



# Kanorau Koiora Taketake - Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant

Project Summary 2024/25

Front Cover Photo  
Horizons Regional Council

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SERVICE CENTRES	Kairanga Cnr Rongotea and Kairanga- Bunnythorpe Roads Palmerston North	REGIONAL HOUSES	Palmerston North 11-15 Victoria Avenue	DEPOTS	Taihape 243 Wairanu Road Taihape
	Marton 19 Hammon Street		Whanganui 181 Guyton Street		Woodville 116 Vogel Street
	Taumarunui 34 Maata Street				

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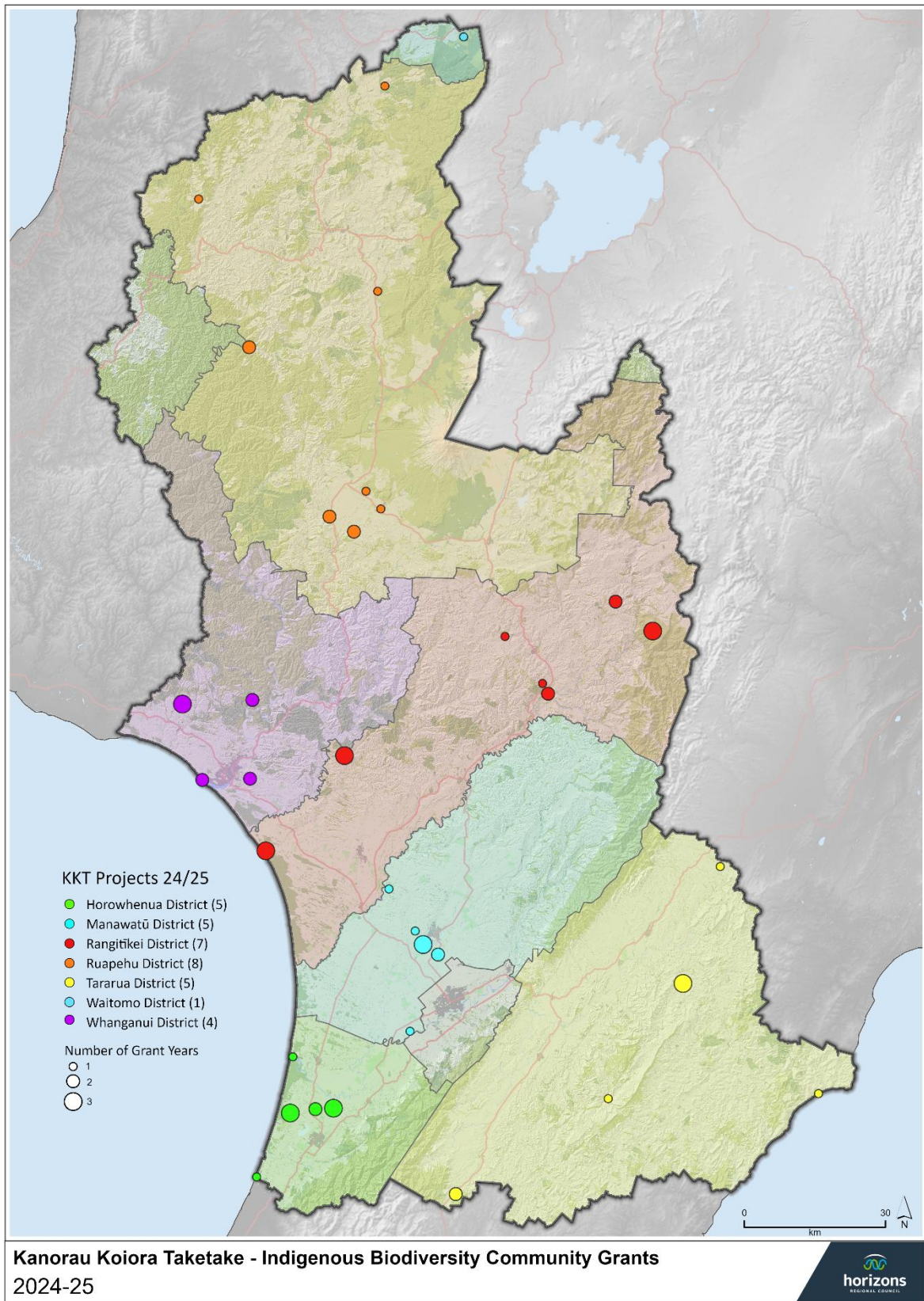
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# PROJECT SUMMARY MAP



# 1 Arnim Littek – Horowhenua

## Dune Camera Project - Awarded \$770

Arnim Littke has been capturing photographs of biodiversity along the Horowhenua Coast over many years. To support this work, he required a durable camera designed to withstand harsh coastal elements such as salt, sand, and wind. The camera was carefully selected for its resilience and its ability to produce high-quality images that contribute to public data collection initiatives. These photographs aid efforts in weed and predator control, habitat restoration and monitoring of threatened species, all in the coastal domain.

This year photos have been taken from north of Otaki Beach through to the mouth of the Rangitīkei River, including 50km of coastal dunes, dune wetlands and estuaries.

The primary outlet for this photography can be seen on iNaturalist which you can view here [https://inaturalist.nz/observations?user\\_id=arnim](https://inaturalist.nz/observations?user_id=arnim)

The photographic outreach contributed to the Coastal Restoration Trust Conference, the Manawatū Estuary Management Team newsletters, the Manawatū Estuary Trust website, and other groups located down this coast, including the Kuku Beach project, Waikawa Beach Environmental Group, and the impending National Education and Training Seminar for NZ Biosecurity.

There are plenty of plans and opportunities for the future such as promoting the use of iNaturalist, perhaps booklets, and nighttime photography.



## 2 Ātīhau Whanganui Incorporation - Whanganui

### North Wetland, Tohunga Station Project – Awarded \$6,500

Tohunga Station has multiple wetlands and bush blocks that are important habitat for native species.

The North Wetland at Tohunga Station boundaries the southern edge of Tongariro National Park and has been fenced off from livestock for many years.

With the funding allocated they have been able to establish a trapping network around the wetland where long tail bats, spotless crakes and kiwi all call home. This including supporting the purchase and installation of 26 DOC200s and 3 AT220s. They have also an additional 4 DOC200s and 2 At220's to complete this trapping network.

Horizons were able to assist with lending out some bat monitoring equipment to monitor bat over the summer months along with trail cameras. The monitors detected the presence of long tailed bats but unfortunately the trail cameras didn't pick up much activity.

To date they have been successful with several pest animals and will continue trapping efforts of the wetland and biodiversity monitoring.



### 3 Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park - Manawatū

#### Phragmites karka control research and development – Awarded \$35,000

Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park has continued with the management of various sites of *Phragmites karka* in the forest. The results have been mixed, but predominantly there has been some positive management results indicating the methods used could potentially be eradication methods.

