



Tennyson Inlet Islands Trust

Supporters Newsletter - Summer 2019

A Special Welcome to new members

A brief round up...

In August 2017, we reached the point of being able to operate under a formal DOC Management Agreement to carry out our programme of eradicating pests on the Islands, to bring the birds back. Prior to that we had permission to carry out a scoping report, install and maintain DOC 200 traps. Derek Brown, a professional ecological consultant had prepared a Pest Management Plan which guides the structure of our eradication plan.

Bird Counts are now completed annually by one of our Members and the results to date show no further decline.

The islands are, fortunately, possum free, which has allowed the vegetation to thrive. All three islands are covered in tall regenerated native forest, including mature beech, and treasured Kohekohe (often seen decimated by possums on the mainland), groves of Nikau palms, and many other trees are providing nectar and berries as a source of food throughout the year.

The summer of 2018 was spent creating trapping lines and installing the first wave of Goodnature A24 automatic traps. The original DOC 200 traps are still in the field doing their job.

Vespex is laid annually to remove wasps competing for honeydew on the beech trees, and for the safety of the volunteers.

NO DOG signs have now arrived and work has begun installing them on the islands, and boat ramps in Tennyson Inlet. We would like to thank Fulton Hogan for supplying these.

Penguin nesting boxes were placed on Tawhitinui ready for this year's breeding season. We are delighted to see that some penguins have taken advantage of these. Two eggs at the NE end of Tawhitinui and penguin sign at several places have been recorded.



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A brief round up continued...

OZTRAIL generously donated two infrared cameras which have been placed on Tawhitinui at trap locations. The videos are providing us with some valuable information about the habits of the rats around the traps, which will help us improve our trapping techniques. To provide some refuge for Wetas, three weta motels have been placed on Tawhitinui, and plans are for more.

At each annual Picnic Day at Penzance Bay we set up a manned display tent to provide information on the Trust's goals and encourage new supporters.

To date our small team of enthusiastic members have racked up 785 hours!

Our Generous Sponsors

A huge THANK YOU to all our generous sponsors who have put their faith in our project.

But - we need your continuing support to enable us to carry on the work that we have started.

Our initial funding came from individuals who had the confidence to support a totally new project by sponsoring traps, making donations or getting out into the field.

We undertook a huge fundraising effort in 2017 & 2018 and received our first Community Grant from the Marlborough District Council.

We were also fortunate to attract some corporate sponsorship from:

**King Salmon, Kono, Trailways Hotel, Sanford, Talleys,
McDonald's Richmond, OZTrail,
The Ringmakers Ltd.**

Predator Free New Zealand

We are now featured on their website as a Predator Control Group. [Click here](#) for some great tools and resources to help with predator control. TIIT is committed to [Predator Free 2050](#) - an ambitious goal to rid New Zealand of the most damaging introduced predators that threaten our nation's flora & fauna.



Tennyson Inlet Islands Trust

We're online! www.TIIT.co.nz



WATER FOUND ON TAWHITINUI ISLAND

We were very excited to have found a trickle of water which has continued to run, despite it being the driest February on record. This is the only water we have found on Tawhitinui, and it will be an important resource for the birds.

Trapping Update

Thanks to our generous supporters, the Trust has been able to purchase 59 Good Nature A24 Automatic traps, with counters, for the islands, to date.

In August and October 2018 members checked the A24's, changed the lures and replaced the gas canisters. We have, in the 6 month period had a total of 186 strikes in the 33 traps on Tawhitinui and Awaiti, plus another 21 rats killed in the DOC 200s.

Our latest fundraising will enable us to add to the A24 trapping grid on Tawhitinui and Awaiti and install a defensive line of traps on the mainland to protect against rats swimming across.

Why are we using [Good Nature A24](#) traps?

We believe that A24's are the best fit for our project for a number of reasons.

- DoC's trials show six monthly checking intervals are more than adequate.
- A24's are safer to work with than alternatives (no sprung loaded jaws, no bait so are toxin-free)
- They are self-setting (once you've set them they remain constantly ready even after the first few pests have been struck),
- They are small, easy to install and maintenance is easy.



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MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM 2019

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” Membership \$ 30
- Make a donation (you specify 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.

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



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Targeting Rats

New Zealand was virtually mammal free prior to the arrival of Pacific Islanders around 700 years ago, with them came the Pacific Rat or Kiore. Nearly 250 years later, Europeans brought the Ship Rat and the Norway Rat.

Of the three species, the Norway Rat is the largest and is most easily identified by their short tail and small ears (see below). As we know, rats have been implicated in the extinction and decline of a large proportion of native bird species. The spread of Ship Rats in the North Island coincided with the decline of korimako (bellbird), toutouwai (robin), hihi (stichbird) and tieke (saddleback.) Native plants and fruits feature heavily in a rats diet, putting them in direct competition with native birds, further adding to their decline. In addition to the destruction of native species, rats also cause damage to property.

Ship Rat



Species: *Rattus rattus*
Origin: Europe
Breeding Cycle: Approx. 32 days
Diet: Birds, eggs, plants, invertebrates
Home Range (ha): 0.01 - 0.02
Head-Body Length (mm): max. 225

Species: *Rattus norvegicus*
Origin: Europe
Breeding Cycle: Approx. 32 days
Diet: Birds, eggs, plants, invertebrates
Home Range (ha): 0.01 - 0.02
Head-Body Length (mm): 184 - 192 mm

Norway Rat



You can help - rat control can be done by everybody no matter how big your backyard! Getting an understanding of rat locations is important so be sure to set out detector cards before setting your traps. By detecting, not guessing, you can quickly locate rat populations and tailor your pest control. Be sure to place your traps a distance from food sources like compost.

NZ robin eggs are consumed by ship rats.

