



# Mahinepua - Radar Hill Landcare Group.

[www.radarhill.org.nz](http://www.radarhill.org.nz)

## CHAIR'S REPORT 2022

### Mahinepua – Radar Hill Landcare Group Inc.

Coming out of Covid restrictions this year has meant that we have been able to take part in various community hui, seminars and groups supporting kiwi protection and environmental enhancement.

Our first task this year was to resolve the differences with DoC over our Community agreement which gives us access to DoC public reserves within the identified rohe of Mahinepua – Radar Hill. This agreement had been on hold for more than two years pending resolution of a dispute over some of the obligations being placed on the Landcare group under the provisions of the draft agreement. By meeting with the DoC officers responsible, Jo Leather and I were able to resolve the matter with a minor amendment to the contentious clause. By mid-year we had the signed agreement finalized.

Some of our committee took part in two hui arranged by DoC and NRC in support of the Predator Free 2050 campaign. The local meeting at Kerikeri and the regional meeting at Whangarei gave us a good idea of which groups were seen as high performers rewarded with large operating grants. A clear outcome from the meetings was the observation that the focus on predators left the possum population out on a limb. The same applies to feral cats and rats. The rats remain the principal food source for mustelids through autumn and winter before ground dwelling birds hatch. They need to be targeted.

I attended the National Kiwi Hui held this year at the Living Springs camp, Banks Peninsula. Again, this hui revealed how some community groups have access to significant funding resources while others like ours operate on the bare minimum. The hui did reveal the amazing work being done in kiwi husbandry, management and genetics which will have a long-term value.

In July our committee and members put a large effort into the kiwi listening programme which had been abandoned because of Covid in 2021. The results of the listening campaign remain encouraging and confirm the value of our Trapper's work over the last few years. The kiwi call results are in the progress graphs attached to this report. A very big thank you is extended to all the volunteers who put in many hours sitting in the winter night air listening out for our vocal kiwi.

Throughout the year Doug Jane has continued to monitor our faithful male kiwi, Fred and Graham. They have both raised chicks during the spring and much of their activity has been captured on the Landcare cameras situated near their nesting sites.

This raises our next serious concern – renewing our Wildlife Act authority for placing transmitters on our two male kiwi so that their activities can be tracked through the year. The application for renewal was first lodged back in 2019 and in October 2022 this year, we received a rejection from DoC. There was no explanation and no assistance or guidance about why the authority request was rejected. A fresh application has been lodged in the hope that the authority will be granted to allow another period of transmitter activity. Outside of Whangarei Heads, Fred and Graham are the only two kiwi in Tai Tokerau who carry transmitters in the wild. We consider the information Doug gathers is of significant regional and national importance. We are indebted to his consistent technical assistance.

The year ended on a high note with our display stall at the Kaeo Santa Parade Fair in December. The weather forced the fair to be relocated to the Kaeo Memorial Hall. The committee installed a significant display table showing off our kiwi, event pamphlets and selling t-shirts. Our new banner was on display

and our efforts were rewarded with a large amount of interest, particularly for the dog training programme and general interest in the Landcare activities.

Overall, the committee is very satisfied with the performance of our Landcare Group this year. The volunteer hours are significantly up on the past year – almost double. Our Trapper has excelled himself with total trapping up 240% on last year. Our membership has virtually doubled which is a good sign of the commitment which the community is making towards Landcare management.

The committee extends a huge thank you to our Trapper, Lyndon Hurst, for his competent and thorough service throughout 2022.

The big task for 2023 will be to secure funding for the future to keep up the level of trapping activity which we have generated this year.

Can I say a special thank you to the committee members who, throughout the year, have picked up tasks as and when they were needed and shown total dedication to the needs of our Landcare Group. A special thanks to Jen for her management of the money through the year as Treasurer, while attending to many additional tasks. Also, a special thanks to Lynne for stepping in as editor of The Rattler and producing a regular newsy update for members on the activities of our group.

A good note to finish on is the unveiling of the Mahinepua – Radar Hill Landcare website. The new modernised format which is the voluntary work of Dave Fox with help from Jo Leather and Casey Campbell, awaits your inspection. The website is very attractive, engaging and easy to use. It will become a focus of the recording of our activities over the next year. We are greatly indebted to Dave for his time and skill in putting the renewed website together.

Finally, thank you to all the residents who have supported our Landcare Group as volunteers and paying members.

**Brian Putt**  
**Chairperson**  
**January 2023**

