



Tōtara Reserve Regional Park

Annual Report 2025-26

Tōtara Reserve Regional Park is a special place in the Manawatū-Whanganui region. Located on the banks of the Pohangina River, around 30 kilometres north of Ashhurst, the 340-hectare reserve is the only regional park in the Horizons region. It contains one of the largest remaining areas of lowland forest in the region, including seven rare and threatened ecosystem types, and provides important habitat for native plants and wildlife. The reserve also has a long history of use by Māori, and today is a valued place for recreation, camping, learning, community activities and connecting with nature.

Horizons Regional Council has administered Tōtara Reserve since 2012 and is responsible for protecting and enhancing its natural and cultural values while providing for the public to enjoy the park. This includes managing biodiversity and biosecurity, maintaining tracks and visitor facilities, managing the campgrounds, and working alongside iwi, volunteers, community groups and other partners.

This annual report provides a snapshot of the work undertaken at Tōtara Reserve during the 2025–26 financial year. It highlights the projects, maintenance, environmental management, community activities and other work carried out during the year to care for this important regional asset and support the people who visit and enjoy it.

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1. Tōtara Reserve Management Plan

In May 2025 the Tōtara Reserve Management Plan 2025 was finalised and adopted by Council. This can be viewed online here: [Tōtara Reserve Regional Park - Horizons Regional Council](#)

The management plan sets out the vision for Totara Reserve:

'to be a highly valued area where indigenous ecosystems are protected, preserved and celebrated; with engaging recreational and educational experiences that foster a deep connection to nature; respect and stewardship for our natural heritage.'

The management plan outlines a number of proposed activities that will help achieve the plan's objectives over the next ten years. These activities are tabled in Appendix 1 of this report and show progress that was made against these over the reporting year.

2. Flood and Landslip events

Flood - February 2026

On 15 February 2026, severe rainfall across the Pohangina River catchment caused a rapid rise in river levels and resulted in widespread flooding across the region. The Pohangina River, measured at Piripiri Bridge, peaked at 2.4 m, compared with 2.77 m during Cyclone Gabrielle. As a precautionary measure, campers were evacuated and reserve buildings were sandbagged in advance of the flood peak.

Although both campgrounds were inundated, no structural damage occurred, demonstrating the effectiveness of resilience improvements implemented following Cyclone Gabrielle. Impacts were limited to silt deposition, loss of playground bark, and a temporary water supply outage caused by damage to the bore pump controller, resulting in short-term campground closures.

Kahikatea Campground was the most significantly affected area, with moderate to heavy silt deposition covering approximately two-thirds of the site (Figure 1). In contrast, Kereru Campground experienced minimal silt deposition, with the primary impact being stormwater ponding caused by the collapse of a drainage channel. Remediation works were initiated immediately, enabling Kereru Campground to reopen within a week.



Figure 1: Kahikatea flood damage February 2026.

Kahikatea Campground remains closed to camping, with silt removal completed in March and re-seeding completed in June.

The visitor area opposite the Fern Walk car park experienced significant riverbank erosion, reducing the size of the proposed visitor space by approximately half and exposing historic bank protection works. This event confirmed that the site is unsuitable for future visitor area development.

Landslips - February and July 2026

Approximately one week after the flood, a large slip from the cliff beside Kahikatea Campground partially narrowed the river channel (Figure 2 left). An engineering assessment found that the slip temporarily reduced channel capacity and could cause the campground to flood at lower river levels. Around 70% of the slip material was loose debris and was expected to erode during future high flows, so no long-term change to the river channel was anticipated. The Environmental Monitoring team assessed whether the river level warning alarm should be reduced from 1.9 m to 1.5 m.

On July 2nd, a second significant slip from the cliff adjacent to Kahikatea Campground temporarily blocked the Pohangina River, causing a surge of water and debris that inundated the upstream end of the campground and BBQ shelter areas. The inundation extended across much of the campground, with the bridge gauge reaching a surge height of 2.8 m.

The river broke through the slip material over the following two days with no further flooding to the campgrounds.

The campground was closed for the season at the time of the slip event and no members of the public were present. The site remained closed while conditions were monitored for further instability, with warning signage installed at Kahikatea Campground and the Nature Trail entrance and public notifications issued highlighting the increased rockfall risk.

During the slip event, a considerable quantity of rockfall debris landed or rolled into the campground areas, raising concerns around future visitor and camper safety (Figure 2 right).



Figure 2: (Left) Land slip July 2026 and (right) BBQ Rockfall inundation July 2026

Response Planning

A phased plan was already in place to gradually disestablish Kahikatea Campground if further flood-related damage occurred. The February and July events triggered the next stage of that plan.

- Removal of shelters and associated infrastructure adjacent to the river.
- Revegetation of campground areas with native planting, prioritising riverside and upstream locations.

Timeline

Subject to no further significant events, the BBQ shelter infrastructure is planned to be removed and native planting commenced before the campground reopens in late October. The revegetation would convert approximately one-third of the Kahikatea campground area to native vegetation, with initial planting focused on sites closest to the river. The remaining camping areas, including the powered sites and key visitor infrastructure, would remain available until later stages of the disestablishment or further flood events.

These remaining sites are currently the most popular, contain the most existing infrastructure, and include the powered camping sites.

3. Forest Health

Pest Animal Management

Further detail on pest animal management during the 2025–26 year was provided in the Post Operational Report – Tōtara Reserve Pest Animal Control 2025–2026.

Possums and Rats

Bait stations

The bait station network consists of 591 Philproof Mini bait stations installed on a 50 m × 100 m grid across all habitats within the reserve. This bait station network is used to control both possums and ship rats. Privately owned land adjoining the reserve is also set up with bait stations for possum control.

During 2025–2026, Pestoff Possum Pellets (brodifacoum) was used in bait stations. Bait station fills of 200–300 g of bait/station were carried out in June 2025, September 2025, and May 2026.

Encapsulated cyanide (Feratox) pills in biodegradable bait bags, were deployed to areas where possums were known to be present.

A series of 52 wooden, ground-based bait stations are spread throughout the campgrounds and other amenity areas. These stations are serviced monthly and baited with Ditrac (diphacinone) to provide ongoing rodent control in visitor areas.

A permanent network of Flipping Timmy single-action kill traps is distributed throughout the reserve and serviced monthly. During 2025–2026, three possums were captured in the trap network.

Possum Monitoring

The operational target for possum control within Tōtara Reserve was less than 2% Residual Trap Catch Index (RTCI). This level was considered low enough to help limit possum browsing of the forest canopy and predation of nests during bird breeding season.

To determine the RTCI, Wax Tag monitoring protocol is used annually, with tags deployed for seven consecutive nights. The resulting Wax Tag Index (WTI) is converted to an estimated RTCI.

The monitoring was undertaken in February 2026 and resulted in 2.3% RTCI (Table 1). This was just above the operational target but by a very small margin and is still considered a good result for the possum control operation. Maintaining the possum population at low levels consistently will be having a positive impact on forest health within the reserve.

Table 1: *Totara Reserve Possum Monitoring History*

Date	Converted RTCI result	2% Target
October 2023	2.3%	Just exceeded
February 2025	1.8%	Met
February 2026	2.3%	Just exceeded

Rodent Monitoring

Rat monitoring was undertaken using the Tracking Tunnel Index (TTI). The target was to maintain rat abundance to less than 5% TTI during the bird breeding season (Nov-Feb) and keep numbers below 10% TTI for the rest of the year.

The monitoring network consists of five permanent lines of ten tracking tunnels spread throughout the reserve. These are monitored four times annually, in August, November, February, and May. The results were as follows:

August 2025 = 14% (target exceeded)

November 2025 = 2% (target met)

February 2026 = 6% (target exceeded)

May 2026 = 0% (target met)

The target TTI was met in November and May but not in August (non-breeding season) or February (late in breeding season).

Results Response

Baits containing brodifacoum have been used to control rats and possums over the past three years. It is recommended that bait be changed for the next three years to a different bait such as a pindone or diphacinone based product.

Baits containing these toxins have been proven effective for rat control but are generally ineffective for controlling possums even though Pindone Pellets for Possums and Rats is registered for possum control. These products should only be used where possum populations are low as possums can eat large amounts of bait from stations without eating enough bait to receive a lethal dose. This means that an alternative possum control method will have to be used. Feratox pills placed within the same bait stations as the bait for rats, or Feratox pills in biodegradable bait bags are two options.

Figure 3 on the following page shows possum and rat monitoring results pre and post poison baiting operations – and the types of toxins used.

Totara Reserve Possum & Rodent baiting operations & result monitoring for pest abundance

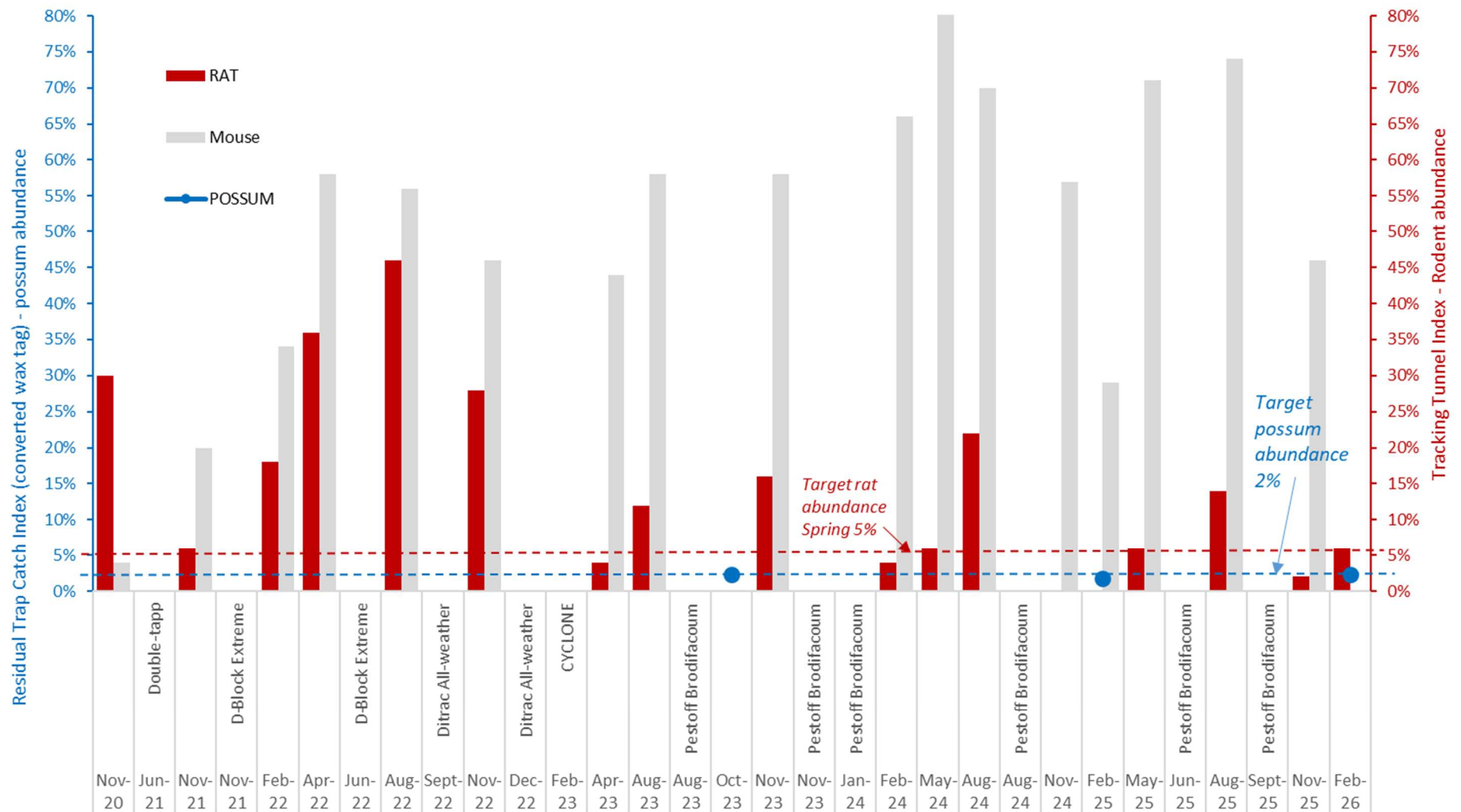


Figure 3 : Tōtara Reserve poison baiting operations vs animal pest monitoring results over five years

Trapping

Eighty-four DOC200, 41 DOC250 and 25 Flipping Timmy traps were checked monthly. During the 2025–26 financial year, 1,569 trap checks were completed and 142 pest animals were caught. This included 27 mustelids, which was similar to the 2024–25 financial year. Species caught each month are shown in Table 2.

