



Tennyson Inlet Islands Trust

DOC Management Agreement report – August 2022

Trapping Overview.

We now have the following traps installed and operating:

Location	Type of trap	
	DOC 200s	A24s
Tawhitinui Island	15	43 ?
Awaiti Island	6	4
Tarakaipai Island	7	
Mainland (Odlins Reserve)		7 ?
On hand (yet to be installed)		??

This year we have purchased another 25 x A24 traps which be used to increase the number of traps on Tawhitinui Island and the Mainland.

Trapping Report - Tawhitinui, Awaiti and the Headland

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 where checked. There is a mix of ALP (automatic lure pump) flavours mostly chocolate and nut butter and some of the pig blood.

Some maintenance of the trap track was carried out, and access along it is still very reasonably good. , but **there are a number of large fallen trees which need to be removed, the trust is unable to carry out this work and have requested the support of DOC to come and chainsaw.**

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

In late May all the DoC200s where 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 A24s. 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 the A24s with 9x strikes. Two more 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 improvements that we can make to our trapping network, and 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.

Location of Traps

DOC 200 traps

A24 traps on Awaiti Island

A24 traps on the mainland

A24 traps and trap track on Tawhitinui Islands

Results of Trapping

Tracks & Structures. We have built no tracks (other than the aforementioned trap lines) and we have installed no structures.

Health & Safety. There have been no reported accidents. Wasps have the potential to cause injury but the continued use of Vespex has dropped the wasp numbers around our traps. DOC best practice Guidelines have been followed for all work carried out on the Islands. There are no new hazards that we are aware of. Our H&S committee completed a review of our H&S plan and at the Trustee meeting on 20th June 2022 a resolution was passed agreeing that the current TIIT H&S plan dated July 2022 was fit for purpose and applicable for use.

A Garmin inReach Explore device has recently been purchased. This will be carried by any crews traveling to the Islands. It allows text and email plus SOS messages to be sent via Satellite should an issue ever eventuate.

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, which is a very encouraging sign because, according to Darren Peters from Goodnature, these are the birds which recover first and indicate lower predation by rats.

Trying alternate methods to eliminate trap shy rats

It is standard for trapping programmes to have trap shy rats. With this in mind we have put effort into determining how we can best rectify this.

One of the possibilities is to use poison and while it may not be the best or most popular option it needs to be in the evaluation mix. Further to this in October 2021 we received an offer from Vector to lay poison free of charge on Tawhitinui and Awaiti Islands or if this wasn't possible, they would contribute a donation of \$5000 to go towards our trapping programme.

After discussions with DoC we decided to engage Derek Brown to produce a report around options. Dereks brief was to *"look at the current situation and assess the potential value of a recent offer by Vector Free Marlborough to contribute significantly to the project at no cost to TIIT, either by hand-application of toxic baits or by any other means to improve rat control on the islands"*.

Dereks report proved a wealth of advice and in summary his recommendations were:

1. Urgently re-draft the MOU with DOC to accommodate use of toxins and improvement to track network, and any other factors required for TIIT to run an effective long-term rat control operation.
2. Upon obtaining a new MOU, draft a toxins approval for use of toxins for hand-broadcast or bait stations for a period of 5 years, with an intended winter 2023 first application.
3. Replace all DOC trap covers with run-through type, preferably double-traps, of sufficient length to prevent weka accessing and being at risk from the traps.
4. Install additional traps of any approved kill type, and reconfigure some existing traps to achieve a 2 trap/ha average trap density with no location on either island more than 100m from a trap, on both Tawhitinui and Awaiti Islands.
5. Check all A24s and re-locate if necessary, to ensure they comply with current DOC standards.
6. Permanently install wood or robust plastic bait stations of a suitable proven design for periodic toxic bait application.
7. Pulsed baiting (ideally in bait stations) as required, to remove any trap-wary rats. This should always be done in the period May-August, when natural food sources are lowest for rats.
8. Consider adopting a seasonality to rat control work – carry on with a low-intensity servicing over winter months, and target summer periods (when more voluntary labour is potentially available) for any more intensive trapping effort.
9. Discuss as soon as possible with Vector Free Marlborough the potential options to make best use of their offer of support.
10. Work with DOC and Vector Free Marlborough to consider including Tawhitinui and Awaiti within the defined boundaries for future 'Battle for the Birds' 1080 baiting operations in the Tennyson Inlet area.

