



25 years working with community to control animal pests

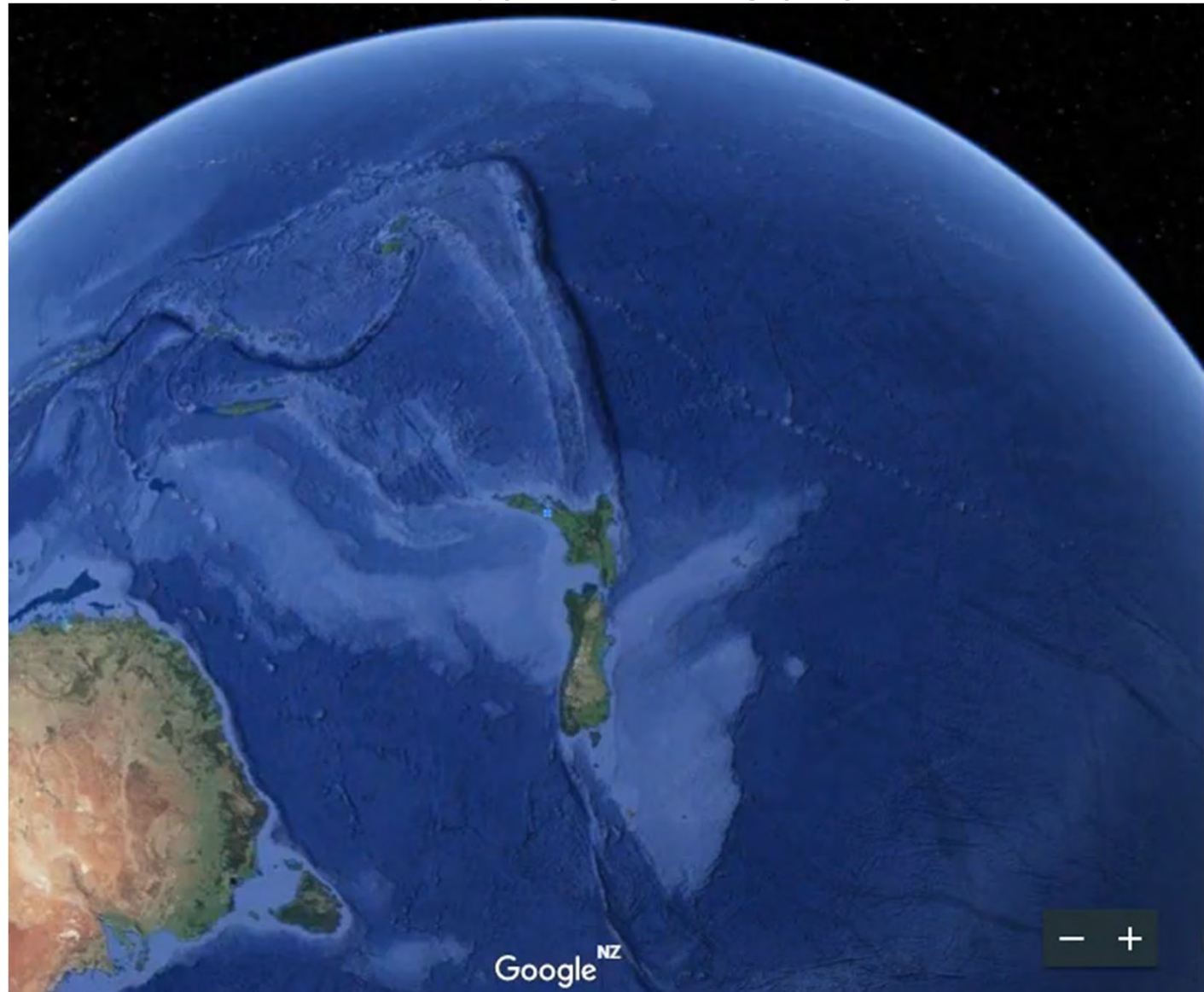
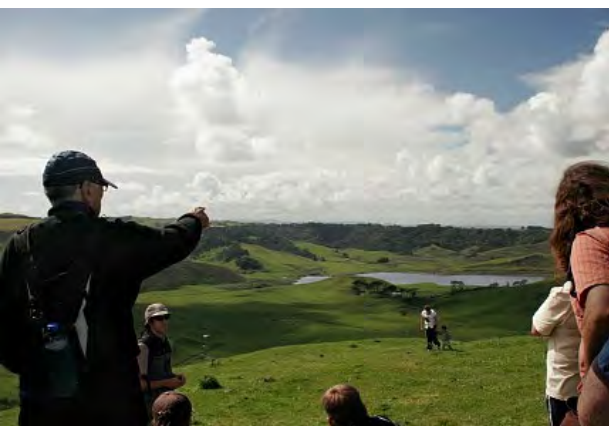


Sarah
Williams

Awhitu Peninsula

Awhitu Peninsula is a giant sand dune between the Manukau Harbour and Tasman Sea. 60km long from Waikato River to the Lighthouse. Originally a sand-bar at the mouth of the Manukau, built up over a couple of million years by layers of sand from the Tasman Sea and from the Waikato River when it flowed into the Manukau.

