EAST TARANAKI
ENVIRONMENT COLLECTIVE
Restoring Native Biodiversity. Protecting our Future. Together

Annual Report 2024

ABOUT EAST TARANAKI ENVIRONMENT COLLECTIVE

East Taranaki Environment Collective - ETEC is a community led conservation initiative administered by the East Taranaki Environment Trust. Our mission is to protect the ecosystem and biodiversity in East Taranaki. Our approach to restoring the ecosystem and increasing the native biodiversity of our 18,000-hectare community project is through the control of invasive pest species. Our predator work consists of 1300 DOC200 and 600 DOC250 traps targeting mustelids, and more than 1200 resetting traps (A12s and A24s) that target rats and possums. Our pest operations, through our trap network and goat control, provide a place for kiwi, kōkako, New Zealand long-tailed bats and other native species to thrive.

Our country's national kiwi recovery plan indicates that New Zealand's total kiwi population is declining at 2% pa. ETEC's project is significantly contributing to recovery of the western North Island brown kiwi in New Zealand. Our project has an estimated western brown kiwi population of 1 pair per 12.5-15 hectares. In 2018, we translocated 20 kōkako into the project area. The goal of this was to establish a self-supporting population which can contribute to the wider kōkako recovery plan and the restoration of the overall ecological system.

Our Trust takes a collaborative approach working side by side with local Iwi, Department of Conservation, Taranaki Regional Council, other conservation groups and organisations, as well as with funders and supporters.

The Trust believes to continue the long term success of the project collaboration is key. We believe long term conservation success will be achieved through collaborating and co-operating with a growing number of organisations and individuals who are dedicated to protecting and enhancing Taranaki's ecosystem and biodiversity.

OUR MISSION

To protect and restore the ecosystem and biodiversity in East Taranaki.

OUR VALUES

- *We are a community based ecosystem-level conservation project*
- *We are a major player in conservation work in New Zealand*
- *We are a community group who have a collaborative approach*
- *We are professional and accountable*
- *We have a team of capable people who are efficient and result orientated*

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO COMPLETE OUR OBJECTIVES

ETEC takes a science-based approach to conservation work, by using several indicator species to demonstrate the effectiveness of our pest control programmes. While pest control is at the core of our work to restore the ecosystem, we monitor kiwi, kōkako, and other species to indicate whether we are successfully reducing predation rates on these species.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

As is outlined in this Annual Report, our financial year ended June 30 2024 has been both rewarding and challenging.

The year has been rewarding because in addition to successfully continuing pest management operations throughout our 18,000 ha protected area and within Everett Park, we have also worked hard to establish and maintain strong relationships with fellow conservation organisations and supporters. It has also been rewarding to watch our public profile grow, not the least thanks to our staff regularly featuring in Lotto advertising on television and social media.

However, the year has been challenging because New Zealand's current financial climate has meant it has been increasingly difficult to maintain the level of funding necessary for our activities. East Taranaki Environment Collective is a community-led conservation initiative that relies heavily on external funding, and as Chair I would like to express my gratitude for the ongoing support of sponsors and funders.

Thanks to our field staff, contractors and volunteers who have all contributed to a successful 2023/24 – ETEC is very lucky to have all of you. I would like to offer special thanks to our General Manager Rebecca Somerfield and Conservation Manager Kat Strang, whose performances throughout the year have been exceptional.

As this Annual report was being prepared, Rebecca tendered her resignation and is now furthering her career elsewhere in the conservation sector. I would like to pay tribute to her outstanding work with ETEC over the past four years – in addition to her managerial and financial skills, Rebecca has used her people skills to be instrumental in developing the strong spirit of collaboration that now exists within the conservation sector.

Over the past four years Rebecca has been ably supported by the highly skilled Kat Strang, so for the Trust it was an obvious choice to appoint Kat as our new General Manager. We were also able to appoint her replacement from within – our Senior Ranger Jayden Fabish is now our Conservation Manager. So while it has been sad to see Rebecca depart, it is exciting that Kat and Jayden have now stepped up to continue the Trust's important work.

Rob Maetzig
Chair
East Taranaki Environment Collective

OUR TEAM

Trustees:

Robert Maetzig – Chair
Aaron Chambers – Deputy Chair
Anaru Marshall
John Haylock
Gavin Faull
Gloria Campbell
Jane Bowden - Dobson
Sam Haultain

Staff:

Rebecca Somerfield – General Manager
Kathryn Strang – Conservation Manager
Jayden Fabish – Senior Ranger
Corbyn Fabish - Ranger
Oliver Sleep – Apprentice Ranger
Nadine Paterson – Finance and Admin Support
Laura Beaty – Finance Officer

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR THAT'S BEEN

This report summarises some of the activities undertaken by the East Taranaki Environment Collective (ETEC) during the year ending June 30, 2024.

It has been another bustling year for the Trust.

Over the past couple of years, the Trust has experienced significant growth. This includes expanding our pest protection area from the original 13,000 hectares to 18,000 hectares, fostering new relationships with landowners, sponsors, and supporters, and collaborating with iwi and other conservation projects to establish a corridor of national significance.

This year has been marked by continued growth and future preparation. We have built on new and existing relationships through connection and collaboration while adapting our pest management program to ensure vital protection.

Over the last three years, the Trust has been fortunate to receive Jobs for Nature Funding, which has supported the expansion of our protected area, provided financial stability, and allowed us to retain highly skilled staff. As this funding winds down, we have moved premises to reduce costs and invested in upskilling our field team in hazardous substances, with all field staff completing their controlled substance licenses. This has led to successful contracts for small toxin operations, and we have assisted iwi and other conservation organisations with pest and native species monitoring. We aim to build on these relationships and opportunities to gradually increase contracting income as capacity allows.

The Trust is grateful to our funders, partners, and sponsors who continue to advocate and support our important kaupapa. We are excited to announce that Methanex, the core funder of our kōkako population translocation in 2018, will continue to invest in the protection of these precious native taonga. The authentic connections and partnerships we continue to build has generated significant sponsorship support over the last few years, and we are thankful to Methanex, Todd Energy, and Taranakipine for their financial investment and on-the-ground support. This year, we were also fortunate to receive funding from Wild for Taranaki to produce two short videos showcasing our important mahi in East Taranaki. Our project has been promoted on TV, social media, and news outlets thanks to Lotto New Zealand's advocacy campaigns.

To secure our future, the Trust continues to work with Pukerangiora Hapū and the New Plymouth District Council to explore developing the Taranaki Environment Centre in Inglewood. This project aims to diversify our income streams and reduce dependence on grants while providing a collaborative space for the Taranaki Conservation Community. It will allow us to share overheads, resources, materials, expertise, and knowledge, creating a place where volunteers can come together and where the community and visitors can learn about our efforts to protect and restore biodiversity for future generations. We are grateful for the continued architectural support of Gibbons Architects.

In 2022, the Trust took over the Pest Management Program of Everett Park in partnership with The Department of Conservation and Pukerangiora Hapū. Over 300 traps have been installed and monitored monthly by staff and volunteers. Baseline monitoring in 2022 showed significant reductions in possums and rats after a year of trapping, with possum numbers dropping from 18% to 8% and rats from 72% to 8%. We have also observed an increase in birdlife, particularly the shining cuckoo. Everett Park has provided a platform to engage the community in our vision, with over 10 events and 187 attendees participating in various activities.

The Trust has continued to build on our education programs, sharing our knowledge and passion for the environment. We are working alongside our partners Ngāti Maru to connect whanau to the whenua and are thankful to the team at Tupu ā nuku for helping us to engage rangatahi in our kaupapa through pest management and monitoring. We have also led efforts to educate local schools on regional conservation efforts and run our kaitiakitanga education programme, engaging nine local schools in environmental protection.

We are proud of our first apprentice, Oliver Sleep, who completed his Predator Free New Zealand Apprenticeship this year. Oliver achieved the NZQA Level 3 Certificate in Pest Operations and other essential training, supported by the wider conservation community. We have also supported two Inglewood High School students in the New Zealand Gateway program.

In March, we bid farewell to all seven kiwi on transmitter after their yearly health checks. Our permit to monitor kiwi had expired, and it was time to let them continue their lives without interruption. We will continue to use our kiwi expertise through a research partnership with Parininihi ki Waitotara, Ngāti Maru, Taranaki Kiwi Trust, and NZ Forestry to study kiwi in pine plantations. We have also assisted other organisations with kiwi catching and translocation efforts.

We acknowledge the following funders for their major role in enabling us to protect and restore the environment: Toi Foundation, Taranaki Electricity Trust, Lotteries, Save the Kiwi, and Jobs for Nature. This funding has allowed us to adapt our pest management program and maintain a skilled team.

To our volunteers and contractors, thank you for sharing your expertise, knowledge, and passion. This year, volunteers contributed over 2,000 hours to the Trust. Your support is invaluable, and we are grateful for your dedication to our vision.

The Trust has built strong relationships with stakeholders, partners, volunteers, and community supporters. We know that collaboration is essential to achieving conservation goals. The importance of future collaboration was highlighted at a successful pest management hui in May 2024, organised by our Conservation Manager Kat Strang and hosted in partnership with Ngāti Maru at Te Upoko o Te Whenua marae. The hui, attended by over 60 members of the Taranaki Conservation Community, aimed to share knowledge, foster connections, and learn about regional conservation efforts.

