



A. ANNUAL REPORT 2024

PIROA CONSERVATION TRUST

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PIROA BRYNDERWYNS HIGH VALUE AREA

Over the past seven years Piroa Conservation Trust (PCT) has emerged from an informal collective of community groups, to become an agile, lean and rapidly developing charitable trust. The Piroa Brynderwyns High Value Area consists of 23,500 hectares and the Bream Bay River catchment of 31,000 hectares. The offshore Hen and Chicken islands (Marotere) are a special source of taonga.

Our conservation activity includes communities involved in animal and plant pest control, growing plants in our native nursery, and enhancing our waterways. At the heart of our work are landowners (farmers, growers, forestry, lifestyle owners, urban and rural dwellers), iwi/hapū, a highly skilled operations team supported by dedicated trustees, and over 250 volunteers working together with other conservation trusts and groups, with backing from local businesses, donors, local and central government and key funders such as Northland Regional Council (NRC).

Our role is an enabler of community conservation and to connect and engage local landowners and groups, provide know-how and resources and inspire them to contribute to conservation outcomes.

PCT has grown considerably, taking on large new contracts (e.g. Ministry for Primary Industry (MPI) Freshwater project for Bream Bay) through prudent financial management and blending of volunteers, paid roles and contractors. The PCT trustees and growing operations team have brought exceptional skills to a diverse range of roles. We are relatively unique in Aotearoa in our integrated landscape approach to conservation.

Many thanks to Northland Regional Council Councillors and staff for your continued support and guidance, and also to all our volunteers, partners and supporters. Included below are the stories and images that speak to the key highlights and achievements against our annual plan.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2023/24

The recent revival of two iconic species (the Northland brown kiwi and *inanga* (whitebait)) within the Piroa Brynderwyns High Value and Bream Bay catchment area shows the way for what can be achieved to support the viability of at risk or threatened species and the reintroduction of species that were once part of the natural ecosystem of our area. By continuing the kiwi presence/absence survey, extending the toxin programme and trapping networks to include a much wider area of kiwi habitat, our results illustrate major impact and effectiveness on predator numbers over repeat years,

Other standout successes to date include: the increased presence and nesting of bellbirds, kōtare, kākā, tomtit and tūi; monthly dinners for volunteers with a topical speaker on conservation are growing in attendance numbers; regular teams of locals coming together as Seek Weeds And Terminate (SWAT) teams and tackling tricky one-off areas of trapping or weeds, the establishment of a community native plant nursery producing over 7,000 plants per annum, and the growth in farmer-led catchment groups taking on riparian fencing, planting, fish passage, *inanga* habitat and wetland restoration.

PCT entered a float in the Waipu Christmas Parade and won the Conservation Prize with the theme of treasured landscapes, birds, plants and waterways. Everything on the float was recyclable. A great effort by the float designer Gill Webb, and the float volunteers with their grandchildren.

A successful school programme now reaches eight schools throughout Mangawhai and Bream Bay and stories are regularly published in local newspapers and on social media.



Through the MPI Freshwater project we have showcased some of the science behind the restoration of wetlands. Additionally, we are building demonstration sites to inspire farmers and landowners about riparian fencing and planting to improve water quality and biodiversity.

PCT offers exceptional value for money, leveraging every dollar of NRC funding to achieve a return of approx. \$5 through contributions from the community, volunteers, sponsors, donors, and partners. This represents a significant multiplier effect and underscores the cost-effectiveness of investing in our conservation efforts.