It is the traditional land of Ngati Te Ata, mana whenua of the area. In pre-European times many Maori lived here, caring for the land, using the rich food sources of the Manukau Harbour, the Tasman Sea, the streams, lakes and wetlands of the Peninsula, and the thickly forested land – puriri forest to the west and kauri to the east. Many historic pa sites are still clearly visible from the main road up the Awhitu Peninsula.



25 years ago, where it began

Pre 1994 – some landowners were active in controlling possum on their own blocks but large areas are uncontrolled and possum numbers are out of control. Evidence was clear in the tree tops.



Most of the original native vegetation of the Awhitu Peninsula has been cleared.

In 1994 only 9% of the Awhitu Ecological District was in any form of natural cover; of that 9% most of it was scrub (84%) and less than 20% had any form of legal protection (ARC 1994).

Many Awhitu farmers tell of being able to shoot 100 possums a night in the 1990's! Something had to be done!

Awhitu
Landcare
(Group)
Forms

1994

A small number of landowners concerned at encroaching sand blows damaging west coast farmland, and the environmental damage being done by pests.

Focus for today's talk is the pest control activity, Landcare was (and still is) involved in extensive revegetation projects on private and public land. In the beginning, pest control consisted of lending traps for unwanted animals and identifying and advising on control methods for weeds.

1994 – 2003.....





**An involved
community from
the outset**

Photo taken unknown year



POSSUM BBQ



Awhitu Landcare invites farmers to enjoy a free feed while hearing the latest on local pest control.

Friday 17 September. Midday. Awhitu Club.

Menu

Awhitu Venison Steaks, Peninsula Sausages and local Salads.

Drinks available.

Clyde Edmiston, ARC - explains benefits of farmer participation.

Peter Nichols, Poison Contractor - outlines current operations.

Glenn Knight - advises on help available to farmers.

*David Craig - invites you to view pest control results on his property.
Bring your quad bike or horse, if you don't mind a short walk (mostly downhill).*

Awhitu Landcare members will be on hand too.

Tell Paul or Sue "I'm Coming" on 2351458
or Landcare@awhиту.org.nz
(so we'll know how many steaks to have ready).



Awhitu
Peninsula
Becomes
designated
possum control
area

2004

From 2004 until 2008 Landcare ran a very successful possum control project supported by the ARC with funding obtained from DOC.

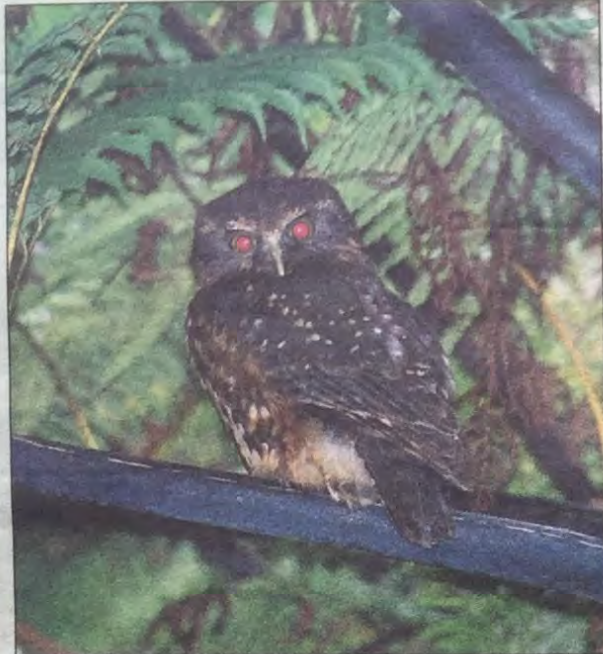
The Awhitu community overwhelmingly voted to use some of their rates towards this programme and as a result the Peninsula was formally identified as a POSSUM CONTROL AREA (a targeted rate was set)

Contractors trapped and baited Awhitu Peninsula top to bottom over 3 years, the community were engaged to follow behind for maintenance with guidance, supplies and support from Landcare



Pest free peninsula

2004



□ Owls are seen and heard closer to habitation since the bush has been regenerated. Photo Ron Howell

The eradication of pests on the peninsula is a combined operation involving DOC, ARC, FDC and Awhitu Peninsula Landcare (APL). But the two main players on the ground are the ARC Bio-security Unit and APL.

The job is immense, eradicating possums, rats, ferrets, weasels, stoats and feral cats from the peninsula. The ARC kick started the scheme by sending in contractors to reduce the possum population, then APL had to convince the landowners they should carry on the work. Not difficult, rural Kiwis hate possums and are happy to give up time to keeping the bait stations topped up. The job was made even less daunting by APL providing the bait for free.

A possum poisoned with Pestoff (Brodifacoum), the bait APL supply to the landowners, may have undigested bait in their stomachs, ferrets, rats and stoats often eat the bodies and get killed by secondary poisoning. There is a slight risk to dogs, but they would have to eat between 6 and 10 carcasses to prove fatal, and there is an antidote available at the vets. Cats and harriers, the NZ hawk, don't appear to be affected.

Not all possums will take the bait, so alternative methods must be used as well. The good old Timms trap is as reliable as anything, but what to bait it with? Traditionally

lar to their neighbours. Trapping can be as effective, but non-kill traps leave you with an angry or frightened animal to kill (another service provided by the APL Pest Control Project).

