

THE PUKENUI WESTERN HILLS FOREST CHARITABLE TRUST CHAIR REPORT TO
THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2022

I am pleased to present the Annual Report to The Pukenui Trust for 2021.

The 2020/2021 year has again been challenging due to COVID19.

I would like to thank and acknowledge all the Board Members for taking on additional areas of responsibility. Thank you to the previous Deputy Chair, George McKenzie for his work on the Trust. We wish George well for his move to Waikato. A special mention to our Treasurer; Audrey O'Callaghan for taking on an increased workload with funding applications and reports in order to access project funding. Welcome to two new Trustees; Tim Martin and Jane Gunson, we are privileged to have you join us. Farewell and thanks to Trish Clarke, our administrator, and welcome Sherry Galione. Sherry is a Northtec graduate and has also been volunteering with the Rangers.

Bevan Cramp and Ben Lovell are our hardworking and dedicated Rangers, both go way beyond what we pay them for, and I thank them for their continuing enthusiasm and commitment. Thanks also to Peter Luke, a committed volunteer in pest control, and now a contractor working on maintaining DOC Kauri Die Back stations.

Within my role over the last 15 months, I have made it my priority to meet and engage with our many stakeholders. Thanks again to the Trustees and Rangers who have been supportive in attending meetings and continuing our important work of local engagement. I feel that all our stakeholder relationships have been strengthened over the year.

Key Stakeholders include:

Department of Conservation (DOC), Northland Regional Council (NRC), Whangarei District Council (WDC) and the WDC Water Catchment team, Whangarei Museum, Kiwi House & Heritage Park (Kiwi North), Tiakina, NorthTec, Local Hapu, Whangarei Quarry Gardens, Kiwi Coast, Predator Free Whangarei & Predator Free 2050 and the Kukupa Collective.

- We are incredibly grateful to NorthTec tutors and students for supporting the work of The Trust in a variety of ways which includes pest control.
- Thank you to NRC for their staff support and assistance around the many operations of the Trust including pest control, increased landowner engagement including a new Landcare group, "Te Kāhu-Neighbours of

Pukenui Western Hills landcare group”, a successful trap audit, kiwi translocations, training and advice on Kauri Die Back prevention. Also their support on assisting with the Pukenui Strategic planning

- Thanks to Kiwi North and DOC support around Kiwi Translocation and related education programs
- DOC for the continuing pest control operations and support in toxin planning
- Thanks to Amourguard for ongoing assistance in dog control and positive outcomes after the sad death of a trans-located kiwi by dogs during the 2021 lockdown
- On-going relationships with hapu, especially Ngati Kahu o Torongare, and also representatives from Te Parawhau hapu engaging with the Trust and attending meetings

COVID19 again disrupted many regular activities of the Trust. Plans around some public engagement and conservation week were suspended. We have however, have had some great outcomes.

Pukenui Forest is highly rated by DOC nationally. (It is ranked in the top 35% of representative ecosystems ranked by DOC) and it is also one of the bigger northern forests free of large pest animals such as pigs, goats and deer.

Achievements

- Kiwi Translocation in Feb 2021. 14 healthy birds released into Pukenui Forest
- 3 Gold Kiwi Sponsorships. Thank you Ruth Marsh & Bob Starr for “Jeanette” and additional sponsorship, Forsyth Barr for “Forsyth” and “Barr”, Audrey O’Callaghan for “Morrie”. Great news in that both Barr and Morrie have detected hatches just recently
- June/July 2021 Kiwi calling monitoring showed an increase in Kiwi calls compared to last year
- Thank you to our generous funders and I would like to also acknowledge other sponsorship support from the community. This has enabled us to achieve our goals: Ray White, Lynwood Nursery, Northern Hospitality, Karajoz, Harcourts, Pak’nSave, the Graham family and Danica-Jade Williams with Skyla De Bryun
- Working with DOC and WDC has enabled us to move forward on the 10 Year Management Plan. The review is to commence early 2022
- Pukenui Trust presented to Te Huinga in October 2021. Working with our partners DOC, NRC and WDC we wish to continue to build authentic partnerships with local Hapu
- Strategic planning is underway. Thank you to NRC for supporting this. Thank you, Glen and Clea from Good Wood Aotearoa for the foundation work, and now Tim Mulcare for the current work underway

- Whau Valley Dam restoration is underway with great results in weed control and looking towards new plantings in 2022. Thank you, trustee, Tim Martin for your time and expertise on heading this project
- Volunteer of the Year 2021 was awarded to Max Hutchings. But a special thanks as well to all volunteers for your on-going pest management and Kiwi calling.
- In August 2021, volunteers enabled us to install forty-five AT220 auto traps along the Taraire Ridge. 24 volunteers over 2 days is approximately 200 volunteer hours! Great news in that the traps were working immediately in the possum and rat control programmes
- Our volunteer and supporters Christmas luncheon was a great success, with the launch of the inaugural 2022 Pukenui Forest calendar
- Funding has been sought for biodiversity monitoring equipment and a new website. There are some great projects on the horizon for 2022 including a Bat Hui and public engagement on the critically endangered long tailed bat, Pekapeka-Tou-Roa.

Once again, thank you to the Trustees, Volunteers, Rangers, Supporters and Stakeholders for the support you have given me and The Trust in what has been again a challenging, but most rewarding year.

Sharon Morgan.