

Rebuilding Aotearoa's kiwi population

Annual Report 2022-2023



Save
the kiwi

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi,
engari kē he toa takitini.

My success should not be
bestowed onto me alone, it
was not individual success but
the success of a collective.

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“Together we are working to return kiwi to areas where the taonga species once thrived, and we are achieving great results.”

Image credit: Maddison Farrant



From the Chair

Richard Leggat

This year has been a breakthrough year for Save the Kiwi with the first translocations of significant numbers of kiwi out of Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari under our Kōhanga Kiwi kaupapa.

In April, 61 kiwi from Maungatautari were gifted from Ngāti Koroki Kahukura to Ngāti Hikairo in Tongariro. In May, 50 more kiwi were gifted to Taranaki Whānui to be released into the hills of Mākara near Wellington, as part of The Capital Kiwi Project. This achievement represents the culmination of a significant amount of kōrero and mahi between the gifting and receiving iwi and has affirmed the playbook for further translocations. In the future, we expect to translocate hundreds of kiwi every year.

This year we have also seen the first kiwi released from Cape Sanctuary into the Ruahine range, which is very encouraging for the Eastern brown kiwi. A further significant initiative for the Eastern brown kiwi is the Pae Maunga Raukūmara restoration project where two Save the Kiwi mana whenua staff are working intimately with local hapū. The prospect for replenishing the very small remnant kiwi population in the Raukūmara is looking promising.

Our Jobs for Nature projects are tracking well, and we are comfortably achieving our KPIs agreed upon when our funding was confirmed. Our thoughts have now turned to how we can ensure the conservation gains made can be sustained when our funding finishes in mid-2025. Some projects are making good progress towards diversifying their

income and funding relationships, but there is still a lot of work to do to sustain the gains made through Jobs for Nature.

Given the growth and progress achieved over the last four years, the board felt it appropriate to take time to update the organisation's strategic plan. This was a worthwhile exercise that validated our work and direction to date and fine-tuned our future plans. Perhaps the main change is our desire to weave our Māori mahi through all our work rather than have it as a separate pou, given the importance of Māori as landowners and kaitiaki of kiwi and other taonga species.

Related to this, it is a pleasure to welcome Joe Harawira to Save the Kiwi's board. Joe has been involved in our kaupapa for many years and carries great mana in Māoridom. We are very fortunate to have Joe's guidance as we continue to work with tangata whenua at the coalface of kiwi conservation.

In other board news, Tame Malcolm has unfortunately had to step down as a trustee given his senior role at the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai and their requirement to avoid any potential conflicts of interest. Miriama Kamo has also stepped back due to availability. Thank you both for your valuable contributions.

Our sponsorship team remains healthy and continues to grow. Thank you to our sponsors for having faith in Save the Kiwi. We are confident we will more than justify your support. A big thank you must also go to Gallagher Insurance (formerly Crombie Lockwood) who are our most significant supporter in financial terms and a great, supportive, long-term partner. Funding remains an ongoing struggle for almost all charities, and we are no exception, especially with the end of Jobs for Nature on the horizon. We continue to look for corporates that align with our kaupapa and values. We believe contributing to Save the Kiwi benefits much more than just kiwi, with gains seen in overall biodiversity in all the areas we operate.

Our leadership team led by Michelle Impey has had another very strong year. In addition to the first translocations under Kōhanga Kiwi, the team has successfully run the Gallagher Insurance Kiwi Burrow (formerly the Crombie Lockwood Kiwi Burrow) and the Napier creche, initiated work on dog programs around the country, run a very successful national hui in New Plymouth, and much more. Perhaps the most important role is being recognised as a very active and respected team that works well with the large number of iwi- and community-led kiwi conservation groups doing the hard mahi on the ground.