Reflecting on the past four years, Table 3 shows the total number of each type of animal trapped each year, and Figure 4 shows the total number of pest animals trapped throughout the years with seasonal fluctuations.

Table 2: *Trap catch by month 2025-2026*

Month	Ferret	Stoat	Weasel	Cat	Hedgehog	Rat
July	0	0	0	0	0	8
August	0	0	3	0	0	3
September	0	1	4	1	0	7
October	0	0	2	0	2	3
November	0	0	1	0	3	5
December	0	0	0	0	5	3
January	0	0	3	0	6	8
February	0	3	1	0	7	7
March	0	1	1	0	4	18
April	Not checked					
May	1	1	1	0	1	22
June	0	0	3	1	0	0
TOTAL	1	6	19	2	28	84

Table 3: *Historical trap catch by year 2021-2026*

Year	No. of traps	Ferret	Stoat	Weasel	Cat	Hedgehog
2021-22	99	0	11	3	1	68
2022-23	123	1	16	4	14	127
2023-24	123	4	3	5	10	62
2024-25	123	2	8	14	2	39
2025-26	157	1	6	20	1	29

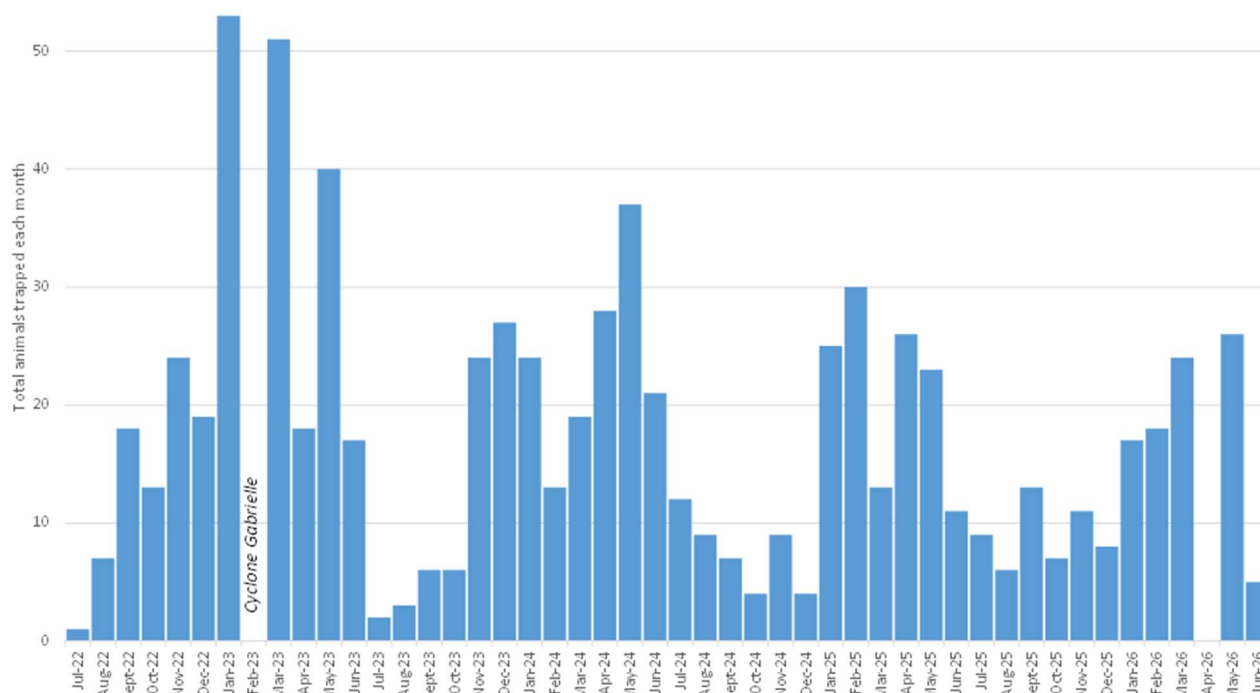


Figure 4: Total pest animals (all species) trapped each month at Totara Reserve 2022-2026

Pest Animal Management – Deer

Fallow deer (*Dama dama*), Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and to a lesser extent Sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*) are all found in or on land adjoining Totara Reserve. Deer browse a wide range of native shrubs, seedlings, saplings, and groundcover species. Selective browsing can suppress the regeneration of preferred plant species, alter forest composition, reduce the diversity and density of the understorey, and create long-term changes in forest structure. Where deer densities are high, regeneration of palatable species may cease altogether, resulting in an ageing canopy with limited replacement of canopy trees over time.

Feral pigs and goats are currently not present in the reserve.

Control work was undertaken by a combination of Horizons Regional Council staff and Daniel Ritchie Contracting Ltd. Most hunting was undertaken in known hotspots, including the Pohangina River corridor using thermal technology and firearms. A total of 77 hours were spent hunting including eight hours with an indicator dog, but no deer were killed using this method. A total of 19 deer were destroyed and included 18 fallow deer and 1 red deer (Table 4).

Table 4: Hunting hours and kills 2025-26

Operator	Hunting Hours	Species	Total Kills	Kills per hunting hour
Horizons	7	Fallow	7	1
Daniel Ritchie Contracting Ltd	70	Fallow	11	0.17
		Red	1	
Total	77		19	0.25

Pest Animal Management – Wasps

Before Vespex wasp control could be undertaken, wasp activity monitoring was needed to confirm whether the local wasp population was seeking protein. This was important because Vespex is a protein-based bait and is most effective when wasps are actively foraging for protein. This shift usually occurs between late January and late March.

Wasp activity monitoring was carried out using 20 non-toxic protein-based baits set five metres apart for one hour. At least 10 wasps needed to be observed on the baits before a control operation could proceed outside beech forest; in beech forest, the threshold was 20 wasps. Protein-based baits used for monitoring included fresh rabbit or chicken meat, fresh fish offcuts, or selected tinned tuna or sardines.

Wasp activity monitors undertaken 2025-2026 (Table 5).

The bait station network (Figure 5) was upgraded this year with a total of 44 new wasptek bait stations installed within the reserve to fill in gaps in the following areas:

- between the Fern Walk carpark and Gilchrist Loop track (14 stations)
- on the river flat area and some of the trap lines near Camp Rangī Woods (30 stations).

Table 5: Wasp monitoring 2025-26

Date	Bait Type	Time	Comments
9 Feb 26	Fresh fish offcuts	12:00-13:00	One wasp was observed on baits. All willow trees bordering the Kahikatea campground were checked for wasps and only one wasp was seen.
11 Mar 26	Fresh fish offcuts	12:15-13:15	Two wasps were observed on baits.
16 Mar 26	Fresh fish offcuts	12:45-13:45	No wasps were observed on baits.
31 Mar 26	Fresh fish offcuts	12:30-13:30	Ten wasps were observed on baits.

Fewer wasps were observed in the main campground this season. This may have reflected the success of wasp control in 2024–25, the removal of a large willow tree that had attracted wasps, or a combination of both. Fewer individual nests were also found and destroyed this season, with two nests removed compared with the previous season.

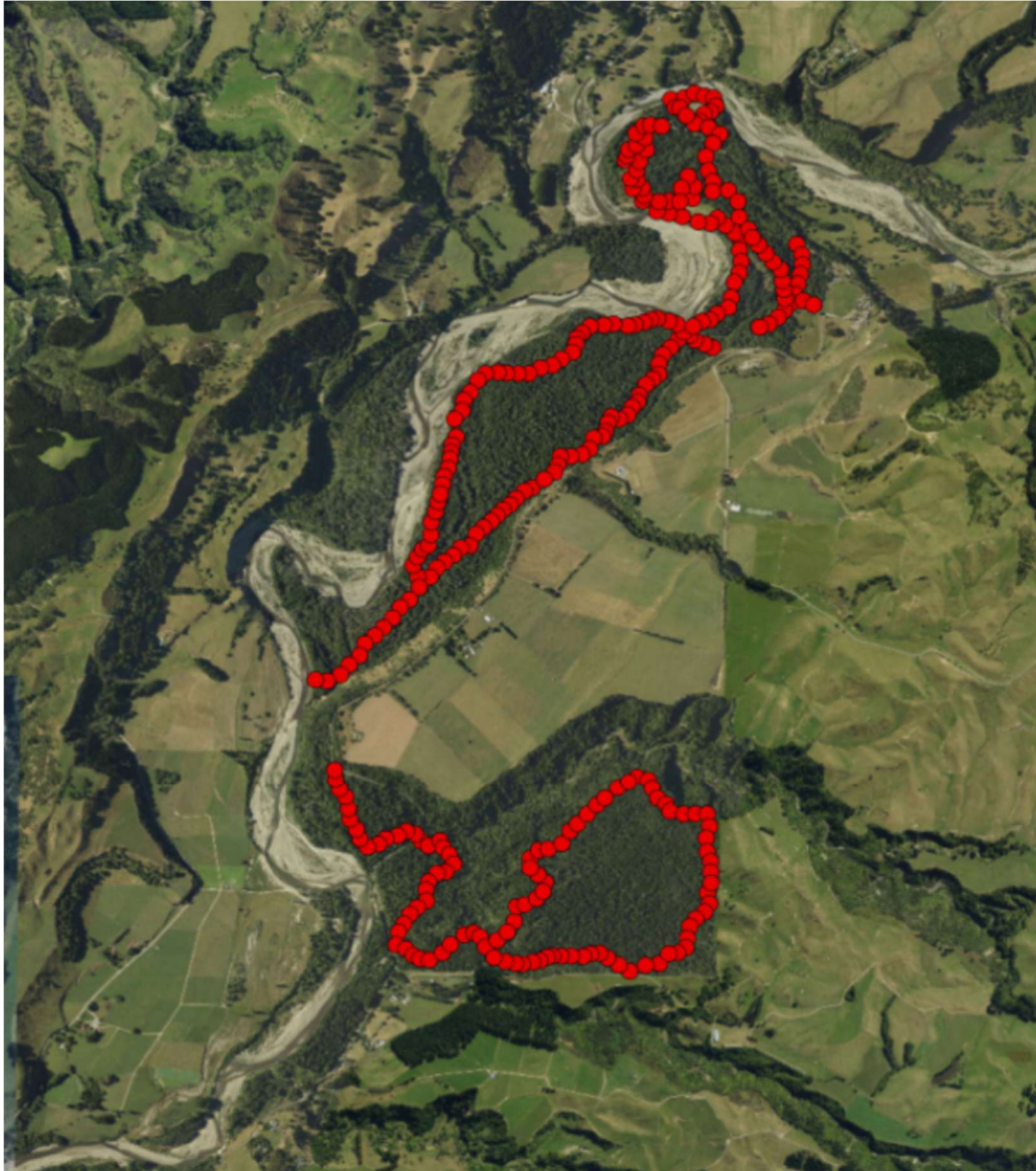


Figure 5: Wasp bait station network in Tōtara Reserve

Pest Plant Management

Kaitiaki o te Ngāhere were the successful applicants of the tender process for the 2025-28 contract to control pest plants in Tōtara Reserve. They also held the previous three-year contract, meaning this strategic approach has been operational since 2022. During their initial contract they developed a phased Forest Restoration Framework that identified priority pest species and divided the work into specific management unit areas. They have reported against this framework each year to track progress. Figure 6 illustrates the reduction in Initial Control and Follow Up stages showing the progress in reducing mature, seeding plants.

Primary species targeted for control are banana passionfruit, old mans beard, cathedral bells, gunnera, Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy, cape smilax, jasmine, blue morning glory. Certain species are targeted for control in certain areas that may be a lower priority in other areas. Work has generally prioritised managing infestations within intact forest remnants, over those on forest, river and road margins, and infestations that are relatively isolated, as this approach offers the greatest capacity to protect the forest and has a lower likelihood of rapid reinvasion.

