



Tennyson Inlet Islands Trust

Supporters Newsletter - Spring 2022


This edition of our newsletter contains a copy of our recent Department of Conservation Management report submitted by our Chairman.

As always, if you would like to volunteer with us, provide a penguin box, or make a donation, please contact one of the committee members, or complete the form in this newsletter.

Trapping Report YTD 2022

We now have the following traps installed and operating:

Location	Type of trap	
	DOC 200s	A24s
Tawhitinui Island	22 (up from 15)	43
Awaiti Island	5	4 (up from 2)
Tarakaipa Island	6	
Mainland (Odlins Reserve)		7
On hand (yet to be installed)		24
Double trap boxes	9	



February – Tawhitinui

The refreshing of the A24 traps was done over two fine days in mid-February. The DoC 200s were cleaned and reset with peanut butter lure plus the penguin boxes were checked. There is a mix of ALP (automatic lure pump) flavours mostly chocolate, some nut butter and some of the pig blood.

Some maintenance of the trapline track was carried out, and access along it is still very good.

Total A24 strike number was 191, with 58 of those from the 12 recently placed A24s.

Trapping Update cont...

In late May all the DoC200s were checked and recorded 5x rats plus another in early June. It appears that even with regular checking the DoC200s have a low catch rate compared to the A24 strikes. Some of the DoC200 were removed for repairs (new trigger fitted etc).

There was an issue with one of the A24s (continual leaking gas) and this was returned to Goodnature for service. It was subsequently replaced with a new trap, lure and gas.

One of the A24 had been massively chewed, the cap has a hole in it and the body of the trap also has a hole in it. It is still functioning ok but may have to be replaced.



The cameras are back on Tawhitinui, one at A24 #50 overlooking a corflute box and the other is at the NE end overlooking a hollowed out 1/2 Beech log which has water in it.

Awaiti

On March 22nd the A24s were refreshed with 9x strikes. Two more A24s were installed on the ridge.

Headland (Odlins Reserve)

In early May the A24s were refreshed and recorded 33 strikes which is quite an increase since last time. Once again, a mix of lure flavours was used.

Trapping summary

The report by Derek Brown on our trapping performance has pointed to a number of improvements that we can make to our trapping network. Work is already underway towards meeting the recommendations.

The A24s continue to prove their worth and their 4 monthly service intervals makes the job of servicing the islands far easier as compared to the DoC 200s.

July 2022 - Tawhitinui, Awaiti

July 23rd a fine day for refreshing the traps on Tawhitinui with an enthusiastic team of nine, three on A24s, five on DOC200s and track clearing, and one checking and seating penguin boxes. We were pleased to welcome a DOC representative for a first visit to the islands. Very adept at resetting DOC200s.

Since the refreshing of traps on Tawhitinui in February, the 20x DOC200s were checked again on May 28th when there were 5 rats caught, and then again on June 3rd when 1 more rat was caught, and then July 23rd when 6 more were caught, which gave a total of 12 rats for the 5 month period.

We have decided to refresh the A24s at a 4–5 month intervals rather than the previously recommended 6 month period to maximise the traps, and lure efficiency. This time we recorded the lure used and the counter number for each trap.

Trapping Update cont...

Lure Type	No Of Traps	Strikes
Nut Butter	18	74
Chocolate	20	58
Blood	9	25

Total strike numbers for Tawhitinui = 122 and Awaiti = 35

The two trail cameras were retrieved. One was at trap 50 and recorded rat activity and a penguin wandering around. The other was at a natural water trough which a weka monopolised, standing in the water and drinking. But also flocks of silvereyes and fantails were bathing and a couple of bellbirds visited as well. Over a number of recent visits to Tawhitinui, different groups have reported the noticeable increase in the numbers of bellbirds and fantails, which is very encouraging.

Species and Pest monitoring. On a positive note - over a number of visits to Tawhitinui, different groups have reported the noticeable increase in the numbers of bellbirds and fantails. According to Darren Peters from Goodnature, this is a very encouraging sign because these are the birds which recover first and indicate lower predation by rats.

Weed Control. We continue to remove a few rogue young pine trees as they appear (especially on the North Western end of Tawhitinui Island).