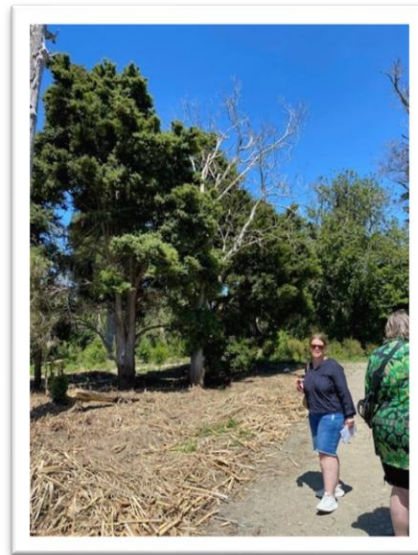
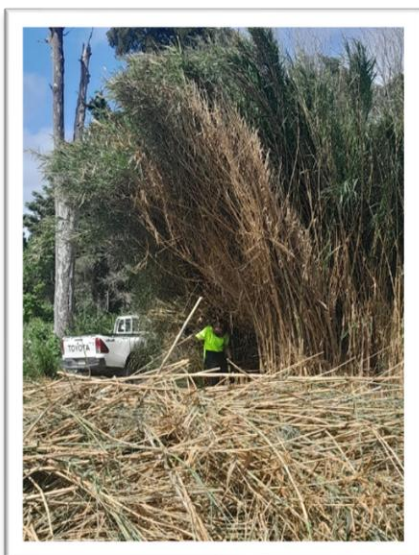
There are numerous sites of infestations in the forest, and not all of these have been able to be managed, these continue to expand and pose a risk to the forest and surrounding areas.

There have been some technical learning gains around the growth nodes of sprayed reeds, these appear not to be impacted by spray, the spray method only kills the reed, while the cut and inject is killing at least the first growth node and possibly one or two more. It has been observed that that three treatments are required in most situations.

Further improvements are likely if better rhizome penetration of chemical can be developed.

Some observations of the research include coastal infestations are coming from rhizomes and reeds that are being swept out to sea in storms. There is increasing evidence of contaminated soils or materials being transferred by machinery from an infected site. Some sites that appear well established, possibly for many years, are not expanding at the same rate as other sites, such as the Makino Stream, from Feilding to 3 Km past the forest and Waitārere that is expanding very quickly.

The Trust will continue in their efforts with the research and control management of *Phragmites karka* in the forest, and these will likely impact other sites in the future.



# 4 Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park - Manawatū

## Post planting care and native forest restoration - Awarded \$9,000

The Trust purchased land adjacent to Awahuri Forest to recreate a wetland that links to the much larger forest restoration projects.

The aim is to restore, as far as practical, the original hydrology and wetland forest as they were 150 years ago. Significant preparation of the site included earth works, fence removals, reducing artificially raised stream sides and enhancing spillways allowing waters to flow through old channels across the land.

On June 21st, 2024, the first 14,500 plants, with 19 different species, were planted across 60% of this site. Plant care has been carried out during spring and autumn by the Kauwhata work team that was supervised by Green by Nature. It is estimated around 87-90% survival rate for the trees planted, with an additional 7500 plants planned for planting this winter adding to the plant care input requirements over the next financial year.

This funding was allocated for another year, and the work here will continue.



*The mound 19th June 2025 carex in foreground; other species behind. Planted June/July 2024 (L)  
19th June 2025 carex planted through an old channel in July 2024 (R)*



*19th June Eastern side sloping away from Makino.  
Mix of wetland and forest species in foreground  
carex in the hollows.*

# 5 Blue Duck Station - Ruapehu

## Whio protection and expansion Project year 2 – Awarded \$15,652

This is the second year of funding for Blue Duck Station. They had an ageing infrastructure of pest animal control traps comprised primarily of double-set DOC200s dating back to 2010 from the Kia Wharite collaborative project.

The traps have been and continue to be subject to normal wear and tear, stock interference, and damage or loss due to the dynamic landscape. Overtime these traps have fallen into disrepair and are systematically being replaced with brand DOC200 boxes and trap mechanisms.

This second tranche of 100 double set DOC200 traps were used to restore three historic trap lines which had fallen into disrepair and were also used to create additional trap lines were set around wetland restoration areas.

All traps were deployed by June 2025 and are now part of the project’s normal trapping regime.



# 6 Bushy Park Tarapuruhi – Whanganui

## Hihi project - Awarded \$6,480 (Year 2)

Bushy Park Tarapuruhi is a predator-fenced sanctuary located 25 minutes out of Whanganui.

They have also been working closely on monitoring the hihi population in the sanctuary and are in their second year of funding for their hihi project.

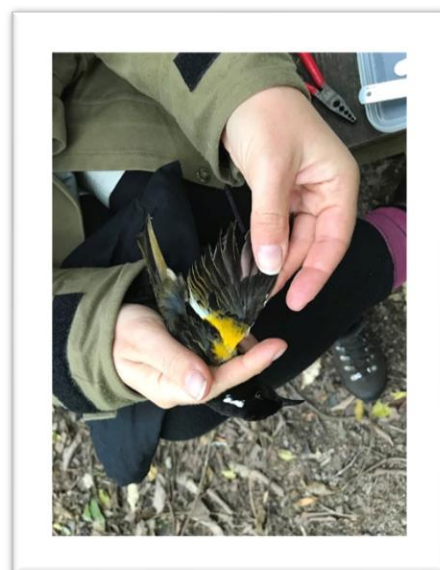
Hihi are nationally endangered, and present only across eight sites. All of these are either offshore islands or mainland predator fenced sanctuaries. Hihi were reintroduced to Tarapuruhi in 2013, with a top-up of 10 further hihi in 2018. The current population is at about 50 birds, though the numbers of females is low.

Monitoring of hihi is time consuming and specialised, as they tend to feed high in the forest, and females are elusive. A monitoring tool using Radio Frequency Identification bands, with aerials and data loggers stationed at hihi feeders. Funding has supported extra banding (of the whole population at Tarapuruhi) to be able to monitor the birds, and to hire a specialised hihi contractor to catch and band the whole population. This was successfully completed over two visits (September 2023 and April 2024).

This season, the team has been supported by dedicated volunteers and the Hihi Conservation Officer, who together completed the annual two-day bird survey and continued to continued research throughout the 3–4-month breeding season. Their efforts include data collection and reporting to monitor the health of the population.

The results have been encouraging with 16 Hihi chicks successfully fledged and were banded, while the survey confirmed the presence of 15 adults and identified an additional 5–6 unbanded birds. Although attempts were made to capture and band these unmarked individuals, they proved elusive.

The team remains committed to protecting and monitoring this small but vital Hihi population.



# 7 Castlecliff Coast Care - Whanganui

## Dune Restoration Project – Awarded \$7,550

Since 2007, supported by the Community and many generous sponsors, Castlecliff Coast Care members have been working to appropriately rehabilitate the sand dune ecology, provide stability to the dunes and provide education and demonstrations to the community on the value of the coastal dunes.