Our continued success wouldn't be possible without the support of our valued partners, funders, supporters, and volunteers. We extend a heartfelt thanks to the community that backs our project and vision, whether through funding, advocacy, or in-kind support. Your contributions are crucial to achieving our mission and goals.

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata. What is the most important thing? It is people, it is people, it is people. We thank all of you who support our mahi and look forward to achieving great things together in the years ahead.

It's been a big year, and I couldn't be prouder of our team and the community that supports our mission and mahi.

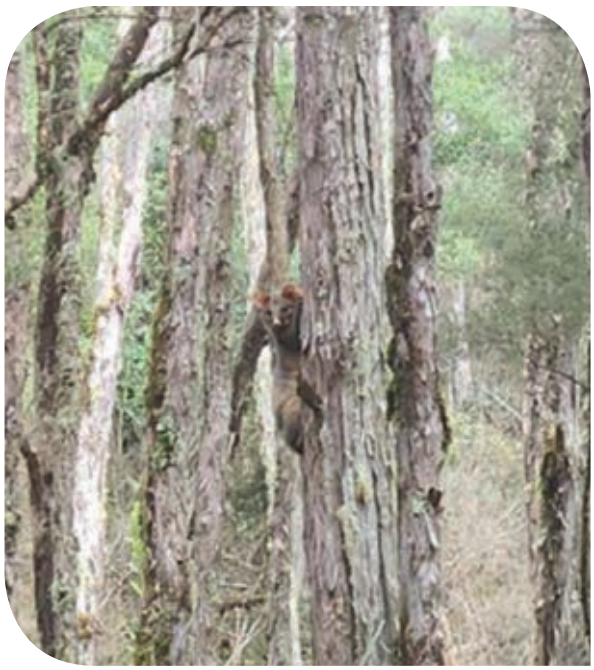
"People and community are the foundation of success"

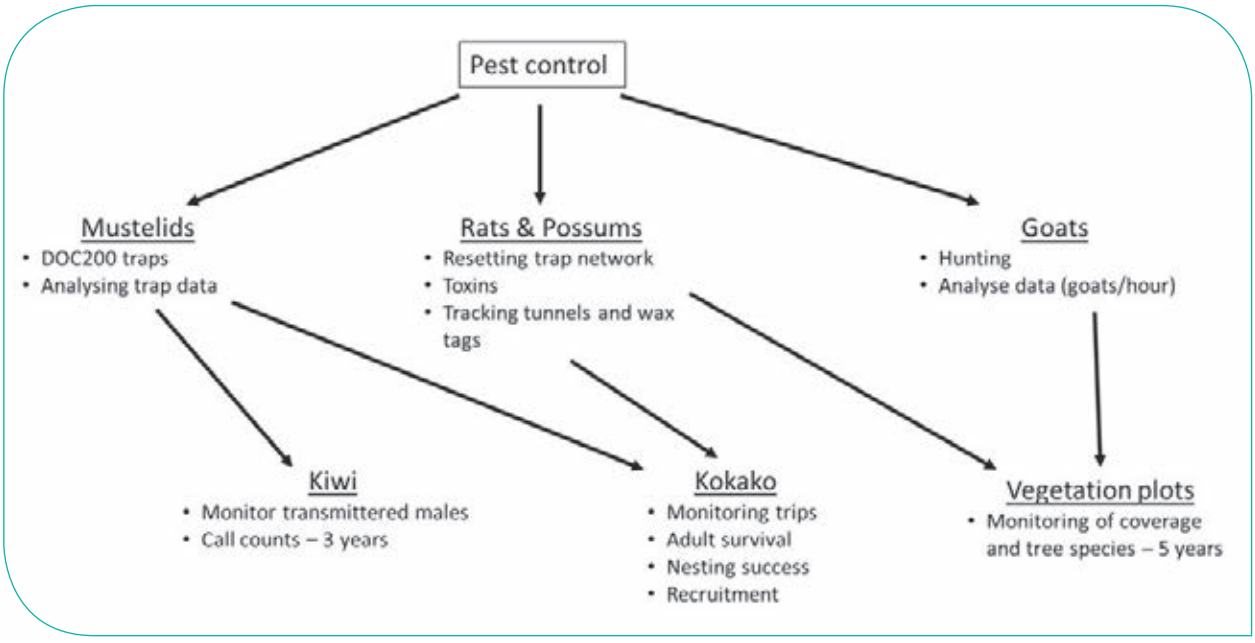
BIODIVERSITY OUTCOMES

The Trust aims to restore native biodiversity within the East Taranaki region and provide a protected area for native wildlife to thrive. This is mainly achieved through using an integrated pest management approach, where the main pest species are targeted and control is adapted based on findings. Generally, as you control one pest and lower their numbers, the pressure can be removed from other pests and they may become a new problem. Continually assessing our pest control plan and the ecosystem means that we can adapt with these changes. To ensure that the pest control regime is leading to biodiversity gains, the Trust monitors key indicator species such as kiwi and kōkako.

Our biodiversity conservation action plan, including interactions within the ecosystem, is summarized below:

The Trust's footprint increased from 13,000 hectares to 18,000 hectares in East Taranaki, and the Trust has also been implementing pest control in Everett Park.





PEST CONTROL AND MONITORING

Mustelid control

Stoats have been the main mustelid targeted over the original 13,000 hectare project area, though the Trust has been working over the past year to strengthen this mustelid control and include more targeted ferret control too. The Expansion area consists of mainly DOC250s, and the peripheral traplines around the original DOC200 lines have had every third DOC200 changed to a DOC250.

Within the original 13,000 hectares, there are 1,075 DOC200s and 111 DOC250s set up across 19 different traplines. The traps are spaced 100m apart, with lines spaced 1km apart. Traps are checked, rebaited, and reset every month by contractors or staff. The team has continued using the rabbit mince made by local company Feral Control due to the higher mustelid catch rates. The team is also trialling other lures alongside this such as blaze, scent lures, and blood to see whether this increases trap catch rates and animal activity around the traps.

For consistency and comparison between each year, the catch data for the mustelid traps have been split into the "Core project" – original 13,000 hectares, and the Expansion project (details in section below) – ~5,000 hectares.

This map outlines the original project area and the expansion area that was funded through Save the kiwi Jobs for Nature, and Everett Park. The Trust's project area covering 18,000 hectares, with the DOC200s and DOC250s marked as blue squares, and Everett Park outlined in blue. The 1,000 hectare area where rats and possums are controlled is highlighted in white at the centre of the Pouiatoa Conservation Area.

Core Area 13,000 hectares, 1,075 DOC200 traps and 111 DOC250 traps, total catches:

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Total
Cat	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	15
Ferret	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
Hedgehog	5	1	1	5	6	6	7	12	16	14	12	11	96
Mouse	0	3	0	0	3	3	3	4	15	5	5	6	47
Possum	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	1	0	3	0	11
Rat	157	129	82	114	92	60	49	68	89	152	168	144	1304
Stoat	8	8	3	4	9	21	25	20	5	28	20	26	177
Weasel	0	3	0	2	1	5	2	8	6	8	10	4	49

Expansion area 5,000 hectares, 14 DOC200 traps and 556 DOC250 traps, total catches:

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Total
Cat	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	2	5	3	2	0	17
Ferret	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hedgehog	21	3	15	11	17	16	29	25	20	57	16	11	241
Mouse	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	2	2	12
Rat	19	10	20	14	27	11	24	12	20	35	23	23	238
Stoat	2	1	6	5	5	7	8	8	1	13	2	1	59
Weasel	3	1	0	3	0	11	2	3	5	3	4	5	40

Trap catch data, which is based on the number of nights that the DOC200s and DOC250s are active and the catch rate, shows a catch rate for stoats of less than 1%. Camera traps were set out in 12 different locations throughout the project area. Each location was monitored for three weeks at a time, twice throughout the year (September/October and November/December) which resulted in a camera trap capture rate of 1% (number of detections/number. of camera trap nights) for stoats.

Rat and possum control

Rats and possums are controlled within 1000 hectares of the Pouiatoa Conservation Area through a number of different methods. The main reason for this is that it is where the reintroduced kōkako have settled, and kōkako need low rat and possum populations to be able to breed and nest successfully. The rat and possum control will also benefit other vulnerable species inhabiting the area.

To help keep rats and possums suppressed year-round, there is a network of 342 A12 and 797 A24 Good Nature resetting traps set up over 1,000 hectares of the Pouiatoa Conservation Area. A12s are mainly set up on the perimeter tracks with 100m spacing and target possums, and A24s are set up on the perimeter and interior lines with 50m spacing and target rats. These are regassed and relured every six months.

In August 2023, 6 volunteers helped the field team for the day to re-gas and re-lure just over 550 of the resetting traps. The field team finished re-gassing and re-luring the remaining traps over July/August. In February 2024, the New Plymouth Boys' High prefect team helped the Trust's field team to replenish the resetting traps, with almost 700 traps being done in one day. The field team was joined by staff from Taranaki Regional Council, Ngāti Mutunga, and Department of Conservation to mentor the prefects through this field work.