Wasp Control. The use of Vespex over the last 5 summers has been highly successful in greatly reducing the wasp populations. The permission to use Vespex is covered in the DOC-2971257 "Tennyson Inlet – Wasp CONTROL OPERATION". DOC best practice guidelines have been followed

Habitat enhancement. We have some good video footage showing penguins living in (and raising chicks in) our Penguin boxes. We continue to monitor the Weta living in our Weta motels and lizards living in our Lizard refugia motels and intend to install more of these in the near future

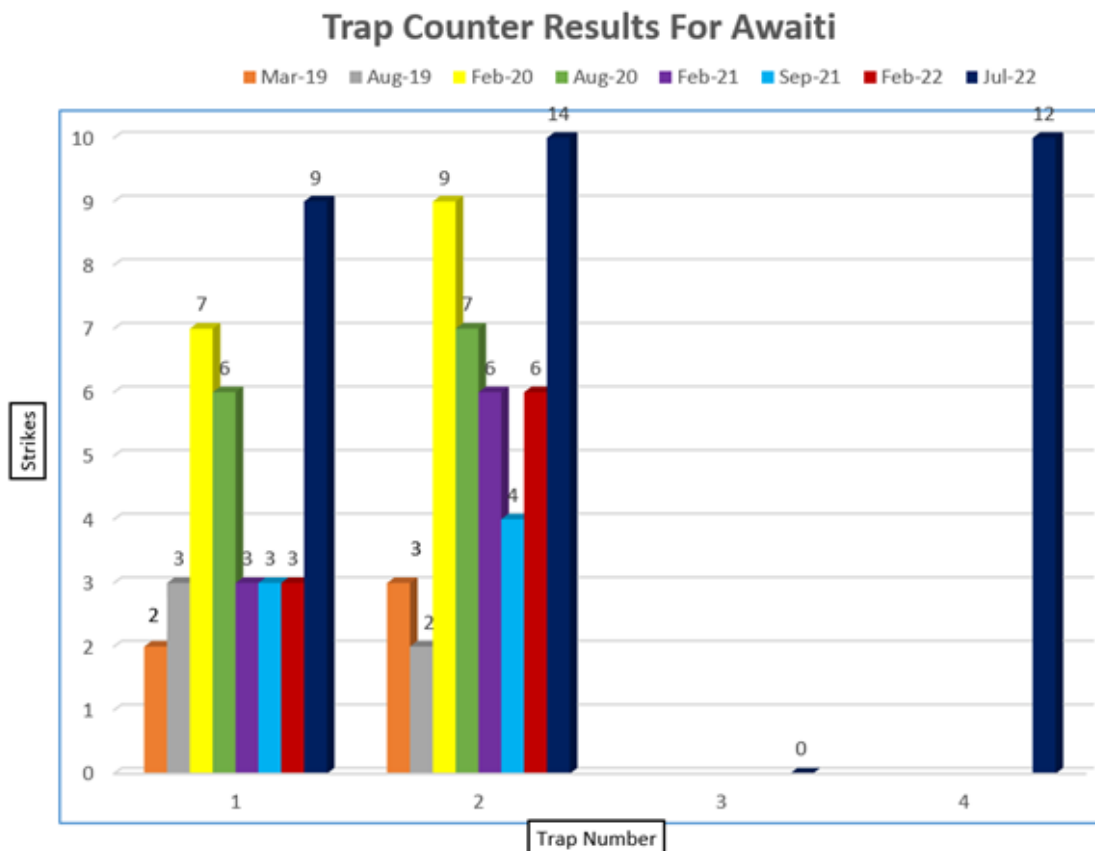
Species translocation. We have not undertaken any translocation of any species.

Trapping Update cont...

Purchase of more A24s & consumables. We have made use of a few Goodnature specials whereby under the "Cahoots" promotion we purchased 10 x A24s and received 15 x A24s at no cost. They also had a deal running on Gas containers and Lures (2 for 1) so we purchased enough of these to get us through the next year.

Visit from Goodnature. Darren Peters from Goodnature arrived in July for a visit to Tawhitinui Island, but the weather was so bad we couldn't get out there. A return visit was planned for August, but that also was canned because of road closures. Finally, Darren got here in September and joined our team on Tawhitinui Island. He thought the island was great and was impressed with our progress. He advised and assisted in the placement of 15 tracking tunnels, and we learnt in detail, more about the functioning of the A24 traps. Another great day.