The current three-year grant aims to demonstrate successful regeneration of habitat biodiversity of the dune ecosystem along the Whanganui coastline, to support the transformational community led coastal action plans currently underway. Working in partnership with Whanganui District Council, Horizons Regional Council, and local Iwi and Ngā Ringaringa Waewae.

During the second year of the grant Castlecliff Coast Care was very active through the winter months. A mammoth effort by volunteers planted 10,000 fore dune plants (spinifex, pingao and wiwi) in the big blow out area at Morgan Street. Over the last four years volunteers have planted 46,000 fore dune plants to stabilise the sand and keep sand off the North Mole access road.

Paul Jackman grew rear dune plants in the small nursery at his home. About 500 plants were added to Coast Care’s rear dune sites during three community planting sessions. Coast Care was assisted by St John volunteers who had an afternoon planting on the rear dunes and a group from IDEA Services came out each week. This work will continue, with positive gains made for the dunes and the community.



# 8 Ihaia Taueki Trust - Horowhenua

## A6B Wetlands and Dunes Project - Awarded \$2,500

The focus of this initiative was to utilise this kaupapa to restore the mauri of the whenua and reconnect whānau to the whenua and in turn to each other and to restore the wahi tapu back to a time when the flora and fauna flourished.

Funding was used to purchase 550 native plants that consisted of kānuka, toetoe, harakeke, and makura. This mahi brought together approximately 40 whānau from each of the five whānau and hāpu groups represented for this whenua. They gathered for a planting day, which builds on from the community plantings that have occurred over the last three years.

Since embarking on this journey, the community have felt the connection not just to each other but to their tipuna (ancestors), te Taiao (environment), but more importantly the tamariki and rangatahi are excited about continuing this kaupapa into the future.



# 9 Koitiata Wetland - Rangitīkei

## Koitiata Wetlands Restoration Project - Awarded \$6,550

Koitiata Wetland is a unique and special place, located just beyond the township between the houses and the beach and outlet of the Turakina River.

The Koitiata community have initiated a project to improve and preserve the ecology of the wetland, which they have been working on since 2020, this includes protecting biodiversity which consists of birds and wetland plants, whilst providing an area for residents and visitors to explore and enjoy.

This project is jointly supported by Horizons, Rangitīkei District Council, Ngāti Apa, Land Based Training and the community. Significant gains have been made over the duration of the project with the bulk of the work now focused on maintenance weed control in approximately six hectares of the Reserve that surrounds the village.

Thirty-four working bees have contributed more than 385 volunteer hours, involving community members and Land Based Training students. In November, 150 native plants were donated by a local nursery and these plants were cared for over summer and planted in autumn.

Weed control was carried out using manual, mechanical, and backpack spraying methods. The Rangitīkei Environment Group managed the large area spraying program targeting ragwort, lupin, pampas, gorse, agapanthus, and willow/poplar.

The work here will continue and will include maintenance to ensure the gains made are not lost.



*Control sessions 2023*



*Control sessions 2025*

# 10 Kopua Bush Remnant Management Group

## - Tararua

### Kopua Bush Remnant Project - Awarded \$16,000

This project aims to restore and enhance 18 hectares of degraded habitat around Cistercian Monastery in the Tararua District, improving public access for cultural and community use. The area includes remnant podocarp forest, degraded wetlands, and open pasture now being planted with eco-sourced native species.

This projects focus is on restoring threatened podocarp forest with the goal of increasing native bird and invertebrate populations, especially tūī, kererū, korimako (bellbird), riroriro (grey warbler), and the puriri moth.

This year funding has supported contractor work to clear invasive weeds and plant 3200 native species in steep hard to access areas. This work complements and supports the efforts of the dedicated volunteer team who have dedicated over 650 hours this year carrying out pest animal control, weed removal and native planting activities and releasing.



# 11 Maata Kotahi Partnership Trust – Rangitīkei

## Trapping for Kiwi Release – Awarded \$6,000

This project aims to protect and restore the biodiversity of this native bush through targeted pest trapping efforts by establishing and maintaining a network of traps in key bush areas to systematically reduce pest numbers. Whānau volunteers are engaged in regular monitoring, trap maintenance, and data collection. This hands-on conservation effort aims to not only protect vulnerable native species but also support the regeneration of native forest by reducing browsing pressure from possums.

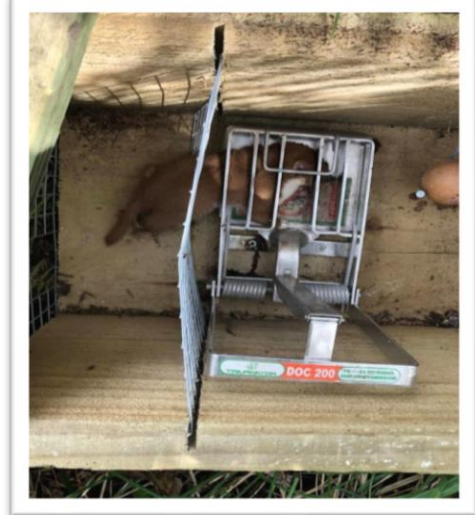
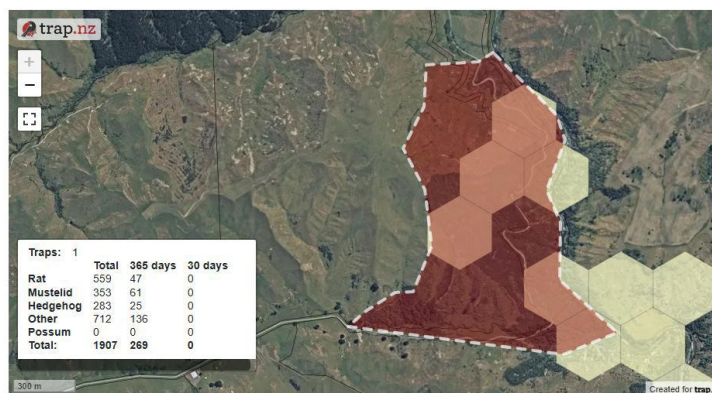
The overarching goal of this project is to contribute to the long-term recovery of native ecosystems and advance the national Predator-Free 2050 initiative. While the immediate focus is pest control, the broader vision includes education, biodiversity monitoring, and future habitat restoration, helping to foster a deeper connection for whānau.

This year, funding has supported adding 42 new traps to their established trapping program



F

### Makokomiko



# 12 Makuri Catchment Care Group - Tararua

## Old Man's Beard Eradication Project - Awarded \$20,000

Makuri Gorge, located southeast of Pahiatua, spans 160 hectares of remnant native forest and is known for its limestone bluffs and diverse canopy species. It has been heavily impacted by old man's beard, an invasive vine that smothers native trees, causes canopy collapse, and encourages further weed invasion.

The Makuri Catchment Collective Old Man's Beard Eradication Project is working to restore the gorge's native bush, with a key focus on eradicating the pest plant. Kaitiaki o te Ngahere was contracted to support this work, which began in May 2025.