The Department of Conservation carried out an aerial 1080 toxin operation (with EcoFX contracted to carry out the work) in the Pouiatoa Conservation Area and the neighbouring Taramoukou Conservation Area. The prefeed was administered on the 20th of October and the toxin on the 28th of October (with a sowing rate of 2kg/ha). The sowing rate was higher than aerial operation in 2020 where 1.5kg/ha of bait was applied to the area.

Monitoring by ETEC and DOC was conducted pre- and post- toxin operation to determine rat and possum levels, with the pre-monitor carried out one month before the pre-feed, and the post-monitor 4-5 weeks following the toxin application. Tracking tunnels were used to monitor rats – there were 13 lines with 10 tunnels each 50m apart with at least 200m between lines. The same lines as the previous year were used. Tracking tunnel cards were baited with peanut butter on the edge of the card and were placed into the tunnels overnight.

Wax tags were used for monitoring the possums, with 13 lines measured using the standard practice of 10 wax tags along a line that are spaced 20m apart. Wax tags were blazed and were left out for 7 nights.

Wax tag set up within the Pouiatoa Conservation Area to monitor possums in the area.

Rats		Possums	
Pre-monitor	55.12%	Pre-monitor	56.69%
Post-monitor	0.78%	Post-monitor	13.85%

The effective kill rate for rats from the 1080 operation was 98.6%, and for possums was 75.6%.

Camera trap results also showed that the number of independent possum videos decreased between the pre- and post-monitor for the aerial 1080 operation (Table 5). No rat videos were recorded for both the pre- and post-monitor. The number of independent possum videos from the camera trap data decreased for both the toxin area (by 54%) and outside of the toxin area (by 26%). This suggests that there could have been a natural reduction in possum abundance or activity that was not caused by the toxin. However, there was a greater reduction in possum videos within the toxin area.

Camera traps were set up at 8 sites within the aerial 1080 treatment zone, and 5 sites outside of the treatment zone (controls) to measure long-term possum activity before and after the 1080 operation. Cameras were set up in August 2023, with the prefeed and 1080 toxin drop carried out in October 2023. Possum videos were counted that were more than 10 minutes apart – to reduce the chances of skewing the data if a possum sat in front of a camera for several videos.

Table 1: Pre-monitor results for tracking tunnel cards set out for one night, baited with peanut butter, in September.

Tracking card Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total rats	Rat tracking rate
Tracking tunnel line												
A			Rat	Rat	Rat		Rat	Rat	Rat		6	60.00%
B	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat		Rat		Rat	Rat	Rat	8	80.00%
C	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	10	100.00%
D	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	10	100.00%
E	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat		Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat		8	80.00%
11	Rat					Possum		Possum	Rat	Possum	2	20.00%
H				Possum			Rat				1	10.00%
PTL	Rat	Possum + Rat	Possum		Rat	Rat + mouse	Rat + Mouse	Possum + Rat	Possum + Rat	Possum	7	70.00%
7					Bait taken	Possum	Possum	Possum			0	0.00%
?5			Possum	Possum + rat	Possum	Possum	Possum + rat	Possum	Possum + rat		3	33.33%
8/M		Rat	Rat				Rat	Rat		Rat	5	55.56%
3/K	Rat		Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat		Rat	Rat	8	80.00%
I					Possum	Possum	Possum		Rat	Rat	2	20.00%
											70	55.12%

Table 2: Pre-monitor results for wax tags set out for seven nights in September.

Wax tag number (20m)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total possums	Possum tracking rate
Wax tag line												
A		Possum	Possum + Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat		2	20.00%
B	Possum + rat	Rat	Possum + Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat		Rat	Possum	Possum	4	40.00%
C	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat		Rat	Rat	Rat	0	0.00%
D	Rat	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Rat	Possum	Rat + possum	Rat	7	70.00%
E	Rat	Rat	Possum + rat	Possum +Rat	Possum	Rat	Rat	Possum	Rat	Rat	4	40.00%
G	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	10	100.00%
H	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum + rat	Possum	Possum			8	100.00%
I	Possum	Possum				Rat	Rat	Rat		Rat	2	20.00%
K				Rat	Possum	Rat	Possum+Rat	Rat	Rat		2	22.22%
M	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum + rat	Rat	Rat	Rat	Possum + Rat	Possum	Rat	6	60.00%
2R	Possum	Possum + rat	Possum	Possum			Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	8	80.00%
?5	Possum	Possum + rat	Possum	Possum + rat	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	10	100.00%
PTL	Possum	Possum + rat	Possum + rat	Rat	Possum + rat	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	9	90.00%
											72	56.69%

Table 3: Post-monitor results for tracking tunnel cards set out for one night, baited with peanut butter, in November/ December.

Tracking card Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total rats	Rat tracking rate
Tracking tunnel line												
A											0	0.00%
B											0	0.00%
C					Rat						1	10.00%
D											0	0.00%
E											0	0.00%
11	Possum	Possum						Possum			0	0.00%
H											0	0.00%
PTL											0	0.00%
7											0	0.00%
?5											0	0.00%
8											0	0.00%
3											0	0.00%
I											0	0.00%
											1	0.78%

Table 4: Post-monitor results for wax tags set out for seven nights in November/December.

Wax tag number (20m)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total possums	Possum tracking rate
Wax tag line												
A		Possum	Possum		Possum	Possum	Possum		Possum		6	60.00%
B											0	0.00%
C									Rat	Rat	0	0.00%
D											0	0.00%
E			Possum		Possum						2	20.00%
G									Mice		0	0.00%
H											0	0.00%
I											0	0.00%
K	Mice	Mice									0	0.00%
M											0	0.00%
2R	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	Possum	10	100.00%
?5				Rat	Rat	Rat	Rat				0	0.00%
PTL								Mice	Mice	Rat	0	0.00%
											18	13.85%

Table 5: Pre- and post-monitoring results from camera traps set up in the toxin area (left) and outside of the toxin area (right). A camera was at each of the locations for three weeks for each of the pre- and post-monitor.

Possum				
Toxin area	Pre	Post		Outside toxin area
Milk bottle junction	22	8		Chris's top loop 841/842
I/J line	1	0		Chris's top loop 810
B line	3	1		Stu's back loop - 721
Kokako spur	0	1		Stu's back loop - 766
Death ridge	22	4		Stu's front loop - 613/614
2nd ridge	6	11		Stu's front loop - 651

Camera trap data shows a sharp drop in the number of possum videos following the toxin application, with activity increasing towards month 4-5 post-toxin application.

With consistent monitoring pre- and post- ground and aerial operations, it's allowed the team to be able to see the effectiveness of the operations and to detect potential pockets of possums. The Double Tap operations that were carried out in 2021 and 2022 did not have the desired results for the amount of effort for the ground operation. Looking ahead, the ground toxin operation will be varied to potentially include potassium cyanide (Feratox) to target possums, along with bait bagging areas that do not have bait stations set up that could be a source population of possums for reinvading the Pouiatoa.

Table 6: Long-term camera trap monitoring of possums within the Pouiatoa Conservation Area and surrounding areas, pre- and post- aerial 1080 application. Orange highlighted rows represent cameras that are within the 1080 treatment zone. October is when the 1080 was applied to the area.

Possum										
Toxin area	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
2nd Ridge	7	10	50	5	8	4	2	10	6	8
Between I and J	3	1	3	0	0	0	4	3	14	11
B-line	5	4	13	0	1	0	1	5	3	12
CTL (810)	4	0	12	19	27	14	14	26	16	10
CTL(841- 842)	16	8	4	0	0	7	17	12	9	4
Culvert Line	3	0	3	0	1	1	6	0	3	6
Milk Bottle	9	32	37	7	15	21	14	0	1	39
Purangi Saddle	0	0	0	12	18	20	35	4	61	38
SBL (721)	36	58	22	0	1	3	2	0	1	10
SBL (766)	1	5	7	0	0	0	2	1	3	0
SFL (613-614)	2	11	6	6	0	1	1	0		1
SFL (651)	26	20	17	0	1	6	5	6	9	3
PTL near Death Ridge	15	26	45	7	4	9	16	39	27	14
Treatment zone - 1080	79	136	180	19	30	38	47	58	58	100
Control zone	48	39	39	37	46	48	72	48	95	56

Goat control

The Department of Conservation has again obtained funding and helped with the logistics for goat control to be undertaken within the Pouiatoa Conservation Area. Two different hunting groups are working within the area, with 447 hours of hunting and 756 goats removed from the Pouiatoa Conservation Area or surrounding farmland in the July 2021 – June 2022 financial year.

From July 2022 – June 2023, there were 548 hours of goat hunting with 952 goats shot within the Pouiatoa Conservation Area and surrounding farmland.

From July 2023 – June 2024, there were 355 hours of goat hunting with 462 goats removed from the Pouiatoa Conservation Area and surrounding farmland.

	Hours	Goats	Goats/hour
21/22	447	756	1.69
22/23	548	952	1.74
23/24	355	462	1.30

ETEC will be working with the Department of Conservation to continue this goat control work to ensure the long-term survival of the forest and increase the regeneration of vegetation.

