10-year roadmap to a pest free island. The bid was not successful due to the size of the project given the funding available, but PFNZ 2050 congratulated the group on the quality of the submission, coordinated by GBIET Chair Kate Waterhouse.

2. **Rakitu eradication**: Ongoing advocacy for the planning of this late-running project, which is a milestone in the Conservation Management Strategy for Aotea Great Barrier. June Brookes requested and reviewed OIA documents relating to the Rakitu Rat Eradication/weka issue and obtained draft DOC Rakitu Inspection Report - DOC/Gaskin/Taylor.

3. **Pāteke protection**: Advocated for increased cat trapping. Pukeko culls and investigation of other causes of long term decline in pāteke numbers on Aotea Great Barrier.

4. **Rainbow (Plague) Skinks**: Obtained expert advice on plague skinks, shared with the local board.

5. **Okiwi Kākāriki Research**: Established nest sites and potential nest sites for Okiwi's remnant kākāriki population and worked with the local school and community pest management project to protect these sites.

6. **Hirakimata and black petrel pest management**: Increase in DOC investment of cat traps and cat trap monitoring on Hirakimata around the black petrel colony; second phase of trial of A24 traps for control of rats on Hirakimata.

7. **Rangitawhiri reserve**: Science advisor Dr. John Ogden submitted a proposal for an expanded pest management area in the south of the island around Tryphena. This proposal was subsequently included in the PFNZ 2050 bid as the Rangitawhiri project a key project step to increase the participation of the community in pest management.

8. **Awana weir removal and improved fish passage** in Awana stream with revegetation of affected stream banks.

9. Inspection of **Glenfern water supply dam**, Okiwi culverts and Port FitzRoy ford with Council staff and Taryn Wilks re fish barriers.

10. **Mulberry Grove community pest management project**: Trustee Matt Way successfully obtained a local board grant and set this project up to be run by the Mulberry Grove school and community volunteers using Econodes (monitored traps which report catches to a cell phone).

11. **Community trap library**: Using a PFNZ grant successfully applied for in October 2017, the trust ordered rat traps and boxes and provided these to community members and landowners on request from the end of 2017.

12. **Database of Aotea landholdings** in map form: Created this database for purposes of tracking the percentage of land under pest management - this includes 70 properties to date and is ongoing (aims to provide government and funders with confidence that landowners on Aotea are supportive of pest management and a pest-free island).

13. **Increased awareness, understanding and knowledge** of the unique biodiversity and ecosystems of Aotea among both central government decision makers and locals (school children, the community, non-residents, visitors and stakeholders). There is no other organisation consistently providing this type of information.

14. **Increased understanding of the importance of managing pests** and supporting conservation efforts in the community (whether they are the Local Board's, DOC's or residents' activities) and how to go about it, amongst landowners and the community.

15. **Increased understanding of what opportunities a pest-free Aotea might bring and why it is important** (what our island would be like to live on and the likely path to extinction of many of our birds and reptiles if rat numbers are not reduced).

16. Provided a vehicle for **advocacy for conservation of Aotea Great Barrier's places and taonga** with funders, Auckland Council regionally, DOC and other central government agencies).

Projects

The next phase of the **Kākāriki Research** will be connected to the community bird count. Emma, Kate and John attended a Community Bird Count workshop organised by Jo O'Riley at Okiwi School. Emma has also been working with the Okiwi Community Pest Project.

Alison has purchased more of the popular **trap boxes**, given away free using the successful PFNZ 2050 grant. The Local Board funded **cat neutering programme** is continuing with 17 cats treated so far.

The Local Board also funded during 2018 the printing and posting of the Trust's two publications, **Environmental News and the Bush Telegraph**.

The **State of the Environment report 2010** will be updated in 2019, addressing the state of birds first.

Fundraising

We are in 'negotiations' with a couple of members and their networks who are keen to support particular projects. If you would like to upgrade your support for the Trust, please see the options on the following page.

New coordinator

The Trust Co-ordinator role has been taken on by a wife and husband team, Marea and Rendt Gorter. They live in Tryphena and work from home with their wee one-year old son, Nico. Please feel free to call them anytime on the trust phone, 022 34 GBIET (42438) or email contact.gbiet@gmail.com

Thank you for your support.

It is our members who help make this Trust possible.

Membership Options:

We have slightly changed the membership options - please circle the most suitable.
There are three levels: member, sponsor, donor.

Why become a member?

When you join you will be helping us to:

- support eradication of rats and feral cats
- support a cat spaying and neutering programme
- advocate for the island's special treasures and special places
- carry out research projects including predator impact studies
- keep the community informed via our publications the Bush Telegraph and the Environmental News along with supporting our website, Facebook page and a presence at the islands community events.

Membership Options (circle one)

| Annual | | Life | |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------|
| Individual | \$25 | Individual | \$250 |
| Family | \$35 | Family | \$330 |
| Senior | \$20 | Senior (> 65) | \$200 |
| Student | \$15 | | |
| Corporate I | \$200 (up to 5 employees) | | |
| Corporate II | \$300 (over 5 employees) | | |

Why become a SPONSOR?

You will be helping to protect the native species and the reintroduction of lost species on Aotea Great Barrier Island leading to an ecology-based economy. When you join you will be helping us to carry out a project of your choice.

Sponsorship Options (circle one)

| <u>Logistics</u> | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Keep the Trust running for a month | \$600 |
| Keep the Trust running for a year | \$7200 |
| 4 issues of the Bush Telegraph | \$1060 |
| 2 issues of Environmental News | \$1350 |
| Technical support of our website | \$2000 |

Trapping

| | |
|--|--------|
| Sponsor a rat trap | \$250 |
| Sponsor 20 rat traps | \$5000 |
| Sponsor a remote trap monitoring device | \$250 |
| Sponsor a Community Pest Coordinator for a month | \$4000 |

Research and Education

| | |
|--|--------|
| School education resources | \$2500 |
| State of the Environment Report - Subject update | \$5000 |
| Post-graduate project on pest management | \$5000 |

Why become a donor?

You will be helping with protection of the native species and reintroduction of lost species on Aotea Great Barrier Island leading to an ecology-based economy!

Donor Options (contact us)

One off donation \$ over to you
A monthly donation \$ over to you

Personal details

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Postal address: _____

Email: _____

Do you prefer news and correspondence by ..? (circle)
Post Email

Please pay by direct debit 12-3110-0058231-00, (reference: your surname and the code 999 or for 2017 members, your attached invoice number) or enclose a cheque.

If you would like a donation receipt, circle this line.

Please mail to PO Box 35 Okiwi, Great Barrier Island, 0960, or email the above information to contact.gbiet@gmail.com

Thank
you!