Control work during the 2024–25 season focused on one managed area (management unit), targeting lighter old man's beard infestations at the eastern end of the gorge to prevent further spread into intact native bush, with work progressing toward more heavily infested areas.

Contractors treated approximately 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> of old man's beard. The group will continue to control any regrowth for the targeted area whilst extending the area controlled from east to west as resourcing permits.



*Dense old man's beard covering the fragmented bush edge of MU1, as seen before control (Morgan Cooper, 2025).*



*Dense climbing infestations freed from native vegetation in preparation for foliar spray treatment (Vinuta Koraddi, 2025).*

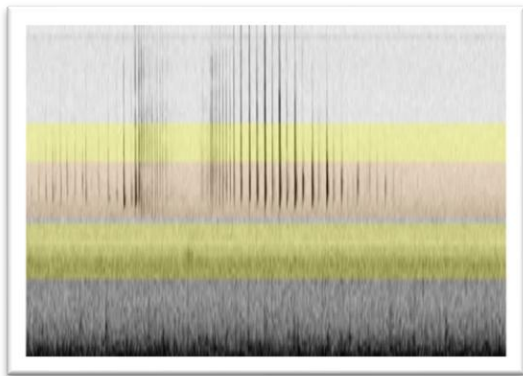
# 13 Manawatū River Catchment Collective

## Bat Monitoring Project - Awarded \$2,800

To date there is no existing formal data of bat locations in the Manawatū River Catchment. Collecting baseline information through analysing recordings will give the group an overview of the current population status in selected locations with a long-term goal of protecting bats and growing their populations throughout the catchment

Four AR4 bat detectors were purchased and placed across the farms where bats were suspected to be found. The bat hunt campaign aims to increase awareness of their existence in the region, assist in education for the protection of their habitat and preferred roosting trees, and encourage predator control to reduce the effects on the bat populations.

The bat detectors were promoted at Central District Field Days, Kimbolton Sculpture Festival, Apiti Show, Tōtara Reserve Open Day, Enviroschools planting for Kiwitea, Kimbolton, Mt Biggs School as well as St Joseph's School Oroua awa trip, Facebook and radio interviews. The group will continue to monitor bat locations and sharing this knowledge with the community and stakeholder groups.



*Bat Detector data for successful find in the Upper Tiraumea Catchment.*



# 14 Mataroa School - Rangitīkei

## School Nursery Project - Awarded \$13,600

Teachers and the wider community of Mataroa School have worked together to establish a native plant nursery. This project is providing school children with hands-on opportunities to connect with nature by growing native seedlings that will be planted around the buffer zone of a nearby reserve.

With support from volunteers who contributed their time and building skills, the new nursery is now equipped with potting tables, an automated watering system, and a dedicated area with soil and infrastructure for long-term composting.

School students have been involved throughout much of the project, clearing the site, spreading soil and then gravel. Collecting seeds and identifying native species, then learning how to propagate them.

As a small rural school, Mataroa School serves as a central hub for the local community. Whānau have been actively involved, contributing knowledge, labour, and support.

The school has already made an impact, with approximately 500 native seedlings planted last year along the edge of the local reserve, with more planting days planned.



# 15 Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-Nui-ā-Rua Trust – Tararua

## Herbertville Coastal Restoration Project - Awarded \$36,000

The Herbertville Restoration Project was initiated to assist with other work that was been done by Horizons Regional Council at Cape Turnagain and Tautane Station, with Tautane Station being owned by Ngati Kahungunu. There are three projects, with a QEII deer fenced native tree area, that complement one another and offers a “corridor biodiversity effect”.

Public awareness has traditionally been low, the project aims to promote the work of the three corridor projects, creating awareness and future biodiversity candidates. This year initiated a good start with approximately 230 people visiting the corridor projects over two separate days, each followed by a gathering at the Tautane Woolshed.

Funds supported the installation of trap lines and removal of wilding pines with great results.



# 16 Ngāwakahiamoe Bush Trust 4WD Tracks - Horowhenua

## Bush Track Maintenance Project - Awarded \$720

Ngāwakahiamoe access tracks have been mowed twice annually (spring and autumn) for three years, to ease access for many activities including a significant amount of planting (and direct seed sowing), the weeding contractor hunting down old man's beard, spot spraying for preparation for planting, and monthly volunteer visits managing the predator control network. It has become crucially important in supporting the Trust's work, and the increasing number of educational visits from local schools and groups.

Over the past year they have hosted several schools including Poroutawhao, Koputaroa and Aokautere, along with 150 children from the Palmerston North Forest & Bird Kiwi Kids Club. In addition to this visit from family groups, and local supportive business (for its Christmas picnic) has visited the bush. Whilst these sorts of visits are not new, visitor numbers have recently increased strongly as word about Ngāwakahiamoe gets out. Mowing of the 4WD tracks has strongly supported these visits.

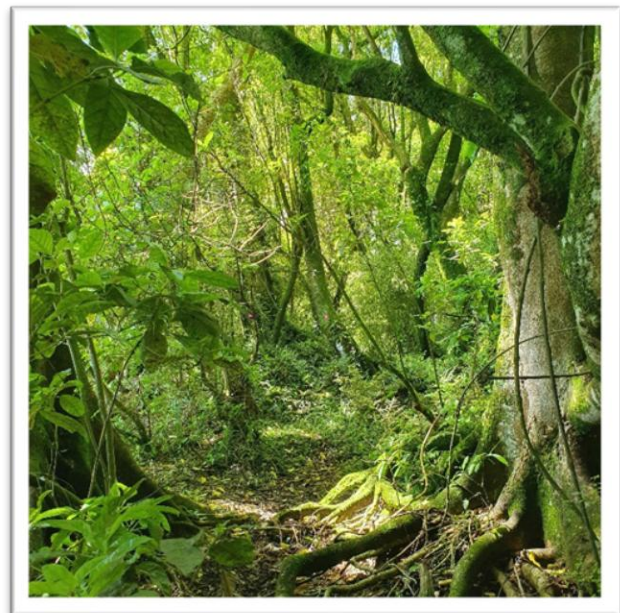


# 17 Ngāwakahiamoe Bush Trust – Predator Control - Horowhenua

## Predator Control Project - Awarded \$460

This year traps and triangles to guide the volunteers to the traps were purchased. This supports the network that has established over the past four years that is now made up of five self-re-setting AT220s to target possums, rats and cats with 34 DOC 200's to target mustelids, rats and hedgehogs. They also have three A24 self-re-setting traps that will target rats and weasel traps, and 40 possum bait stations. Regular checking and rebaiting programme for them has been carried out by two teams of three volunteers.

Since predator control efforts began in May 2021, the presence of birdsong has noticeably increased. By spring 2024, the chorus of native birds has been loud and continuous, with up to five native species often identifiable at once including tūi, kōtare (kingfisher), pīwakawaka (fantail), riroriro (grey warbler) and the pīpiwharauoa (shining cuckoo). An increase in the number of seed left available to birds, or on the ground, indicating a 'virtuous cycle' may have begun with less predators, more seeds and more birds, fostering more natural regeneration. These signs have been most encouraging to our volunteers and this work will continue from the Trust.