It's not just going around setting traps and bait stations, this project is about education, helping people to do the job themselves. To that end Landcare has someone, usually the project co-ordinator and a couple of other members at most public events, like the Food and Wine festival and the Country markets. Here they can show people how to use the various traps, give advice on people's individual needs, such a farm with feral cats, a parent whose daughter's pet rabbit had been taken by a ferret, a macadamia orchard losing too much of the crop to rats, are some of the problems that have been tackled by APL.

The project co-ordinator has attended various ratepayers/resident groups to explain what is going on when the contractors arrive and more importantly what they want people to do after they have finished.

That is why APL are running these 'field days'. They want to show people why and how to clear animal pests from their land and to show the improvement in both native vegetation and bird life following from an extended programme of keeping the animal pests under control. This doesn't

Boys & Girls to Size 7

Children to Adults

lies • Childrens Bikes

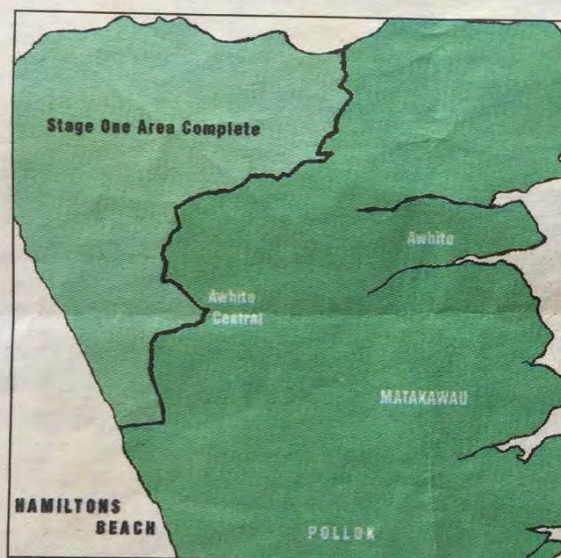
NOW AVAILABLE



2004

Country

Possum kill a success



POSSUM CONTROL: This map shows the Awhitu Peninsula and the shaded area where possum eradication has been carried out.

By **JUSTIN FOOTE**

Awhitu Peninsula Landcare and Auckland Regional Council's (ARC) joint possum eradication programme has completed its first stage with outstanding success.

Around 3500 possums have been destroyed in the Awhitu Central to Orua Bay stage of the programme, with landowners now working hard to get rid of the few stragglers remaining.

"It's very time consuming for the farmers who spend what amounts to one full day per month baiting traps.

"But I haven't had a single rejection from any of the landowners I've approached so far," says project co-ordinator Glenn Knight.

To ensure that the area isn't repopulated from the south, Landcare, in co-operation with landowners, is making a particular effort to build a barrier of bait stations and traps along the boundary.

"Through these efforts we can keep the population down to negligible indefinitely," says Mr Knight.

Although there is no way of determining the number of possums left on the peninsula, Mr Knight says that 20 possums can eat the same amount of pasture as one cow.

This means that the success to date means that an extra 175 cattle can now be pastured.

ARC contractors are now focussing on the next stage, the harbour side of the peninsula, and are confident of similar success.

Autumn Calf Processing

Richmond are again this season providing an Autumn bobby calf processing service.

To register your supply and obtain more information...



Results!

Possum trap catches went down from as high as 40% in some parts of the Peninsula, to an average of 5%, with many areas now showing zero populations.



Fantastic forest walk

Carolyn Hansen

Awhitu Landcare's Kauri Forest Kaper on Easter Sunday was a resounding success, with 126 people from around the district enjoying the beautiful scenery.

The organisers were surprised and delighted by the large crowd of walkers — almost three times the number that to

amazing foresight on the part of the Dodds.

One of the highlights of the walk was a huge Kauri tree, measuring 4.65 metres in circumference, which had escaped being milled in the past and is now thought to be the biggest living Kauri tree on the peninsula.

In addition to the stunning bush, the walkers were able



2005 Post

2005

Maintaining momentum....

Page 10

March 23, 2005

Franklin Life Newspaper

Kauri Forest Kaper and Possum Roast

The public is invited to attend two special events held by Awhitu Landcare.

Kauri Forest Kaper takes place on Sunday March 27 and is an interesting ramble through one of the peninsula's least-visited forest remnants. Interested families can hire the bus outside Makawau Hall (gold donation) for a 2pm start of a two-hour walk through majestic flora,

scenery and history.

Moderate fitness required. Bring weather jacket, strong sandals or walking shoes and drinking water. Sun-hat, suntan lotion and insect repellent could be handy. (camera and binoculars too).

Pollok School is organising a special challenge en route. Walk ends with a free barbeque.

Possum Roast on Friday, April 1 is exclusively for farmers.

"It may be the first of April, but don't be fooled — pests are eating into your livelihood!"

That's the theme of a barbeque and presentation to be held at the Awhitu Social Club on Friday at 11.00am.

No charge, but reservations essential.

To attend either event, leave your name, number participating and phone contact with Paul and Sue at 09 2351 458 or email landcare@awhitu.org.nz

Whitu Peninsula

2005 FCN

Landcare group organises events to push the benefits of pest control

Awhitu Landcare is holding a couple of events to publicise the benefits of pest control as its programme now extends down the peninsula to Te Toro.