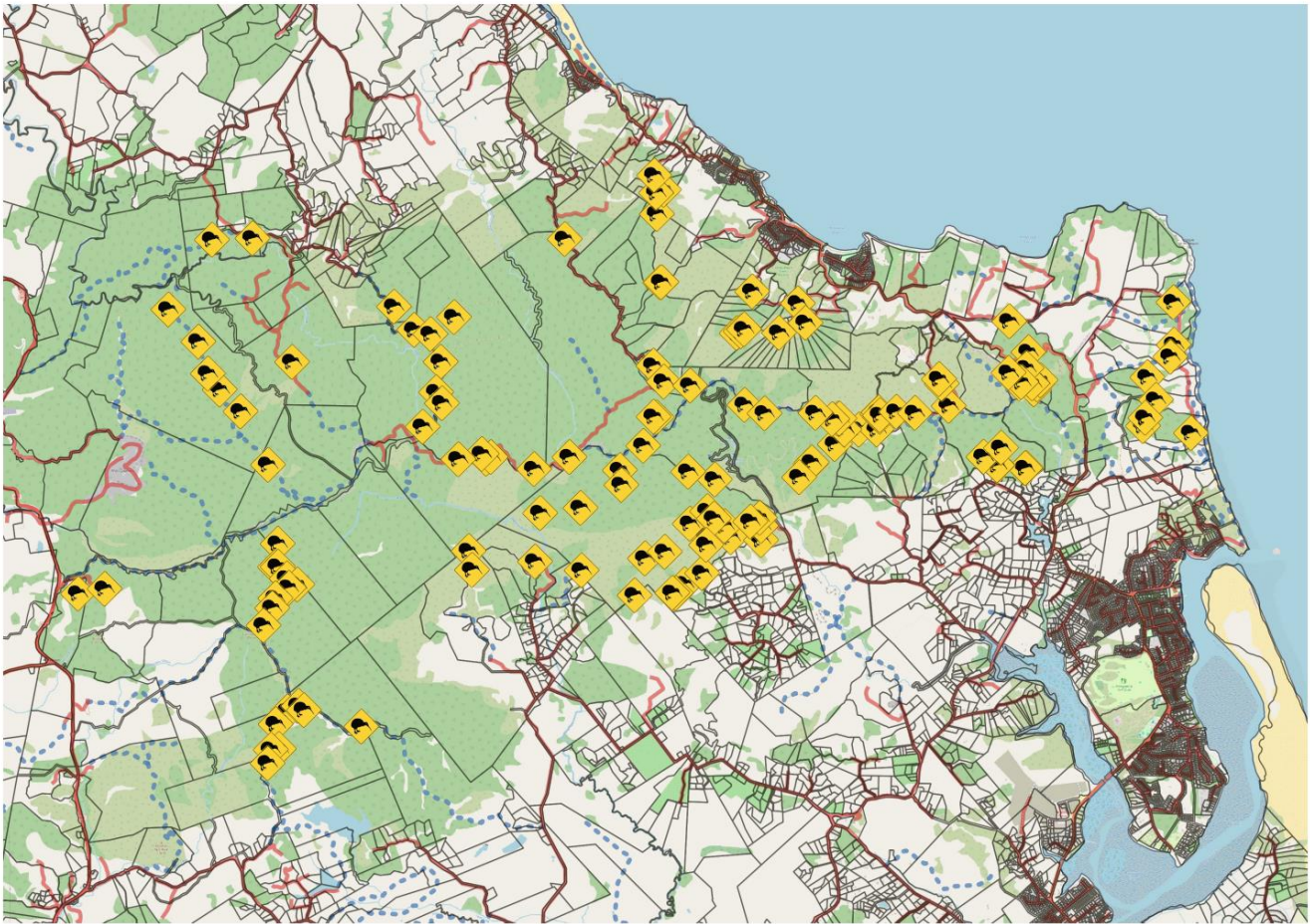
KIWI SURVEY: NEW LOCATIONS OF KIWI

The kiwi absence and presence survey has continued this year providing valuable insights into the kiwi population throughout the Piroa Brynderwyn High Value Area. We have been pleased to confirm kiwi in areas where no birds were detected in the previous survey in 2022/23, such as the hills behind The Sanctuary, Langs Beach Estate, and to confirm more bird calls in areas such as Bream Tail Farm indicating an increase in numbers.

Over the 2 year period we had 90 devices out of which 54 recorded kiwi. In those recording it includes 27 duets recorded which is the male and female pairs calling each other.

In the recent period, of 32 devices put out to listen for kiwi, calls were recorded on 18, that's 56% of devices recording kiwi calls (November 2023 – February 2024). Kiwi in the Piroa Brynderwyns are now confirmed from SH1 in the west, across to Bream Tail Farm on the East Coast. In distance terms this means kiwi have spread 6kms east, 6 kms west, 3.5 kms north and 2.5 kms south of their Marunui release site. The sites where calls have been recorded are shown in the following map.

With housing development in the area increasing and more people using the Brynderwyns for recreation it provides important information that can help in planning for the preservation of all of our local wildlife.



**2023 and 2024 positive kiwi recording sites map*

Being able to confirm to local landowners that kiwi do indeed live on their, or the surrounding properties, is an excellent advocacy opportunity. It gives people a real sense that conservation work they undertake is making a difference and we can all be involved in the work to ensure that our local kiwi population continues to thrive. The knowledge gained from this kiwi survey is further extended by participation in the annual Department of Conservation Kiwi Listening programme, which local volunteers and landowners have continued to participate in, with the number of listening stations growing year on year.

COMMUNITY LIAISON ROLES

Our PCT Community Liaison roles are a key contributor to success. As PCT facilitates community-led conservation, we work to respond to and support landowners and community groups to implement projects that align with PCT core functions.

2023/2024 has seen PCT grow from strength to strength, with new and extended roles covering the north and south of the Piroa/Brynderwyns: from predator control, to weed action, kiwi surveying, water-catchment care, and track building.

TRACKING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE HVA

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
NRC funding year from LTP	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
NRC HVA \$	169,000	169,000	176,000	207,000	185,901
Hectares in HVA boundary	18,000	23,500	23,500	23,500	23,500
NRC \$/HVA hectare	\$7.19	\$7.19	\$7.50	\$9.00	\$7.90
HVA+ hectares under active pest control (traps + toxin)	6,906	8,496	10,213	11,000	16,000
Mustelid traps deployed	1,019	1,250	1,595	1,810	2198
Total Traps deployed++					4183
Total pest animals removed from HVA+ via trapping	2,739	3,063	3,751	3,635	4,555
Total bait stations (new)					2340
Total # of people involved in trapping groups	55	81	110	120	202
Trapping groups	17	21	23	26	37
Weed Action groups+++		9	13	10	8
Schools engaged - PCT conservation programmes	0	0	4	6	8

+or detailed trapping results see annual dashboard 1 pager

++ combined mustelid traps, rat, possum, cat, myna and pig traps.

+++ There has been significant change in the weed action group approach as explained in this report.

IN KIND CONTRIBUTION

Volunteer hours	Field work (5500 hrs @ \$30 per hr)	\$165,000.00
	Project management (equivalent replacement cost)	\$300,000.00
Landowner pest animal control		\$320,000.00
Landowner pest plant control		\$200,000.00
	Total	\$985,000.000

CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS - ANNUAL CONSERVATION AWARDS

On July 13th the Piroa Conservation Trust held our annual awards night where we celebrate the work of volunteers and recognise some special individuals across a variety of categories.



