

# **Kiwi Corridor Project 2021 - 2024**

## **Otangaroa, Fern Flat, Honeymoon Valley to Mangamuka**

*Working together to restore our Ngahere ora/ healthy native forest*

**Communication Letter 14 August 2022 to:**

**Hapu and Marae contacts**

**Honeymoon Valley Landcare Trustees**

**Kiwi Corridor Project Governance group**

**Save the Kiwi staff**

### ***Introduction***

This communication letter is to keep you all updated on the Kiwi Corridor Project overall. We thank you for your interest and local efforts in all that you are doing, and we ask you for your feedback and input to this project now and in future.

With Covid over the past two years, the Jobs for Nature (J4N) Kiwi Corridor Project focus has been to “get on with the job in the outdoors” since funding started early 2021. Therefore the in-person meetings have been to the minimum, but we miss the opportunities for personal contact and local networking.

We really look forward to some fresh air get-togethers when the weather improves and days are longer!

### ***Organisational Overview***

Expanding a successful community-led predator control and kiwi conservation project of 1800 Ha that began in 2015 to include some of Northland’s most ecologically diverse forests, to create an Otangaroa - Maungataniwha - Mangamuka Kiwi Corridor of 7000 Ha.

#### **Joint initiative with neighbouring landcare / Iwi conservation groups in 3 areas:**

- Honeymoon Valley Landcare Trust (with support from Te Kauhanga Marae, Peria Charitable Trust)
- Otangaroa Landcare (with support from Maumahara Marae, and the Whangaroa Papa Hapū)
- Te Rotoawanui O Mangamuka Ahu Whenua Trust Biodiversity and Conservation Project.

Honeymoon Valley Landcare Trust umbrellas this larger Jobs for Nature (J4N) Otangaroa - Maungataniwha - Mangamuka Kiwi Corridor Project on Maungataniwha Range and surrounds, and this is funded by Save the Kiwi until mid 2025. Over 6000 ha has been implemented on both private and public conservation land with this serviced pest management.

This Kiwi Corridor Project is so much wider in area, nature and concept name than our local Honeymoon Valley Trust, and we acknowledge all hapu and community members involved.

#### ***The Governance group who provide oversight of the project are:***

Shayne Waldron (Honeymoon Valley Landcare Trust) 027 3377 925 waldron@math.auckland.ac.nz  
Ngawai Tuson (Te Rotoawanui O Mangamuka Ahu Whenua Biodiversity and Conservation Project) 022 699 2756  
Dean Baigent-Mercer (Otangaroa Landcare) dean.baigent.mercer@gmail.com  
Lesley Baigent (Kiwi Coast) 09 4087800 baigentsnz@gmail.com  
Steve Allan (Predator control and monitoring) 027 653 4386 debbieallan007@gmail.com  
Jamie Werner (DoC, Kaitaia) jwerner@doc.govt.nz

#### **The Governance group employs and works with our on-the-ground Project Manager:**

Bernard Coogan - 021 206 6719

## **Kiwi Corridor Project Management Report from Bernard Coogan April - July 2022**

- *Positive progress with our project area expansion; continuing set up of trap lines, and maintenance of existing trap lines. Now over 72 km of new traplines created and over 32 km existing trap lines upgraded throughout the whole project. Another 27 km of traplines are in process to be completed.*
- *Majority of trapping hardware has been installed. Track cutting and infrastructure deployment is suspended until the start of spring Early part of winter was very wet. Waiting on DOC250's traps to be added to some of the lines. Autumn possum knockdown completed in Honeymoon Valley by financially assisted fur trappers. Otangaroa running a year round possum control effort programme using SA possum traps along their mustelid & cat traplines.*
- *Mustelid traps set up and mapped on neighbouring O'Rourke property, and servicing begun monthly.*
- *Fern Flat Shepherd Road crew meeting to help setup on Trap.nz and begin collating their own data. A lot of enthusiasm in that community. Two new traplines now fully set up there.*
- *Otangaroa and other Fern Flat tracks are in process.*
- *Trap checks and baiting have moved to monthly over winter, and will be fortnightly in summer.*
- *Over 562 mustelid traps deployed across the project and more than 547 feral cat and possum traps deployed across the project.*
- *Landcare Day in Peria in May well attended - Trapping how to, weed priorities and "Know your Dog" workshop.*
- *Our budget is on track. Our spending has caught up with the budget. Over the next few months we aim to spend below budget so there is extra money to be spent next summer. Winter is generally a quieter time for mustelids and possums.*
- *KPMG auditors had positive comments on the organisation of the Honeymoon Valley Landcare Trust. In particular the record keeping and robust process for approving contractor payments.*
- *KPMG suggestions have been implemented – "Kiwi Corridor" account reconciliation process. Contractors without signed contracts and H & S plans have now been amended and updated. Still to get Insurance finalised.*
- *Bernard did 5 day trip to Pureora and Whirinaki with DoC Kaitaia. Interesting trip and made some good contacts and got the feel of the other Jobs for Nature projects around Kaitaia.*
- *Kiwi listening devices deployed in Honeymoon Valley and surrounding project area. Results are mixed with some sites showing no calls where there had been Kiwi calling 2 years ago. Other sites further into the DOC land, away from private residences showing kiwi's present.*
- *200 DOC200 doubles stored in shed awaiting deployment. Most of these will remain as backups or set aside for future expansion. Awaiting on pick up of DOC250's from Ngawha prison for addition to lines over summer of 2022-2023.*
- *Group communication networks have been setup on the "Signal" independent network for contractors to report back on trap checking results.*
- *Our Project Annual Plan 2022-2023 of this Save The Kiwi Project has been finalised and submitted, our main funders are Save the Kiwi.*

