



Aotea Great Barrier Local Board: Update – November 2018

Dear Izzy, Sue, Luke, Shirley and Jeff,

Firstly, thank you for your support for the **State of the Environment Report** update through the allocation of a grant to the trust last month. The project will be run by Emma Waterhouse and George Perry with help from a number of relevant specialists including John Ogden. We are seeking additional funding from other sources to make up the shortfall this month and next.

Here is a short update on our other upcoming priorities:

1. **Restoration of Rakitu:** support DOC and mana whenua plans for restoration when available. We will begin to feature lost species of Rakitu and Aotea in our publications over the coming months to provide the community with information about what used to call the motu home pre the arrival of rats and feral cats.
2. **Okiwi Kakariki project:** this research is being done in close collaboration with the Okiwi Community pest project and Okiwi School. Emma Waterhouse is working with our specialist Serena Simmonds and Jo O'Reilly on a kakariki count and further nest tree research and protection this coming breeding season.
3. **Trap library** – Alison Walker will continue to distribute these until the PFNZ grant funds run out this summer and we will request more through the same PFNZ DOC Auckland administered fund.
4. **Hirakimata: A24 trial** – we understand the Windy Hill A24s may be deployed on Hirakimata and thank the board for supporting this move towards permanent rat control in this important area.
5. **Cat spaying:** Auckland Council (Environmental Services) have recently confirmed they will continue to reimburse the trust for cat spaying carried out by the island vet, continuing the support that has been in place for a number of years.
6. **Pateke protection:** we remain concerned about the long term population decline of pateke on the island and the lack of interest in assessing the impact of rats on them on Aotea. We will continue to advocate for investigation of this by the Pateke Recovery Group to DOC, and for continuation of the pukeko and cat control at Okiwi.

A number of us attended the 7 October **Ecology Vision** community meeting run by Shanti Morgan. Shanti has done a great job of helping people get to grips with pest management and with the biodiversity of Aotea using on island channels and a personal approach. She has really excelled in the Biodiversity role the board created. We support your vision in taking that step and in continuing

with the 4 proposed projects: Community Nursery, Cat-free North Barrier, Medlands dune and wetlands, and Tryphena coastal forest.

It seems now that there is a great opportunity to facilitate joint conversations with DOC, mana whenua, Auckland Council, landowners, sanctuaries on how to support these four Ecology Vision projects. Given the scarcity of skilled people, volunteers and budgets it makes sense to do this.

We are keen to understand:

- how you see this working
- how the projects will build on what is already happening in each area/scope
- what the trust can do to help once you have appointed a successor to Shanti.

Please provide any feedback directly to me, or to John Ogden, who will attend the meeting on behalf of the trustees.

Once again thank you for your support for the SoE Update.

Nga mihi,

Kate Waterhouse

Chair, Great Barrier Island Environmental Trust

6 November 2018