SUPREME AWARD - Susan Steadman

A number of years ago it became evident that Tara Iti (Fairy Tern) were on the brink of extinction. Susan refused to accept extinction was inevitable. Her commitment has helped to prove that given adequate protection Tara Iti can survive.

Susan also drives our education programme and curriculum development and direction along with leading our in-classroom delivery. This year she has successfully expanded our programme into an additional 5 schools.



TRAPPER OF THE YEAR - Phil Brimacombe

Over the past six years Phil has been working with a small group servicing traps up Cullen Rd. Their traps are keeping mustelid numbers down. Kiwi presence was confirmed in this area two years ago.



WEED WARRIOR OF THE YEAR- Christine & Mike Silvester

Started by eliminating a couple of privet trees on their boundary. End up eliminating every privet within one km of their place along with various other invasive plants. Recently founding members of a SWAT team. Positive, well informed, hard-working and they turn up.



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR - Steve Pelham

When it comes to bush bashing Steve is a machine. He's been training for years by competing in ultra-endurance events such as 100km Oxfam Walk/run (winning team 2009). Steve is a can-do guy who has immediately become a valuable member of the Waipu Kiwis team.



MYNA TRAPPER OF THE YEAR - Lynn Davies

A few years ago Lynn Davies noticed an increase in the number of Myna birds in and around her property. She read that Mynas are territorial and aggressive toward other birds and have been known to remove native species from their nests for their own use.

Since then, Lynn has been honing her trapping skills. In December Lynn had an all-best trapped 25 in one hit. This is a great example of what can be done when you put your mind to it. Native birds are flourishing in the bush surrounding Lynn and Pete Davies house.



NATIVE HABITAT RESTORATION AWARD

- Goddard Family

A whitebait spawning sites was identified on the Goddard family farm near Waipu. The Goddards made their property available as a demonstration site where pest management has been introduced and trees planted to enhance survival prospects for the whitebait.



TAMARIKI TRAPPER OF THE YEAR - Louis Clarkin

Louis Clarkin is out there on the trap lines with his grandmother (sometimes). It's only a matter of time before he catches the bug. In anticipation he got an award certificate with \$20 stapled to the back.

PREDATOR CONTROL/TRAPPING IN THE HVA:

INTENSIFYING PREDATOR CONTROL WITH PERIODIC BAIT STATION OPERATIONS.

Mustelid traps are deployed over more than 10,000ha. Within this area a significant open sanctuary is developing as adjoining properties introduce intensive pest control using bait stations as trapping alone isn't sufficient to control rat and mustelids along with any trap shy pest. The large central area of the dense bush area is protected using bait stations as a way to target trap shy mustelids and feral cats while at the same time reducing possum and rat numbers to a very low level providing a safe haven for kiwi chicks as our key indicator species.

In 2023/24 operations using bait stations have continued on a regular basis in three DOC reserves; Brynderwyn Hills Scenic Reserve, Bream Tail Scenic Reserve and the Robert Hastie Memorial Scenic Reserve which has added an additional 340ha of intensive pest control area and created a 540ha of contiguous intensive pest control area.

This area is also surrounded by an additional area of 1,500ha which continues to undertake intensive pest control operation using bait stations across private bush blocks on farmland and QEII covenanted bush blocks to form an open sanctuary.

As a result of this focus kiwi hot spots have been identified at Marunui (original kiwi release site) and in the Robert Hastie Memorial Reserve. Kiwi have also been detected throughout 15,000ha of suitable habitat but it is evident they are thriving in areas where bait stations are being used in addition to best practice trapping. As part of this intensification of predator control, we have also continued the support for professional trapping contractors in areas with steep topography and where kiwi habitat is clearly identified.

WAIPU WEST SWAT TEAM

In mid-April a group of 12 volunteers and landowners joined together to fill bait stations in a Waipu West native forest. The bait station operations suppress the feral population at the beginning of winter. The project has been underway for over 18 months so we are starting to make headway reducing rats and possum in the area. It's very rewarding for the team to see small new trees now having a chance to grow and in time replenish the forest and provide more habitat for our native species. The forest isn't an easy place to work as many areas are steep and slippery. During the most recent operation volunteers noticed a reduction of possum highway tracks and an increase in native birds.

NEW TRAPLINES

Several new projects on the southern side of the Piroa Brynderwyns have been established as community hubs. A very successful model has been setup through the NRC funded Community Liaison role to engage locals within their neighbourhood to build competent groups to trap and record catches:

- Upper King Road Community Trapping Hub (which consists of 5 community hubs with local hub co-ordinators). Now part of the King Road and Surrounds TrapNZ project.
- Pebblebrook Community Trapping Hub
- Echo Valley Community Trapping Hub. Now part of the King Road and Surrounds TrapNZ project.
- Two large farms in the HVA: the Nelder Farm (off King Road) and the farm belonging to Richard Henry (off Tara Road).
- Mangawhai Community Park - Traps sponsored by Fulton Hogan are now working as a successful trapline for the park.
- Piroa North Trappers have been reignited with a dedicated local lead in their community, trapping workshops are bringing locals together to form groups by roads/areas.

LOCAL FARMERS ENGAGING IN PREDATOR CONTROL

In February, a trapping and bait station programme was initiated with local farmers along the Mill Brook, a key inanga spawning area identified by project partners Whitebait Connection and Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust. A total of 39 traps and 33 bait stations were strategically placed along the Mill Brook and Ahuroa River, significantly enhancing predator control efforts. This initiative has been instrumental in protecting inanga eggs, which were found in abundance on this waterway again this year.