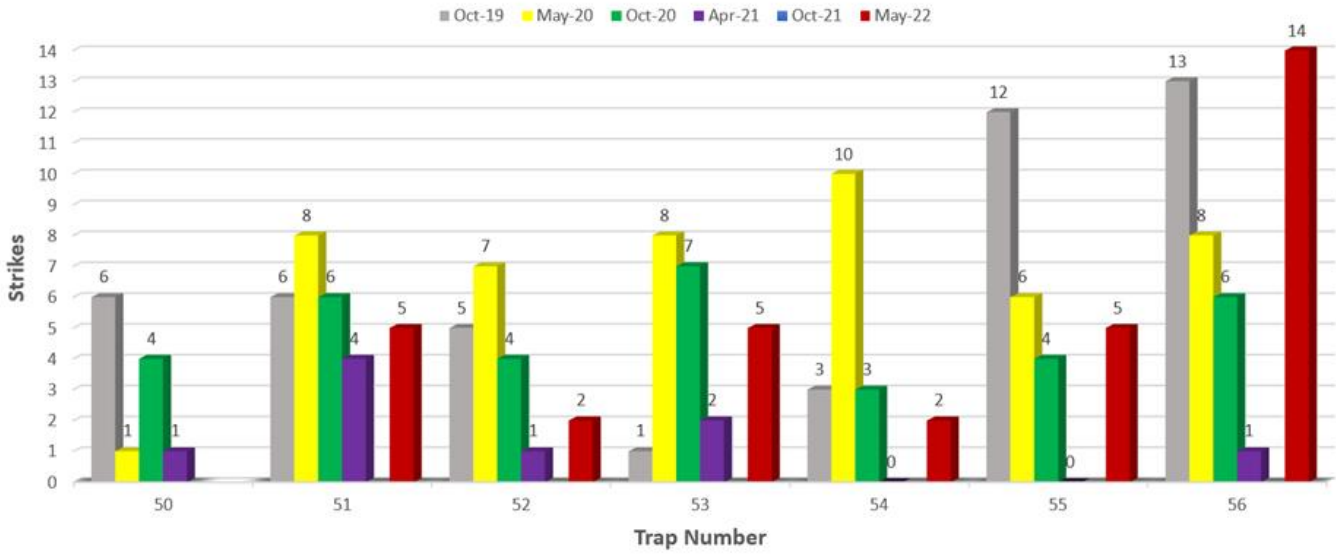
Trapping results



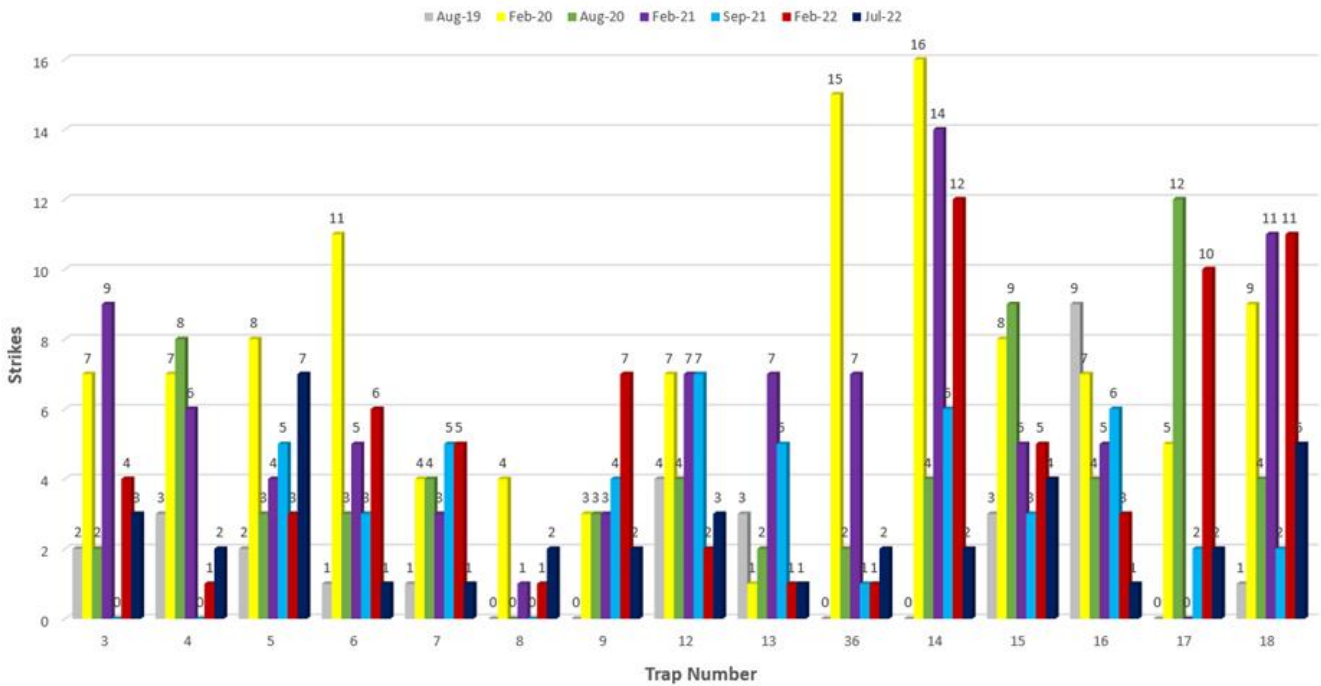
Check out our website: www.TIIT.co.nz

Trapping results

Headland



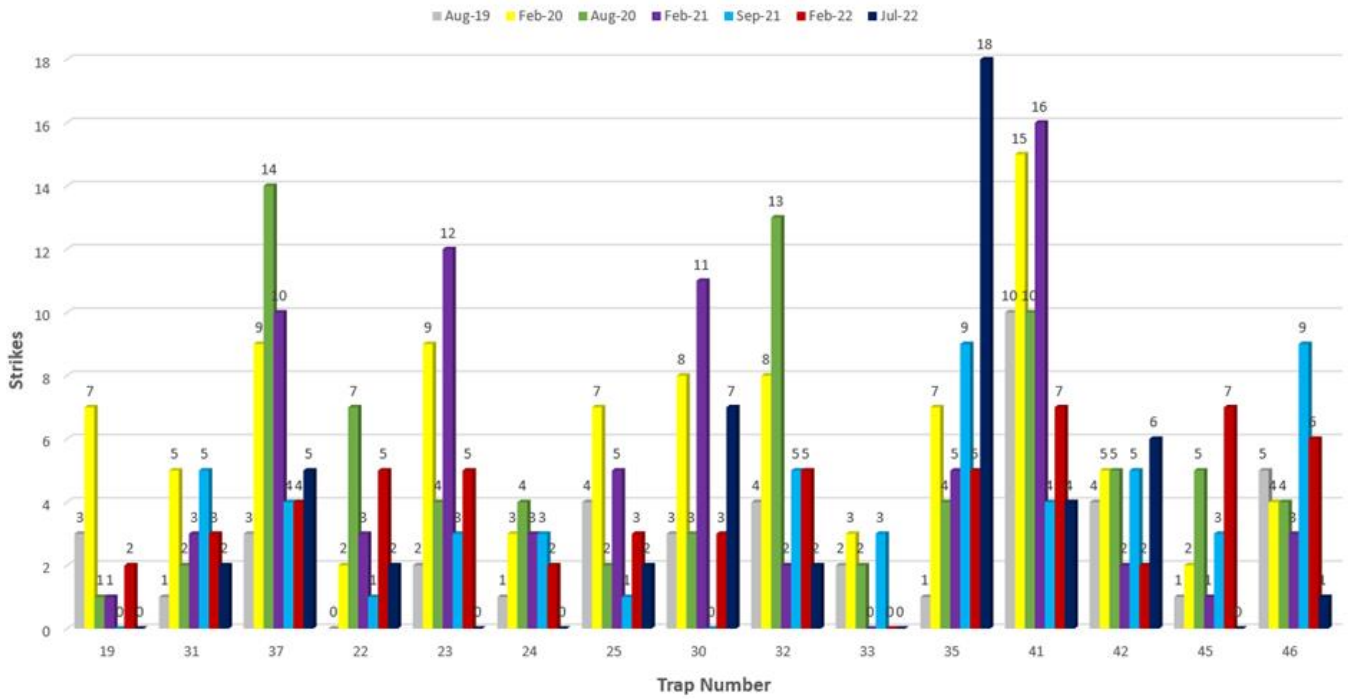
Tawhitinui Trap Counter Results



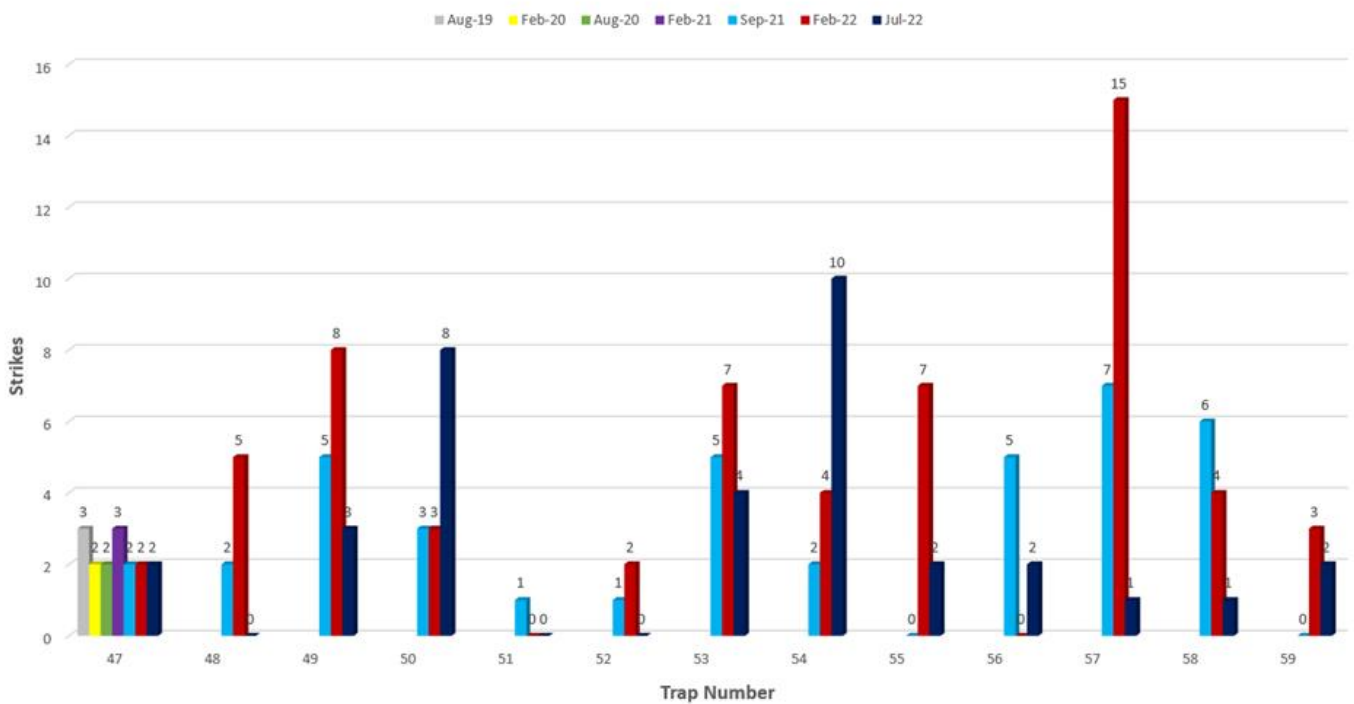
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Trapping results cont...

Tawhitinui Trap Counter Results



Tawhitinui Trap Counter Results



Report summary

The A24s are proving their worth and our 4 monthly service intervals are ensuring that no trap is running out of consumables. As highlighted in our previous DoC reports we still have no A24s on Tarakaipai Island which is frustrating because we know there are stoats present (because we have trapped them in the past). We believe it is DoCs role to formalise an agreement with Ngati Kuia around the placement and location of A24s on to the Tarakaipai Island ridge line. These indicator traps will allow us to better ascertain predator numbers and types so we can work with DoC and Ngati Apa and Ngati Kuia on getting agreement on how best to manage this.

