



Tennyson Inlet Islands Trust

SUPPORTERS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023



Chairman's Update

I said in my last Chairman's comment that the old normal is not the new normal; at the time I was referring to disruptions from CoVID19 - and now the country is being overwhelmed by major weather events. Extreme weather is nothing new for us, but the frequency and strength of recent storms is having truly devastating consequences. Mother Nature is not happy. It is going to cost our country large amounts of funding to rectify the damage done, but the higher cost will be to build resilience into our national infrastructure and forward planning, because these events won't be going away any time soon.

Amongst all the challenges, the summer as far as our work on Tennyson Inlet islands goes, has been positive. Our teams on the trap replenishment expeditions report that bird life is increasing, along with a large increase in new native tree seedling and saplings; reducing rat numbers are allowing more seeds to survive and germinate to begin life. Besides the continuation of the trap servicing routine, a recent working bee saw the advancement of a trapping track that will run around the island on a contour allowing for safer access to the placement and servicing of traps sites.

We have also signed a new Community Agreement with DoC which allows TIIT to continue its good work on eliminating pests and restoring the biota of the Tennyson Inlet Islands.

Extreme thanks go to our "Friend of TIIT" who contribute an annual membership subscription. There is a form at the back of this newsletter so if you haven't already, please consider supporting our work by joining (\$30 for individual membership or \$50 for a family membership). As always, a big thanks to our volunteers who carry out the work on the islands -whether its maintaining and improving the tracks, servicing and replenishing traps, working on the penguin boxes, exterminating wasps, counting birds, clearing watering holes....a hearty thank you to you all.....without your assistance our islands project would go nowhere. If you are keen on being involved in a future working bee please contact our Secretary via the details within this newsletter.

Jeremy Cooper





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Fundraising Cards for sale

We have plenty of our greeting cards for sale. Featuring photographs taken on the islands, there are 5 designs.

Each pack of 5 comes with envelopes and are blank on the inside for your message.

\$20 per pack + \$4.50 postage or Nelson/Blenheim delivery available

Contact Beryl Archer to place your order berylarcher@xtra.co.nz

Bank Details for payment:
SBS Nelson
03 1355 0865294 00
Reference: *Cards*



Trapping Update

Nov 28th 2022, a fine day for refreshing the traps on Tawhitinui.

It was decided that we change the lure and gas in the A24s after 4 – 5 months instead of 6 months, to help reduce the instances of traps becoming ineffective with gas run out or lure exhausted.

A few of the original A24s are prematurely running out of gas and these will be sent back to Goodnature for servicing. With 44x A24s across Tawhitinui it takes a couple of trips to complete a lure change, and this time, the adverse weather meant the refresh was completed over three trips.

A total of 130 strikes were recorded. The height of all the A24 traps have been checked, and where necessary, raised to 1.3m from the ground, in accordance with DOC best practice to protect wekas.



The DOC 200s have been checked about once per month with low numbers of rats being caught. There are 9x new double trap boxes on Tawhitinui with 3x yet to be positioned.

Awaiti 4x A24s were refreshed, 6 strikes recorded.





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November trapping update continued

A priority now is to get a better indication of the rodent population, and therefore, 15x 700mm long tracking tunnels were positioned, on Tawhitinui, and left for a month before tracking cards and lure was put in each one. After 24 hours the tunnels were checked and even though the entrances had wire stakes to ward off wekas, each one had been interfered by them. No rodent tracks were found in any of the tunnels. These tunnels will be lengthened before using again. There are now 9x 900mm long, newer design tracking tunnels, ready to be positioned on our next trip.

During the heavy rainfall event in August, some shoreline slips occurred on all three islands, with one reasonable sized one on the north eastern end of Tawhitinui.

Working Bee February

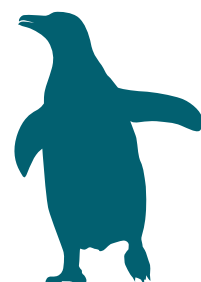
February 4th , a fine day, but wet under foot, for a Working Bee on Tawhitinui Island with nine enthusiastic volunteers. Transported on the launch Share Magic and dropped off to the beach in an inflatable.

A group of three to work on the ridge track checking the DOC200s, cleaning and rebaiting, and clearing the track as they go. Only 3 rats were found in the traps. There was plenty of windfallen branches and overgrown foliage to remove from the track. The second group of five armed with spades, grubbers, saws and an axe, were tasked with digging and shaping the new trapping trail midway above Big Bay.



It was hot work, especially as the temperature and humidity rose towards midday, but good progress was made with an estimated 200 metres of the trail benched, by 1pm (approx. ½ way). A few blisters and soaked T-shirts, all forgotten with some refreshments back on Share Magic.

Many thanks to all who helped on the day, including transportation on Share Magic.





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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

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

We welcome volunteers to join us on fieldwork on and off the islands, monitoring and servicing traps, making penguin boxes etc.

Cost

Individual Membership \$30

Family Membership \$50

Donation (you choose the \$)

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.

Privacy: your email address will be added to our database so that we can keep in touch with you, you will have the option to unsubscribe.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Tennyson Inlet Islands Trust Bank details:

SBS Nelson

03 1355 0865294 00

Reference 'membership' or 'donation'

Return your form by email to our Secretary, Lesley Davies: tiitsecretary@gmail.com

Or post to: PO Box 2422, Stoke, 7041

Chairman: Jeremy Cooper: cooper@xtra.co.nz





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THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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

The Field Family in Elaine Bay continue to generously contribute a proportion of each bach holiday rental towards our work.

And our thanks go each of you for supporting us with membership and donations, we couldn't do it without you!