The organisation is inviting the public to the two events — one designed for peninsula farmer and the other, homeowners/small-block holders — so that they can learn first-hand what can be achieved through participation in pest control.

The first is a family day out called the Kauri Forest Kaper on March 27.

It features an interesting



2009

Fifteen Years and Still Growing

Peninsula people, this writer included, never cease to be amazed at the way we and things can change.

A good example. When it was suggested, fifteen years ago, that trees might be a better bet on some Peninsula lands, the most frequent retort was "Trees only get in the way of good grass". Yet, now, we see a Waiau Pa dairy farmer (not true Peninsula but near enough) extolling the virtues of planting trees.

Two people with particularly good reasons for smiling are organic gardeners/revegetators Charmaine Pountney and partner Tanya Cumberland. Back then, too, they had suggested that planting stream margins be mandatory for the sustainable health of most farms and went to the trouble of finding people who could help back them up. Possibly the most influential of these was Helen Moodie of Whangarei.

Helen, now New Zealand Landcare Trust Northern Regional Coordinator

revisited the Peninsula in March this year as one of two guest speakers at Awhitu Landcare Group's fifteenth birthday celebration. The other was ARC's Dianne Glenn. Also present were Mayor Mark Ball and members of Whakauopo (Baldhill), a sister Landcare group.

For Helen the occasion presented an opportunity to relive her involvement with fledgling Awhitu Landcare - her first such community environmental organization. That made it, also, New Zealand's first. She pointed out that a level of unease had existed between science and landowners, best demonstrated by an Agreaserch boffin wondering aloud to Helen whether or not the fledgling group's members were 'for real' or would he be wasting his time? What Helen failed to tell him was the same 'for real' folk (a certain Jock Patterson in particular) had wondered

the same of the scientist! The happy result was that Helen continues to recommend Awhitu Landcare as a model to new groups all over the country. An important reason being, the Awhitu group continues to operate on the principle that the people most able to effect land use changes are the landowners. Furthermore, while trust either way is important, so too is an ability to compromise. She was particularly praising of Awhitu's pest control programme - especially possums. And further applauded the Group's forest health monitoring. Both projects, she said, had

become examples for the whole country in the way volunteer effort is used to attract local authority (ARC) support. In this regard she singled-out Charmaine Pountney (the very same founder-member). Assembled birthday celebrators heartily agreed.

Councillor Dianne Glenn was equally effusive in lauding Awhitu Landcare. Whereas Helen went north in 1997, Dianne can claim to have been on hand every year since to witness progress of projects for which she has been instrumental in helping to secure funding.

Dianne, too, was able to claim another first for Awhitu Landcare - the very

Continued on page 18



From the archives - Awhitu Landcare's 1st meeting.



One of Awhitu Landcare's ongoing planting programmes.

Enviro News

2009

2009 Kiwi again on Peninsula?

This topic has recently gained traction in view of similar successes on other regional peninsulas like Tawharanui and in the Kaipara Harbour. Tim Lovegrove of the ARC's Heritage Section attended our AGM on Wednesday 16 June with a presentation show-casing several bird species we might welcome back to the Awhitu Peninsula as a possible precursor to wider Franklin distribution.

Tim, who has worked under

the famous Don Merton, suggested kiwi, weka, pateke/brown teal, falcon/karearea — among others.

He has promised us something on the subject for a future issue of PEN. Meantime, he recommends we maintain the pressure on those pests — leafy and leggy — because a lot of preparation is required before any species is officially translocated.

Right: Tim Lovegrove in full flight.



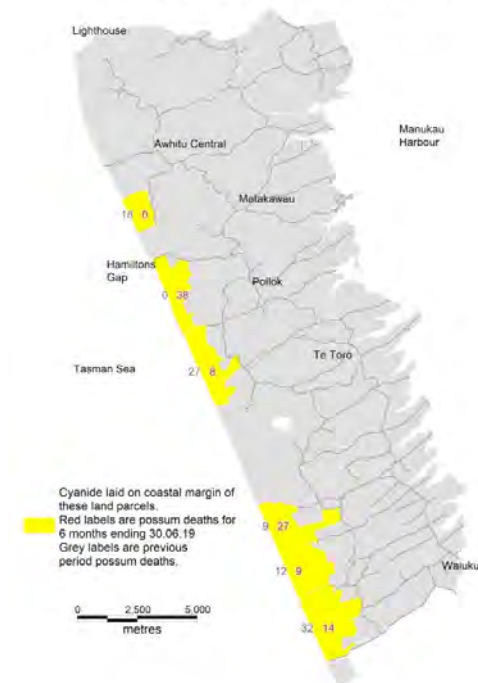
Possums feel pinch

Awhitu Landcare's possum control programme has scored an all-time low with contractor Peter Nichols teams work resulting in a 1.1% RTC (Residual Trap Catch) — meaning for one hundred traps set produced just one possum. Trap lines were set through Landcare's southern bait line stretching from Marae-o-Rehia via Taurangaruru Rd to the West Coast and also in the RD3 coastal zone to Kelland Road. This follows from the work of the Landcare team and local volunteers who regularly top-up poison bait stations. Anyone volunteering to service bait stations makes the overall job (possum management) easier. Attention has since switched to the Lake Pokorua/West Coast sector in preparation for an RTC test sometime before the end of July.

