



MRHLG Inc COMMITTEE MEETING

3 October 2023, 7pm, on Zoom

1. Formalities
 - a. Present: Lynne Lucas, Brian Putt, Maxine Dignan, Casey Campbell & Jen Ritchie-Campbell, Jo Leather & MaryAnne Schaab
 - b. Apologies: Marj Cox, Doug Jane, Phil Shepherd
 - c. Previous minutes confirmed as a true and correct record (Brian/Lynne)
 - d. Correspondence – as circulated – received (Brian/Lynne)
2. Trapper's Report (no report received)
3. Treasurer's Report - Jen spoke to her report (Jen/Maxine)
 - Three households have paid their annual subs along with donations, totalling \$560.
 - Final STK grant instalment \$10,000 plus GST.
 - Interest earned on all accounts \$429.24.
 - July and August trapper invoices totalled \$5,320.11.
 - To date 47 member households have paid their 2023 annual subscriptions – this is now the same level as 2022. Overall, we have received \$9,440 from subs and donations this year. At the same point in 2022 we had received \$7,611.
 - Total funds on hand as at 29 Sept 2023: \$52,906.28

Funding updates –

Brian has done some follow up. Been putting a good story together for Foundation Nth, especially if we can link up with hapū/iwi groups and add an educational element

- a. Jo been working on advocacy report – proposes try Foundation Nth, iwi link necessary. Jo keen to find someone else to drive funding applications – Rebekah happy to work with Jo and eventually take over. Moved we accept offer (Jo/Brian)
 - b. NRC biofund application – no response yet, thanks to all for feedback after last meeting.
 - c. Follow-up with Willow-Jean Pryme (Conservation Minister) re DOC funding – no positive response yet – try again after election
 - d. Wainui/Eljon Fitzgerald, Gallagher & other groups re funding possibilities – spoke to Matauri Bay group, also Eljon – and not a position to do anything currently – possibility of inviting Eljon to a lunch meeting, to strengthen relationship – see when he's available
4. Kiwi monitoring/taxon, trail cameras, etc. Jo spoke to her report: Good news on the kiwi front on all counts.

Graham was on the move from the middle of September his signal location moved back into the gully where he had nested. His activity plummeted from 8.5 hours to 5.5 hours over a week, we thought hopefully he is about to sit on an egg again. Good news when we listened again this week he was back in fast mode and incubating his second egg of the season. Fingers crossed this time he is more successful.

Meanwhile Terry is still safely in his puriri tree burrow. The first photographs showed him hopping in and out of the burrow and feeding in the leaf litter close to the nest area. He was joined by a large cheeky rat. A call to our amazing trapper and within 24 hours we had a military operation in place to catch the rat. A week later 5 rats caught and finally a night of none on the camera. Without his transmitter which allows us to get such amazing camera footage we would not have known his peaceful nest was being disturbed and be able to respond so quickly.

Even though rats are not significant threat for kiwi eggs Terry was more relaxed on the footage once the rat was absent. The message, even though we thought our mammalian pest control was good rats are everywhere and (we saw one and caught 5), they will be back.

On another note a vet in our group was part of an amazing team effort to save a female kiwi from being very close to dying after being hit by a car in September. She had multiple injuries and intensive treatment at Bay of Islands Veterinary Clinic for 5 days until she was well enough for DOC to transfer

her to the rehab place in Whangarei. It was a great opportunity to make connections with Massey Wildlife Base and Kiwi Coast's Lesley came and helped show staff how to handle, tube feed and feed sick kiwi. Named Rose, she is doing well and at this stage sometime before Christmas will be returned to her home in the Puketi Forest.

Trail Cameras: Richard Wright keen to see if he could come up with programme for analysis of kiwi call data. Rebekah found link applicable to our cameras. Information received from 'Wildlife' who stock trail cameras, a series of 15, that feed info back to central camera (cellphone in future) so less disturbance for birds. \$450+GST per camera. NRC & DOC have them. Jo to contact for more info. Need to trial – monitoring kiwi and/or tracking predators.

Brian – interesting how other groups monitor large numbers of cameras.

Paul Smalley, Richard Israel at Orua Bay still plagued by pigs. Possibly lessened problem recently – trapping been successful. Jo spoke re different 'silent' rifles (air rifle – 303)

Notes on dead kiwi – refer Casey's notes re find of dead kiwi on Mark Walls' property. Casey added some background, suggests we let members know about this & keep an eye out for any threat. Reminder to take any injured kiwi to BoI Vets – DOC approved/authorised.

DOC suggest that kiwi killed by dog but later consumed by pigs. Two dogs sighted on Radar Hill ridge – twice in last week. Refer to Jonathon Fulton, already hunting in the area and Ronaki. Has said he'll come as soon as he can if informed pigs are present.

Further discussion re pigs at Marble Bay Properties and value of focusing on pig hunting. Need to ask Jonathon if he's happy to be contacted (Brian)

Our group could gather information about who's hunting and catching (to provide more data to help with management).

MaryAnne – Not able to mention pig issues in Rattler – risk of random hunters coming in. Talk to Phil Shepherd to try and find a solution (Brian) Also talk to Ronaki/David Rhodes.

Jo has worked on advocacy plan prior to looking at permit application

5. Communications & PR –

Road signs not yet installed

Article submitted for Whispers

6. Letter to members re strategic review – Brian & Lynne to liaise re something for the Rattler

7. *Annual Plan review*

Rat Knockdown – doesn't appear to be happening this year, but there has been some promotion through the Tauranga Bay Community Assn.

MRHLG volunteer drive – no update – Kaeo Xmas parade

Maxine – note that it would be worthwhile to think about the visibility of 'other at-risk species' in our annual and other planning – Jo agrees. Lynne – could include 'species of month' for Rattler to help build awareness and if people are encouraged to let us know about species on their properties, we could build a body of information.

Next meeting – 21 Nov TBC – Need to prep for AGM – Kaeo Xmas parade 10 December. Marae opening 11 November.

Signed by Brian Putt (Chair): _____

Date: _____