TRAPPING NEXT STEPS

To continue to build effective predator control especially around known kiwi habitat we are planning to:

- Audit all existing projects to locate traps no longer used or not recording catches on TrapNZ, so we can redeploy inactive traps or activate the use of traps and their records in TrapNZ
- Continue expanding focus within the Piroa North area of the HVA- Massey Rd Project to cover from SH1 to Cullen Rd in the east and Glenmohr Rd as the interim north boundary, anticipating that kiwi will spread further into these areas.

- A Massey Rd QE11 covenanted block will become a special project with pest animals and plants being investigated and plans made to eradicate them.
- Check pest animal population using AT220's & cameras for a spring toxin round, (August/Sept) at Waipu West along with starting discussions with adjoining property owners in the catchment to join up projects. The existing landowners are willing to purchase the toxin needed, therefore we will only need a SWAT team & some planning if this is to proceed.

BIRD SURVEYS

Recent surveys reveal that Mangawhai and the surrounding area (Ruakākā-Pākiri) seem to be a significant stronghold for bittern – with 24 males identified in the annual 2023 bittern survey. Where female bittern are mostly silent, the males produce a distinctive booming call during their breeding season (Sep-Dec). Listening for this booming call is the primary method of monitoring bittern.

Having completed our second year of the 5MBC survey in November we have initial data to help us better understand the possible impact our animal pest control programme and are now planning for the 2024 November bird count.



Results for other species:
 100% increase in tomtit.
 100% increase in kingfisher.
 100% increase in kereru.
 45% increase in fantail.
 70% increase in grey warbler.
 Marginal increase in tui.

It is early days but we are pleased to see significant increases in most species in surveyed areas. A small number of kaka were recorded which were not heard in the 2022 survey. Bellbird are also low in numbers but have doubled year on year.

Anecdotal feedback is that bellbird are being seen and heard more regularly across the ranges compared to a few years earlier, and may now be nesting on the mainland here.

PLANT PEST CONTROL

(Weed Action Piroa Brynderwyns)

A new weed action coordinator Martina Tschirky joined PCT in the 2nd half of the year. Martina brings a specialist horticultural background and knowledge to this role, along with being a Mangawhai area resident. In a rapid start to her work, Martina has already achieved the following:

- Establishing a new community resource shed at Mangawhai, sponsored by the Mangawhai Club and now stocked to hold weed action and predator control tools and resources
- Amnesty weed bins at Mangawhai which were well used - thanks to Wyatts for hosting these bins.
- Working alongside the Cheviot Street group to boost their goal to repair cyclone damage and continue to plant native plants.
- Running a weed action workshop in Waipu where new volunteers to lead SWAT teams and local projects on the Waipu side were identified
- Giving an interactive presentation to the Ruakaka Residential Village on weed plants to look out for.
- Tidying up the Waipu Community Weed Action shed and restocking for the coming year
- Covid and a gap in recruitment of a new weed action coordinator were significant disruptors to weed action groups in 2022/23, without the regular support and input to follow through the number of community groups fell. In late 2023 we had a breakthrough in 2 ways:
 - By advertising the coordinator role using a conservation focus we were successful in attracting a number of quality applicants and making a strong appointment. Martina is now working to rebuild many of the former groups where there is interest, and supporting a number of new startup

groups. This is very encouraging with our priority to address moth plant and climbing asparagus.

- By adopting the SWAT team approach for short term working bees to tackle one-off invasive weeds or weedy areas.

Both of these initiatives are showing promising signs of rebuilding awareness and enthusiasm for tackling pesky weeds.

The following summarises the working group events and volunteer hours.

GROUP	EVENTS	HOURS
WAIPU COASTAL WALKWAY TRACK LANGS BEACH RESERVE BRIDGE TO BRIDGE GINGER GROUP	42	848
WAIPU WATERS NURSERY	45	141
MARUNUI CONSERVATION	20	129
CHEVIOT ST RESERVE	20	246
WAIPU CYCLE WAY	9	102
WEED SWAT TEAMS	6	90
TOTAL APPROXIMATE	142	1556

EDUCATION

IN SCHOOLS

The PCT continues to develop relationships and work with schools within the HVA.

These are:

- Waipu Primary School
- Ruakākā Primary School
- Kaiwaka Primary School
- Maungatūroto Primary School
- Mangawhai Beach Primary School
- One Tree Point School
- Otamatea High School
- Bream Bay College



This includes fortnightly support to Mangawhai Beach School Envirogroup to learn about the whys and hows of the PredatorFree 2050 movement, maintaining an estuary edge trapline, and about local bird species, namely Kiwi, NZ Fairy Tern, and Bittern.







One Tree Point Primary and Ruakaka Primary School have also been well supported by the PCT. PCT also facilitated a trip to Waorahi to experience first-hand the transformation of native bush, removal of weeds and the return of native birds.

The PCT have also just concluded our inaugural Wildlife/Environmental Photography and Poster Competition across all schools within the HVA (and environs), providing judges and prizes.

We have recently expanded our online packages of curriculum-based activities available to school groups - focussing on the local environs within the HVA, the special species that live here, and the local issues that are relevant to protecting our taonga. PCT provides genuine learning experiences for our tamariki.