Kaitiaki o te Ngāhere produce a full report of work in each management unit and for individual target pest plant species, the details of which can be viewed in their 2025-26 report. Thirty-three active management units collectively covering 150.3 hectares were in place throughout the 2025-26 season. Pest plant control work was carried out across 23 of these, covering approximately 71.66 ha, or 47.68%, of the actively managed area.

With all primary priorities now under management and work expanding to incorporate secondary priorities, the bulk of work in the 2025-26 season was focused on seedbank and follow-up control, with 70.77% and 64.26% of seedbank control and follow-up control areas covered respectively.

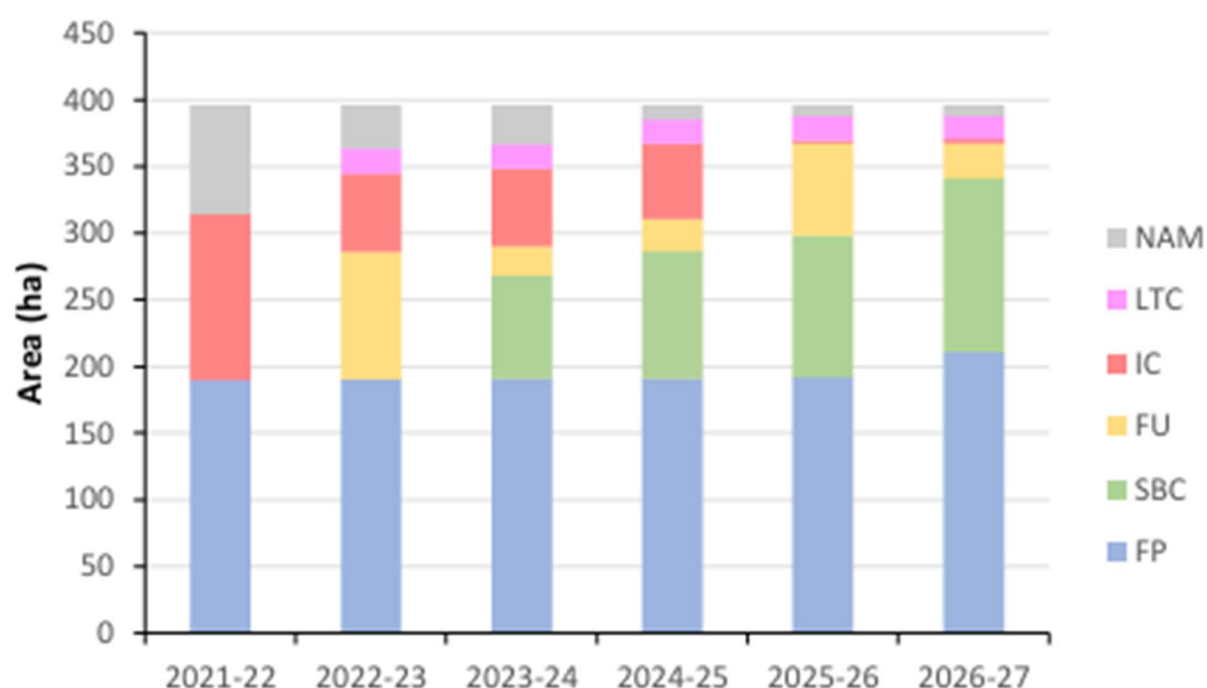


Figure 6: Total area under each phase of management across Totara Reserve's management units from the 2021-22 season through to the planned 2026-27 season. (NAM = Not Actively Managed; LTC = Long Term Control; IC = Initial Control; FU = Follow Up; SBC = Seed Bank Control; FP = Forest Protection).

Of particular note is an adjusted approach to control of cathedral bells, in an attempt to reduce the seeding potential from an infestation in a forest buffer area. This year, instead of two phases of control with larger time allocations, four smaller phases of control were carried out alongside other work in the reserve. This change was prompted by observations that cathedral bells infestations were reaching maturity earlier in the season, and the experience from previous seasons managing seeding infestations.

The first phase of treatment was carried out in September/October, where vines were discovered already flowering, but were controlled before mature seed pods had developed. Every subsequent phase of treatment discovered reduced adult vines, and developing seed pods were controlled before maturity. This strategy will be continued for future seasons.

Aerial spraying of banana passionfruit additional to the Kaitiaki o te Ngāhere contract was also undertaken in a buffer zone, as part of pest plant management in the wider landscape.

Biodiversity Monitoring

Manu / Birds

Bird monitoring using annual survey using the five-minute bird count method was repeated this year, in November 2025 by contractor Sam Hill. The timing of the count was slightly later than in previous years due to weather and contractor availability.

The 2025 survey data was added to the long-term analysis first undertaken last financial year to assess bird trends in response to predator control (Figures 8-11 show rat abundance as the grey dotted line).

Overall, bird trends remained comparable to previous surveys. A slight decrease in birds was recorded for 2025 (Figure 7); however, this was not statistically significant and was likely due to the later survey date.

It should be noted that while the five-minute bird count surveys have been undertaken annually since 2012, changes in observers and inconsistencies between methods and survey locations means that data prior to 2021 may not be comparable to recent data. Survey data pre 2021 has been removed from this year's report due to different survey locations and to allow recent trends to be assessed. See the 2024-25 report for pre-2021 data.

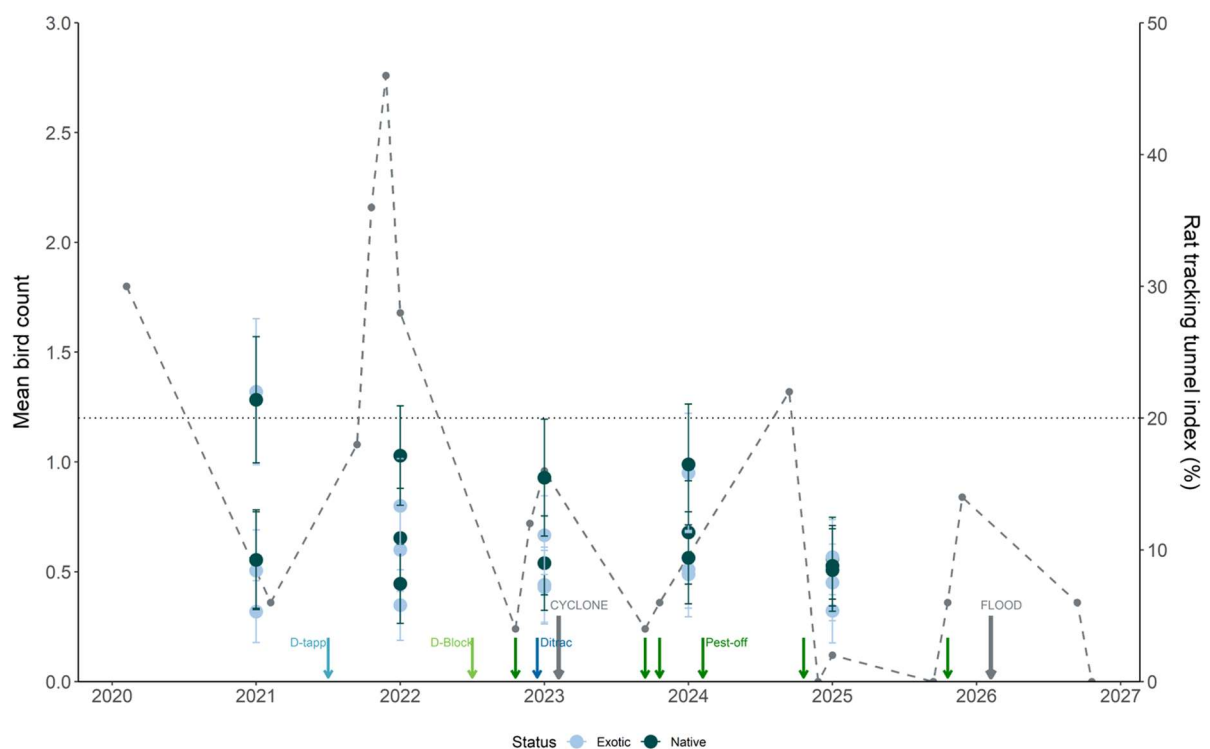


Figure 7: Overall bird trends measured during 5-minute-bird counts since 2021 at Totara Reserve

Most native species appear to be stable, for example Tui and korimako / bellbird abundance have remained similar since 2021 (Figure 8).

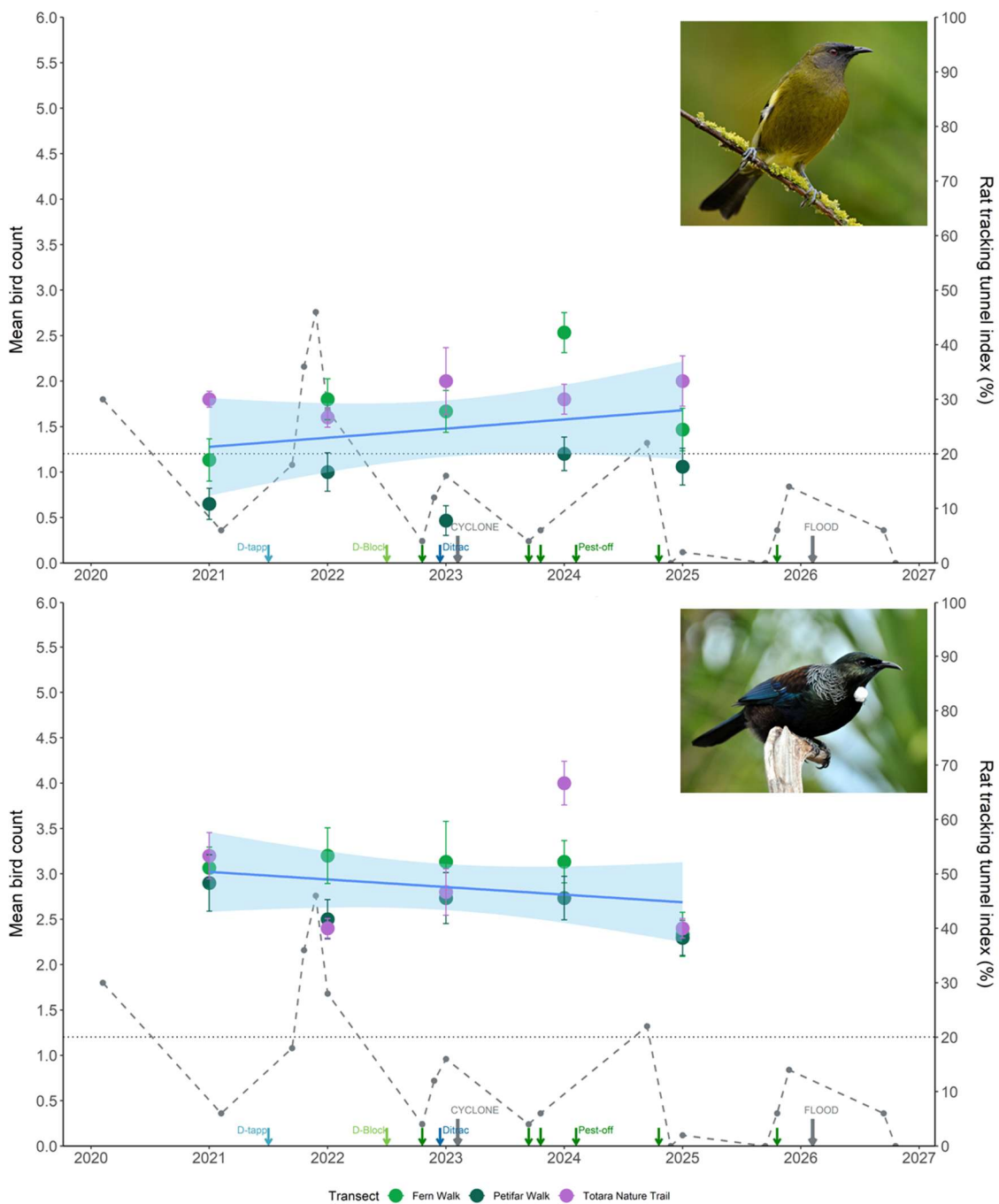


Figure 8: 5-minute-bird count data for Tui and korimako / bellbird plotted against rat monitoring results

Kererū abundance, however, showed signs of increasing (Figure 9), with higher numbers recorded in the 2025 survey than in previous years. This may have been linked to ongoing predator control.