I would also like to thank our ambassadors and patrons for their support of our work. This year we welcomed Breakfast host Jenny-May Clarkson as a new ambassador and had two very enjoyable lunches with Dame Lisa Carrington and Kane Williamson during the year. We are also very appreciative of the ongoing support of our Endowment Fund patrons Sir John Key and the Rt Hon. Helen Clark and look forward to hosting small functions with their attendance in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank Michelle for her continued great leadership of Save the Kiwi, and my fellow trustees for their ongoing support and guidance of our very important mission. Together we are working to return kiwi to areas where the taonga species once thrived, and together we are achieving great results.

From the Executive Director

Michelle Impey

A definite highlight of the year is the indisputable (re)confirmation of the effectiveness of Kōhanga Kiwi to rapidly grow kiwi populations..

In April, we celebrated the inaugural muster of kiwi from Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari under our Kōhanga Kiwi kaupapa, with 111 kiwi released from Maungatautari into the wild. 61 went to Tongariro to bolster their existing population of kiwi, while 50 were released into the hills of Wellington to help create a new population in the 24,000ha predator-controlled habitat created by The Capital Kiwi Project.

A sincere thank you must go to Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari. Their team of staff, contractors and volunteers works tirelessly to ensure the kiwi living in their backyard are safe and will thrive. The condition of the maunga and the work undertaken to manage it is testament to the population of kiwi that now calls it home. It's estimated that upwards of 2,000 kiwi are now on the maunga, proof that Maungatautari is an environment that's perfect for kiwi.

These releases are significant for many reasons. Firstly, five short years after we launched our Kōhanga Kiwi kaupapa, we are now in a position to muster at least 300 (more likely 500) kiwi per year from Maungatautari, every year, and gift them to suitable sites in the wild. You read that right. 500 kiwi. Every year.

This initiative alone will achieve far more than the national goal of 2% growth for western brown kiwi. We are growing the kiwi population in a very measurable and demonstrable way, and as we get better and better with our methods to catch and transport kiwi en masse, this will also prove to be a very cost-effective way to grow kiwi.

Secondly, this proves that, although a big commitment is required in the first few years to establish a kōhanga population, it is a very smart investment. Conservation dollars are scarce and highly competitive so ensuring the best use of funds is top of mind.

Thirdly, with the quantity of kiwi being caught, handled and transported every year from Maungatautari, we now have a centralised training ground for people who need to develop skills to catch kiwi, do health checks, affix transmitters and train specialist kiwi conservation dogs (to name just a few). We have the skilled people on our team to develop and deliver the systems and pathways to this training.

All of this would not matter one bit if we didn't have safe habitat to release the kiwi to. The key to growing the kiwi population is to provide safe habitat to protect kiwi already living there and/or allow the safe reintroduction of kiwi. Our funding is not sufficient to fund this at scale ourselves, but what we can do is leverage the power of kiwi to encourage and support large landowners to do pest and predator control on their whenua.

Our Jobs for Nature funded initiatives have hit their four-year goals more than a year ahead of schedule. For the lifetime of the scheme up until 30 June 2023, we now have 120,516 hectares of additional habitat protected to a level suitable for kiwi and have paid for 190,320 hours of nature-based jobs. Often this work is unpaid or low paid, with funding often not confirmed for more than 12 months. This puts people in a cycle of employment insecurity and not having their chosen

“We are now in a position to muster at least 300 (more likely 500) kiwi per year from Maungatautari, every year, and gift them to suitable sites in the wild. You read that right. 500 kiwi. Every year.”



profession feel valued. Jobs for Nature has changed that. As June 2024 looms closer, many people have questions about what the future brings when this funding ends. We and many others are working closely with government and other agencies to ensure critical work continues and the gains made are not lost.

The publicity that comes with kiwi could not have been demonstrated more clearly than through the story of Paora, a kiwi at Zoo Miami that was subjected to harsh lighting and multiple hands-on encounters every day. We witnessed the passion of a nation and the power of social media as thousands commented on this. For Save the Kiwi, it proved our position as an objective (but caring) spokesperson for kiwi, where we were able to work with key partners to deliver some calming messages to the nation. Paora is now receiving better care and Save the Kiwi enjoyed a surge in website traffic and donations for our work to tell the story.