NATIVE SPECIES

Kiwi monitoring

The Trust has had seven kiwi on transmitter during the past year July 2023 – March 2024. From the transmitted males, the number of clutches are detailed below. Dates given are for when the male started incubating. Three males (Anxter the Prankster, Pakiki, and Utus the Brutus) did not incubate this year.

The breeding season this year for the monitored kiwi was not as successful, with less clutches incubated to hatching, and less clutches incubated over the year. It is not known why this was the case this year. Utus has not incubated at all over the time that he has been monitored, and Pakiki has not had any successful incubations. Anxter moved territories early into the year, moving across a ridge and being found over there for the past nine months. It is again not known what triggered this move.

ETEC Senior Ranger Jayden tracking Utus the Brutus.

Kiwi	**1st clutch**	**2nd clutch**
Korokoru	30th Sep – stopped at 20 days	-
Kotikara	26th Jul	-
Anxter the Pranskter	-	-
Hoa-nui	27th Aug	24th Jan – stopped at 40 days
Hideini	12th Jul	19th Dec – stopped at 65 days
Pakiki	-	-
Utus the Brutus	-	-

Kiwi catching for annual health checks and transmitter change/removal

The permit for continued monitoring of this kiwi population has finished so during the annual health check the kiwi also had their transmitters removed.

All of the kiwi were in good condition, with no signs of feather mites this year. Three of the kiwi were found in burrows, though two were on the surface under epiphytes or crown fern. Kotikara, who is on the Matau Saddle which had a pine plantation harvested a year and a half ago, was close to the harvesting site in a patch of native forest close to the road. Korokoru was very close to the Waitara River and was under cutty grass (Carex sp.). Unfortunately, there was a failed transmitter this year – Pakiki was last heard in August 2023 but his signal was not able to be picked up since then despite searching all of his known territory and covering the surrounding areas too. Over 60 hours of searches was conducted to try to locate Pakiki over the 10 months.

Apprentice Ranger Olly with Hideini during his health check and transmitter removal

Kōkako Monitoring

Over a period of eight days from October-November 2023, the team surveyed the Pouiatoa Conservation Area (and its surrounding areas) for kōkako territories. In total, 2100 hectares and 70 km of tracks were surveyed. Seven pairs were found, along with two single birds seen. Of the 16 birds seen, three were identified as being banded, twelve un-banded and one unable to be confirmed either way. Eight of these un-banded birds were in a pair, including three pairs of un-banded birds.

Total findings: Seven pairs and two singles seen.

The team found that their kōkako surveys conducted in mid-September that the kōkako did not seem very responsive to the calls. The surveys that were conducted in October elicited more responses from the kōkako. An exciting observation was that a pair of kōkako were seen on the ground along PTL track at 4pm.

Kōkako surveyors Dave Bryden and Amanda Rogers volunteered their time to come out into the Pouiatoa in February 2023 to see the area and help the field team with their kōkako surveying skills. They recorded some new Pouiatoa kōkako songs that can be used by the team for the 2023 census surveys. The J line pair, H line pair, and 2nd Valley pair were all contacted, with two of the pairs seen, and J line pair responding but not coming close enough to be seen.
The team conducted the census surveys over October and November, mainly because the kōkako have not been responsive in the Pouiatoa in September.

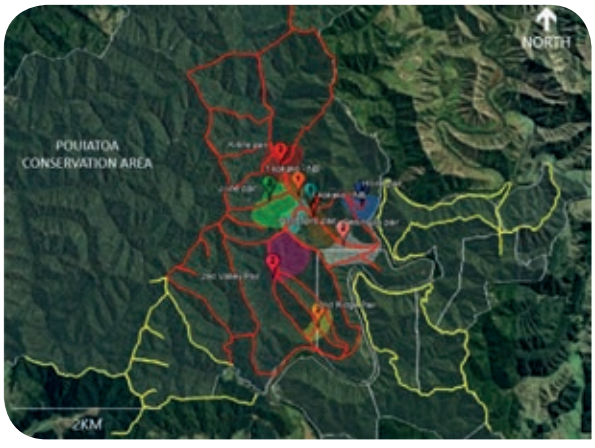


Figure 3: Locations of kōkako seen during the 2023 census survey. Yellow tracks are those that were surveyed using the rapid survey technique, and red was using the parallel survey technique. "1" shows where a single kōkako was seen, and "2" where there was a pair seen. NB stands for non-banded.

An exciting observation this year was that three kōkako were seen together on Mangapito track. This was likely to be a pair with an extra non-territorial bird that was likely to be looking to pair up and establish its own territory.

The field team split up into two different teams with different surveying techniques. A rapid survey was used for areas where kōkako have not been heard or seen before, to establish whether any have set up their territories there now. The team made use of the survey techniques that they learned from Dave Bryden and Amada Rogers which was the parallel survey. A parallel survey is when two different groups/surveyors work parallel to each other on separate ridges/lines where they will keep contact with each other. Calls are played by the groups at each other every few hundred meters. This allows the area to be covered efficiently and ensure that kōkako are not counted twice. Whichever group finds or hears the kōkako can communicate this to the other group and spend time working with those birds. This technique is used for areas where kōkako have been encountered previously or are expected to be found.

Below: Senior Ranger Jayden surveying for kōkako.

CURIOUS MINDS

Curious Minds is a Participatory Science Platform with funding distributed through Venture Taranaki. This year the Trust worked with Waitoriki School, Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust, and the Rotokare Youth Ambassadors. The project was ***Let's Not Beat Around the Bush: Developing an Ecosystem Health Assessment for Restored Habitats.*** The aim of this project was to pull together different standard monitoring techniques that could be used to assess ecosystem health within a new area, or that could be used as a baseline measure that could be repeated over time, and that could guide management decisions for restoring an area.

ETEC's Senior Ranger Jayden worked with Education Volunteer Kaye Corlett to teach the senior class of Waitoriki the different levels that make up a food web and ecosystem, and what makes a healthy ecosystem. The students thought about the different things that could be measured within an area to assess ecosystem health. The students then joined ETEC's field team at Everett Park to test out the different monitoring methods.
Measures included sapling counts, vegetation tier heights, canopy cover, ground cover, invertebrate diversity, 5 Minute Bird Counts, tracking tunnels for rats, wax tags to measure possums, camera traps, and Acoustic Recorders for bats.

These measures were repeated in Rotokare Scenic Reserve with the help of Rotokare's field team and Educator, and Rotokare's Youth Ambassadors. Measures were also taken within the Pouiatoa Conservation Area by the ETEC field team. Each of the three sites have varying levels of pest control; Everett Park has been fenced to exclude browsers but had intensive pest control for a year, Rotokare has a predator-proof fence, and the Pouiatoa has had mustelid, rat and possum control since 2009.

Our research questions were:

- *Have pest levels been reduced and native species increased in Everett Park since the trapping was implemented?*
- *What information can be collected using common monitoring techniques to produce an assessment tool for ecosystem health?*
- *How healthy is the ecosystem in Everett Park Scenic Reserve?*
- *Can the ecosystem health assessment tool be used in the Pouiatoa Conservation Area and Rotokare Scenic Reserve?*

ETEC Senior Ranger Jayden, Education Volunteer Kaye, and the senior class of Waitoriki School with their certificates for completing the Curious Minds project Let's Not Beat Around the Bush.

EXPANSION – SAVE THE KIWI JOBS FOR NATURE

As part of the Save the kiwi Jobs for Nature funding, the Trust received funding to extend their mustelid trapping footprint. Before traps were installed, the Trust worked with Taranaki Kiwi Trust to conduct an Acoustic Recorder Device (ARD) survey to determine the call rates of the resident kiwi population within the expansion site. From 50 recorder sites, kiwi were detected at 31 sites, with both male and female kiwi heard at 26 sites. This will be repeated in 2025.

All of the trap boxes (over 500 traps) were made in the ETEC workshop with the help of volunteers, with 225 hours of volunteer hours spent building traps. Stage A was completed between January-December 2021, with 180 DOC250 traps installed in the area. Fourteen DOC200s were also installed within the Stage B area in the Te Wera Forest during this phase due to stoats being seen.

Stage B was completed from January-December 2022, with another 377 DOC250s installed within the area. This included from Junction Road in Matau to SH43, along the SH43 railway, along Mohakau Road, and the rest of Matau Road to the Kiore Tunnel. Internal lines were installed along Quarry Road, Mangamaire Road and throughout farmland, as well as utilising the forestry tracks within the Te Wera Forest.

Overall, the expansion area now consists of 571 mustelid traps, with eight new contractors checking these traplines and new partnerships being formed within this area. This includes with Parininihi ki Waitotara (PKW) and Forgotten World Adventures (FWA) who are checking traplines. Taranaki Kiwi Trust was contracted to help install traps into the expansion area, along with help from the ETEC field team, Taranaki Mounga Project, and PKW. Railway carts were also donated for the day from Forgotten World Adventures to help install traps along the railway line.

These traps are also checked and rebaited every month by contractors. Catches have been fairly steady with 152 mustelids captured since the traps were installed. The trap catches for the July 2023 to June 2024 period are summarised in the table in the Mustelid Control section above.