# 18 Ohaumoko Family Trust - Rangitikei

## Forest Development in the Mangatipona Stream Valley Project - Awarded \$2,780

This project is part of a programme to enhance three native forest areas adjacent to the Mangatipona Stream. The goal is for flourishing forests abundant with native fauna.

Species here include kahikatea specimens, bats and abundant native bird life.

This project is closely connected to a wider programme of activity that is supported by Horizons Regional Council to restore and enhance the Mangatipona Stream and its tributaries.

The specific goals of the project were to engage a contractor to treat outbreaks of old man's beard in a difficult to access areas of the Wairere Stream Gorge. The project has successfully cleared over 300m<sup>2</sup> of mature old man's beard plants from established native growth.

The vision is to eradicate the old man's beard from the area and allow native bush to take hold, this is a long-term project that will continue over many years to maintain the gains made so far.



# 19 Otiranui Guardians - Ruapehu

## Predator Trapping Expansion Project – Awarded \$6,650

The Otiranui Guardians have been trapping predators - mainly ferrets, stoats, rats and mice, as well as controlling deer and goats in this bush block for the last 32 years. Efforts have seen the health of the rainforest improve with observations of increasing numbers of native birds from the group and visitors who regularly monitor the bush.

The walking tracks are open to the community for free which has provided an opportunity to give an experience and education to the public about the special biodiversity of this forest. The aim of the Trapping Expansion Project was to expand and increase the trapping already here to a more intensive programme to target cats and possums with the addition of 10 cat traps and 14 DOC 200.

They have increased cat and possum trapping from within a roughly 50-hectare area to try to include the whole 155 hectares. With increased traps, allocated volunteers are now checking these on a daily basis, adding to the existing trap lines that target rats and stoats.

This enlarged area, protected in some way from the ongoing influx of cats and possums added another stepping stone for wildlife to spread and move out into other parts of the neighbouring bush where we know there are populations of bats, kiwi and other native flora species

The group will continue this work including monitoring of native species to see the outcomes of the new programme.



## 20 Ōwhango Alive - Ruapehu

### Community Planting Event for World Rivers Day – Awarded \$1,582

For the past 10 years Ōwhango Alive has been celebrating World Rivers Day by hosting a planting event in the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve in Ōwhango. These planting events serve as an opportunity for Ōwhango Alive members and the wider community to engage with the unique characteristics of this reserve and the Whakapapa River that flow past it.

In 2024 they planted 160 native trees along the walking track of the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve loop down steam of the Whakapapa River. These trees will help close in the gap between the bush line and the track and will help fill in the canopy where there are currently gaps. Following the planting attendees had the opportunity to hear from Land Care Trust to learn more about water quality monitoring methods. Through some additional support in early 2025 from the fund they purchased 86 plants for the 2025 event and purchased two earlier generation At220's refurbished to bring them in line with the current pouch system. Multiple working bees have been held prior to the planting day to remove weeds such as blackberry from the site and there will be additional working bees to ensure grasses and other weeds do not smother the new plantings, while preparing for the 2025 planting event



# 21 Peter and Ella Grant - Whanganui

## Matatū Manu Restoration Project - Awarded \$2,421

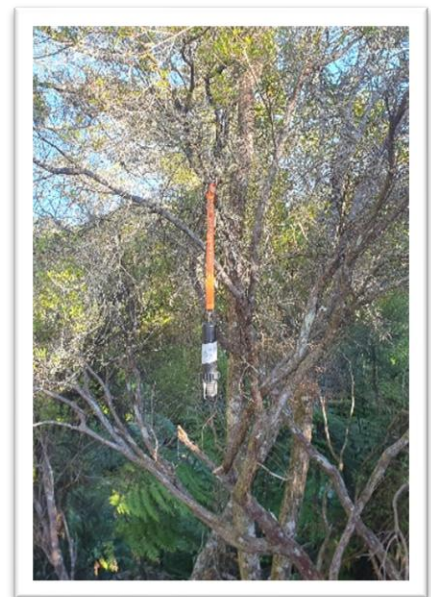
Peter and Ella purchased Matatū in the mid-90's as a conservation project and have strived since then to improve indigenous biodiversity across the block through predator trapping. In recent times the physical challenges of maintaining a trapping programme have proved difficult for them and they have enlisted Scotty Moore to assist on a volunteer basis.

The project goals include seeking funding to deploy predator traps and monitoring the effectiveness of this through trapping records, observations and biodiversity monitoring. Other goals include encouraging and supporting school and community groups to visit Matatū to learn about the environmental impacts of introduced predators on Aotearoa's indigenous biodiversity.

This year funding supported 3 AT220's auto traps, trapping supplies, tracking tunnels and some equipment to help maintain tracks. Throughout the year many groups visited including Rutherford Intermediate, Pathfinder Club, and the youth group of the Whanganui Seventh Day Adventist Church.

With assistance from Horizons on 8 May, kiwi call recorders were left out for 20 days. Analysis showed results of 350 calls across 400 hrs of recording, with 269 being male, 76 females and 34 "duets".

This project is valuable for native biodiversity and will continue.





# 23 Project Tongariro - Ruapehu

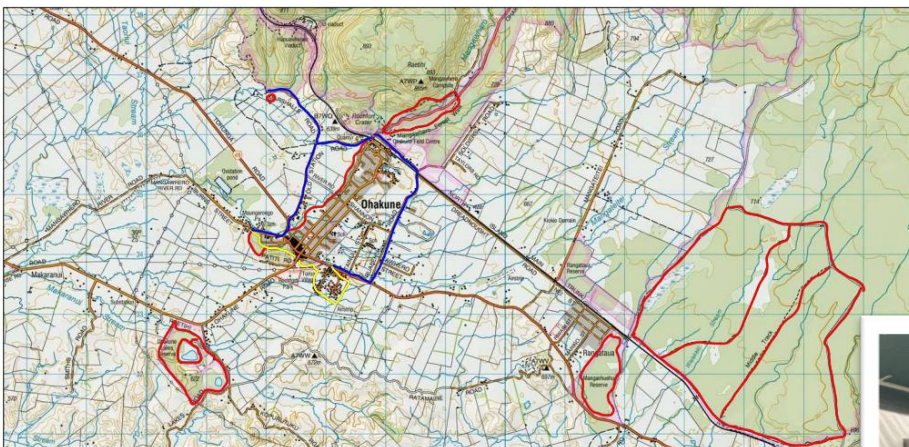
## Predator Free Ohakune – Awarded \$3,000

Predator Free Ohakune is a local group that is working towards creating a safe environment for native species in Ohakune and surrounding areas. Their vision is a town and surrounds where whio and kiwi are seen in streams and bush nearby. Predator Free Ohakune was able to secure funding to underwrite Stage 2 of the planned expansion. The expansion, called the PFO Halo Linkage Plan has been formulated by environmental consultant, also Predator Free Ohakune volunteer, Kerry Oates.