Link [Schools \(pct.org.nz\)](https://pct.org.nz)

Content can be cherry picked to support what teachers are doing or they can become a package that is developed and fitted to the learning outcomes the teacher is aiming to provide.

	Resource Kete 1 Pest Animals & Trapping
	Resource Kete 2 Healthy Habitat - Plant Pests
	Resource Kete 3 Taonga that need protection
	Resource Kete 4 Sharing the Space
	Resource Kete 5 -Habitats of significance in our rohe
	Resource Kete 6 Thinking About the Bigger Picture

RANGATAHI CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

In addition to the schools programme we are embarking on a new youth programme in partnership with The Shorebirds Trust. Known as the 'Rangatahi Conservation Programme' this programme is aimed at ages 12+, meeting once a month starting in July 2024, covering the following themes and skills:

1. Intro to conservation and predator control

2. Kiwi care
3. Biodiversity monitoring
4. Freshwater
5. Pest plants + Native revegetation
6. End of year wrap up + Estuary trip

WORKSHOPS

TRAPPING:

These are PCT run workshops to support the work of volunteers starting and maintaining predator trapping lines and setting up neighbourhood rosters. In the last 12 months, this has included: Echo Valley, Upper King Road, and Massey Road, Waipu.

An inaugural PCT Women's Trapping Workshop was held in May. The workshop led by local women active in pest animal trapping, focused on building confidence, skills and knowhow. We saw a great turnout and set up several new properties with traplines as a result, along with other attendees joining some of our trapping groups.

WEED WORKSHOPS: We have run two weed control workshops in the past six months – one each in Mangawhai and in Waipu. Weed control workshops continue to face a high “no show” rate (far higher than other workshops) which is a challenge.



DOG CONTROL: In 2024 we delivered one Know Your Dog workshop led by Kiwi Coast which was a great success, with the large group of attendees feeling more confident about reading their dog's behaviour and training specific to having maximum control around wildlife.

These workshops are designed to take a different tack to emphasise dog owner knowledge and responsibility for behaviour control.

VOLUNTEER GROWTH & ENGAGEMENT

Numbers continue to grow through our digital community awareness initiatives, but there is always more that we can do. Over the past 12 months we have:

- Implemented a monthly volunteers mojo dinner. The format is an informal dinner at The Mangawhai Club. Volunteers can order a meal and enjoy a guest speaker organised on a monthly conservation theme. This has proven a great way to connect people, share ideas, meet new people, and increase knowledge and understanding. Speakers have included Rob Forlong (CEO, PF2050), Whitebait Connection (Mountains to Sea Trust), Peter Young (Fight for the Wild Filmmaker), Alex Flavell Johnson (The Shorebird Trust) and Susan Steadman (Waipu About Terns).
- Delivered a broad volunteer recruitment programme over winter aligning new volunteers to strong existing groups and setting up new groups across weeds and trapping. The SWAT team approach is also proving a good approach for volunteers looking for a less structured more ad-hoc project approach.
- Continuing our community engagement via on request presentations about our work. Next steps are to look at talks and presentations to local business and community groups such as Waipu Residents Association, Mangawhai Business Association.

These initiatives are instrumental in growing followers and community awareness around PCT, our programmes and projects and ignited volunteer numbers and new sponsors.

CATCHMENT GROUPS

The Bream Bay Rivers Community Project team continues its collaboration efforts to improve water quality and biodiversity in the area. These efforts focus on establishing and strengthening catchment groups formed by local landowners and farmers, water sampling, nursery development and riparian planting, demonstration and wetland restoration sites showcasing sustainable land use practices.

SUCSESSES & HIGHLIGHTS:

- 4 catchment groups operating.
- 2 wetland demonstration sites completed.
- 3 biodiversity projects underway.
- 1 riparian planting demonstration site along the Waipu Estuary with a lifestyle block owner.
- Successful evening function - 2 farmer guest speakers from Bay of Plenty highlighting experiences/successes of 15-20 years involvement in catchment group activities.

Monthly SHMAK (Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment) and eDNA test are conducted as part of a broader initiative around water quality monitoring. This monitoring covers 9 stations within the Bream Bay catchment and will provide a picture of water quality trends, enable historical comparisons and guide future action plans for catchment groups.

The project has been successful in establishing four catchment groups, with a fifth currently in progress along the Waipū Estuary. These groups bring together diverse skills and expertise from local landowners and farmers, fostering collaborative efforts to promote sustainable land use practices. Through ongoing meetings, workshops, and events, we have built a strong sense of community and shared purpose, which is vital for the continued success of our conservation initiatives. These focused efforts are laying a strong foundation for ongoing and future initiatives aimed at enhancing the region's water quality and biodiversity.



Wetland demonstration field day

Progress on three demonstration sites on dairy farms in Waipū and Ruakākā includes digger work, fencing, spraying, and planting preparations. These sites are designed to showcase best practice in land use and restoration, becoming learning tools for local farmers and landowners.

A new demonstration site along the Waipū Estuary has been identified to highlight the ecological significance of estuarine areas and lifestyle blocks, further expanding our educational outreach. This site was prepared for planting, with a community planting day held in early July.

Community engagement has featured a speaker event in March that drew over 30 farmers to discuss nature-positive farming with John Burke and Andre Hickson from Bay of Plenty. The team also participated in the Mountains to Sea Trust wānanga 2024, connecting with partners and sharing insights on land and sea conservation.