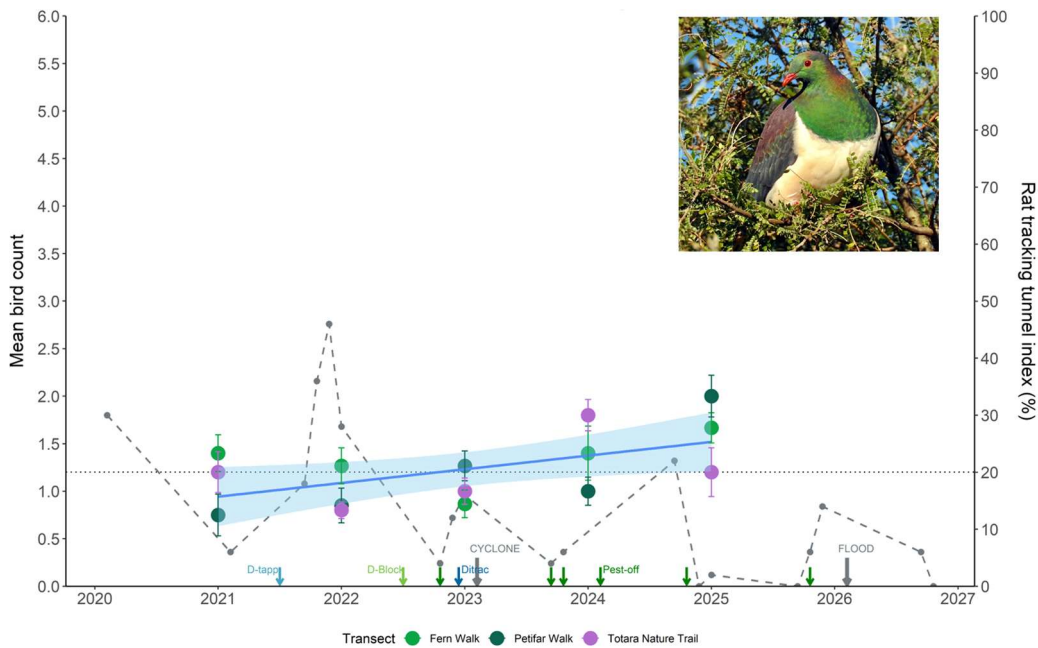


Figure 9: 5-minute-bird count data for Kereru plotted against rat monitoring results

Titipounamu continued not to be detected during five-minute bird count surveys (Figure 10). Because of this, the species was identified as a potential candidate for future translocation to the reserve. To help confirm whether titipounamu were absent, Biodiversity staff undertook a targeted survey in September 2025, at the start of the breeding season when birds were most likely to be detected if present. Titipounamu were not detected during this survey, suggesting they may now be locally extinct at Tōtara Reserve. This finding helped prompt a Massey University research project to investigate the feasibility of a future translocation.

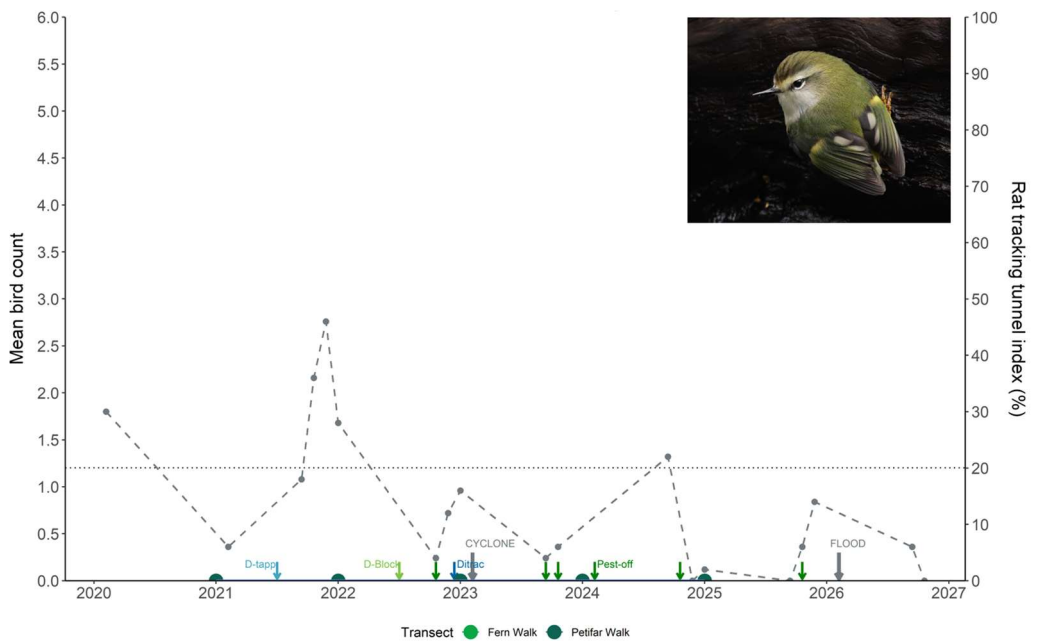


Figure 10: 5-minute-bird count data for Titipounamu plotted against rat monitoring results

A budget has been set aside for ongoing annual bird monitoring to ensure consistency in methodology across years. The 2026-2027 survey will be undertaken again in spring 2026.

Titipounamu / rifleman student project

Building on from a site assessment of Tōtara Reserve by conservation specialist Dr Kevin Parker in 2025, a reintroduction plan for the reserve is being written. The plan will identify potential translocations candidates to investigate based on the current pest control strategy at Totara Reserve. One of the potential species is Titipounamu / rifleman.

A MSc student at Massey University has begun a research project investigating the feasibility of a titipounamu translocation. Her project will involve a comprehensive survey of the reserve to confirm the suspected absence of titipounamu from the reserve and use monitoring data from other sites to predict potential translocation success at Totara Reserve. This project will inform whether current pest control is adequate to support a translocation. The project is expected to be complete late 2027.

Bats / Pekapeka

Acoustic monitoring was undertaken in the reserve to confirm whether bats were present. In January 2026, six acoustic recorders were placed along Fern Walk, Pettifar Loop and the now disestablished Gilchrist Track.

The monitoring detected 44 passes of long-tailed pekapeka / bat, providing the first official confirmation of bats in Tōtara Reserve. Figure 11 shows the acoustic data translated into a visible pattern.

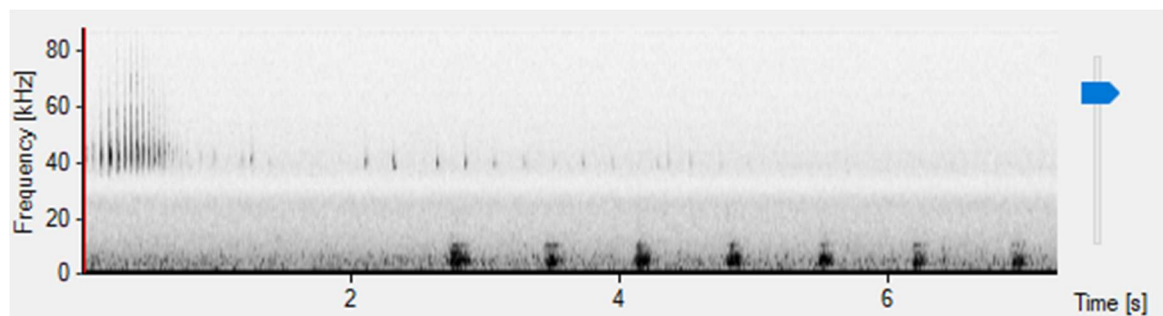


Figure 11: Foraging (left) and vocal calls (low – right) of a long-tailed bat / pekapeka detected on the Gilchrist track.

Following the initial survey, extra monitoring was undertaken in March 2026, focussing on the Gilchrist and Pettifar tracks to get a better idea of whether bats were roosting in the reserve. During this survey, four acoustic recorders were left out on the Gilchrist and Pettifar tracks. Recorders detected 101 passes of long-tailed pekapeka, with foraging activity confirmed, and possible roosting activity (Figure 12). Monitoring confirmed that bats are residing in Totara Reserve and using it for foraging.

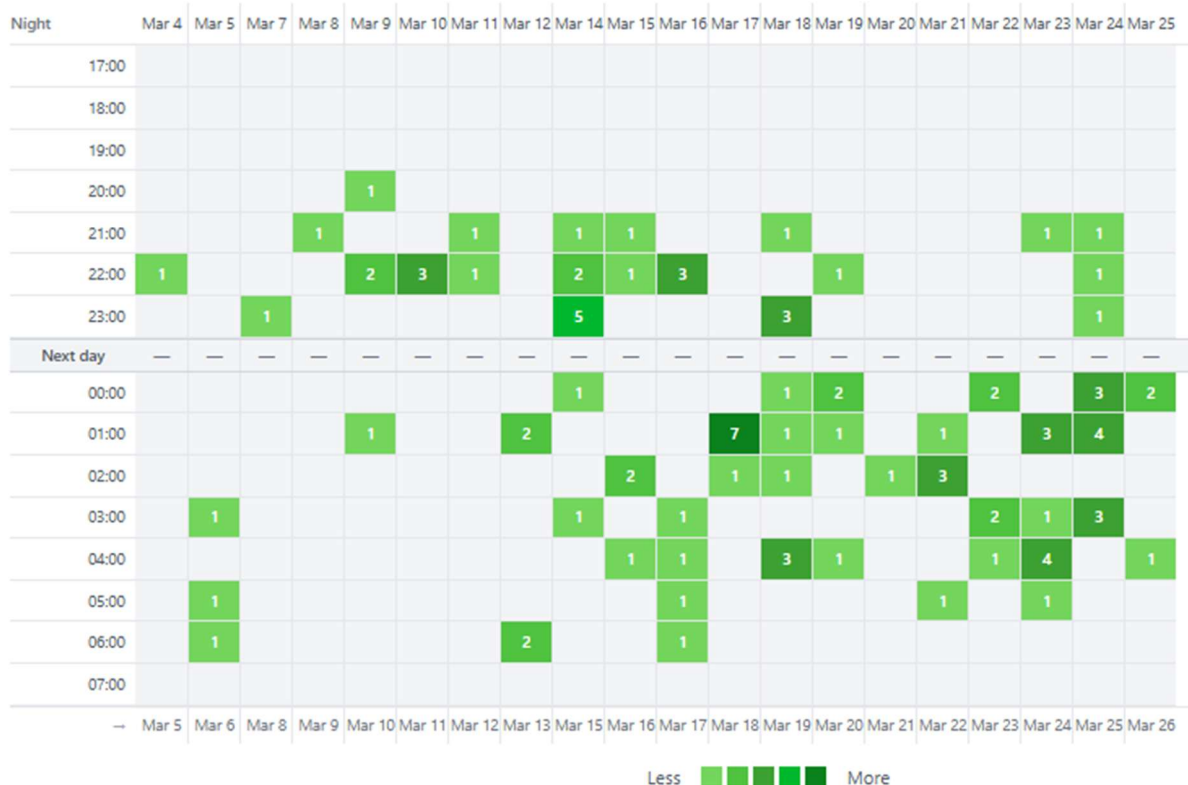


Figure 12: Number of Long-tailed bat passes detected in Totara reserve during March 2026 monitoring.

Planting

Planting was carried out along the riverside next to Kererū Campground with community involvement. During the year, 300 plants were planted. Of these, 120 were planted by 55 school children who attended The Great Conservation Quest – Tōtara Reserve School Event. The remaining 180 were planted during the June TRIBE volunteer day, which was attended by staff and students from Awahou School.