The very ambitious plan aims to ring-fence all the areas already being trapped around Ohakune and Rangataua with a ring of new trap lines. This will create what conservationists call a ‘Halo’, or inland-island which will build on the haven for native birds and plants that reside in neighbouring Tongariro National Park, nearby Te Pae Ao Reserves, and the trapped areas already protected by local trappers and conservationists in and around Ohakune. They hope to achieve this by eradicating pest species that prey on native birds and animals, like bats and lizards.

Rats, stoats, ferrets, and weasels are the main predators that prey on native species. Although, possums, goats and deer are the main culprits in damaging the forest/ngahere, PFO is not aiming at them as part of this project but building onto predator and pest control already being undertaken by Department of Conservation and Ngāti Rangī in neighbouring Tongariro National Park and Te Pae Ao Reserves.

The purchase of replacement traps, tools and bait are so essential and these small grants from Horizons has helped enormously. All these practical purchases feed in the moral of the group and build on the gains made with motivation, collaboration and training members and trappers, which in turn means more effective and targeted trap lines.



## 24 Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre - Tararua

### Te Kohanga Rākau o Pūkaha supplementary Project - Awarded \$7,082

The Pūkaha nursery project, Te Kohanga a Rākau o Pūkaha, aims to support ecological restoration through the propagation of eco-sourced native plants while fostering education, community engagement, and cultural connection.

The primary goals of the project are to grow native seedlings for restoration within the 942-hectare reserve and surrounding catchments and to build knowledge and skills among rangatahi, students, and volunteers.

By creating opportunities for schools, volunteers, and community groups, the nursery will serve as a living classroom where participants learn about native flora, propagation techniques, and the importance of biodiversity while integrating mātauranga Māori and conservation science to promote deeper connection to te taiao (the natural world).



## 25 Raetihi School - Ruapehu

### Native Restoration and Outside Classroom Project - Awarded \$2,000

Raetihi School have a paddock as part of the school grounds. It has a stream running through it and a man-made pond. They have a vision to turn this space into an outdoor classroom space where tamariki and their whānau can make use of it.

This is the second year of funding this project has received. The work this year was a carry on for their initial planting of 600 native species last year. This year, an additional 445 plants, mostly native grasses we planted to form the borders of the walkway.

Together students, staff and caretaker have been the main driver of this project with planting and after care for these plants.

Each child has adopted two plants, and it is their responsibility to care for them. Liz Brooker from Project Tongariro has also worked alongside students. Local farmers have been a big help, supplying mulch to be used around the plants and it has been a community project to get this outdoor classroom created.



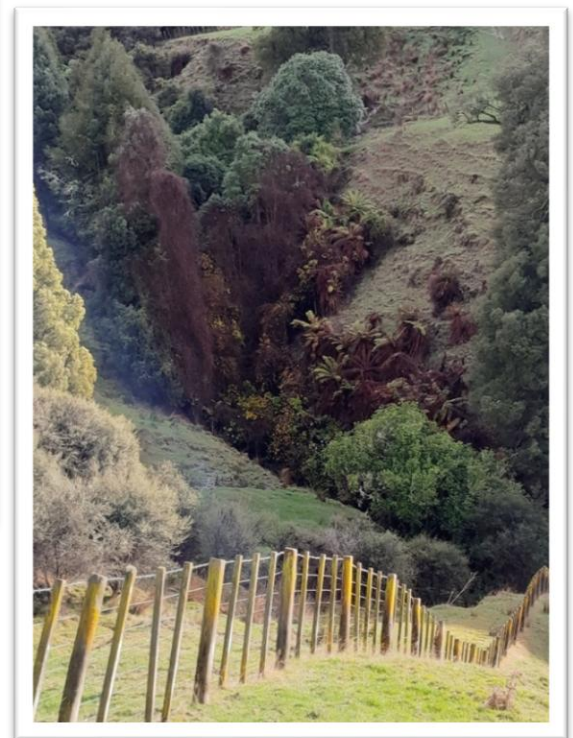
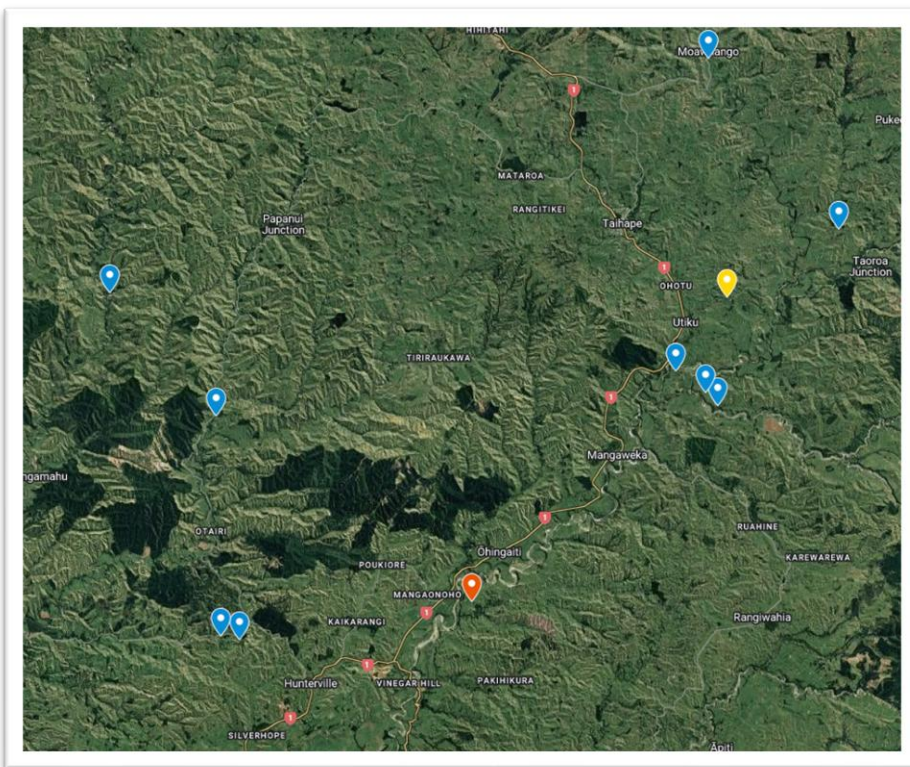
# 26 Rangitīkei River Catchment Collective

## Old man's beard control Rangitīkei, Turakina, and Whangaehu Catchments Project - Awarded \$29,000

The old, man’s beard control project is another part of Rangitīkei River Catchment Collectives (RRCC) wider effort to support local farmers and communities in protecting and enhancing the environment across the Rangitīkei, Whangaehu, and Turakina catchments. The focus is around supporting landowners to control old man's beard, an invasive climbing vine that poses a major threat to New Zealand native bush by smothering and killing trees and vegetation.

By providing initial assistance to get this pest plant down to manageable levels, farmers then have the tools and knowledge to control this weed themselves.

