



RUAHINE KIWI NOW A HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL ICON PROJECT

Recent long term plan deliberations allowed the opportunity to present Ruahine Kiwi to Horizons Regional Council (HRC) and request long term support as part of their Biodiversity Partnerships Programme. This programme aims to empower communities to reconnect with and improve biodiversity.

Ruahine Kiwi is now the 6th 'icon' project supported by HRC with ensured funding over the next three years.

You can find out more about this here:

<https://www.horizons.govt.nz/managing-natural-resources/biodiversity-and-totara-reserve/biodiversity-partnerships-programme>



PALMY IS PROUD OF RUAHINE KIWI

Our thanks to Palmerston North City Council and their incredible team for getting onsite and celebrating and supporting Ruahine Kiwi. Their resident filmmaker tramped through the bush with us and created a brilliant, beautiful short film. A compelling article was also written in the quarterly in Palmy Proud Magazine pictured here and available in hardcopy around the city.

You can access an online version of Palmy Proud by going here:

<https://www.pncc.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/12/documents/news-amp-events/palmyproud-magazine-issue-19-web.pdf>

You can access the short film here:

<https://www.facebook.com/PNCityCouncil/videos/71681948478278>

More thanks to Papaioea Rotary Club who after a presentation about the project made a generous donation of \$2000 towards the cost of bait for our traps. The more "delicious" we can make our bait the better chance we have of catching our target species – mustelids.

OUR CURRENT STATISTICS:

- Traps in the field: 2076
- Total catches: 9067
- Mustelids caught: 628
- Total traplines: 85

FROM THE FIELD- OUR TRAPPER JENNA FISHER



I have been out and about in the rain, wind, snow, and the occasional sunshine in the last few months.

Even though the catch numbers decline rapidly in winter it is still important we get out there to check, clear and rebait traps so no matter the weather I try and get out provided it is safe to do so. In the past two months I have cleared a lot of rats from traps and the hedgehogs are starting to emerge now. There is something exciting about finding a stoat in a trap in the depths of winter, even better when that stoat is a female, as has happened a few times this winter, it certainly helps keep the enthusiasm alive when it is freezing cold and wet.

The coming months will be spent ensuring the traps we have on the ground are checked as regularly as possible, ideally every 30 days. I am currently using Erazee, a dehydrated rabbit bait and eggs kindly donated by the Egg Project.

I also use pork fat to keep the pests interested and this is particularly useful in the SA2 Cat traps. The roadside and farmland traps are doing a great job of reducing the feral cat numbers in the Pohangina and Apiti areas.

The rats are dominating our trap catches now, but it won't be long until the juvenile stoats and weasels start emerging from the nests and causing havoc. Last Spring and Summer we had a huge increase in mustelid catches so we know we must be on the ground doing the hard work now to ensure when these juveniles emerge we are ready to lure them into the traps and stop the cycle of damage to our native birds from these vicious predators.

How can I donate, assist or support?

1. **By donating eggs** through the Egg Project. Donate an egg (or 10!) and support a generous local business that is right behind our mahi.

www.theeggproject.co.nz

2. **By making a donation.** Large or small it all helps! Contribute to our Givealittle Campaign
<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/ruahine-kiwi-project-jennian-homes>

3. **By volunteering.** We are looking for volunteers to help support our work in the field. There are varied opportunities to get involved.

www.enm.org.nz/manawatu-river-source-sea/donate-ruahine-kiwi

4. **Through a Governance Role.** We are seeking passionate people with a keen interest and experience in governance (in particular linked to biodiversity) to help lead the project into its new phase. Contact comms@enm.org.nz for more information.

[You can find out more about our trap network at www.trapnz](http://www.trapnz)

[You can follow us on Facebook @ruahinekiwi](https://www.facebook.com/ruahinekiwi)

[You can contact us on ruahinekiwi@source2sea.org.nz](mailto:ruahinekiwi@source2sea.org.nz)