This continues to develop the forest buffer programme, changing weedy spaces into densely planted native areas and providing a buffer to protect the forest from further weed incursion. This is kept to relatively small numbers of plantings each year to ensure staff and budget can keep on top of the maintenance required to regularly release the young plants from grass and weeds as they establish (Figure 13).



Figure 13: Staff releasing two-year-old native trees from aggressive grass and weed growth

4. Tracks and Trails

Track Maintenance

Tracks were professionally cleared five times during the year. Four clearances responded to windfall that blocked tracks or posed a risk to public safety. This included the significant track blockage in the Pettifar Loop (caused during the February storm and flood event (Figure 14). The final end-of-year clearance widened and prepared the tracks for the next season.



Figure 14: Pettifar Loop before and after track clearance works, February 2026

Additional ongoing maintenance work has been carried out on the track rafts and signage on the Pettifar Loop and Fern Walk by the biodiversity team (Figure 15), with help from TRIBE volunteers. Some of the work included covering track rafts with anti-slip mesh. By the end of the year, X of the 220 track rafts had been covered.



Figure 15: Staff carrying out track repairs

Paererewa Seat Project

Paererewā are locations worthy of visiting, with an object, seat or bench worthy of resting upon, each enabling reflections worthy of remembering. The intention should be for the object to last 1,000 years and to catalyse reflection and longer-term thinking especially in relation to TIME, PEOPLE and/or PLACE.

A team met with a Paererewā representative to initiate a conceptual design for a Paererewa seat. The group included Horizons staff, Tōtara Reserve Advisory Group representatives, and Pohangina local representatives. The seat scope included identification of a location and the purpose for the seat; and a designer was selected.

Some important decisions were the location needed to be accessible by everyone and provide a place that nurtures a connection to the forest, encouraging visitors to have a conversation with the forest, put themselves in perspective with the forest, and have a personal emotional or spiritual experience. The site suits quiet contemplation with a dome of nature above, sitting amongst ancient millennia from which this forest ecosystem evolved.

The site is less than five minutes from the Fern Walk entrance (Figure 16).

The designer selected is Carin Wilson and the team will work with him in the year ahead to develop the conceptual design. When the design is completed, exploration of how to fund the seat will be investigated.

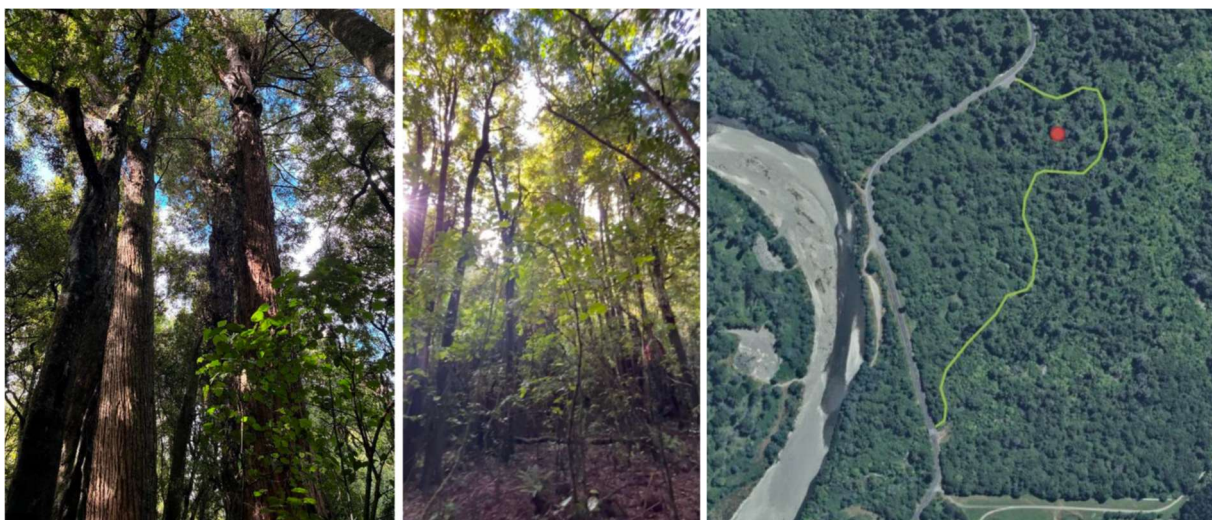


Figure 16: intended location for the Paererewa seat

Track Marking – Pettifar

The old coach road gate was repeatedly vandalised, with locks broken and the barrier arm bent or removed. Concrete blocks placed on the road were also moved, and surrounding vegetation was damaged. Discussion with a member of the National Four Wheel Drive Association indicated that physical barriers were unlikely to be effective and could create further opportunities for damage.

The old coach road forms part of the Pettifar Track and provides an easy one-kilometre walk to the river for children and families. Vehicle use on this section created a safety risk for walkers, so Horizons roading specialists were asked to advise on suitable signage.

As a result, cautionary signs were installed at the start of the road and halfway along it to remind visitors that vehicles were not permitted (Figure 17). The barrier arm was removed.



Figure 17: Old Coach Road vehicle control signage: Children at play, No vehicles permitted, security cameras operating

5. Campground

Campground Maintenance Contract

The maintenance contract work was carried out by Fulton Hogan in accordance with the contract scope and was audited monthly. During the summer period, Fulton Hogan experienced staffing changes due to long-term employee absences, resulting in the use of temporary staff. This highlighted a need to improve training and induction processes to better prepare for staffing changes, maintain service quality, and minimise disruptions.

Some booking system issues occurred during this period, requiring corrections by Horizons staff and follow-up with customers to address concerns. Improving staff training for future workforce changes will help reduce the likelihood of similar issues occurring.

Camping season

The camping season was operated from labour weekend October 2025 through until after Anzac Day end April 2026. The camping season recorded 22.5% fewer visitors than the same period in the previous year. This was partly due to the mid-February flooding event and partly due to unsettled weather over the peak Christmas and New Year period.

Kahikatea Campground was closed to campers from mid-February while flood remediation works took place. It is expected to reopen with reduced capacity at the start of the next season in October 2026.

Camping numbers for 2025-26 are displayed in Figures 18-20.

- Numbers have varied 300 to 600 guests per site type, powered and unpowered, over the past 5 seasons (Figure 18).

- Over the past five years, the most popular camping season was 2021-22 with 7,192 campers recorded, compared to the 2025-26 season which received the lowest visitor numbers yet with 4989 (Figure 19).
- The number of children has remained consistent across each season, but adult guest numbers vary each year (Figure 19).
- The peak occupancy continues to occur in January, followed by December (Figure 20).

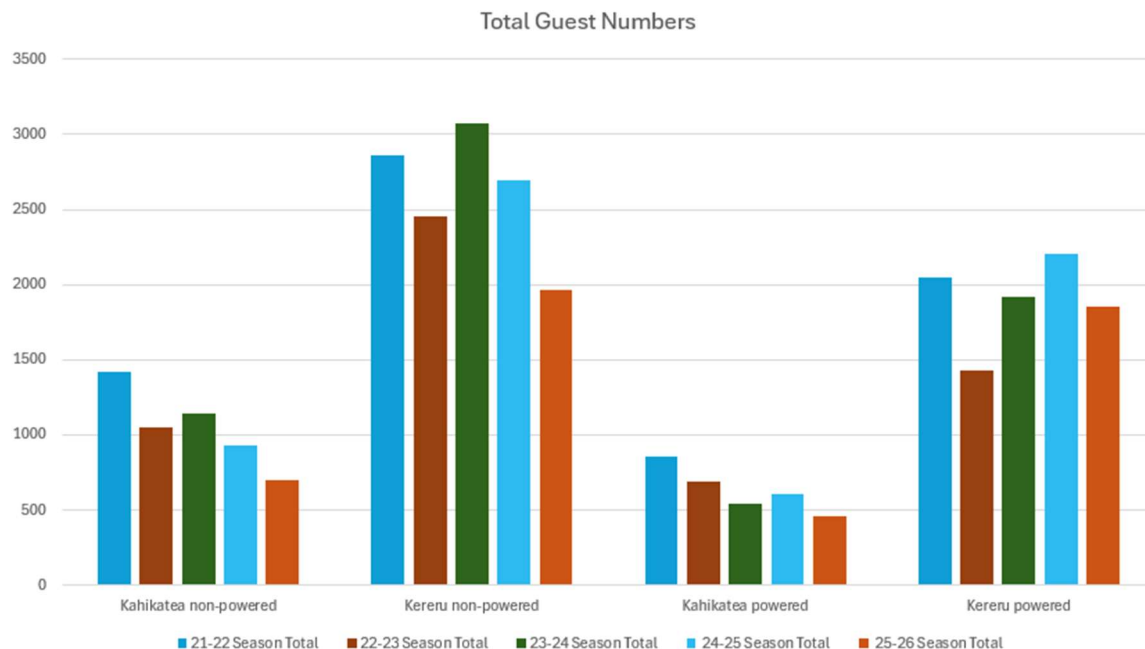


Figure 18: Camping numbers in powered and non-powered sites over the past four years in each of the campgrounds.