**Pests killed are recorded on Trap.nz.** This year in the 7 months up to the end of July, the whole project has killed over 3600 animal pests: possums, rats, stoats, weasels, feral cats, hedgehogs.

The Otangaroa crew got rid of 4568 pests in their area of the project in the 1.5 years from Jan 2021 - June 2022. A great effort!



## Challenges

**Our Forest taonga ecosystem is under stress** It is not just the fauna (native birds, insects and animal life) that need our care, but the actual forest and complex ecosystem (flora) that support them. Decades of possum browse impact are showing up as canopy tree stress and defoliation on the mature forest, more extreme in places that have not had locals doing this possum hunting mahi. Our Kiwi Corridor Project requires future co-ordinated possum management amongst all our communities. The possum monitoring in our project began last year and is part of the information gathering, but resourcing this work in the forest is key in future.

### **Roaming dogs in the Maungataniwha Range are a key threat to the Kiwi in our area now**

This is verified by our trail camera footage in Maungataniwha Forest, particularly recently. Our Kiwi Listening Devices that were out in June and July indicate a variation to kiwi populations monitored in previous years, and we are concerned they may be reducing. We need your help and suggestions as to what to do.

**Contact:** Lesley Baigent - Dog handler and dog owner educator, Kiwi Coast advocate  
or Bernard Coogan - Kiwi Corridor Project Manager



### **Looking ahead 2022 - 2023**

Further expansion above our 7000 ha will require more funding. We hope the project area can grow and stretch even more comprehensively in future, for example filling in the gaps down Fern Flat and Honeymoon Valley to Kauhanga Marae, Peria.

We welcome the Nga Awa Peria Oruru River Restoration Project starting. This Mountains to the Sea project aligns well with the landcare / kaitiaki work being done on Maungataniwha Range and in upper Honeymoon Valley, and we would like to extend our pest control project down the catchment of Honeymoon Valley to Kauhanga Marae if we can get more funding.

We acknowledge Mana whenua to our hapu, and we acknowledge that the Ngahere, awa and associated taonga need more care. We would very much like to strengthen and deepen our understanding and respect for our local ngahere, awa and whenua in accordance with those that have Mana whenua.

Matariki and winter are natural planning seasons, with more action in summer. We are looking ahead through 2022 to 2023 to shape the future approach to Kaitiakitanga in your rohe. We welcome your input and suggestions for the coming year.

The winter wet is harder work wise, but spring is around the corner for more outdoor action.

We have a Pest Control Contractors Day coming up early September.

### **Some positive Key Messages to promote in our local communities are;**

- Know and value our taonga (flora and fauna), Love our biodiversity; Kiwi and other birds that need active ongoing Pest Control
- Building more local community capacity practical skills - action on the ground
- Improving cultural understanding, so we are more aware caretakers and kaitiaki
- Awa/ Streams, natural stream vegetation that hosts our native fauna species - care of our catchments
- Weed Action - stream sides, plantation forestry follow up, garden escapes
- The Next Generation of Kaitiaki - our kids doing outdoor experiential learning

**Anyone wanting to share in this please contact us so we can work in together.**

## ***We can offer***

**Opportunities for part-time local employment** for fit folks interested in “tramping with a purpose” = doing pest control mahi. Anyone wanting to experience this work is welcome to come along for a day with one of our pest control contractors to see if they want to take it further. Please contact Bernard Coogan - Project Manager.

**Pop up Demonstration and Landcare Info Tent** that we can bring for a day to meet, network and share what is going on so far in your area - Contact Yvonne Steinemann.

**Funding for Wananga** related to this project is available - Contact Shayne Waldron.

**Signage locally** with our key messages, bilingual if possible would be wonderful - Contact Yvonne



We are happy to meet and share with hapu and local groups about the project so far. We welcome your representation, input and direction on the Kiwi Corridor Project Governance group and the Honeymoon Valley Landcare Charitable Trust (who administer the Kiwi Corridor Project).

The Trust and Governance Group meet twice per year, so please contact us if you want to be part of these teams or just come along or input into our meetings and work in any way.

***Our next Kiwi Corridor get-together and Governance/ Trust meeting day will be in October 2022 - date and place to be advised soon.***

Thank you all for your local mahi, and your interest and efforts with this project,

Yvonne Steinemann - Secretary Honeymoon Valley Landcare Trust  
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Shayne Waldron - Honeymoon Valley Landcare Trustee 027 3377 925 [waldron@math.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:waldron@math.auckland.ac.nz)

Bernard Coogan - Kiwi Corridor Project Manager 021 206 6719