ETEC Apprentice Ranger Olly checking a DOC250 trap set up on the Quarry Forest block within the Expansion Area.

EVERETT PARK

The Trust has been working in partnership with Pukerangiora Hapū and the Department of Conservation to undertake the pest control in Everett Park. This involves an intense pest control programme to target the rats, possums, and mustelids within the reserve.

Staff from Todd Energy, who help sponsor a lot of the work in Everett Park, helping ETEC staff regas and relure the A24 network

Trap outline:

- 161 A24 traps to target rats (installed September to November 2022). Regassed and relured every three months initially, which is being reduced to every four months.
- 40 F-bombs and 33 DOC250s to target mustelids (traps alternate between the two different designs). Rebaited monthly with rabbit mince. Installed in November 2022
- 47 Steve Allen (SA2) traps installed on ramps to target possums in December 2022. These are also utilised for feral cat trapping as needed. Four Trapinators were also installed, and 42 Warriors set up previously by DOC are being utilised. Traps are baited monthly with smooth lure and blazed for possums. Ramps were set up under Warriors and Trapinators to increase possum catches.
- In June/July, the SA traps were baited for feral cats with several days of prefeeding and one night of trapping.

The catches from the SA2, Trapinator, Warrior, DOC250, and F-bomb traps for each month are summarised below:

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	**Total**
Cat	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	**11**
Ferret	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	**1**
Hedgehog	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	2	2	4	1	0	**16**
Mouse	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
Possum	10	6	11	2	10	4	8	6	3	11	9	1	**81**
Rat	4	3	9	8	3	1	1	10	4	18	13	5	**79**
Stoat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Weasel	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	**3**

Baseline monitoring was carried out in 2021/2022 before traps were put out in Everett Park. Monitoring was repeated using the same lines and methods in 2023. Taranaki Regional Council carries out annual leg-hold trapping (RTC) as part of the Ring Plain monitoring programme. ETEC monitors rats through five tracking tunnel lines with cards placed out for one night, and camera traps are deployed for three weeks at a time to capture mustelids and feral cats.

	2022	2023
Possum RTC - TRC	18%	8%
	2021	2023
Rats - tracking tunnels	72%	8%

Camera trapping								
	Rat	Possum	Hedgehog	Cat	Pig	Stoat	Ferret	Mouse
2021	127	74	3	11	0	1	2	2
2023	3	10	0	4	1	0	0	0

EVERETT PARK SCENIC RESERVE	2021
Total Number Bird Species: 13 species	
Bird species	Number per bird species
Bellbird	1
Blackbird	5
Chaffinch	1
Cuckoo, Shining	1
Fantail	22
Green Finch	1
Grey Warbler	17
Kererū	16
Kingfisher	7
Paradise Shelduck	3
Pheasant	1
Silvereye	11
Tūī	20
Total Birds	**106**

EVERETT PARK SCENIC RESERVE	2023
Total Number Bird Species: 17 species	
Bird species	Number per bird species
Bellbird	10
Blackbird	10
Chaffinch	4
Cuckoo, Shining	11
Eastern Rosella	2
Fantail	15
Grey Warbler	28
Kererū	8
Kingfisher	4
Magpie	8
Paradise Shelduck	2
Pheasant	1
Silvereye	6
Song Thrush	7
Spur-winged plover	1
Tomtit	4
Tūī	19
Total Birds	**139**

The aim for the first year of trapping was to do a hard knockdown phase of the pest populations and then continue to suppress them and reduce reinvasion. The monitoring results are showing that we're achieving this, as well as already showing an increase in some of the native birdlife, which was surprising for a short amount of time. The team has reported that they have been seeing tomtits (miromiro) in the area, and hearing more shining cuckoo (pīpīwharauroa).

Traplines have been split into six traplines which are being checked and maintained by a great group of volunteers. A24s have been regassed and relured every three months with the help of the team from Ballance, Tupu ā nuku, Todd Energy, and students from Francis Douglas Memorial College.

Students from Francis Douglas Memorial College.

JOBS FOR NATURE DOC200 TRAP REPLACEMENT

The Trust was successful in receiving the Jobs for Nature Private Fund that was distributed by Department of Conservation which was for replacing old DOC200 boxes within the Core project (13,000 hectares) that were on private land. The ETEC field team also used this as an opportunity to audit all of the 1300 DOC200 trap boxes (those on both public and private land) and bring them up to standard while assessing which ones were degraded and needed to be replaced. Some of the trap boxes had been out in the field for more than 10 years and the bottoms were rotted which meant that the trap mechanisms could not be attached safely within the boxes. The boxes also had mesh replaced where needed and mesh entrances were filed down so they were smooth. Trap mechanisms were also replaced where needed. The opportunity was also taken to replace every third DOC200 trap with a DOC250 in areas to help strengthen the site against ferret incursions.

A total of 599 trap boxes and mechanisms were replaced with new ones for this work.

ETEC Ranger Corbyn carrying in replacement DOC200 boxes along Chris' Top Loop trapline.

RESEARCH PROJECT

Study on harvesting effects on kiwi inhabiting pine plantations – partnership between Parininihi ki Waitotara, Ngāti Maru, Taranaki Kiwi Trust, NZ Forestry and ETEC

The Trust has entered into a partnership with Parininihi ki Waitotara, Ngāti Maru, NZ Forestry and Taranaki Kiwi Trust to study kiwi within pine plantations around harvesting operations.

The study proposes to investigate how the use of pine forests changes for kiwi during the different harvesting phases, and how clear-felling harvesting techniques can impact kiwi. The potential impacts identified from previous studies are on kiwi movements, breeding, survival, and foraging. The possible outcomes of this study are to provide updated information on kiwi inhabiting pine forests, and potential mitigation that could help reduce any impacts of pine forest harvesting on kiwi.

ETEC have been providing technical and research advice for this study and designed a research proposal and literature review for the project, and will be reviewing the data collected in line with the research questions. ETEC has also be helping to monitor the kiwi when required.

Information on the movements of the kiwi has been collected over the past year from three males and two females that have transmitters. The monitored kiwi have been using the native forest as well as the pine habitat. Over the last breeding season, all three males nested but one was unsuccessful. Nests were located in a variety of habitats – one was in native forest, two in pine with native undergrowth, and one in mature pine with no undergrowth.

Information collected over the past year provides forms the pre-harvesting data on the movements and home range of the kiwi, nesting success, weight and condition, and activity. Road construction along ridgelines has started within the Mangaoapa block, with some trees harvested along these points for the roading.

Project partner Katrina Boon from NZ Forestry with female kiwi Konui during a health check and transmitter change.

Tracking kiwi within the Mangaoapa block.

ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

Advocacy plays a crucial role in engaging and educating the community about the essential conservation work the Trust undertakes. This engagement helps build a strong connection between people and the environment and fosters significant behavioral changes.

This year, the Trust was fortunate to receive funding support from Wild for Taranaki to produce two short videos showcasing the Trust's vital mahi in the remote and challenging terrain of East Taranaki. These videos are available on the Trust's website.

Thanks to our supporters at Lotto New Zealand, the Trust has gained national exposure through TV, social media, press, and news campaigns promoting our important work.

The Mazda Foundation has continued to supply the Trust with a BT50 ute, providing safe and reliable transport for our staff to our project areas. This vehicle also serves as a mobile advocacy tool with its bright and engaging native species sign writing.

With the support of Rob Maetzig and TGM Creative, the Trust has continued to produce its quarterly newsletter. These updates keep our community and sponsors informed of our ongoing pest control efforts, native species work, strategic growth, and education and advocacy events. This year, we also focused on updating our website to provide more visual content of the Trust's activities.

Our Trust continues to promote our important mahi through our education programs, public talks, newsletters, and social media channels. Our youth kaitiakitanga programme remains popular with local tamariki, offering nine local schools the opportunity to attend quarterly workshops and key events. The goal of these sessions is for future generations to become great ambassadors of conservation, spreading the word about the importance of protecting and restoring Taranaki and New Zealand's native biodiversity. The nine local schools participating in this program are Inglewood Primary, St. Patrick's Inglewood, Waitara Central, St. Joseph's Waitara, Kaimata, Waitoriki, Egmont Village, Norfolk School, and Huirangi School, with two children from each school attending.
The Trust also brought the Taranaki Conservation Community together to educate and engage our future generations on the significant and collaborative mahi happening within our region. Taranaki Kiwi Trust, the Department of Conservation, Taranaki Regional Council, and Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust engaged 258 students from Waitara Central School and Egmont Village School in the region's important conservation work. The Trust would like to acknowledge and thank Taranaki Electricity Trust, Venture Taranaki, and Greymouth Petroleum for their ongoing support of our Education Programmes.

Everett Park continues to provide the Trust with the perfect platform to engage the community, volunteers, rangatahi, tamariki, and supporters in the Trust's important mahi and vision. Over 10 events were held at the reserve this year, with over 187 attendees actively participating in trapping, track cutting, monitoring, planting, the Curious Minds education research programme, and other educational sessions.