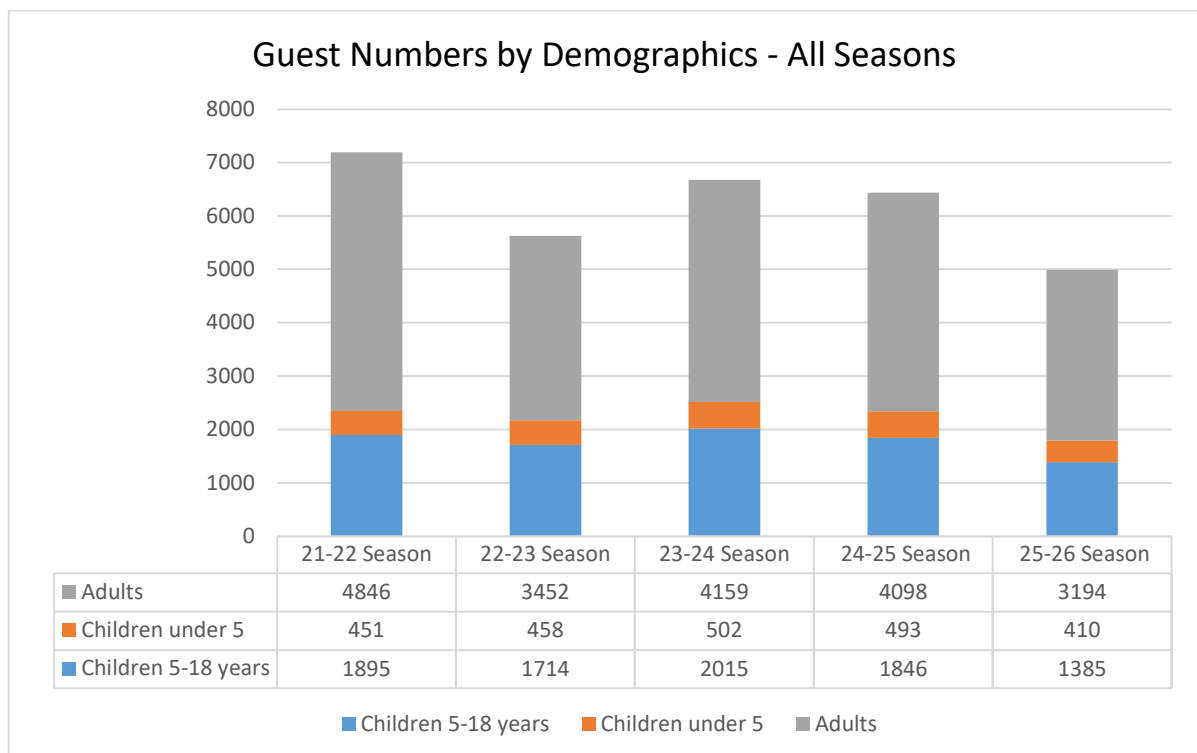


Figure 19: Camper numbers at Totara Reserve by age demographics

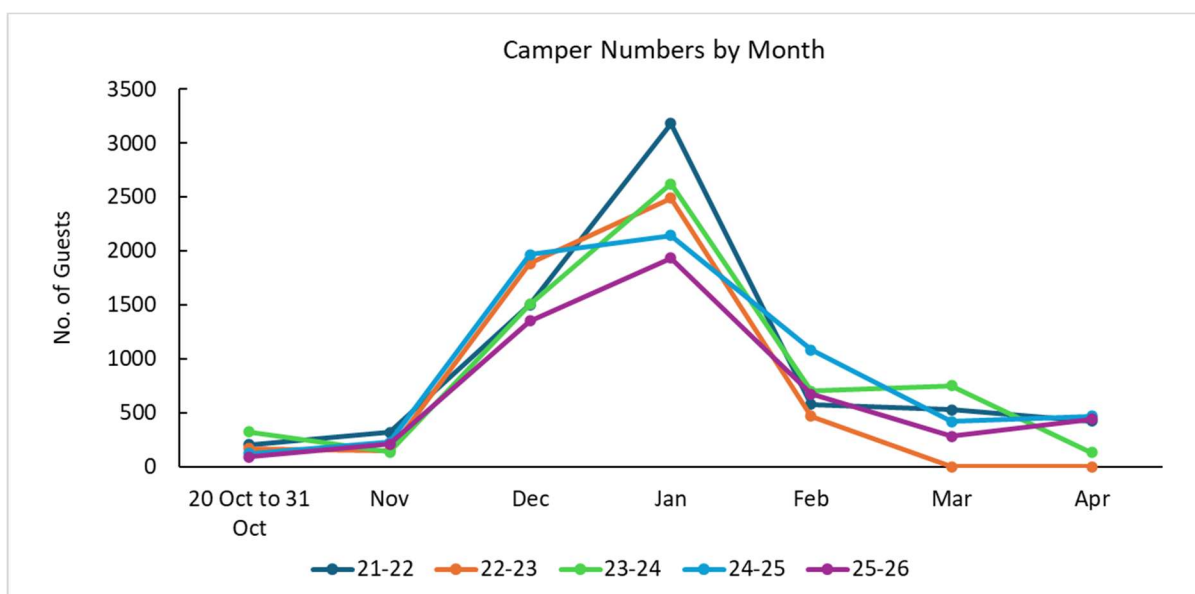


Figure 20: Daily camping numbers at Tōtara Reserve

Swim-safety / general safety

Camper safety remains high with no events of concern to report.

The overarching Health and Safety Plan for Tōtara Reserve was finalised in April 2026. The content includes over-arching principles, health and safety responsibilities for Regional Council and visitors, a risk responsibility table by area and a flooding emergency procedure.

One significant health and safety incident occurred during June when a visiting school child sustained a broken leg while playing on the playground equipment. This happened during a teacher-supervised free play session after a community engagement session with Horizons staff had concluded. The incident was investigated to determine whether any remediation action was required. This concluded that the injury resulted from an unfortunate accident on sufficiently bark-chipped playground surface and that no further action was needed.

In accordance with the campground maintenance contract, the playground equipment is inspected monthly. At the time of the incident, the equipment was found to be in good condition and repair. The playground mulch had also been recently renewed and provided an adequate fall-arrest surface

Drinking Water Supply

Cyanobacteria toxin management – Granular Activated Carbon filtration system

The Granular Activated Carbon filtration system installed 2024-25 to control cyanobacteria toxin was fully linked to the HRC Geoscada, providing remote status reports. This system upgrade improved system monitoring, allowing staff to access more data remotely, improving reporting capabilities and offering potential time savings by reducing the need for onsite visits.

Routine testing and compliance

The water treatment plant performed as expected, in line with our Water Safety Plan.

The routine testing of the water was carried out according to schedule across the year with no significant exceedances detected.

In June and July, the plan was reviewed and updated to reflect the latest protocols following the final infrastructure upgrades.

A user guide and an Operations and Maintenance Manual were developed for the water treatment plant. These documents covered the final design and as-built information, routine and scheduled maintenance requirements, reporting obligations and troubleshooting procedures. The user guide was intended for operational staff, while the Operations and Maintenance Manual provided more technical information for qualified contractors and technicians.

The testing schedule for the 2026-27 year was confirmed, with weekly testing to begin when the campground opens in October 2025 and continue through to the end of April 2026.

Wastewater Treatment

Routine quarterly checks of the wastewater treatment plant were carried out by S3 Ltd. In addition to routine maintenance this year:

- The Magmeter was replaced; and
- A report was prepared to review compliance with consent conditions.

The review highlighted two gaps in compliance that were rectified and are now sufficiently complied with. This included:

- Installing a telemeter to relay daily flows to Hilltop data centre at Horizons; and
- Initiating a log book of the telemeter data to track water usage volume against visitor numbers. Figure 21 shows the data prepared for this year. The day visitor numbers were estimated and explained in the report prepared for the consent compliance team.

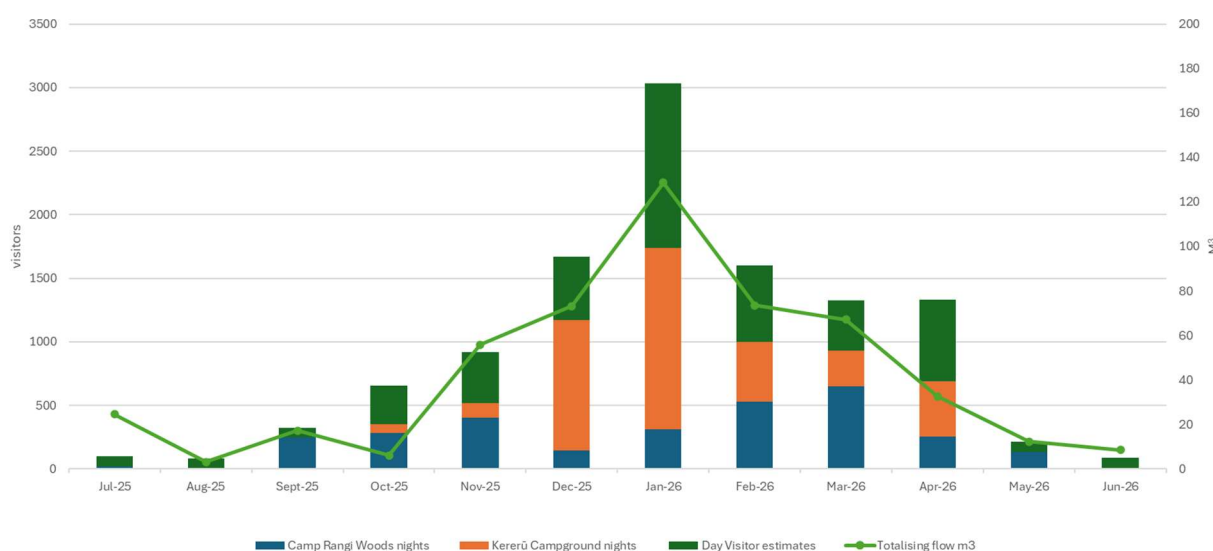


Figure 21: Total guest bookings, including Kererū campground, Camp Rangī Woods, estimated daily guests compared to wastewater volumes

Education Hub

Infrastructure to create an Education Hub at Kererū campground was constructed this year. This included:

- Purpose-built cabinetry to house resource boxes materials for educational sessions eg water monitoring, vegetation monitoring, plant identification, bats and birds. This cabinetry turned the infrequently used campground office into an educational resource room (Figure 22). Coded locks have been installed so that schools can be given a code to access these resources and carry out workshops at the Reserve with their students. The cabinets can be wheeled outside for outdoor education sessions.
- Close to the Kereru ablution block/resource room, a 5m x 5m whare was designed and constructed with education sessions in mind that can be resourced by the kits stored in the cabinetry. This whare will also be a useful shelter for general visitors. Informative signage will be developed to complete the package (Figure 23).

Shelving was installed in the rear of the office/ablution block to house the campground managers resources that were relocated from the re-purposed office space (Figure 24).



Figure 22: Education Hub resource cabinetry



Figure 23: New large whare for education sessions and general visitor use



Figure 24: Shelving for Campground Manager's resources in Kererū office block

6. Mātauranga Maori

Last year two reports were researched and written to help inform activities in the Tōtara Reserve Management Plan 2025. These were described in last year's annual report.

- Thematic Analysis of Appropriate Tikanga for HRC work at and Management of Tōtara Reserve (Venessa Pokaia).
- Māori History Report for Tōtara Reserve (Peter Te Rangi)

Tōtara Reserve Management Plan 2025 identified a range of cultural concepts to be explored. This year a contract was set up to develop a cultural framework to identify a pathway to realise these concepts.

The content of the Cultural Framework is expected to include:

- Links to supporting documents such as Te Tapere Nui-o-Whātonga - Cultural and Environmental Management Plan 2023; Tōtara Reserve Management Plan 2025.
- New Project Checklist. This can be used when preparing new plans or ideas, in consultation with iwi. Its purpose is to provide staff with confidence that cultural expectations and aspirations for Tōtara Reserve have been recognised and incorporated correctly.
- Tōtara Reserve Management Plan Policies.
- Cultural Sites identification. How to protect and manage cultural and historical sites; appropriate methodology to manage, promote and provide education about them; process to allow for additional cultural heritage sites to be added and protected over time; process to communicate with iwi if any identified cultural heritage site may be compromised; continue research to explore the history and culture of the Reserve.
- Traditional Land Use. How to ensure that historical or cultural use of the Reserve is considered in management; and manage custodial rights at the Reserve.
- Wananga. Identifying placeholders in the annual calendar; examining exclusive use of Tōtara Reserve at set times in the year for mana whenua; identifying purpose of wananga; identifying different audiences that wananga could support; expectations for Horizons contribution for the different types of delivery; providing guidance on who is appropriate to be responsible for initiating, coordinating and supporting the events to take place.
- Signage Content: Identify minimum standards that all, or selected signs, should meet; and identify expectations for signage at Tōtara Reserve.
- Accidental Discovery Protocol.

This cultural framework is still being developed.

7. Community Engagement

Tōtara Reserve Open Day

The Great Tōtara Reserve Whānau Challenge Day was planned for Sunday 19 October 2025 (Figure 25), but the event could not proceed due to weather conditions.

The event was designed as an alternative to the Open Days held over the previous two years. Participants would have registered a team and taken part in 10 challenges, including identifying pest animal tracks, planting a tree, learning about emergency preparedness, building a wētā motel and completing a photo bingo challenge. Awahou School planned to provide a sausage sizzle as a small fundraiser. Tickets were available for \$10 for a team of up to four people, with free buses and a free sausage sizzle offered if required. Thirty teams purchased tickets, and the event was intended to cater for up to 200 visitors. Although the event did not proceed, the planning provided a strong template for a future Challenge Day, which is now planned for Saturday 7 November 2026.



Figure 25: Flyer advertising the Great Totara Reserve Whanau Challenge day 2025

Tōtara Reserve-branded enamel camping mugs had been ordered as prizes for the Challenge Day (Figure 26). Following the cancellation of the event, the mugs were made available for purchase as Christmas gifts. This provided an opportunity to test whether Tōtara Reserve merchandise could be a viable option in future. Approximately 15 mugs were sold to community members and staff, with revenue returned to the Tōtara Reserve budget. The remaining mugs will be used as giveaways for the 2026 Challenge Day.



Figure 26: Totara Reserve camping mugs available for purchase

Friends of Tōtara Reserve – TRIBE (*Tōtara Reserve Indigenous Biodiversity Enhancers*)

Volunteer days continued to be offered each month. Activities during the year focused on forest health protection and improvement tasks in the new planting area adjacent to Kererū Campground, including planting native trees and releasing previous plantings from invasive weed growth.

Volunteer numbers remained relatively low but consistent. Participants during the year included Massey University students, campground visitors, and staff and students from Awahou School (Figure 27).



Figure 27: Awahou School in action doing some weed control on TRIBE Day

Education Hub

New environmental education hub infrastructure was created during the year, as described in the Campground section of this report. These facilities are now ready to support the development and use of school education resources by school and community groups. Resources will continue to be developed in response to school needs. Initial resources will include a Waioira Stream Study Kit, Pest Tracking Kit, and Fungi and Invertebrate Kit, which schools will be able to borrow during day visits or while camping at Highland Home or Camp Rangī Woods (Figure 28).