Planting Workshop along the Waipū Estuary

School engagement included an educational day in March with Bream Bay College students, exploring water quality at various sites and learning about habitat quality and pollution. These activities have fostered a strong sense of community involvement and have been essential in promoting conservation awareness and practices.

The project has greatly benefited from the partnership with Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust.

Patuharakeke has made significant strides in integrating cultural health indicators into the assessment of catchment areas, leading to the successful delivery of a pilot for the Maturanga Māori/Cultural Health Index (MM/CHI) monitoring at one site. This has provided valuable insights that are informing restoration strategies. Their achievements in fencing and planting along the Takahiwai Stream have been noteworthy, with fencing completed on one side of the river and extensive riparian planting efforts underway. Patuharakeke has also played a crucial role in predator and weed management along 2.4 km of riverbank, and they are addressing a fish barrier with plans to use woven harakeke to retrofit fish ladders. Additionally, Patuharakeke has developed a story map for the Takahiwai catchment area using ArcGIS and Survey123, which will be instrumental in guiding future restoration efforts. Their work has enhanced the environmental stewardship of the area as well as strengthened cultural heritage preservation and community engagement.

WAIPU WATER COMMUNITY NURSERY

The nursery has been thriving, producing 7,000 native plants this year, up from 5,000 last year. These plants are being gradually distributed and planted as we enter the winter season.

The nursery plays a crucial role in our riparian planting initiatives, and a workshop held on May 4th emphasised the importance of pre- and post-planting maintenance, ensuring the long-term success of the plants distributed to local landowners.

A riparian planting giveaway provided 20 landowners with 50 native plants each, supported by funding from Pub Charity and Whangarei District Council Community grants. These events have not only enhanced local biodiversity but also strengthened community involvement and awareness.



Graham M. and Steve J. at the Waipū Waters Community Nursery

OUR TOP CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

- Increase community engagement in environmental regeneration.
- Enable iwi/hapū aspirations and build cultural awareness in the work we do.
- Grow, engage and retain volunteers across all our mahi.
- Intensify and close the gaps in predator control in known kiwi habitat to continue to grow kiwi numbers, provide sanctuary for future translocation and protection of other taonga species.
- Strategically address areas of climbing asparagus, moth plant & Taiwan Cherry.
- Encourage ecological corridors, riparian buffers, wetlands and revegetation to reduce erosion, sediment and lift biodiversity.
- Complete deliverables on MPI Freshwater project with a viable future plan.
- Embed policies, systems and processes for PCT as a sustainable learning organisation.

APPENDIX

PROGRESS AGAINST ANNUAL PLAN

STRATEGIC FOCUS	STATUS	NOTES
1. FINANCIALS		
On track with spend against budget being closely achieved this year.		
2. RETAIN FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION		
Partner with iwi/hapū to deliver conservation outcomes together.	On track	Strong partnership with Taiao unit, Patuharakeke. Revisiting partnership with Te Uri o Hau at their request.
Strengthen strategic and operational systems, processes and functions of PCT	On track	Two new trustees recruited to bring total to 5. Strategic programme to reshape board and operations is underway, with a new strategic plan workshop held in March and adopted in June.
Retain community grass roots nature	On track	TOTY awards, hui & new monthly Mojo dinners examples
3. WORKSHOPS HELD		
Volunteer famil and introduction day- run workshops in Mangawhai & Waipu	Pending	Total n= 9 workshops (trapping & weeds) Monthly Mojo dinners in part fulfil this objective- to get existing volunteers together and invite new ones along. Waipu West- 10 attendees Mangawhai/King Rd- 35 attendees Mangawhai hui- 45 attendees Massey Road- 20 attendees Womens trapping workshop- 8 attendees DOC annual kiwi listening programme in May.
1 kauri ora workshop or event led by iwi/hapū	Pending	
workshop for volunteer group leads to rollout H & S	Pending	
1 x Kiwi release event	Pending	
1 know your dog workshop &	Achieved	
1 dog aversion training	Paused	
deliver at least 2 trapping workshops	Achieved	
deliver at least 2 weed action workshops	Achieved	
deliver 1x kiwi listening programme refresher or new training	Not required this year	
hold annual awards and celebration event	Achieved	
4. MARKETING & COMMS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks and presentations to local business and community groups, potential to recruit new volunteers and supporters Build regular profile through stories in local newspapers and social media Continue to actively recruit volunteers through shared calendar of events and group coordination. 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p>N= 2 presentations + x stories in media Presentations to Ruakaka Village and Waipu Menzshed</p> <p>See examples in this report</p> <p>Shared calendar of events on website On average 1 new volunteer enquiry/week- especially in response to social media posts. Have just recruited 2 teaching volunteers to help with schools programme.</p>