During this project twenty farm properties, covering approximately 198 ha. were successfully treated to help remove old man’s beard as part of RRCC’s wider environmental Restoration Project. Of these, twelve native bush areas (approx. 26 ha) were 100% funded through the fund. This work will continue with an ongoing commitment from landowners and the community to control this pest plant.



# 27 Rangitīkei River Catchment Collective

## Animal Pest Trap Library Project – Awarded \$ \$15,400

The pest trap library is part of Rangitīkei River Catchment Collectives (RRCC) wider effort to support local farmers and communities in protecting and enhancing the environment across the Rangitīkei, Whangaehu, and Turakina catchments. Its aim is to remove barriers by giving landowners access to a variety of predator traps and practical knowledge on how to use them effectively, helping reduce pest populations and protect native bush, birds, and wildlife.

This project complements RRCC’s broader restoration work, which focuses on reducing threats to biodiversity on private land. The group have purchased approximately 87 traps so far, including DOC 200s, F-Bombs, AT220 auto traps, and Timms. These traps are all available for members to borrow to trial out before committing to purchasing their own traps.

The grant-funded traps were complemented by two professional pest animal control workshops. These workshops were well attended by community members and aimed to equip them with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to carry out pest control on their own land using either library traps or their own equipment.

The first trap line has been set up near Turakina with promising results, and a second has recently been established on the Mangawhaririki River, marking ongoing progress in community-led pest control.



# 28 Ruahine Whio Protection Trust – Rangitīkei

## Te Potae O Awarua and the Pohangina River Projects - Awarded \$36,772

Ruahine Whio Protection have been mustelid trapping to protect whio and kiwi for 17 years in the Ruahine Range - North West (Te Potae O Awarua) and Southern (Ōroua/Pohangina Blue Duck Protection Project). The Ruahine Range is a nationally recognised recovery site for whio.

This group work closely with the Department of Conservation with the objective to establish 50 breeding pairs.

This is the fourth year of funding for the Trust, this remote project requires helicopter access to maintain more than 600 traps that aim to be serviced seven times a year. Funding supports these trips and some small purchases including a project GPS, gloves and some replacement A24 traps.

More accessible locations including two trips to the Pohangina River and monthly trips to the Ōroua River included the regular Whio volunteers, Massey University students, Vesta staff, hunters and trampers.

The group will continue to monitor and service trap lines with funding permits.



## 29 Russell Tocker - Manawatū

### Tiakitahuna Wetland Restoration Project - Awarded \$22,500

The Tiakitahuna Wetland is an oxbow formed after the redirection of the Manawatū River. This roughly 10ha wetland provides refuge for a large variety of birdlife, including some significant breeding populations of royal spoonbill, bittern and kotuku (white heron).

Populations of these species throughout New Zealand are in decline, so the goal of this project was to restore and enhance the habitat of the wetland to provide a safe and appealing habitat to keep these birds here. This planting will expand on multiple areas around the wetland and nearby waterways which we have already planted or closed to regenerate.

5500 native plants were purchased and planted with the funding including pioneer plant species like carex, flax, and kānuka, along with larger species such as cabbage trees, kahikatea and tōtara.

Fencing supplies of wire, posts and hardware were purchased and the remaining un-fenced areas around the wetland were fenced off to provide protection to the planted areas. Weed control supplies funded by the grant allowed pre-planting spraying of weed species and will continue to help control grass that will compete with the native plants over the next few years.



# 30 The Eco School – Whanganui

## Gully Restoration Project - Awarded \$3,750

This project aims to restore native bush and wetland habitats along both sides of Purua Stream on a farm in Okoia, Whanganui, with the support of school groups, whānau, and community volunteers.

Over 5000 native plants have been established since 2016 through partnerships with Horizons Regional Council, Whanganui District Council and the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust.

Planting events have been attended by local schools, early childhood centres, and volunteers. This year, community got together to plant 594 native trees with the funding allocated.

The project goal is to create continuous native cover across the gully, supporting native species of birds, lizards, frogs, and insects.



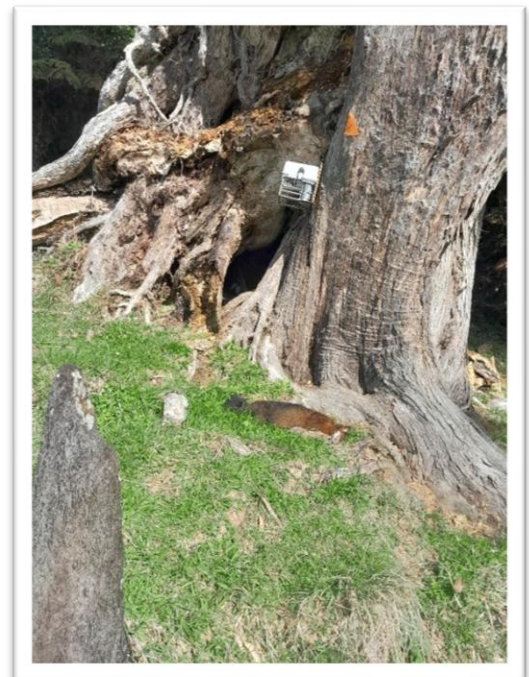
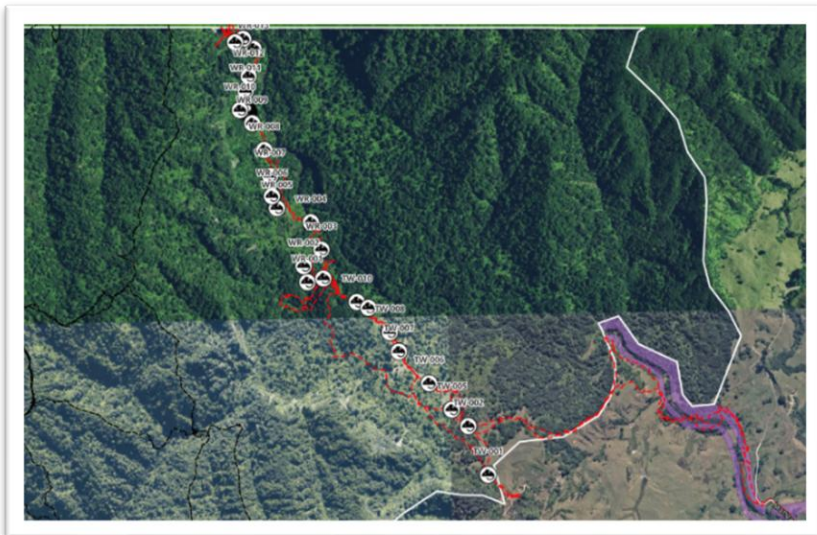
# 31 Te Waro A Ngahere Trust - Ruapehu

## Whakaoranga Whakapakaringia Te Ngahere me nga wai - Restore and strengthen forest and waters Project - Awarded \$15,200

Te Waro A is 1000 hectares of native forest nestled between Mohakatino and Waitaanga on Public Conservation Land. The land title and classification are a māori freehold Land governed by an Ahuwhenua Trust. It is an important headwater for many thousands of hectares of downstream farmland. Te Waro has suffered extensive and ongoing damage via angulate browsing, possums, rats, cats and stoats. Recently monitoring by DOC has confirmed the presences of bat populations as well as many native bird species. Nearby in Waitaanga Forest kōkako and kākā have been sighted. The Governance board of Te Waro has agreed to a forest ecological and biodiversity restoration focus involving, destruction of pests, planting, and internal tracks and shelters to facilitate the work.