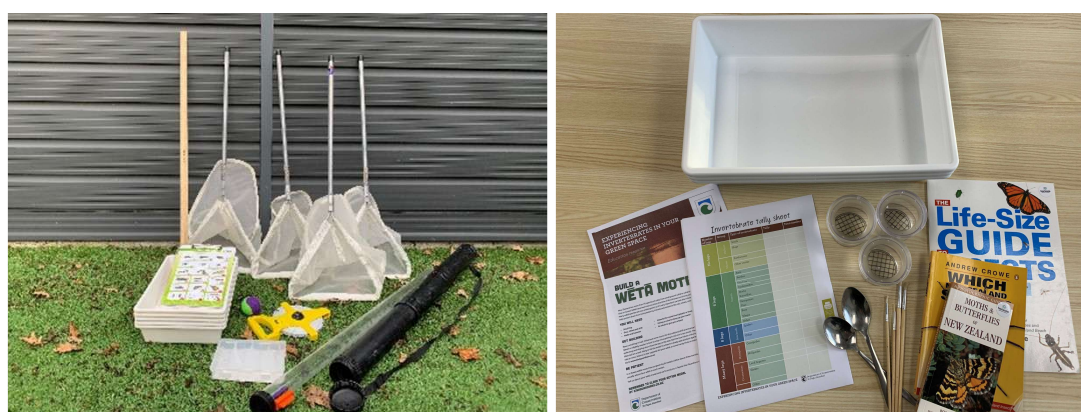


Figure 28: Education kits to be kept in the newly installed cabinetry in the Kereru office building

School Camp session

Learning sessions were developed for school camps and trialled in March with College Street Normal School, which held its school camp at Tōtara Reserve over two weeks. The Biodiversity and Community teams and environmental educators delivered sessions on tree

identification, native bird activities and exploration of the ngahere for invertebrates. These educator-led sessions formed a small part of the wider camp programme. The education kits planned for the Education Hub will make similar activities more accessible for teachers when Horizons environmental educators are not available.

The Great Conservation Quest – First Student Hui

The Great Conservation Quest was the first student hui held at Tōtara Reserve (Figure 29). It was originally planned for August 2025, but after two weather-related cancellations it was postponed until May 2026. The event was held at Camp Rangi Woods and was supported by the Department of Conservation, Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery Centre and the play advisor from Palmerston North City Council. Approximately 60 students from Awahou School and Parkland School attended for a day of exploring the ngahere, learning about the importance of native biodiversity, understanding the pressures it faces, and identifying actions they could take.

Students learned about pest animals with the Department of Conservation, found out what to do if they encountered an injured bird with Wildbase Recovery Centre, explored atua in a living landscape, completed a scavenger hunt in the ngahere with Palmerston North City Council, and practised native tree identification with the Horizons team. They also took part in a tradescantia roll challenge, with the highest pile winning the round.

Lunch was provided to students. Afterwards, they put their learning into action by each planting a native tree in an area being restored with native planting.

The event was well received by students, teachers and supporting organisations. Further student events are planned for the coming year.



Figure 29: Great Conservation Quest, clockwise from top left: Wildlife Recovery Centre injured bird response, DOC pest animals, PNCC ngahere scavenger hunt and planting trees.

Facebook

Regular Facebook posts provided updates on camping, biodiversity and biosecurity work, events, TRIBE activities, walking track information and relevant health and safety matters (Figure 30).

Additional campground updates were shared from time to time and were well received by campers. Reels were created for Fern Walk and Pettifar Loop to showcase these walks, as well as for school events held at the reserve. A reel for the Nature Trail was also created to highlight its suitability for families.

The Tōtara Reserve Facebook page gained 260 new followers during the year, bringing the total audience to 3,501, an 8.4% increase on the previous year.

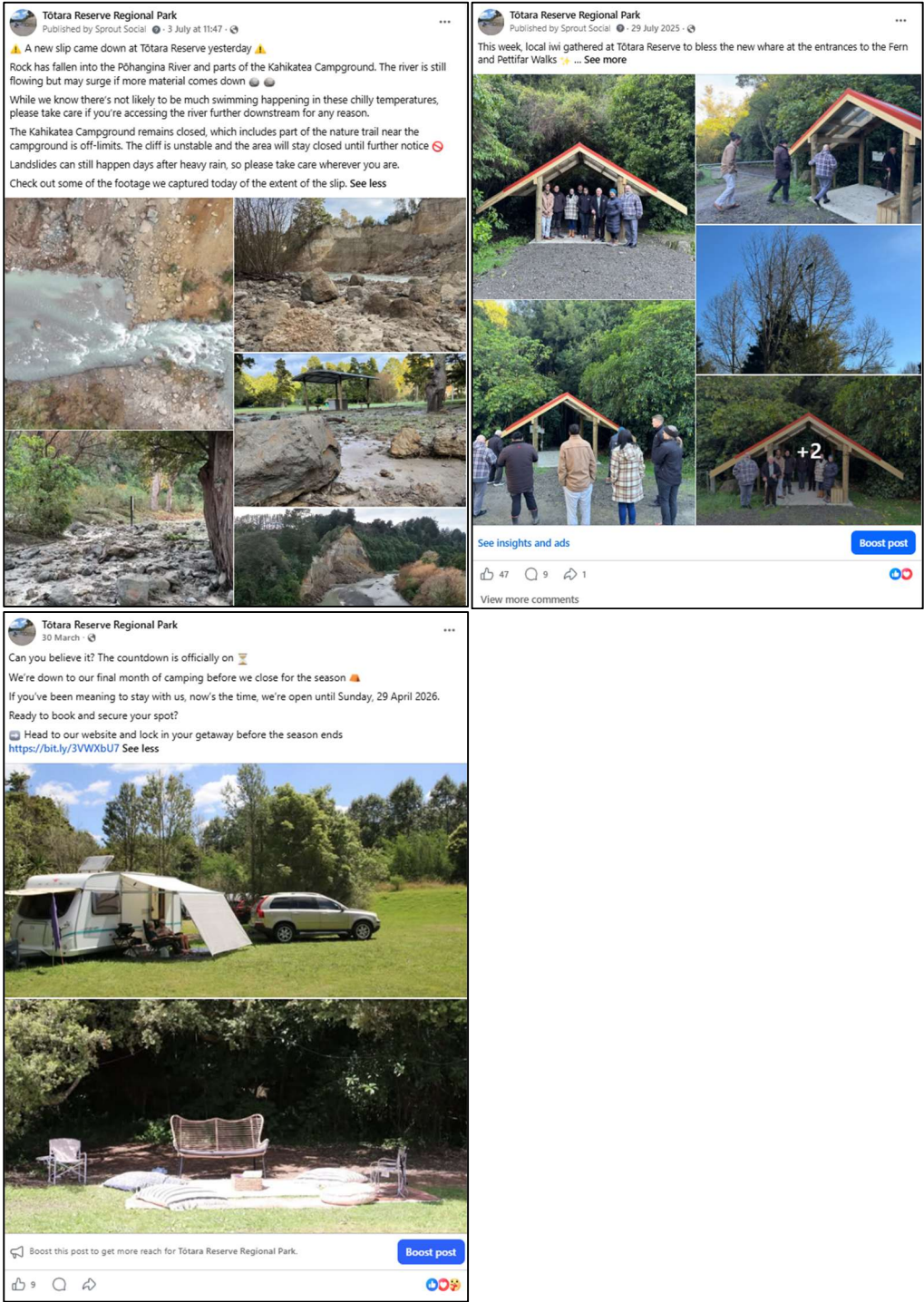


Figure 30: A selection of the most popular facebook posts from 2025-26

8. Budget vs Actuals 2025-26

Revenue

- Actual camping income was slightly below budget (Table 6), largely due to inclement weather over the peak Christmas and New Year period.

Table 6: Revenue sources for Totara Reserve programme in 2025-26

REVENUE	Original Budget	ACTUALS to Year End	Variance
Rates revenue	\$ 643,468	\$ 643,468	\$ -
Lease revenue (CRWT)	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200	\$ -
Rental revenue	\$ 7,680	\$ 8,596	\$ 916
Camping revenue	\$ 61,571	\$ 59,893	-\$ 1,678
TOTAL revenue	\$ 716,919	\$ 716,157	-\$ 762

Expenditure

A number of budgeted items were not fully spent (Table 7). In general, identified underspends were reallocated to other work, with priority given to tasks associated with actions in the Management Plan:

- The pest plant control contractor had capacity to complete the baseline work programme, but not the additional \$24,000 allowed for in the budget.
- The full species monitoring budget was not required. Some of this budget was reallocated to purchasing traps and engaging contractors to help release native plantings from grass and weed growth.
- The proposed walking track link was not viable due to flooding risk. Most of this budget was repurposed for upgrades to existing tracks and additional track clearing required after flood and storm events.
- Campground contract fees and general maintenance costs were within budget. The water treatment budget was exceeded due to additional reporting requirements and repairs. This was partly offset by savings from pruning a dangerous tree above Camp Rangī Woods, which cost significantly less than expected.
- Concept design work for a proposed new campground in the deer paddock was initially funded from capital expenditure in 2024–25. As no tangible asset was constructed from the design, the cost was reversed and charged to 2025–26 operating expenditure.
- The February 2026 flood event resulted in uninsurable repair costs totalling \$15,356.
- The contractor engaged for the first stage of the Cultural Framework had capacity to complete only a small portion of the planned work. As a result, no signage or cultural engagement events were developed during the year, contributing to budget underspends.
- The community engagement budget was not fully spent due to cancellation of the Challenge Day and because the TRIBE group did not require a dedicated budget.
- Unbudgeted legal services were required to consider the invitation from Camp Rangī Trust for Horizons to become a trustee.
- Staff time was under budget, partially offset by higher-than-expected depreciation and vehicle recharges.

Table 7: Totara Reserve Opex – Original Budget vs Actuals for 2025-26

REVENUE	Original Budget	ACTUALS to Year End	Variance
TOTAL revenue	\$ 716,919	\$ 716,157	-\$ 762

EXPENDITURE	Original Budget	ACTUALS to Year End	Variance
Pest animal control (consumables)	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,080	-\$ 80
Pest animal control (traps)	\$ -	\$ 7,223	-\$ 7,223
Pest plant control (contractor)	\$ 125,000	\$ 101,000	\$ 24,000
Deer Control & monitoring	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,826	-\$ 826
Species monitoring	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,950	\$ 8,050
Infill planting, weeding& mulching	\$ 2,500	\$ 12,055	-\$ 9,555
Forest Health	\$ 150,500	\$ 136,135	\$ 14,365
Walking track maintenance	\$ 3,000	\$ 12,096	-\$ 9,096
Non-capex track & Seat development	\$ 20,000	\$ 8,680	\$ 11,320
Walking tracks	\$ 23,000	\$ 20,776	\$ 2,224
Campground maintenance contract	\$ 102,000	\$ 101,073	\$ 927
Camp facility repairs & maintenance	\$ 44,658	\$ 42,248	\$ 2,410
Camping consumables			
Septic system maintenance			
Rental repairs & maintenance			
Online booking system & bank fees			
Electricity & phone	\$ 20,000	\$ 34,687	-\$ 14,687
Drinking water routine testing & compliance			
Health & Safety - tree prune			
Capex to opex correction from 2024-25			
Campground	\$ 177,458	\$ 190,442	-\$ 12,984
Flood repairs	\$ -	\$ 15,356	-\$ 15,356
Flood repairs	\$ -	\$ 15,356	-\$ 15,356
Cultural Framework contractor	\$ 17,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 12,000
Cultural engagement, signage, artwork	\$ 5,000	\$ 300	\$ 4,700
Matauranga Maori	\$ 22,000	\$ 5,300	\$ 16,700
Advertising & comms	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,371	\$ 1,129
TR Team Challenge Day October	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,707	\$ 2,293
Signage repairs/replacements	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,118	\$ 882
TRIBE consumables	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500
Community Enagement	\$ 17,000	\$ 10,196	\$ 6,804
Advisory board expenses	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Legal CRWT	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,327	-\$ 1,327
Advisory Board & Legal	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,327	-\$ 327
Opex Expenditure	\$ 392,958	\$ 381,531	\$ 11,427
Personnel Staff time	\$ 273,087	\$ 242,550	\$ 30,537
Depreciation	\$ 47,644	\$ 51,024	-\$ 3,380
Interdepartmental Expenses	\$ 2,750	\$ 9,809	-\$ 7,059
Other expenditure	\$ 323,481	\$ 303,383	\$ 20,098
TOTAL expenditure	\$ 716,439	\$ 684,913	\$ 9,659
Underspend/Overspend	\$ 480	\$ 31,244	

Capital Expenditure

A total capital expenditure budget of \$90,000 was available for Tōtara Reserve.