• Continue to build supporters and donors networks		Fulton Hogan- new trap sponsor Mangawhai Club- grant for new community shed.
<h2>5. BUILDING THRIVING KIWI POPULATION WITH BENEFITS TO OTHER TAONGA SPECIES</h2> <p>See Appendix 1 for provisional predator control data- a few more data sets to come including Marunui</p>		
Continue to pilot more effective ferret capture	Pilot planned for 2024/25	We have gained knowledge from ferret experts about surveillance and trapping methods, and intend to set up a pilot in the HVA in the 24/25 year.
Add new traps within/adjacent to kiwi habitat	Achieved	Extensive new trap lines set up through coordinators work adjacent to kiwi habitat
New traps deployed across HVA	Achieved	242 new mustelid traps
Deploy toxin in bait stations in DOC reserves	Completed	See story above- 2 DOC reserves now included adjacent to known kiwi habitat
Continue professional trapping contractors on steep and remote terrain	Achieved	Prudent programme of professional trapping
Support Marunui and ring of steel intensive trapping & toxin focus	Achieved	
Continue support for the existing 20+ trapping volunteer groups across the HVA	Achieved	There are 4 new project areas within the HVA. Graeme's work as volunteer trapping coordinator is pivotal in supporting existing landowners with trapping, and setting up new lines, including showing how to use trap.nz to record data, repair traps and set up cameras.
Analyse and report on 5-minute bird count baseline study completed in Nov 2022	Achieved	See story above for trends in provisional 5MBC results for 2023.
Dog control advocacy	Achieved	We have used Facebook posts to highlight dog control over the summer season.
<h2>6. SUPPORT INITIATIVES FOR ENHANCED PEST PLANT CONTROL</h2>		
Pilot Weed Manager as mapping software linked to Trap.NZ.	On track	Weed Manager looks to be an effective tool for mapping weeds in the HVA. Pilot underway.
Support for the 10 existing weed action/planting groups and ensure continuity of volunteers through recruitment and retention.	On track	Some changes in groups & volunteer membership over the 1 st half year, with the number of groups reduced. Martina to reconnect with groups and help to strengthen them in the coming year, with new groups starting up as well.
Waipu Coastal Walkway: education signage, safe track access for pest plant management and planting	Completed	Great result and outcome. Signage is supporting donations to Wairahi Tracks Trust.
Purchase native plants for regenerative plant habitat and support community nursery.	Achieved	PCT support for community nursery through MPI EFF project.
Consider calendar production for Christmas 2023	Paused for this year	
Weed amnesty bins for Mangawhai & Waipu	Achieved	Two amnesty bins were well utilised in Mangawhai. There is no readily accessible venue for these in Waipu.

WEED MANAGEMENT SCORECARD 2024

The results below are down on previous years as explained earlier in this report- arising from disruption impacts of Covid on community volunteer groups and a 6 month gap to recruit a new Weed Action Coordinator. We are confident that the positive rebuilding phase we have seen in the 2nd half of 2023/24 will continue as Martina supports the rebuild of existing groups and helps to grow new ones. See our earlier story on pages 12-13 of the positive outcomes achieved already.

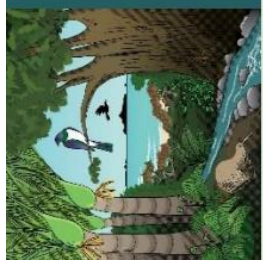
DATA COLLECTED
Volunteer hours: 1,556 this year - compared to 5,084 hours for the year previous
Value (\$) of volunteer contribution (valued at \$30/hr) this year \$46,680 compared to \$152,520.00 for the year previous.
<p>Number of volunteer group individual engagements 142 versus 302 the previous year.</p> <p>Number of public events, educational events, market days and promotional talking engagements specific to weeds: 4 compared to 8 in the year previous (2 workshops, 1 market stand, 1 presentation).</p> <p><i>Note, that wider presentations about all aspects of the Trust including Weeds have also occurred in addition by various Trust leaders.</i></p>
<p>Number of core group members 60 compared to 112 in the year previous:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Langs Beach Reserve: 10 • Marunui Conservation: 3 • Cheviot St Reserve: 6 • Coastal Walkway track: 10 • Waipu Cycleway: 4 • Waipu Waters Plant Nursery: 14 • Ginger Group: 10 • SWAT team: 7
<p>Number of engagements (contact/support/advice provided) with private landowners: 11</p> <p><i>Note: The ideal measure and long-term goal is to be able to track the numbers and map landowners actively engaged in weed control, but for ease of reporting numbers of engagements is suggested</i></p>
<p>Value (\$) of other funding obtained \$ (PENDING REPORTING) versus the previous years \$6,160 plus many large discounts from Hammer Hardware, ITM Waipu and Bunnings.</p> <p><i>This does not include value of 'in kind' goods donated.</i></p>