We are now going about implementing Dereks recommendations.

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 **possibility** of Weta living in

our Weta motels only seen **cockroaches and slaters**. and **looking for** lizards living in our Lizard refugia motels and intend to install more of these in the near future

Species translocation. We have done no translocation of any species.

Purchase of more A24s & consumables. We have made use of a few Good Nature specials whereby under the “Cahoots” promotion we purchased 10 x A24s and received 15 x A24s free. 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.

Meeting with **Miranda van der Linde.....**

Visit from Good Nature. Darren Peters from Good Nature came out to the Islands to check and advise on our use of the A24s. **But due to the weather this didn't Happen** He is due back again in late August to assist with the placements of the double traps that were suggested in Derek Browns report.

Signage. - We have ~~now~~ installed the “No Dog” signs on the landing points of the islands plus the Penzance, Elaine & Duncan Bay launching ramps.

TIIT budget - See attached Appendix One

Promotions – See attached Appendix One which is our Summer 2021/22 Newsletter. Darren Peters (Good Nature) is going to write a story of his visit to the Islands which will be promoted on their and our website etc.

Andy McDonald Professional Photographer offered to take photos and Video's for promotional purpose. The a successful visit was accomplished in June . Using a drone some great photos and videos were presented.

Meet with DoC. The most pressing issue is to re-draft our MOU with DOC by expanding it to accommodate the use of toxins and improvement to track network, and any other factors required for TIIT to run an effective long-term rat control operation. It would also detail draft a toxins approval for use of toxins for hand-broadcast or bait stations for a period of 5 years, with an intended winter 2023 first application. **Miranda is working on a draft of MOU shes waiting on location plans of tracks, traps and Penguin box's**

Stocktake of gear on hand **update**

19 x A24s	60 X Box of chew cards
65 X gas cylinders	50 X Tunnel foot- print pads
4 X Stoat lures	16 X Tracking tunnels (made by Graeme)
60 X Rat lures (different flavours)	12 X Victor rat traps
8 X Penguin Boxes NIL	DD DOC 200 x

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 on this island (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 on this island.

We are keen to meet with DOC to discuss this report.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Cooper', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeremy Cooper

Chairman of the Tennyson Inlet Island Trust

Appendix One

Draft TIIT BUDGET for the next 12 months	
<u>Eradication of pests</u>	
Replenishment packs for the A24 (Co2 / lure bait etc) @ \$40 X 70 traps	\$ 2800
Purchase of bait for the DOC 200 traps (28 traps)	\$ 100
Wasp bait (Vespex)	\$ 150
Purchase of A24 traps (another 5 each year)	\$ 1,000
<u>Hardware</u>	
Purchase of 2 X 2 way radios (allow servicing crew to talk with boat) inReach	\$ 400
Timber and fittings purchased by Graeme for new Double DOC 200's	
Replacement Waddington Triggers, Replacement DOC 200's (rusted)	\$200.00 ?
<u>Enhancement of islands</u>	
Collection of seed, Propagation native plants (bird feeds)	\$ 1,000
Penguin boxes / lizard houses, weta motels & water catchment etc	\$ 500
<u>Building Knowledge</u>	
Tunnel counters, chew cards and consumables	\$ 300
<u>Other</u>	
Advocacy & Promotion	\$ 500
Newsletter - production and email	\$ 500
Website maintenance	\$ 200
Total	\$ 7,650