- The septic system control panel, which had been flagged for replacement in the asset register, was assessed as still performing well. Capital expenditure was therefore held back for future years.
- The original budget presented to TRAG in September 2025 included several items that were later found to be unsuitable for development or capital expenditure funding (Table 8):
 - Signage for the track entranceway where needed to be informed by the Cultural Framework, which was still in development.
 - The permanent deer exclosure plot was funded from available operating expenditure.
 - The link track development was not suitable for capital expenditure funding and could not proceed because the area was flood-prone.
 - The proposal to block access to Old Coach Road with a barrier did not proceed due to persistent vandalism and because the low safety risk to walkers could be managed through signage.
 - The proposal to remodel the Kererū office building as an Education Hub classroom was reduced in scope. Instead, the existing office was repurposed as a resource room, and a separate open-sided where was built nearby to support education sessions and other gatherings:
 - The large where cost \$62,934 and was based on the two smaller track entranceway where constructed in 2024–25. Additional structural engineering was required due to its size and floodplain location. Costs included consent, engineering and architectural drawings, and construction.
 - The education resource cabinetry was purpose-designed and built to fit the existing room. The lockable cabinetry will house resource kits being developed and funded by the Communications team. These will be available for schools to access and use at the reserve.
 - The Regional Response team used \$15,658 of capital expenditure to purchase bait stations and renew the network across the reserve.

Table 8: Totara Reserve capex – Original Budget vs Actuals for 2025-26

CAPEX	Original Budget	ACTUALS to Year End	Variance
Signage for new track entranceway whares	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000
Permanent deer exlosure monitoring plot	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 6,000
Link track development	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
Old Coach Road Barrier/Gate	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ 40,000
Education hub - design remodel Kereru office	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000
Education Hub - Big where design & build	\$ -	\$ 62,934	-\$ 62,934
Education Hub - resource cabinetry	\$ -	\$ 8,802	-\$ 8,802
PCO bait stations	\$ -	\$ 15,658	-\$ 15,658
TOTAL	\$ 88,000	\$ 87,394	\$ 606

Appendix 1 – Management Plan activity progress tracker

Totara Reserve Management Plan 2025 Proposed Activities - Progress Tracker 2025-26						
Ref	Policy	Proposed Activities Years 1-3 2025-28	Outcomes	2024-25	Planned 2025-26	Progress 2025-26
Forest Health						
FH 1	10h	Deer Control	Deer culling is consistently carried out at least 4 times per year. See FH9		Start deer culling and repeat at regular intervals	Culling started. 19 deer were removed 25-26 Repeat culling 26-27
FH 2	10b, 10h	Maintain existing pest animal abundance targets with current level of control work (2024) High-impact pest animals include deer, cats, mustelids, rats and possums	Comprehensive bait station and trap network is in place, maintained and increased		Maintain target abundance levels	Programme carried out in full. Met targets: 5% rat TTI Nov25 and May26, Not Aug 25 and Feb 26 2.3% possum RTC met target 2025-26 Repeat control 26-27
FH 3	10g	Maintain current pest plant control levels (2024) Priority 1 canopy transformer species such as Banana Passionfruit, Cathedral Bells and old man's beard. Priority 2 ground cover transformer species such as African clubmoss, blackberry and tradescantia	No priority 1 species impact on forest canopy by end of 3 yearly pest plant control cycle	2025 milestone reached – Phase 1 completed for transformative species Kaitiaki o Ngahere renewed contract	Follow programme to continue gains	Programme carried out in full 25-26 Repeat control 26-27
FH 4	9a, 10e	Monitor indigenous species and Update species database every 5 yrs	data and reports			Due 2028
FH 5	10e	Monitoring programme for the species most vulnerable to myrtle rust, and any new pest plant threats.	data and reports	Not started	nil	n/a
FH 6	10e	Continue to conduct annual bird counts	data and reports	Multi-year data analysed into	Repeat count in Spring 2025	Titpounamu survey done Oct 2025

Totara Reserve Management Plan 2025 Proposed Activities - Progress Tracker 2025-26

Ref	Policy	Proposed Activities Years 1-3 2025-28	Outcomes	2024-25	Planned 2025-26	Progress 2025-26
				graphs to identify population trends	Targeted survey for titipounamu	minute bird count done Dec 2025 Repeat 5MBC 26-27
FH 7	10e	Conduct additional surveys of species. E.g.bat and lizard monitoring	data and reports		Bat survey during 2025/26 summer	Survey carried out. Bats found at Gilchrist. Repeat survey next summer 2027
FH 8	10e	Conduct a <i>Powelliphanta spp.</i> survey and implement an appropriate management plan	<i>Powelliphanta</i> data and reported on	Started initial test monitor	Population census to be conducted in conjunction with Massey University	Survey not carried out post-flood in 25-26 Survey 26-27
FH9	10e	Vegetation monitoring	Regeneration of deer-palatable plant species	Science team determined suitable protocol and location of SRI transects within reserve	Seedling Ratio Index plots established & baseline monitor carried out Consider permanent plot establishment	Seedling ratio index done Nov 2025 Report due 26-27 Fenced plot constructed 25-26 Plan exclosure plot monitoring 26-27
FH 10	10i	Produce a Fauna management plan	Fauna management plan produced	Started	Complete draft 2026	Draft plan near completion Finalise plan 26-27
FH 11	10c, 10d, 10i	Plant forest emergent species -tōtara and northern rātā	Emergent tree species are planted to accelerate recovery of the forest		Future	n/a

Totara Reserve Management Plan 2025 Proposed Activities - Progress Tracker 2025-26

Ref	Policy	Proposed Activities Years 1-3 2025-28	Outcomes	2024-25	Planned 2025-26	Progress 2025-26
FH 12	10c, 10d, 11	Infill planting in open areas and reserve borders	Planting is carried out and maintained	Riverside started	Create planting plan. Continue planting and maintenance	Planting plan developed New planting & maintenance of previous carried out Planting and maintenance 26-27
Tracks & Trails						
TT 1	14, 16, 18	Maintain tracks to Department of Conservation guidelines.	Annual track checks	Track rafts installed	Maintenance as required	Post-flood & storm clearance carried out. Anti-slip netting on 220 track rafts
TT 2	14, 18c	Plan a multi-year tracks work programme that includes any new public routes	Schedule of track works		Develop multi-year track works programme	Delayed due to difficulty ascertaining feasibility of TT3
TT 3	14, 18c	Feasibility of a fully interconnected track network	New routes to connect up existing tracks		Progress development of links (Opex/Capex)	Costed & planned but flood destroyed planned route. Investigate feasibility of alternate link route 26-27
TT 4	14	Up-to-date website information on track conditions	Website track condition information		Implement track condition info on website	Not started
TT 5	14	Develop a downloadable track map for the regional park	Downloadable track map is available		Develop downloadable track map	Not started
TT 6	14, 43	Optimise track signage to include environmental and cultural education	Signage evaluation carried out		Signage for new whare structures	Waiting for Cultural Framework MM1

Totara Reserve Management Plan 2025 Proposed Activities - Progress Tracker 2025-26

Ref	Policy	Proposed Activities Years 1-3 2025-28	Outcomes	2024-25	Planned 2025-26	Progress 2025-26
					developed (also MM2&5)	
TT 7	10e	Explore value of installing boot-washing stations at all entrance/exit points	Boot wash is installed - or decision made not to		Lower priority this year	n/a
TT 8	43h	Explore value of installing track counters	Track counter costing done		Cost track counter	Not started
TT 9	14, 27	Investigate feasibility of installing toilets (vault, composting or similar) at the Pettifar Track carpark, and other appropriate locations	Additional toilets are costed	Costing done	Low priority, develop new visitor areas first	Pettifar track determined a priority for a toilet. Vault toilet deemed too expensive. Found more cost-effective septic-tank option. Install Pettifar toilet in 26-27
TT 10	14, 15, 16,	Pettifar Track Re-grading the Old Coach Road to be accessible by wheelchairs, families and prams	Re-grading of this section of track surface is costed	Not done due to issues with gate	Consider gate options	Decided to leave open due to repeated vandalism. Installed signage 25-26 Monitor in 26-27
TT 11	14	Pettifar Track Installing bridges over stream crossings	Bridge installation cost/benefit analysis done		Low priority, only 1 stream and not much of an issue	n/a
TT 12	14, 34	Fern Walk Create viewpoints and seating to enjoy the views	Defined viewpoints and seating are planned		Seating explored - CAPEX	Paererewa Seat concept design underway
Campground						

Totara Reserve Management Plan 2025 Proposed Activities - Progress Tracker 2025-26

Ref	Policy	Proposed Activities Years 1-3 2025-28	Outcomes	2024-25	Planned 2025-26	Progress 2025-26
CV 1	19-23	Develop a visitor health and safety plan	Plan developed		Develop visitor H&S plan	Completed
CV 2		Need for a certificate of exemption from the Camping Ground Regulations 1985 S1 standard	Certificate of Exemption determined	tbc	investigate	Not started
CV 3	20, 21	Develop a flood evacuation plan	Flood evacuation plan developed	Scheduled for this year	Develop plan	Completed
CV 4	32b, 33j	Maintain a reserve asset renewal system	Timely renewals	Completed	Update as required	n/a
CV 6	33a	KAHIKATEA CAMPGROUND Retreat from campground following a significant flood event.	No new infrastructure built		Respond post weather event if necessary	Another flood Feb26. Planting started. BBQ relocation to Kereru in 26-27
Matauranga Maori						
MM 1	6b	Development of a cultural framework	Approach that will honour the Treaty		Explore with Mana Whenua	Contract established Nothing produced yet
MM 2	7c	Respond to historical research to determine protection protocol	Actions are identified	Report prepared by Peter Te Rangi	Utilise Peter's history for where signage (TT6, MM5)	Due as one of MM1 contract outputs
MM 3	8c	Determine protocol and procedure with mana whenua to manage rongoa collection	Rongoa protocol identified	Tikanga thematic analysis prepared by Venessa Pokaia	Further develop Rongoa protocol with mana whenua	Due as one of MM1 contract outputs
MM 4	6	Exclusive use time for mana whenua for cultural harvest or to exercise kaitiakitanga	Wananga events in calendar		Explore Wananga with Mana Whenua	Due as one of MM1 contract outputs
MM 5	6	Develop cultural education within and about the reserve.	Events, signage, artwork		Incorporate into any signage development (Capex)	Due as one of MM1 contract outputs

Totara Reserve Management Plan 2025 Proposed Activities - Progress Tracker 2025-26

Ref	Policy	Proposed Activities Years 1-3 2025-28	Outcomes	2024-25	Planned 2025-26	Progress 2025-26
Community Engagement						
CE 1	19b, 42	Annual event	A fun family event	Tōtara Reserve open Day	Team Challenge Day Oct 2025	2025 Cancelled Hold in Nov 26-27
CE 2	19b, 42, 43	Create a central education hub	Venue for cultural and environmental education		Explore options for Kererū admin building	Cabinetry installed. Large whare constructed July 26. Info boards, cabinet content to be developed 26-27
CE 3	19b, 35, 42, 43	Signage that supports cultural and environmental education and promotes care and respect for the forest	Where appropriate, increased signage		As of MM 5	Waiting for Cultural Framework MM1
CE 4	19b, 40a, 42b-d, 43i	Friends of Tōtara Reserve	Regular activities	TRIBE started February	Monthly TRIBE days continued	Held Monthly TRIBE days Repeat 2026-27
CE 6	3d,19b, 40a	External funders to and activities at Tōtara Reserve	support expensive projects		Explore external funding for larger capex developments	Started. Discussed with CEDA