Landcare is delighted to be setting-up bait stations in RD4 hot spots indicated by increasing possum sightings and road kill. While these hotspots are receiving attention, the prime areas of concern are proving to be the flax gullies of the wild west coast. Cliff-top bait stations are being emptied in record time. Possums are particularly hungry at this time of year, with food choices at their lowest, so the speed of this bait take is cause for concern.

Long term, the solution would appear to be a coastal poison bait line — a considerable undertaking given the area's difficult geography. Meantime, Landcare would welcome (235 1616) offers from landowners able to access their own coastal gullies to fill two or three bait stations located on top of them. We've got the stations and the bait as long as you will give the hour it might require every few weeks.

CYANIDE LAID 1 JANUARY TO 30 JUNE 2019; AWHITU PENINSULA



Cyanide

Since 2013 Landcare has operated a cyanide program up the entire length of the Awhitu Peninsula west coast cliff tops — 99% of landowners onboard! 1000 possums in 5 years.

2009

2009

Targeted rate for possum control removed with amalgamation of Auckland Councils....

2011

2011 Board supports Landcare

Awhitu Peninsula Landcare will be able to extend its multi-award winning environmental work at the southern heads of Manukau Harbour.

The Franklin Local Board of Auckland Council has approved leasing an additional small area of reserve land at Matakawau to the organisation.

The land will enable Awhitu Landcare to establish a plant propagation and shade facility to raise eco-sourced native plants.

Awhitu Landcare has been working on pest eradication and revegetation of native flora on the peninsula for more than 17

years. Franklin Local Board chairman Andy Baker said the extra land would enable Awhitu Landcare to continue its outstanding environmental work.

"This makes excellent use of a little-used reserve area," he said.

Anna White, secretary for Awhitu Landcare, said the improved biodiversity would benefit future generations.

"The decision also means that Landcare's current programmes, including pest control over the entire 22,000-hectare peninsula, will have some surety into the future.

"The land is in a perfect place, easily accessible for the public, close to the school and central to the many public reserves planted out by our volunteers.

"We also have a dream to try and save many of the threatened species, unique to the Awhitu Peninsula and this decision is the first step in realising that dream."

Andy Baker said Franklin Local Board members Jill Naysmith and Dan Lynch had worked hard to support Awhitu Landcare and had an easy job convincing the rest of the board of the value to the community.

2011

Internal possum audits show some hotspots appearing

In the last EnviroNews we noted that one of our methods of possum control is running trapline tests - lines of ten traps, checked daily by independent contractors with details of any possums caught recorded. In this way 'Hotspots' - any areas where high numbers of possums are caught - are able to be identified so that we can quickly tackle these potentially dangerous clusters.

Over the past month 32 trapline tests have been run

throughout the Peninsula. The good news is that results remain pleasingly low over the majority of the 22,000 hectares.

The bad news is that we definitely have a Hotspot forming within the difficult-to-access north western area of the Peninsula which has to be swiftly dealt to before it spreads into 'clean' areas. We are attending to this!

Whilst we were initially very disappointed to learn about this Hotspot, it has bought home to

us yet again how vigilant we all need to remain in this constant battle against our old enemy.

We have not relaxed our efforts and Awhitu has many, many willing landowners who regularly carry out possum control, but it doesn't take too long before pockets of these pests can form, especially if weather conditions have been as favourable as they were over the past Summer / Autumn.

Above: The Enemy! Image Courtesy Nga Manu Images

2011

Great year for possum control

Awhitu Landcare is delighted to report another successful year of possum control, with two separate trapline tests - one close to the southern baitline in RD3, and another right across RD4 - averaging under 3% once again.

For the tests, lines of ten traps are set; and checked daily for three days; any possums caught are removed, age and sex are recorded. Percentages are worked out with the number of kills per 100 trap nights. Tests are run by independent contractors.

"Hotspots" - any areas where clusters of possums are caught - are duly noted on maps of the traplines - so once we know the results we are able to communi-

cate with landowners and step up coverage with bait stations or Timms traps.

In RD3 the hotspot was Karioitahi beach, in an area which has only recently been added to the baitline.

In RD4, a hotspot was discovered in the Big Bay area. During the year, alert residents dealt to hotspots in Kohekohe, Pollok, and Matakawau Point.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our many regular bait-station fillers and Timms trappers - absolutely vital to maintaining our successful scheme.

The AHB have recently completed another sweep of the Otuaa/ Aka Aka area, and Whakaupoko Landcare

are hard at work in the Baldhill/Mauku area - which all adds up to more birds, insects and invertebrates, healthier native bush, more farm pasture and fruitful gardens...

We are preparing for the annual autumn "pulse" (systematic filling of bait stations) at a time of year when we can expect to catch migrating young possums, and hungry rats.

Don't forget that a "blaze" below the freshly filled bait station will help to attract possums - especially if the station has not been filled for a while.

Blaze recipe - one part icing sugar; ten parts flour, oil to mix, flavoured with cinnamon or aniseed essence.

2012 Great news as nesters sighted

A pair of variable oystercatchers AND a pair of dotterels have been sighted this month nesting on a Peninsula beach, well south of their recent reported nesting areas (on northernmost Awhitu beaches).