Funding has supported the purchase of 27 At220 trap to get the first 3km long trapping line established. The traps have only been deployed for two months as there was an aerial 1080 operation earlier this year limiting forest access. However, in those two months results were 87 possums, and 22 rats trapped. The group have also been working collaboratively with DOC over the last few years to remove goats, with an estimate 500 goats culled over the last three years.

The team has grown to 12 individuals who have contributed to “Actions on The Ground”. Eight of these individuals are trustees and family, but an additional four external to Te Waro A Trust have joined the cause. The group will continue efforts to reduce pest animals in the ngahere through ongoing trapping, goat culling and aerial 1080 operations.



# 32 Upper Ōngarue Catchment Group - Whanganui Region Catchment Collective - Whanganui

## Trapping Extension - Awarded \$6,800

The initial goal of this project was to expand the existing network of predator control trap lines in the area, building on those already maintained by private landowners and the Department of Conservation. A meeting was held with local catchment group members, including those actively trapping in the area. During this meeting, the group used Trap.NZ to map current trap lines and identify strategic gaps where additional trapping would be most effective.

Local knowledge also played a vital role, especially in identifying areas where whio (blue duck) pairs had been recently sighted. This helped ensure new trap lines would provide added protection in habitats where whio are active. As a result of this collaborative effort, a 2.5 km stretch along both sides of the Okauaka Stream was selected for a new trapline to protect a known whio pair.

After discussion with the group and advice from experienced trappers, it was decided to use a combination of traps including DIC 200s spaced every 200 metres, SA2 trap every kilometre, and AT220 auto traps in harder-to-access areas.

A trapping workshop funded by Whanganui Region Catchment Collective with Cam Speedy was held to educate community members on how to carry out effective trapping and get the most from their traps.



# 33 Waikawa Beach Environment Group - Horowhenua

## Reay MacKay Grove, Recreational Reserve Replanting Project - Awarded \$2,000

Waikawa Beach Environment Group (WBEG), established in 2023, aims to support the planting and maintaining of indigenous plants for habitat restoration, erosion control, and biodiversity along a vulnerable coastal area at Waikawa beach.

The long-term plan is to restore the entire Reserve corridor from the Waikawa Awa to the Horowhenua-Kapiti boundary to a thriving coastal ecosystem for flora and fauna, while also educating and growing community involvement about this valuable natural resource.

Indigenous plants suitable to the coastal environment were purchased with funds received and planted by the community along two pedestrian walkways. Many other activities are supporting the group's objectives including community weeding and planting days, a Facebook page, working on a web page, utilising guidance from a wide range of experts, propagating specialist endangered plants ready for reintroduction such as autetaranga (sand daphne), as well as weed control to ready areas for future planting.



## 34 Waitahora Landcare Collective - Tararua

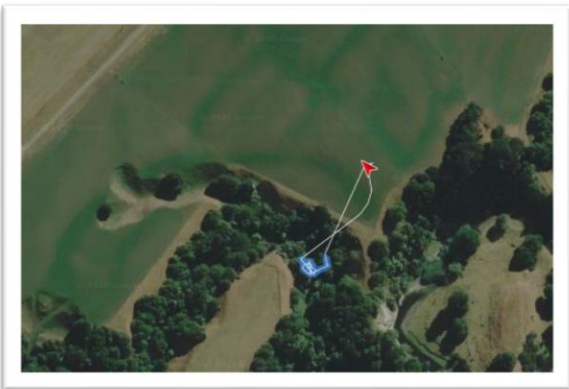
### Old man's beard (OMB) Control Phase 2 Project - Awarded \$9,935

In early 2024, Waitahora Landcare Collective contractors from Kaitiaki Eco, supported by landowners, undertook old man's beard (OMB) control in the lower half of Waitahora River Catchment. Steep terrain along the Mangatoro River limited ground access and slowed progress. In response, the Collective sought alternative ways to combat this issue.

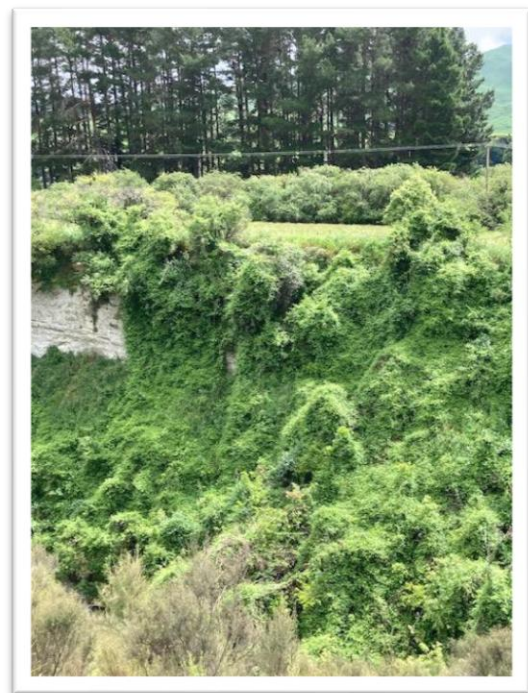
Funding allocated was used for specialist drone technology to continue the spraying in difficult to access areas.

The drone control work exceeded expectations. All targeted old man's beard plants were treated, along with others identified from the air, totalling over 1000m<sup>2</sup> of pest plant control. This method has proved to be successful with less flight time required than originally anticipated.

Ground-based control was still required under tree cover, where drones are less effective.



*Drone Flight GPS data.*



*Old man's beard Mangatoro River & Mangatakoto stream*

# 35 Waimarama Freeman - Manawatū

## Te Mata o te Whenua Project – Awarded \$2,400

In 2021, the Te Mata o te Whenua project started planting native rākau on their whenua under the old tōtara and kahikatea near Ōroua River. The aim was to restore the whenua and reporepo with a wide range of indigenous rākau to help heal and bring balance back to the taiao. Bringing the whānau, hapū and iwi together to reconnect, heal and embrace their taonga species and taiao.

Having Te Mata o te Whenua restoration project has brought a lot of special moments with whānau, hapū and iwi. They have been able to practice sacred traditional ceremonies, reconnect many whānau back to the whenua who have not been before and this was evident when one koro being in his 80's, was very emotional.

Planting days have been an amazing way to catch up with whānau and give back to papatūānuku. Planting when whānau are back visiting in the area from overseas and around the motu was a lovely way to spend time for Matariki, birthday's and Tangihanga.





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