The following schools and community groups helped our field team re-gas and re-lure the Trust's resetting trap network in the reserve while learning about the importance of pest control: Francis Douglas Memorial College students, Todd Energy, and Ballance. Rangatahi from Te Heru Māpara and Tupu ā nuku had the opportunity for hands-on learning about the tools and traps used for pest control and applied the skills learned in their courses to help with track maintenance.

Our team presented the Trust's vision and mission to various organisations, schools, and community groups. Talks and education sessions engaged Taranakipine, Rotary, Wild for Taranaki Biodiversity Forum, Swiss Bel Executive Group, NZ Forestry Harvesting, Birds NZ, Innerwheel, and NP Tramping Club about the important work of the Trust.

In summary, the Trust held or attended 42 events this financial year, engaging over almost 1,000 attendees.

	No. of people	Notes:
Contractors Evening	9 Contractors, Vol and Staff	The Trust hosted a contractor and volunteer evening to update and inform members about various key aspects. The event covered expectations and the importance of thinking like a predator when trapping, a refresh of health and safety protocols, and provided updates on the Trust's upcoming projects and goals.
Taranakipine	4 Vol 1 Staff	The Trust's supporter, Taranakipine, has staff members who volunteer to check a trapline along the Waitaha Stream. Trust staff provided expertise and trapping tips to Taranakipine employees, educating them on trapping techniques and engaging them in the Trust's project.
Volunteers	6 Vol 4 Staff	In August 2023, 6 volunteers contributed a total of 60 hours of time helping our field re-gas and re-lure our A12 and A24 trap network within the Pouiatoa. Our field team took the time during this activity to explain the Trust's pest control operations and why we do what we do.
NPBHS prefect trip	13 Students 1 Teacher 4 Staff 4 Vol	Every year, the prefects from NPBHS help the field team with regassing and reluring the A12 and A24 trap network in the Pouiatoa. This year the prefects came out for a day trip.
Conservation Education Sessions	6 Vol 5 Staff 258 Students	ETEC with the support of TRC, DOC, Taranaki Kiwi Trust and Rotokare provided education sessions and demonstrations on the important conservation work happening within the region.
Kaitiakitanga	Sept 17 Students 4 Staff Nov 18 Students 2 Staff March 19 Students 2 Staff June 19 Students 1 Staff	Youth Kaitiakitanga ambassadors for East Taranaki Environment Collective. The program consists of 4 workshops engaging Year 6, 7 and 8 children – from Inglewood, St Patrick's Inglewood, Waitara Central, St Joseph's Waitara, Kaimata, Waitoriki, Egmont Village, Norfolk and Huirangi – workshops are run by ETEC staff to teach our future generations about the importance of protecting and restoring our region's native biodiversity.

Research Project – impacts of harvesting on kiwi	*Aug* 2 Vol 1 Staff *Nov* 36 Vol 3 Staff	Trust staff educated forestry workers on the significance of a collective research project investigating the impacts of harvesting on kiwi populations. They also provided training for workers to help protect kiwi during the harvesting process. Blessing conducted out at site.
Curious Minds Education Programme	Oct 3 x sessions 1 Vol 2 Staff 18 students Per session *Nov* 2 x sessions 1 Vol 2 Staff 18 students *Per session* 1 x sessions 1 Vol 3 Staff 70 students *Feb* 2 Staff 9 students	Curious Minds is a Participatory Science Platform with funding distributed through Venture Taranaki. This year the Trust worked with Waitoriki School, Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust, and the Rotokare Youth Ambassadors. The project was Let's no beat around the bush: Developing an ecosystem health assessment for restored habitats. The aim of this project was to pull together different standard monitoring techniques that could be used to assess ecosystem health within a new area, or that could be used as a baseline measure that could be repeated over time, and that could guide management decisions for restoring an area.
Gateway	2	The Trust has hosted two students from Inglewood High School that have been doing work experience with the field team through the Gateway programme. Students have been learning about the pest control work and native species monitoring the Trust carries out. They have been out with the field team putting out new traps, checking existing DOC200 lines, track maintenance, and monitoring kiwi.

Advocacy Talks	Sept - *Rotary* 2 Staff 35 Guests Oct – *Biodiversity Forum* 2 Staff 70 Guests Nov – *Swiss Bel* 2 Staff 20 Guests Nov – *Kiwi Hui* 2 Staff 15 Guests Dec – *Volunteer Event* 5 Staff 70 Guests Feb – *Inner Wheel* 1 Staff 35 Guests April – *Birds NZ* 1 Staff 12 Guests June – *NP Tramping Club* 1 Staff 33 Guests	Throughout the year, the Trust has actively engaged with various organisations, schools, and community groups to share our vision and mission. Our team presented at multiple events. These talks and educational sessions have helped to raise awareness about our conservation efforts and foster a deeper understanding of the importance of protecting and restoring Taranaki and New Zealand's native biodiversity.
Tupu ā nuku	***Feb – Trap workshop/training*** 2 Staff 4 Rangatahi ***March – Trap Building workshop*** and track maintenance 3 Staff 15 Rangatahi ***June – Career Talk*** 2 Staff 20 Rangatahi	The Trust has a formal partnership with Ngāti Maru and participates in the Tupu ā nuku environmental workforce development programme led by Ngāti Maru. The Trust provides training and hands-on experience to the Tupu ā nuku team, sharing expertise with rangatahi and helping them connect to the taiao. Tupu ā nuku rangatahi check, rebait, and reset three trap lines each month for the Trust. In return, the Trust offers on-the-ground workshops, training, and opportunities for rangatahi to learn more about conservation work.

The Trust would like to congratulation the Trust's apprentice, Oliver Sleep, for completing his apprenticeship. Olly was employed by the Trust in 2022 as part of the Predator Free New Zealand apprentice scheme, Olly completed his two-year apprenticeship program in early 2024. He is pictured with his certificate. This program provided Olly with all the necessary skills to complete the NZQA Level 3 Certificate in Pest Operations and other related training, all through Te Kura Matatini o WITT – Western Institute of Technology. Olly also completed a two-day first aid course. The Trust is very proud of Olly's achievement and would like to extend a big thanks to all who have supported him and other apprentices along the way. These supporters include the Predator Free NZ Trust, WITT, Taranaki Kiwi Trust, Taranaki Mounga Project, Rotokare, Hollyford Trust, Paraninihi ki Waitotara, and Bryan Ritchie.

Everett Park Tree Planting	60 Attendees 3 Staff	The Trust holds the community agreement for pest management at Everett Park in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Pukerangiora Hapū. Thanks to the support of Todd Energy, over 400 trees were donated and planted at the Reserve. This tree planting event was a true display of community spirit, with Tupu ā nuku cadets digging the holes and tamariki from Kaimata, Huirangi, and Waitoriki schools helping to plant the trees.
Everett Park – A24 Trap Network	***Oct – Todd Energy*** 4 Staff 6 Vol ***Oct – Francis Douglas Memorial College*** 4 Staff 11 Students 1 Teacher ***Feb – Ballance*** 4 Staff 11 Vol	The Trust has over 160 A24 resetting traps in Everett Park to control the rat population. These traps are re-gassed and re-lured every 3-4 months by our field team, with assistance from the community, schools, and various organisations.
Kiwi Releases Maunga and Kaitake Range	***Kaitake Range – Methanex*** 2 Staff 5 Vol ***Maunga – Todd Energy*** 1 Staff 11 Vol ***Maunga – Taranakipine*** 1 Staff 4 Vol	The Trust believes that long-term conservation success hinges on collaboration. This year, our field team supported several other conservation organizations with kiwi monitoring, lizard monitoring, kiwi catching, and the translocation of kiwi. We were fortunate to share the special privilege of releasing kiwi during translocation efforts, with many of our key supporters helping to safely transport the birds to their new home. During these releases, the Trust's field team emphasized the importance of trapping, monitoring pests and native species, and working collectively to drive long-term behavioural change and conservation results.
Taranaki Environment Centre	10 Attendees 2 Staff	Staff and Trustees from ETEC brought together the Conservation Community to share learnings of the feasibility study. ETEC presented to the community the plans for the Taranaki Environment Centre and asked community for their feedback.

Kaimata School	32 Students 1 Teacher 2 Staff	Trust staff visited Kaimata School to give them advice and share expertise around the different types of traps to catch pests and monitoring that can be carried out to determine the best placement of traps.
Biodiversity Week	16 Students 2 Staff	During Biodiversity Week, the Trust engaged students from St. Joseph's Waitara to help tidy up Everett Park. The students removed eight tyres and a significant amount of rubbish from the reserve. They also learned about the Trust's mission to reduce pests in the reserve to enhance the native species living there.
Predator Control Hui	5 Staff 60 Attendees	The Trust organised a predator control hui to bring the conservation community together, providing a platform to share learnings, challenges, and successes in pest management.

Over the last 18 months, the Trust has provided local Inglewood High School students Mackenzie Leathers and Daniel Polata with opportunities to partake in the New Zealand Gateway programme. Gateway is designed to support school students' transition into the workforce by offering them workplace learning while still in secondary school. Mackenzie spent each Wednesday of 2023 with the Trust's team, learning about the importance of pest control, and pest and native species monitoring. Now, Daniel will spend each Wednesday of 2024 with us, gaining similar invaluable experience.