Both dotterels and variable oystercatchers lay their eggs in a scrape in the sand, commonly among shells and driftwood just above the high tide mark. Because these are so hard to see, nests are often crushed by people, vehicles, horses or stock. Although both species of birds are feisty parents — leading ground predators, including humans, away with various tactics including faking a broken wing, they can't overcome careless humans or animal predators

such as loose dogs or wild cats.

Variable oystercatchers in particular are real characters which live in the same territory year round, rarely divorce and can live an impressive 27 years.

Please, please take care as you enjoy your beaches this summer.

Below: Caption needed!

We have a \$25 book token (kindly donated) for the writer of the BEST CAPTION for this photo of a pair of variable oystercatchers.

Answers emailed or mailed to Landcare — address details bottom of page. Entries judged during January 2011, winner advised by the end of the month. Don't forget to give us your contact details!



2012

The year that was...

Celebration and reflection are the watchwords at this time of year as 2010 draws to a close and we look out to 2011. For Landcare, the year has been marked by both success and struggle.

Possum control — the combined efforts of our community in controlling possums has been fruitful and the reduction in pest numbers has been widely praised. Hot spots still exist however and we need to remain very vigilant to prevent a 'breakout' of the remaining critters.

Nature abhors a vacuum and our newly flourishing bush is just ripe for the picking by any hangers-on. The battle continues....

Revegetation — our regular gang of volunteers has manned the shadehouse potting benches throughout the year, providing a steady stream of healthy plants for revegetation work.

Community planting — three new projects began this year. The first is the dune planting of 5,000 spinifex / pingao at Hamiltons Gap/Waimatuku.

With fencing erected to reduce foot/vehicle damage, we are all interested to see how this progresses in such a difficult site. Awhitu Central Reserve and the Craig Reserve were the other two larger plantings that began and will continue with more planting in the forthcoming years. These sites will be wonderful assets on the Peninsula in years to come.

Dune Stabilisation — the marram plantings have done well despite the dry summer and the additional establishment of native species has begun in established

blocks.

It is satisfying to know that we have this weapon in the fight against the sand blows that threaten our landscape and livelihoods.

Field Trips — we held two very well attended walks this year at either ends of the Peninsula — at Easter to the Erickson/Brackmont properties and on Labour Day to the Rutherford/ Atchinson properties in Irwins Gap.

Landcare office — is still running! The office is our 'front window' to many residents and visitors and is a resource many take advantage of. It is the stopping point for people who seek information not only about Awhitu Peninsula Landcare, but also about the services and businesses on the Peninsula.

We have managed to run on the smell of an oily rag for many years but with the economy faltering it seems that the smell is getting fainter by the month.

Next year will be challenging for our organisation — many grants that enable us to function are either shrinking or disappearing altogether.

Conversely the work that we are involved in is actually increasing as awareness of the problems that our environment faces continue to grow.

As a group we can only plan for this increased workload and hope that you as a community will continue to provide the support that we cherish so much.

Inset: Successful dune stabilisation with marram and native plantings.



2012



**Awhitu Peninsula
Landcare Inc**

Post 2012

2012

Will Auckland Council continue to support pest control?

Possum control on the 22,000 hectare Awhitu Peninsula has been an activity which has been supported for a number of years by local landowners and Council.

As the Peninsula has a relatively narrow foot at its base, it provides the perfect opportunity for establishing a 'mainland island' (without the millions of dollars of cost required to build a predator fence!).

Awhitu Landcare has established a simple pest barrier line of bait stations across the foot of the Peninsula which is regularly monitored, and this is producing excellent results.

We have recently established a similar barrier across the northern third of the Peninsula, where valuable pockets of native forest still exist.

With the move to the amalgamated Auckland Council, identification of the small subsidy paid by landowners towards the cost of possum control has disappeared from rates bills.

Is this a precursor to removing the cost of possum control from Council funding?

Our Franklin Local Board, in consultation with the community, has identified that 'protecting and enhancing our natural environment' is a number one priority.

We have met with Local Board members and Council Biosecurity officers to discuss this matter, and they assure us that support of the pest control programme is imperative, and they will be doing everything they can to ensure this programme is included in the Council Long Term Plan (10 year period).

Landcare members will continue to work to make the Awhitu Peninsula pest free, invigorating natural habitats and allowing the native flora and fauna to thrive again.

It won't happen overnight, but it will happen. With ongoing assistance. Please?

2013

At this time Landcare engaged professional services for accounting and secretarial support, These services being provided by volunteer Landcare members.....



2014 – 2017....

26 July 2016 – National announce the Government has adopted the goal of NZ becoming Predator Free by 2050.

With 22,000 hectares of land already under “pest management” much of which is steep and only accessible on foot....some big concepts for a volunteer committee to ponder!

Funding was the main limiting factor during this time.....



2018

Pest Free Auckland 2050...

From July 2018 a Natural Environment Targeted Rate has been included in residential property rates across Auckland. Projects funded by the rate help protect our natural environment and tackle the pests, weeds and diseases that threaten our native species.

