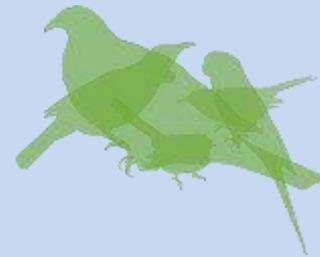


Eastern Bays Songbird Project

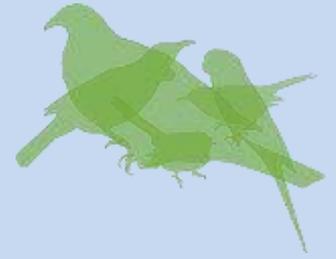


Eastern Songbirds - experiences of starting a new project

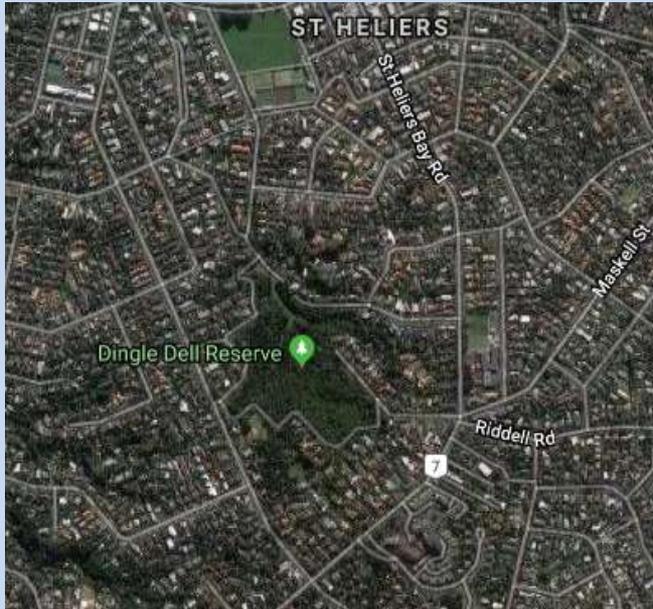
John Laurence



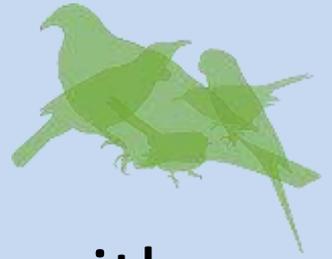
The vision



Tieke in Dingle Dell?