The Trust values providing a space for local students to gain hands-on experience, whether out in the bush or in our workshop, while sharing our knowledge and expertise with the future workforce. We are thankful for Mackenzie's help in 2023; Mackenzie was a keen learner who embraced all aspects of the mahi the Trust had to offer. Daniel, who has been with the Trust for six months now, is a passionate and hardworking young man. The Trust looks forward to continuing to support Daniel in his educational journey.

VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATION

Over the 2023-2024 year, our volunteers continued to support our efforts, contributing more than 2,000 hours of volunteer time and support. This year saw a shift in focus, with increased volunteer hours driven by pest control efforts at Everett Park. It is heartening to see our volunteer hours continue to grow, with the last two years recording the highest number of hours contributed by our volunteer network since the Trust's formation. Our achievements over the past couple of years would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our volunteers. They are the core of the Trust's success, and we are deeply grateful for the skills, expertise, hard work, enthusiasm, and passion they bring to our project.

Everett Park Initiatives

Everett Park has provided an excellent platform to engage and educate volunteers in our conservation efforts. The Trust has over 320 traps, including F-bomb, DOC250, resetting traps, and possum traps, within the project area. Five volunteers and rangatahi from Tupu ā nuku check and rebait DOC250, F-bomb, and possum traps monthly. We extend our thanks to Allan Nokes, David Jull, Nathan Hall, Sean and Colt Gardiner, Kevin Payne, and the Tupu ā nuku rangatahi. Additionally, over 160 A24 resetting traps targeting rats are relured and regassed every 3-4 months, with significant help from volunteers, organisations, and rangatahi. Special thanks to Todd Energy, Francis Douglas Memorial College, and Ballance for their assistance.

In November 2022, over 8 km of tracks were cut to install 300 traps at Everett Park, thanks to rangatahi from Te Heru Māpara and Tupu ā nuku these tracks were maintained this year to ensure safe and accessible routes for volunteers. Todd Energy supported the planting of over 400 trees, with Te Heru Māpara and Tupu ā nuku rangatahi helping dig the holes with tamariki from Waitoriki, Huirangi, and Kaimata helping to plant the trees. During Biodiversity Week, tamariki from St Joseph's Waitara cleaned up Everett Park, removing over 8 tyres and multiple bags of rubbish.

Field Team and Volunteer Network

Our field team, though small, achieves great things thanks to our volunteer network and contractors. We extend our gratitude to all volunteers and contractors who regularly check traps. Special thanks to Frank de Lange for completing monthly trap checks along Tarata Road and Tupu ā nuku rangatahi for checking Blue Mountain, Mohakau Road, and Quarry Road. The Trust has over 1,200 resetting traps targeting

rats and possums in the core Pouiatoa block. These are regassed and relured every six months in August and February. This provides vital protection for our kōkako population and other native species. Thanks to New Plymouth Boys High School prefects, mentors from Ngāti Mutunga, Taranaki Regional Council, the Department of Conservation, and other volunteers for helping with this work.

Downsizing and Relocation

This year, the Trust undertook the significant task of downsizing and moving premises, made easier by key volunteers and supporters. We thank Tudor Flooring and Mitre 10 New Plymouth for supplying materials at discounted rates. Special thanks to Rob and Sue Maetzig, Mathew Somerfield, Wayne Herbert, Jane Bowden-Dobson and Cherry from Sustainable Taranaki, Cindy and Russell Irwin, Bruce and the team at Combined Motors, and Daniel Polata from Inglewood High School Gateway Program. Your help and hard work are truly appreciated. We also thank Brady Gibbons of Gibbons Architects for designing a functional hub within our new compact workspace.

MenzShed Partnership

Our partnership with MenzShed New Plymouth has continued this year, with MenzShed building specially designed wooden boxes for transporting kiwi across the North Island. They built an additional 10 boxes to help translocate kiwi from Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari in Waikato to Taranaki. It was wonderful to engage our key supporters in helping The Mounga Project and Taranaki Kiwi Trust translocate kiwi back to the maunga and Kaitake Range.

Board of Trustees

This year, the Trust's board of trustees remained unchanged, playing a crucial role in setting and delivering our strategy and mission. Our board is dedicated to restoring and protecting native biodiversity within East Taranaki through a collaborative approach. We thank our trustees—Rob Maetzig, Aaron Chambers, Anaru Marshall, John Haylock, Gavin Faull, Sam Haultain, Gloria Campbell, and Jane Bowden-Dobson—for sharing their expertise, energy, wisdom, and passion. Special thanks to Rob Maetzig for his instrumental support, always there to listen and provide guidance, and for helping to progress the Taranaki Environment Centre with the help of Jane Bowden-Dobson.

Volunteer Recognition

Volunteers are special people who dedicate their time,

share their knowledge and skills, and often step out of their comfort zones to learn new abilities. This year, our team also supported another local community initiative, helping to stack shelves at the local food bank. As a Trust, we pride ourselves on providing a place for individuals to learn new skills while staying socially connected. We acknowledge and thank our team for sharing their knowledge and expertise, while helping our volunteer community grow and stay inspired.

The Trust values the input of our volunteers, and we wouldn't be able to achieve our outstanding conservation results without their contribution. Thank you for all that you do.

Over the year we have had volunteers help out in many areas and the team would like to thank the following volunteers and acknowledge the following activities that have taken place:

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- Chair of the Trust Rob Maetzig for providing outstanding support to our team as well as sharing your communication and media expertise. We would also like to acknowledge Rob's wife Sue

who is also always willing to lend a hand.

- The dedicated Frank de Lange and rangatahi from Tupu ā nuku for their time and commitment to predator trapping.
- The knowledgeable Kaye Corlett for her education skills and help provided to our team to deliver our Curious Mind programmes at Everett Park, and also taking the time to educate our local tamariki on the important work of the Trust.
- To Wendy and Russell Hale for always being there for our field team when they need help.
- All the amazing volunteers at MenzShed for helping to build kiwi transportation boxes.
- To the Tree Machine team and rangatahi from Tupu ā nuku who helped our team maintain close to 8km of track at Everett Park.
- To Rotary New Plymouth North for donating a container for the Trust to store materials.
- Students from New Plymouth Boys High and Francis Douglas Memorial College, and staff from Todd Energy and Ballance for helping with regassing and reluring our A12 and A24 trap networks.
- To our new volunteers that are committed to checking traps at Everett Park; Allan Nokes, David Jull, Nathan Hall, Sean and Colt Gardiner, Kevin Payne, and Tupu ā nuku rangatahi.
- Mackenzie Leathers and Daniel Polata for helping our field team with pest control, and pest and native species monitoring.
- Wayne Herbert for his artistic flair of creating stunning native bird wood carvings that he has both donated and loaned to the Trust for display.
- Our wonderful Trustees who volunteer their time to support and steer the direction of our Trust.
- Our backcountry volunteers - with a landscape sized project, and some pretty challenging terrain we are extremely thankful for these back country superstars.
- Taranaki Regional Council, Ngāti Mutunga and the Department of Conservation team who assisted with the New Plymouth High School Prefects trip. We thank you for your support to help mentor, lead and inspire our younger generation to be actively involved in conservation work.
- Mark Hale Contracting for helping the Trust keep on top of our tracks out to the Pouiatoa.
- Beck Helicopters for transporting gear for the Trust.
- TGM for their support to design and create the Trust's quarterly newsletter, and also support to develop signage.
- Moxwai for their support to keep our website up to date.
- Mark Chambers and Ashley Bates for helping demonstrate the important work of the Trust which was captured and featured in Lotto NZ advertising.
- Neil Barnes for helping to put together a plan for the Trust's shelter out at Purangi.
- Philip Armitstead and the team at Thomson O'Neil for their support and assistance with legal services.
- Rumatiki Timu, Anaru Marshall and Ngāti Maru for providing the Trust with both cultural and iwi support.
- Anaru White and Jaqui from Pukerangiora Hapū for providing cultural support and iwi support for our project at Everett Park and the proposed Taranaki Environment Centre.
- Jane Bowden-Dobson and Rob Maetzig for their continuous support and drive of the proposed Taranaki Environment Centre.
- Thank you to Rob and Sue Maetzig, Mathew Somerfield, Wayne Herbert, Jane Bowden-Dobson and Cherry from Sustainable Taranaki, Cindy and Russell Irwin, Bruce and the team at Combined Motors and Daniel Polata from Inglewood High School Gateway Program for their support to make the move to our new premises seamless.
- The team at Taranaki Kiwi Trust for always being there to help us out.
- Daniel Reardon for all his practical advice and time to ensure our workshop is running effectively and efficiently. We are so lucky to have you join our team.
- Thanks the team at Todd Energy, rangatahi from Te Heru Māpara and Tupu ā nuku and tamariki from Waitoriki, Huirangi and Kaimata for helping to plant over 400 trees at Everett Park.
- Holly Bracegridle Te Heru Māpara rangatahi who spent a week with our team learning about our important mahi and helping with our pest control efforts.
- Our wonderful volunteer base for everything you do!

Thank you for volunteering we couldn't do what we do without you!