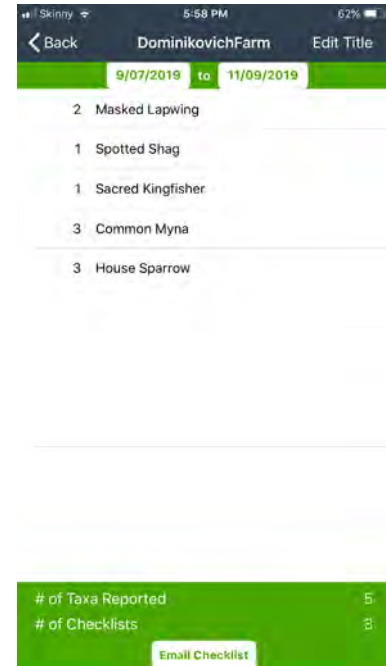
Funding obtained to increase community engagement for pest control

With increased support, knowledge, funding opportunities and resources, Landcare was able to increase efforts to support the community in pest control activities, More resources available (pest control supplies etc)

2019

Just some of what the community have been able to be involved in:

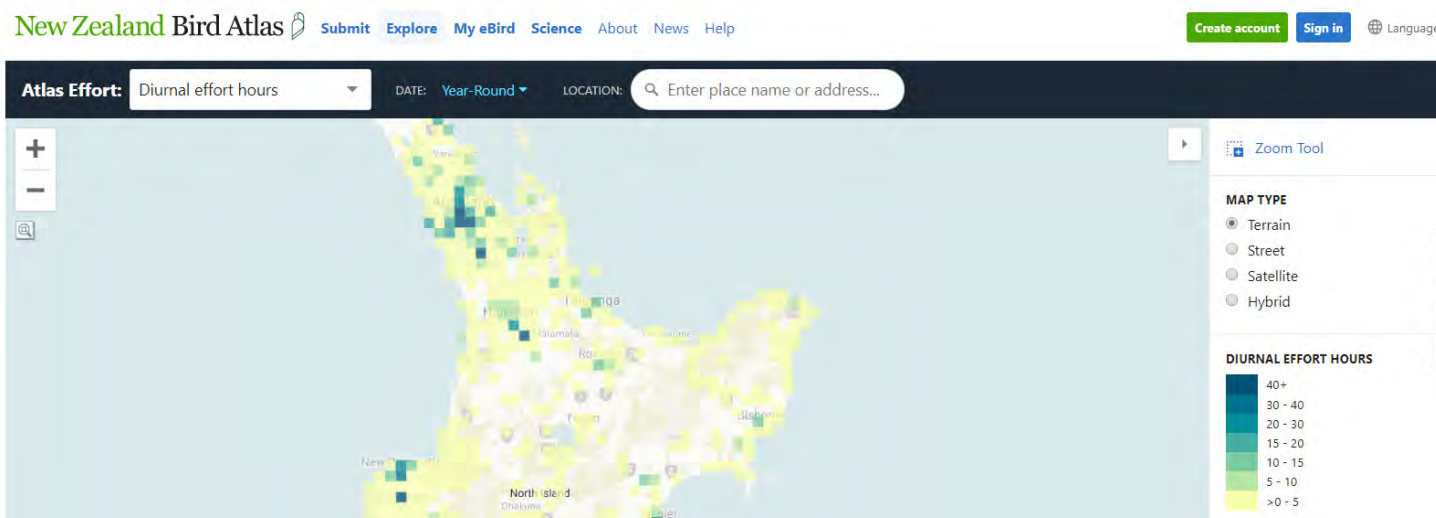
- Many more public information events (festivals, supply hub days etc)
- Learning what other groups across the Southern corridor of Auckland and the wider region are doing (facebook sites have exploded!)
- More face to face talking and chat to each other through social media, market day booths, free pest control workshops
- use of new emerging technologies such as self setting traps, ebird, trap.nz
- Joining a community all-Awhitu Mustelid control program
- Participating in bird monitoring, participating in NZ Bird Atlas



| 9/07/2019 to 11/09/2019 | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 | Masked Lapwing |
| 1 | Spotted Shag |
| 1 | Sacred Kingfisher |
| 3 | Common Myna |
| 3 | House Sparrow |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| # of Taxa Reported | 5 |
| # of Checklists | 3 |

Email Checklist



Awhitu Peninsula Doc200 Project

2019

View Edit Members Group categories

Awhitu Landcare

Community Doc200 trapping project

landcare@awhitu.org.nz 09 2351616

Community Project



2019

Prama Sept 2019

LATE NEWS FROM LANDCARE

Awhitu Landcare manages a community plant nursery which propagates native trees. The trees are destined for use in bush revegetation and wetland restoration projects across our peninsula. To keep costs to a minimum and encourage people to use locally sourced plants, the nursery work is carried out in most part by volunteers under the guidance of our nursery manager. This work requires a level of physical fitness to be able to stand for up to three hours while potting up. The Department of Internal Affairs through it's Community Organisational Grant Scheme has awarded Landcare a small grant so that they can support people who are currently not physically capable of helping out. So if you would like to help with the potting up but have concerns about your health or fitness, drop in to the resource centre and tell them what support you would need to be able to get involved.

On the Pest Control front, Landcare has a new Pest Controller, Sam Whitley. Control of stoats and weasels (as well as the larger ferret) with community assistance, is one of the tasks he faces. Auckland Council responded smartly to our request for help and

have supplied us with a good number of powerful Doc200 stoat and weasel traps. There was an assumption that these Doc200 traps are too powerful to be managed by the community. Landcare put out the word to see if anyone was keen to be trained in their use and was amazed at the positive overnight response! The first 8 of 32 who responded have had training and have their traps home to set and manage. The aim is to cover the whole peninsula using a 1km grid as a guide. Each trap will be checked, rebaited and reset, regularly and the trap's manager will report to Landcare monthly with their catch results. Stoats, weasels (and rats!) are the targets for these traps and properly used they are a humane way to kill these pest animals that do so much damage in our environment.

