



# EAST TARANAKI ENVIRONMENT COLLECTIVE

Restoring Native Biodiversity. Protecting our Future. Together

*Winter  
Newsletter  
2022*



## **Time for a change, Pakiki**

*East Taranaki Environment Collective ranger Jayden Fabish poses with Pakiki, one of three kiwi who have recently had their monitoring transmitters replaced. A total of seven birds have transmitters attached to their legs so they can be monitored by ETEC staff as part of normal pest management activities.*

*Read all about the project | Page 4*

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ENVIRONMENT COLLECTIVE**  
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# From the General Manager

## Winter a great time to plan our exciting future

Hasn't this winter been particularly wet? It's made for difficult conditions out in East Taranaki Environment Collective's project area. But it has also given us plenty of time to plan for what is a very exciting future.

There are all sorts of things happening on several fronts. For example, ETEC has received Jobs for Nature and Save the Kiwi funding that allows us to extend out predator control project area by 5775 hectares over the next two years. That means that our predator control will eventually extend all the way south to SH43 at Te Wera.

Then there's our new work at the Everett Park Scenic Reserve, which is already gathering pace. You can read

all about what happening at that historic reserve elsewhere in this newsletter.

And of course there's the very early planning taking place for our proposed Native Bird Rehabilitation and Interpretive Centre in Inglewood – that promises to progressively take up a lot of our time.

With that as background, it's pleasing to announce that we have appointed three new Trustees to help guide ETEC along its pathway to the future.

Welcome aboard to Jane Bowden, Gloria Campbell and Rob Maetzig— there are exciting times ahead.

Nga Mihi



ETEC GENERAL MANAGER  
REBECCA SOMERFIELD

## Community Day planned for Everett Park

Want to get involved in helping preserve one of Taranaki's most important native bush reserves?

The reserve is Everett Park Scenic Reserve, 8km east of Inglewood, which has incredible old-growth lowland forest and measures about 85 hectares in area. East Taranaki Environment Collective has entered into a collaboration with the Department



ETEC RANGERS CORBYN AND JAYDEN FABISH FIT A TRANSMITTER TO KOTIKARA.

of Conservation and Pukerangiora Hapu to protect the reserve's ecosystem and biodiversity.

ETEC is responsible for pest control management throughout Everett Park, and it has already completed baseline monitoring of the area. The result: the monitoring has shown that a large number of traps need to be set out to target mustelids, rats, possums and feral cats.

The plan therefore is to set out more than 200 DOC A24 traps. They will be placed every 50 metres around the reserve's perimeter, and 50m apart along trap lines through the bush, with these lines set 100m apart.

These traps will be re-gassed and re-lured initially every three months in the first year, then every six months thereafter. This initial frequency is designed to provide a quick knockdown of rats, the pest animal species found to be most prevalent during the baseline monitoring.

Help will be needed in setting up this trap network through what is the largest reserve outside the region's national park, Te Papakura o Taranaki.

With that in mind, the public is invited to a community day at the reserve on Sunday, August 28, from 9am to 12pm. There, ETEC representatives and member of Pukerangiora Hapu will explain the cultural significance of the area, provide an update on the pest management project, and outline the management plan going forward.

There will also be a short working bee, followed by a barbecue lunch.



## Strategy day results will aid ETEC planning for the future

Tarata Hall was a centre of discussion in May when a large group of East Taranaki Environment Collective stakeholders and interested parties got together for a day-long strategy day.

Why Tarata? Because the small rural settlement east of Inglewood is right on the boundary of ETEC's 18,000 hectare project area that extends almost as far north as Okoki and south all the way to Te Wera.

Local farmers, representatives of fellow environmental organisations in other parts of the North Island, and Taranaki volunteers were all on hand to voice their opinions on how ETEC has progressed thus far, and to offer advice on pathways to the future.

"We felt it was very valuable to have such a diverse group of stakeholders and interested parties present to assist us with our thinking and strategising," says ETEC chair Chris French.

"We really appreciated the comments and feedback we received, and the thoughts and ideas will be put to good use



THE TEAM POSES DURING AN AFTERNOON TEA BREAK AT THE ETEC STRATEGY DAY.

as we move forward with our planning, to ensure the project is sustainable whilst remaining operationally true to our core purpose – to be a community-led conservation initiative".

## Collective thinking results in storage solution

Here's a great example of how collective thinking can achieve outstanding results.

East Taranaki Environment Collective project area is some distance from its Inglewood headquarters, so there's a need for secure storage at Pūrangi where equipment and materials can be kept.

This is about to become reality thanks to a combination of local goodwill and Taranaki sponsorship.

Thanks to a grant from the Toi Foundation (formerly TSB Community Trust) and a donation from the Rotary Club of New Plymouth North, ETEC has been able to obtain two used shipping containers which will be converted into storage units.

They are being positioned on land at Pūrangi made available by the Hales family, and a shelter is to be built over the pair of containers thanks to a sponsorship agreement with local company Taranakipine.