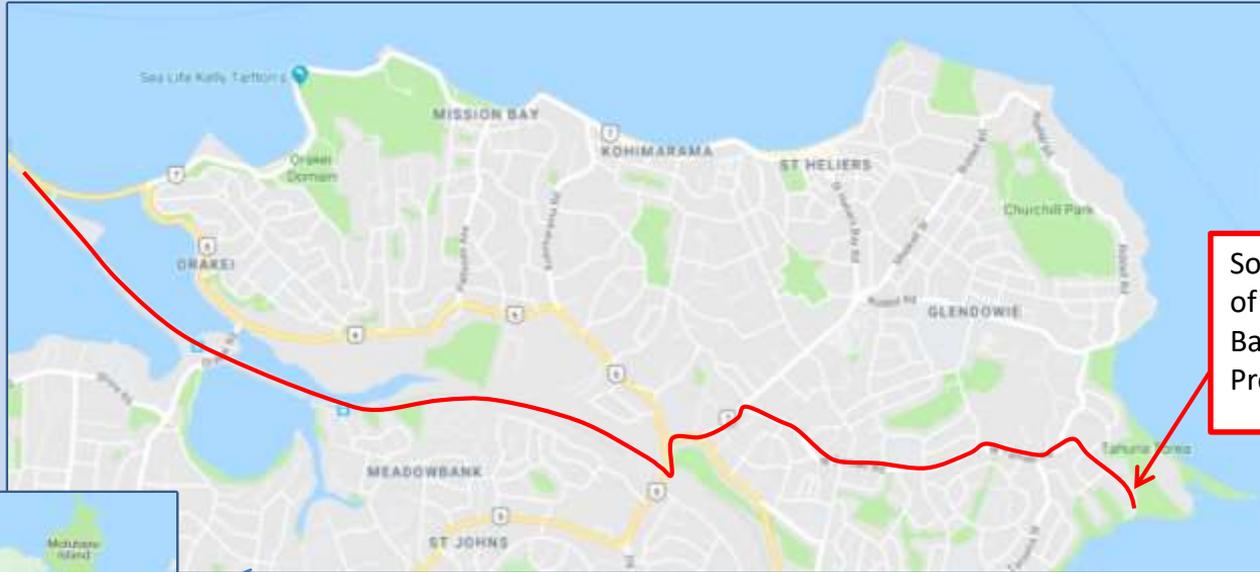
Aim



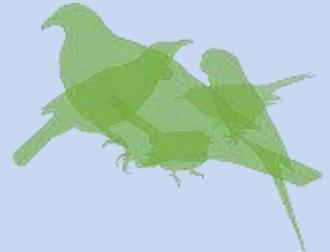
To create an Eastern Bays environment with thriving natural ecosystems populated by diverse and numerous birdlife by:

1. eradicating mammalian predators in the area, and
2. restoring native ecosystems and planting native trees to provide suitable food and habitat for native birds.

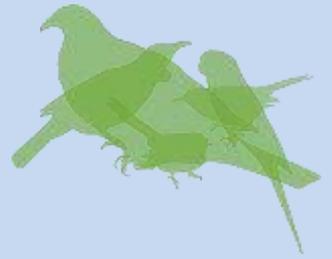
Eastern Bays Songbird Project area



Southern limit
of Eastern
Bays Songbird
Project area

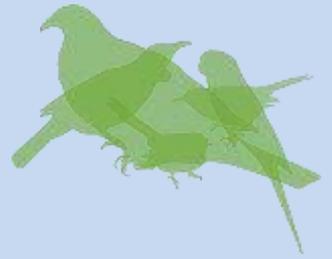


A landscape scale project



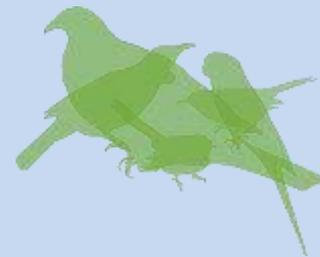
- Area – 1,380 ha
- Number of households ~20,000
- Types of land – residential property, reserves and parks, Ngati Whatua land, Pourewa Valley
- A number of ‘significant ecological areas’ eg Tahuna Torea, Dingle Dell,

First step



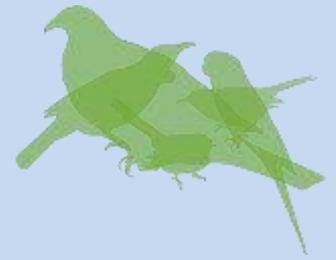
- Support from Auckland Council Environmental Services team
- Discussions with Orakei Local Board, Ngati Whatua, Forest and Bird
- Coordinating approach with Council and other community groups

Guiding principles



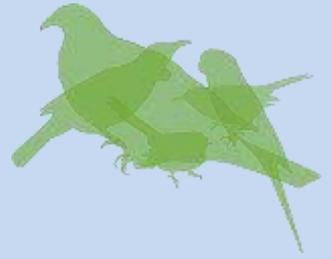
- Purpose – restoration of native biodiversity.
The pleasure of seeing and hearing a wide range of birds in our suburbs.
- No discussion regarding cats
- No discussion regarding toxins
- Target mammalian pests
- Encourage planting of native plants
 - Birds need nectar, berries, seeds, insects