Thanks to our local corporate supporters



RICHMOND



We extend heartfelt thanks to the following sponsors who continue to support us:

Tides Hotel, DeLorenzo's, Kono, Sanford, Sealord, Talley's & McDonald's Richmond

Along with the **Field Family in Elaine Bay** who continue to generously contribute a proportion of each bach holiday rental towards our work.



Tennyson Inlet Islands Trust

MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM 2022/23

It is estimated that rats and stoats kill 25 million birds in NZ each year. The purpose of this Charitable Trust is to eradicate the pests from the three islands (Tarakaipa, Tawhitinui & Awaiti) that make up the Tennyson Inlet Island group within the Pelorus Sound.

We need your help... While we have purchased most of the traps we require these still need servicing with gas & bait and we have ongoing development of habitat for penguins, weta and lizards.

By becoming a Friend of TIIT or by making a donation your contribution will greatly assist us in achieving our goal.

Yearly “Friend of TIIT” Individual Membership	\$ 30
Family Membership	\$ 50
Donation—you choose the amount	\$??
Volunteer to assist with field work (monitoring & servicing of traps etc.)	

We are going to BRING BACK THE BIRDS to the Tennyson Inlet Islands.

If you have ticked any of the options above please fill out your details below. With any bank deposit made you will receive a receipt that specifies our charitable status.

NAME ADDRESS PHONE EMAIL	Forms can be posted / emailed to our Trust Treasurer: Tennyson Inlet Island Trust, P.O. Box 2422, Stoke, 7041 Contacts: Secretary: Lesley Davies — davies@kinect.co.nz Chairman: Jeremy Cooper – cooper@xtra.co.nz Charitable Status registration # CC52790 Bank account details 03 1355 0865294 00
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