SW



Doc 200 Stoat & Rat Trap

2019

Orua Bay

Mick Grantham

Pest Control

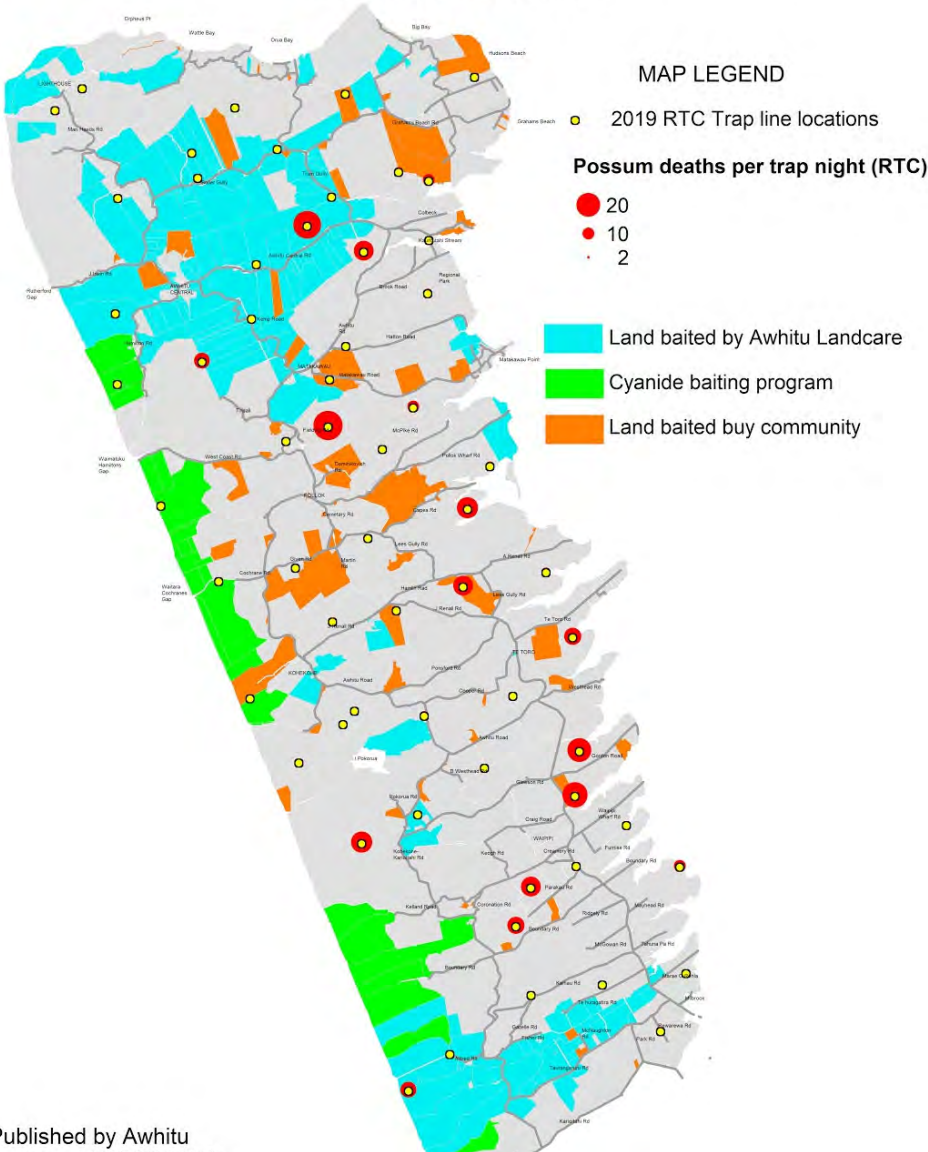
235 Orua Bay Rd Awhitu

Orua Bay Awhitu

Orua Bay and surrounds Community Rat Project



MARCH 2019 RTC RESULTS OF POSSUM DEATHS PER TRAP NIGHT
VS AWHITU LANDCARE 12 MONTH BAITING PROGRAM
ENDING 30 JUNE 2019



Published by Awhitu

2019

So how is the increased community engagement translating into results?
Looking at possums alone...

| Activity | Targeted land | Programme (bait usage) |
|------------------------|--|---|
| A. Brodifacoum baiting | <u>Landcare Contractor:</u> 5718 ha (slightly up from 5600 ha in previous period) | Actual bait used: 374 kg* down from 462 kg in previous 6mo period (Total for 12 months: 836kg) |
| | <u>Private landowners:</u> 990 ha (significantly up from 727 ha in previous period) | Actual bait used: 657 kg (up from 225 kg in previous 6mo period) (Total for 12 months: 882kg) |

2020

Where to next?

Awhitu Landcare has a strong history of delivering on its objectives
The Awhitu community has demonstrated its unwavering commitment
to conservation over the last 25 years.
We are ready for the next big project.

**PEST FREE AWHITU.....PEST FREE FRANKLIN
....PEST FREE AUCKLAND!**



Thank you