



Mahinepua - Radar Hill Landcare Group Inc

www.radarhill.org.nz
(Incorporated 2002)

CHAIR'S REPORT - JANUARY, 2023

The wet and cyclonic start to 2023 did not deter our Kiwi heroes. We have a new young recruit to replace the aging Fred, he's named Terry and has stepped up to the mark with energy and vigour. Both Graham and Terry have successfully hatched eggs and raised chicks this Spring. We can only assume that their success is repeated across our rohe by other Kiwi couples.

Attached is the summary record of the group's activities in 2023. Membership is up largely the result of our trusty treasurer's tenacious invoicing. It's pleasing to see because it means that nearly half of the households in our area are members. They are seeing the emerging benefits of our successful trapping regime across the rohe - stunning Pohutukawa blossom this summer and native trees and shrubs flourishing as possum are hit hard by the trapping.

A special thank you goes out to our trapper Lyndon Hurst! His focussed trapping skills, honed to the needs of the many different locations, are bringing tangible rewards to our environment. Trapping success is up 19% on 2022.

Our volunteer hours and Kiwi call counts are down on 2022, largely a reflection of the wet winter. It's hard to entice listeners to sit around in the damp on cold winter evenings listening for our kiwi friends. They stay inside too! Jo, and Maryanne have mastered the tedious interpretations to the Kiwi call recorder spectrograms. We secured several recorders and placed them in strategic locations around the rohe. A big thank you to the listening team for their tireless efforts.

This Kiwi call information gives direction for the Kiwi population survey which is underway this month; January 2024. The ever-reliable Lesley Baigent, vet and Kiwi guardian is conducting the survey with her trusty Kiwi tracker dog, Yagi. We have much to thank Lesley for. She guides us and advises us all year on so many issues. She is a bright and ever reliable beacon for our group.

A highlight for the group was being awarded two environmental awards at the NRC annual community awards – a very special achievement. We've adopted the revised constitution and redrafted the strategic plan (Casey's work) – both are on the website and open to comment.

We made a big presence at the Kaeo Xmas fair in December. Our treasured Kiwi, chick and eggs are a magic drawcard. For most people this is the first time they can touch or see a real Kiwi. We gained a few names for Kiwi Aversion Training for Dogs ('KATS') and volunteers. Lesley runs the KATS programme which is a great success for any dogs attending.

Biggest disappointment in 2023 was losing our DoC community funding after a decade of funding support. This funding cut has affected most Landcare groups in Tai Tokerau. We have been too successful. Kiwi status has been adjusted by DoC from "endangered" to "conservation dependent" in Tai Tokerau. This has lowered our funding leverage with benefactors – an unanticipated outcome of DoC's action for all community groups reliant on charitable funding.

Our **big task for 2024** is to secure **\$40-50,000** funding to allow our trapping regime to continue through 2025. Any contact you may have with environmental benefactors will be gratefully followed up by the committee.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the committee members for their relentless efforts throughout the year – Maxine for administrative services; Jen for caring for the money; Lynne for keeping the *Rattler* alive; Jo for coping with DoC and many other tasks; Maryanne for translating the spectrograms with Jo, Casey for keeping the trapper records and Phil for sage advice. Without your strength and commitment Mahinepua-Radar Hill Landcare would collapse. We need more helpers to continue our success. Anyone ready to step up!!

Happy New Year! Nga Mihi o te Tau Hou,

Brian Putt
Chair – Mahinepua Radar Hill Landcare Inc.