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER INPUT

Our records show that this year was a busy year. We have estimated the value of work in-kind and volunteer hours for this year is $103,350. This included over 2,040 volunteer hours, equipment use, travel, donated equipment and trade personnel time. Plus an additional $229,095 which includes time donated by Taranaki Regional Council and Department of Conservation staff, goat control and a 1080 drop undertaken by the Department of Conservation.

COLLABORATION

The Trust is committed to collaboration as we believe it is crucial for achieving long-term conservation success. Our mission is to build strong, authentic relationships with all our partners and the conservation community by sharing our expertise, knowledge, and skills as capacity allows.

This financial year, the Trust has actively supported various conservation organisations. We have contributed to lizard surveys at Rotokare, assisted with kiwi catching at Rotokare and Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari in the Waikato, and aided in the translocation of kiwi on the maunga and Kaitake Range for the Taranaki Mounga Project and Taranaki Kiwi Trust.

Our research partnership with Parininihi ki Waitotara, Ngāti Maru, Taranaki Kiwi Trust, and NZ Forestry focuses on understanding the impacts of kiwi in pine plantations during different harvesting phases.

This collaboration will significantly contribute to the conservation community's knowledge of the potential impacts of harvesting to North Island brown kiwi.

The importance of future collaboration was a key message at a recent pest management hui organised by the Trust's Conservation Manager, Kat Strang. Hosted in partnership with Ngāti Maru at the iwi's Te Upoko o Te Whenua marae, the hui aimed to share insights on pest management strategies, foster new connections, and discuss regional conservation efforts. More than 60 attendees from various organisations, including Taranaki Kiwi Trust, Rotokare, Taranaki Regional Council, Department of Conservation, and others, participated in the event.

The Trust will continue to actively support other conservation organisations and extend our gratitude to the conservation community for their ongoing support and expertise.

We are all in this together.


GALLAGHER


Sanctuary
Mountain

MANAGER'S REPORT

This year has been another busy and transformative year for the Trust. With the Jobs for Nature program winding up at the end of this financial year, the Trust's Board and team have been implementing several strategies to ensure the Trust stands in good stead and continues to deliver on its mission to protect and restore the biodiversity in East Taranaki.

Over the last three years, our focus has been on building strong and respected partnerships with our community, partners, volunteers, and supporters. We recognise that long-term conservation success requires community collaboration. I am extremely proud of the relationships and support we have built and will continue to foster. We thank all our existing and new supporters; without your support, we wouldn't be able to carry out our important mission.

This year, the Trust relocated to new premises to reduce overhead costs. This significant move was made possible by our dedicated team and the support of our community. We are grateful to the Taranaki Stadium Community Trust for their assistance in facilitating the move. Additionally, the Trust has secured several small pest control and monitoring contracts, diversifying our income streams. As capacity allows, the Trust hopes to grow contracting income further. Corporate sponsorship has also increased over the last three years. These strategies—reducing overheads, diversifying income, and increased corporate sponsorship—will help ensure the Trust's stability as Jobs for Nature funding winds down.

People are the core of any organisation's success. I couldn't be more proud of the passionate and dedicated individuals on our team. Over the last three years, we have invested in our people through training, development, and upskilling. This investment has allowed our team members to flourish and has strengthened the Trust's succession plan. To our field team—Kat, Jayden, Corbyn, and Olly—thank you for your hard work. Continue to embrace opportunities, support each other, and share your passion with our community.

The Trust has experienced exceptional growth over the last financial year, with increased community engagement, education, and a growing number of volunteers. The management and success of these initiatives and projects wouldn't have been possible without the administrative and financial support of Nadine Patterson and Laura Beaty. To our Board of Trustees, thank you for your guidance and support this year. We are fortunate to have a team of passionate experts driving our projects forward. Special thanks to Rob Maetzig, our Chair, for his unwavering support, generosity and dedication.

To the Taranaki Conservation Community—you are all amazing. We are privileged to work alongside many projects doing outstanding work both for our environment and future generations. To our funders, supporters, and volunteers, we cannot thank you enough. Your investment and belief in our mission make all the hard work worthwhile. To our partners—Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Mutunga, Pukerangiora Hapū, Tupu ā nuku, Parininihi ki Waitotara, and the Taranaki Kiwi Trust—thank you for your support. Collaboration and community are key to achieving long-term results and collective outcomes.

Thank you to everyone for making this year so successful. After four remarkable years with the Trust, I have decided to embrace a new challenge. My time here has been incredibly fulfilling, and I feel privileged to have worked alongside so many dedicated and inspiring people. I am confident that the Trust's mission will continue to thrive under the leadership of Kat Strang, our Chair, and the Board. It has been an honour to work with Kat, who exemplifies professionalism with her strong work ethic, connections, and vision. Kat is also well-supported by our competent and dedicated team. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to Jayden, Corbyn, Olly, Nadine, and Laura for the significant roles they play each day in making the Trust as successful as it is. Your commitment and passion are the foundation to the Trust's achievements.

As I move into a new role, I look forward to supporting the Trust from the side lines and watching its future successes. To the team, Board and community that supports the Trust, keep being awesome! Your support, generosity, skills, and shared vision are making a significant difference for our environment and future generations.

Thank you once again for a wonderful year.

Rebecca Somerfield
General Manager
East Taranaki Environment Collective
July 2024

BEQUEST

Local man leaves enduring legacy for East Taranaki Environment Collective

An unassuming act of generosity has left a lasting legacy that will shape the community for generations to come. East Taranaki man Ian Bruce Irwin – known to all as Bush – has made a remarkable decision to support his local community through a thoughtful bequest.

Ian Bruce Irwin was born in 1952 and raised on his parent's farm at Kohuratahi, 80 km east of Stratford. He was educated at the local Marco School before boarding at New Plymouth Boys' High School.

After leaving school, Ian joined his father's shearing gang. When not shearing he would be possum hunting deep in the rugged eastern Taranaki bush. At just 18 years old Ian purchased his first farm and later bought two more properties in the area, including the family land where he had always lived. Ian lived for farming, if he wasn't watching his favourite sports on TV or enjoying a catch-up with family and friends, he would be outdoors appreciating the environment.

Ian died suddenly of a heart attack in August 2022 at Kohuratahi. In his will he earmarked a generous sum to benefit local organisations - including the East Taranaki Environment Collective (ETEC).

ETEC chair Rob Maetzig believes the modest bequest has planted the seeds of a lasting legacy.

"The legacy left by Ian Irwin will have a positive impact in perpetuity, benefiting the East Taranaki community and contributing to the protection of our precious ecosystem and biodiversity for years to come," he said.

Ian Irwin's contribution to ETEC will indeed be a gift that keeps on giving, as half of the bequest will be transferred to the Taranaki Foundation's endowment fund. The funds from this bequest will be invested, with income and investment growth distributed annually to ETEC as a grant.

"This means that Ian's generosity will continue to provide essential support for ETEC for generations. The impact of his gift will not only be immediate, but will continue to support the community for years," says Rob.

Josh Hickford, CE Taranaki Foundation, says: "We are extremely grateful to receive our first bequest to the East Taranaki Environment Collective Fund with Taranaki Foundation. Giving to a Community Foundation reflects optimism for the future. While the donor may not directly reap the rewards, the act of making a selfless contribution which benefits generations yet to come."

Taranaki Foundation

East Taranaki Environment Trust
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
Revenue			
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	1	671,019	843,716
Revenue from providing goods or services	2	33,238	21,877
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	3	20,879	4,646
Other revenue	4	2,094	1,213
Total Revenue		**727,230**	**871,451**
Expenses			
Volunteer and employee related costs	5	442,766	498,001
Costs relating to providing goods or services	6	110,266	192,052
Grants and donations made	7	(5,000)	-
Other expenses	8	22,897	24,801
Total Expenses		**570,929**	**714,854**
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		**156,301**	**156,597**

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Over the year we have had support from the following organisations and businesses. We are extremely thankful for both new and continued support.

Our Partners

Ngāti Maru

Ngāti Mutunga

Taranaki Kiwi Trust

Pukerangiora Hapū

Parininihi ki Waitotara

Tupu ā Nuku

Funders:

TOI Foundation

TET

Save the kiwi

Jobs for Nature | Mahi mō te Taiao

methanex the power of agility

Taranakipine

Todd Energy

Predator Free NZ

Pacific Conservation and Development Trust

Aotearoa Gaming Trust

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawbai

Mazda Foundation

Lottery Grants Board Funds for your community

New Plymouth District Council

Curious Minds He Hihiri i te Mahara

venture Taranaki Te Puna Umanga

Taranaki Regional Council

Wild for Taranaki Tō Tātou Taiao – Maranga Papatūānuku

Greymouth Petroleum

PRIMO

tgm creative

Choose us at Z.

SPONSORSHIP/SUPPORTERS:

- +More Taranaki
- Baker Tilly Staples Rodway
- Rotary North New Plymouth
- Razz Print
- New Plymouth Tramping Club
- Bidfoods
- Cut price rentals
- Johnstons Motors
- Ballance
- Moxwai
- Combined Motors
- Thompson O'Neil
- Russell and Wendy Hale
- Mark Hale – Hale Contracting