ETEC general manager Rebecca Somerfield says it is hoped the finished product will be ready for use this summer.



ONE OF THE CONTAINERS GETS DELIVERED TO THE PŪRANGI SITE.



Kiwi supporting kiwi

Proud to be the designers of this newsletter, sharing the good news about the work ETEC is doing in our community.

tgm  
tgmcreative.co.nz

## Our kiwis can be feisty and unpredictable – just ask ETEC staff

There's always fun to be had when the time comes for annual bird transmitter changes out at East Taranaki Environment Collective's project area. It's because kiwis are unpredictable and often very difficult to catch.

This year ETEC staff had to change transmitters on three kiwis – Utus, Pakiki and Kotikara. True to form, all three birds surprised with their antics.

Utus was calm when he was handled during his transmitter change, so everything went smoothly and the ETEC team was soon able to quietly let him go and begin their trek down a steep ridge. But 10 minutes later came a big surprise – they were passed by Utus as he ran down into a gully.

In stark contrast, Pakiki proved to be very scrappy when he was caught, which made changing his transmitter a difficult task. The same applied to Kotikara, who ran over the top of one of the team members in his bid to escape.

Kotikara is an important bird for the monitoring operations, because his territory is within a pine forest. That allows ETEC to check to see if pine logging operations change kiwi behaviour.

There's a cost involved in monitoring the birds – not the least for maintenance of the electronic transmitters – and for this reason ETEC seeks sponsorship for each kiwi.



CORBYN & JAYDEN REDOING THE TRANSMITTER ON KOTIKARA



PKW CADETS HELPING WITH TRACK CUTTING



KOTIKARA

## Taranaki birds off to Mangatautiri, thanks to ONE

Over the past year East Taranaki Environment Collective has partnered with Ngati Maru and Save the Kiwi to undertake a very important activity – Operation Nest Egg (ONE).

As the name suggests, ONE involves monitoring individual male birds using transmitters attached to their legs, to determine when they are incubating eggs, at which stage the eggs are lifted and taken to a specialist facility for hatching.

The chicks are then reared to 1kg body weight, before being released into the wild.

Why do this? Two reasons: to help ensure the survival of chicks in the wild against predators; and to help boost genetic diversity in other kiwi populations.

Thanks to the pest control ETEC undertakes within its project area, the kiwi chicks in east Taranaki are safe from predation. So, the ONE operation allows chicks to be sent to other areas to help build kiwi populations there.

Once collected, this year's eggs were transported to the Wairakei Sanctuary in Taupo for artificial incubation and hatching. Then they were taken to Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautiri in Waikato to add to that kiwi population's genetic diversity.

This is another example of the great work and collaboration happening amongst conservation groups in New Zealand.

Over the last breeding season four of ETEC's monitored male kiwis had eggs collected, resulting in a total of 14 eggs successfully incubated and hatched at Wairakei.



SAFETY PACKAGED UP AND READY TO GO  
- A KIWI EGG IN ITS CONTAINER FOR TRANSPORT TO WAIRAKEI.

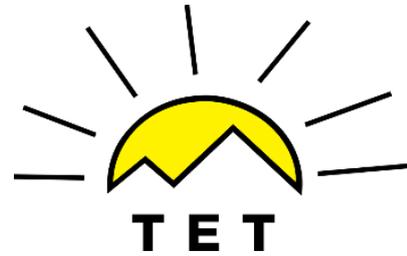
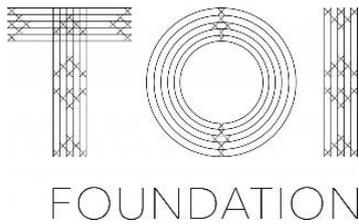
# A Big Thank You.....



The East Taranaki Environment Collective relies very heavily on sponsorship and philanthropy to help fund our operational activities.

ETEC's pest control covers territory now approaching 18,000 hectares in area. There's substantial cost involved in staff wages, transport and materials while we are out in field working hard protecting the region's birdlife.

We couldn't do this without the assistance of our sponsors and supporters. So we've produced this newsletter insert as a small way of thanking you all. Believe us, your help is deeply appreciated.



*Pacific  
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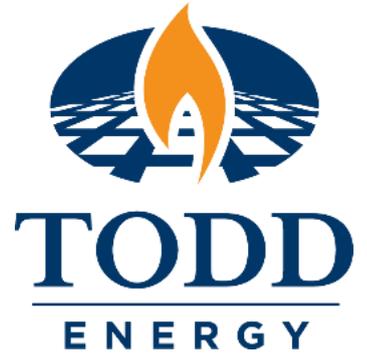


Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu  
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COMBINED MOTORS 1991 INGLEWOOD

Chubb



We are proud to be the designers of the ETEC Newsletter, a wonderful platform that shares the good news about the work ETEC is doing in our community. Like ETEC, we care about the community and environment we live and work in. With a 30-year history of providing graphic design, marketing, print and web services to organisations around the maunga we jumped at the chance to contribute, albeit in a small way, to the kaupapa of ETEC and the region's beloved kiwi.