TRAPPING DASHBOARD

Name of group or project(s)	Total pest animals caught										Total No. people involved in Your Group	Comments/Notes					
	Possums	Rats	Ferrets	Stoats	Weasels	Feral Cats	Wild Rabbits & Hares	Feral Pigs	Magpie	Myra			Hedgehog	Mice	Other Catches?	Toxin also used for animal pest control?	Hectares under active pest control (trapping + toxin)
Baldrock Trappers	1					2							3		200	2 Migrated traps to BB	
Black Sheep Farm													0		8	1 Sleeper	
Bream Tail Farm		25		8	6					3	2		44	Yes	430	3 Stopped reporting July.	
Bream Tail & Robert Hastie DOC													0	Yes	120	20 1080 - untold pests removed	
Brynderwyn Barrier	48	584	2	45	37	11	6			6	18	6	763		1500	3 Professional trappers	
Brynderwyn Hills Scenic Reserve													0	Yes	230	na 1080 - untold pests removed	
Fish Bach - Mangawhai		1									1	1	2		0.4	2 New Project	
Flagstaff		67		10	1					2	12	1	93		50	1 Waipu Kiwis	
He Owaha / Waihoihoi													0	Yes	na	3 Special op inside BB	
Jude Rd / Pebblebrook	2	11		1						3			17		200	8 New Project	
Kapawiti Kaitiaki		16											16		124	2	
King Rd Reserve		9		3	2								14		2	3	
Langs Beach Estate	2	33		2						1			38		200	2	
Maclester	89	177		3	1	2				3	40		315		40	2 Sent direct to Ngaire?	
Mangawhai Predator Control	3	106		11	1					10	2		133		500	10	
Manuilife Waipu Forest	2	130		33	10	3				4	38		220		1800	1 Professional trappers	
Marunui	49	235		16	5								305	Yes	415	10 Sent direct to Ngaire?	
Marunui Ring of Steel North	1	132		4	4					1			142		300	2 Run by Marunui	
Marunui Ring of Steel South	244			10	21	1	6			1	40	1	324		300	2 Run by Marunui	
Massey Rd Trappers	3												3		800	4 Waipu Kiwis	
North Waipu River		10		4	2	3				1			20		210	4 Waipu Kiwis	
North of Tara Rd													0		270	6 New Project	
Oi Kaitiaki		57		3	2		1			6	3		72	Yes	870	8 Waipu Kiwis	
Pa Hill	3	14			3								20		6	2	
Ruru Kaitiaki	34	210		9	45		1	8		2	21	4	334	Yes	850	10 Waipu Kiwis	
The Braigh CPCA	4	4											8		2500	4 New Project	
The Sanctuary	5	39		5		2				6	1		58	Yes	180	2 CPCA	
Trappers Retreat		9											9		na	2 Incomplete reporting	
Upper King Rd Trappers	7	8		1						1	2		19		400	18 New Project	
Waihoihoi	31	5		1						1			38		5	2	
Waihoihoi Kaitiaki	4	102		7	14					3			130		300	2 Professional trappers	
Waipu Kiwis	25	101		2	2		31			27	178	1	417		1785	4 Waipu Kiwis	
Waipu Spit													0		100	10 DOC project	
Waipu West	399	145		1	3	2	5			1	2	8	4	570	Yes	1840	42 Outside HVA
Wairahi Trappers (was Lang Cove)	25	191			4					13	142		375		35	2	
Woorahi Kaitiaki	6	77		3	6			3				2	97		na	6 Special op inside Oi Kaitiaki	
Totals	743	2742	3	184	168	29	45	11	29	199	184	262	0	4599	16570.4	205	No estimate for toxin kills

TRACKING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE HVA - SCORECARD - Calendar year 2023

Piroa Conservation Trust is better off with animal and plant pests gone!



About Piroa Conservation Trust

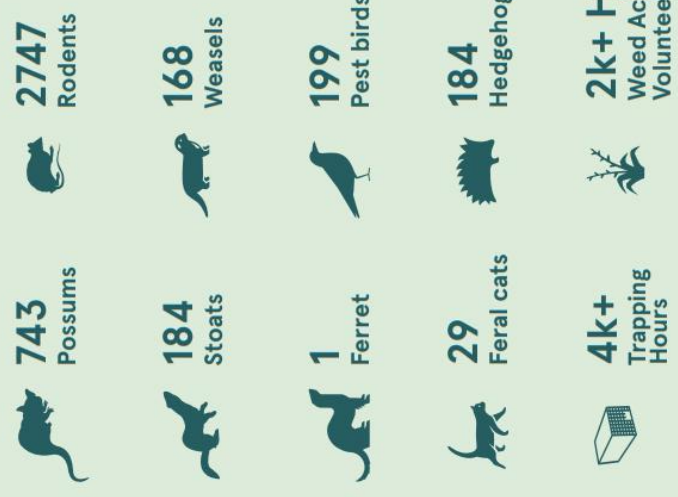
A 23,500ha area encircling the Piroa Brynderwyns ranges down to Waipoua Bream Tail and Mangawhai has been identified as having high conservation values. Northland Regional Council provides \$180k each year for pest animal and plant work by local community groups in this area.

Northland Brown Kiwi are breeding successfully in the hills having been translocated during 2015-16, and other rare birds, such as the Fairy Tern, make this area their home.

A 5 year management plan, approved and endorsed by Northland Regional Council, is available at piroaconservation.org.nz.



Pests removed year ending 31 December 2023.



What we've delivered this year

- Kiwi survey confirms dispersal and growth in numbers
- 10,000 Native plants grown by nursery
- Monthly Mojo dinners
- 242 new mustelid traps (total now 2052)
- 8 Schools with conservation programs
- Increased calls in 5MBC native bird annual survey
- New community shed at Mangawhai
- 36 trapping groups (increase of 6 on last year)

What's next

- Strengthen mainland island ring of steel
- Grow SWATteam initiative
- Tackle climbing asparagus
- Foster Mangawhai Urban Predator Free Zone
- Implement new strategic plan



Kiwi calls detected

With thanks to our sponsors & supporters



*Numbers shown are for trapping only. Estimates from toxin operations are not included.

OUR LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Northland Regional Council
 Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board
 Te Uri o Hau
 Kiwi Coast
 Department of Conservation
 Whangarei District Council
 Mangawhai Bunnings
 Fulton Hogan
 Mangawhai Natives
 The Cove Camp/ Waipu Surf Club

The Mangawhai Club
 Royal New Zealand Airforce
 Waipu Hammer Hardware
 Waipu ITM
 Waipu Menzshed
 Northpine
 Waipu & Mangawhai 4 Square
 Carters Mangawhai
 The Mangawhai Club

Catchment Group Specific Sponsors

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)
 Westpac
 Fonterra
 Dairy NZ
 NZ Landcare Trust
 Whitebait Connection
 Pub Charity
 Whangarei District Council Community Grants Scheme