Getting started



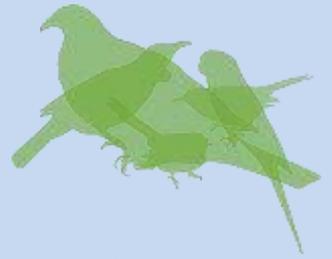
- Community meeting – Orakei Local Board, groups organising trapping in reserves & residential areas eg MBKRA, Karaka Bay, Forest & Bird, Ngati Whatua, Auckland Council Environmental Services team
 - a management plan was tabled for discussion
 - recruit steering committee
 - harness volunteers expertise – trapping, IT, art work, accountancy, PR
 - register as an Incorporated Society and Charity

Management Committee



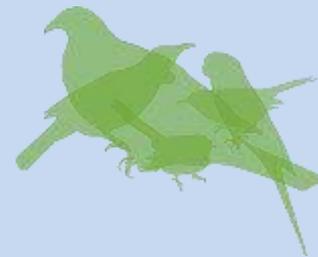
- Management committee formed with sub committees
 - Finance, trapping, monitoring, schools, publicity and community engagement
- Auckland Council Pest Control Plan template
- 1 in every 4-5 households in the area actively trapping ie total of 4000
- Trappers regularly report catches
- Regular monitoring for pests
- Regular bird counts
- Tree planting
- Involving schools and youth groups

Contract coordinator



- Orakei Local Board support to fund a coordinator to manage and support working groups:
 - Trap distribution to residents
 - Monitoring pests and birds
 - Communication with community
 - Involving schools
 - Database management
 - Raise funding – Auckland Council RENH, PFNZ, donations..

Key progress to date



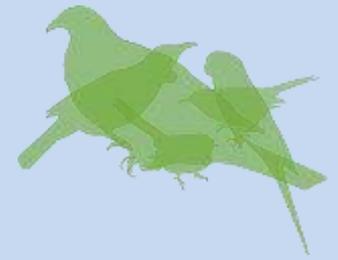
- Early technical support from Auckland Council
- Funding from Orakei Local Board
- Funding from KiwiBank to purchase traps
- Financial and manpower support from Forest and Bird
- Early support from Ngati Whatua
- Collaboration with existing trapping groups and trappers in the area, eg Kepa Bush, Selwyn Bush, MBKRA, Karaka Bay, Tahuna Torea, Churchill Park
- Established preferred tools, Wooden tunnels from Mens Shed, Victor traps, Tomcat traps, Timms possum traps, Ambush bait stations.
- Willingness of local residents to assist.
- Personal approach with letterbox leaflets re trap handout events
- Started trapping adjacent to existing trapped areas and spreading efforts outwards.
- Spin-off groups working on rubbish and weeds

Challenges



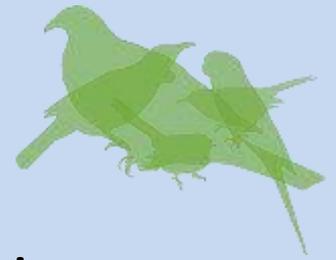
- Establishing efficient recording systems: Googledocs, Catch-IT
 - Who, which trap, where, what caught
- Ensuring traps are being set
- Getting trappers to report their catches
- Number of active trappers and support personnel needed
- Monitoring effectiveness of programme
 - 5 min bird counts, tracker tunnels, chew cards, catches/no catches, weta condominiums

Issues to focus on



- Convince residents that rats are in their immediate vicinity even if they have never seen them
- Need to carry on trapping when no catches - to prevent reinvasion And to report “no” catches
- To involve schools
- To demonstrate trapping provides benefits to residents

Difficulties encountered



- Renters are noticeably not as interested in their environment as are home owners
- Residents fear of killing pests and handling dead rats
- Residents who believe that they have not got a pest problem.
- Most residents have not experienced the sounds of many native birds such as saddleback, bellbirds, kakariki, etc. so don't know what they are missing!