My personal plea as a spokesperson for the Paora story was to see the same passion for the kiwi on the ground here in New Zealand, and to express the same outrage when a kiwi is killed by a roaming dog. Dogs pose an interesting challenge for conservationists, and we are strong in our view that dogs and

(responsible) owners can live alongside kiwi. To that end we are very happy to have welcomed Emma Craig to our team as a fulltime Dog Specialist. She is working on several initiatives to reduce the threat of dogs to kiwi.

The year wasn't all sunshine and rainbows though, quite literally. The extreme weather events threw down challenges in the conservation world, with fenced sanctuaries suffering damage (and predator incursions) and damage to roading infrastructure making access to project areas impossible. This meant that in some cases predator control efforts were paused temporarily. A handful of kiwi were known to have been killed but probably the greatest impact was on the people on the ground and the morale to (yet again) rally to keep going with the work.

Everyone who works in this industry is very familiar with both the rewards and challenges of this work, but we keep at it because the former outweighs the latter. To our entire team, thank you as always for bringing your knowledge and enthusiasm to this organisation. To my board, thank you for your wise guidance and support.

And to the kiwi out there that we aren't yet protecting, hang on. We'll get to you soon.

The last
12 months
in a ~~nutshell~~
an eggshell



chicks hatched at the
Gallagher Kiwi Burrow

(Formerly Crombie Lockwood Kiwi Burrow)



kiwi crèched at Napier



kiwi released from
Kōhanga Kiwi kaupapa



raised by Jarden during Save the Kiwi Week 2022



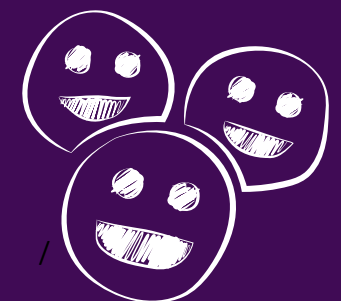
new Save the Kiwi
staff members



hectares of safe habitat created through
Jobs for Nature this year



dogs put through the official
Kiwi Avoidance Training programme



FTEs created through
Jobs for Nature*

* Fulltime Equivalents, calculated at 1,560 hours per year

First kiwi released into the wild under Kōhanga Kiwi

Save the Kiwi has celebrated a significant milestone: the first release of kiwi under our flagship kaupapa, Kōhanga Kiwi.

Image credit: Joshua Forrest

In April and May 2023, the first kiwi were removed from Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari under Save the Kiwi's Kōhanga Kiwi kaupapa and released into safe spaces in the wild. This was a long time coming after many years of hard work and collaboration with other entities, in particular mana whenua and Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari.

The first series of releases saw 61 progeny kiwi removed from Maungatautari and released into the foothills of Tongariro where they joined an existing kiwi population. This release was significant because in 2005, Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro, one of the mana whenua of Tongariro, gifted four one-month-old chicks, two males and two females, to Ngāti Koroki Kahukura, mana whenua of Maungatautari. These manu were the first kiwi to reside within the predator-free sanctuary in the heart of the Waikato, near

Cambridge, and the first to be seen on Maungatautari for over 100 years.

The return of kiwi to their whenua was a wonderful full-circle moment and the honouring of the original tono process, a reciprocal mana-to-mana agreement between Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro and Ngāti Koroki Kahukura that was established back in 2005 when the original manu were gifted.

"When Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro gifted those original birds, we handed over the role and responsibility of kaitiaki of the kiwi to Ngāti Koroki Kahukura at the same time," Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro kaumatua Te Ngaeha Wanikau said. "We needed to have comfort that the kiwi would be cared for and protected for the long-term. Returning the

offspring of these birds back to Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro reflects how well Ngāti Koroki Kahukura cared for these kiwi as kaitiaki."

Ngāti Koroki Kahukura representative Tao Tauroa said the first major release of kiwi from Maungatautari to Tongariro was significant because the terms of the original tono have been honoured, and although many of those involved in the tono have passed on, the intent of the rangatira (elders) remained.

"18 years ago, Maungatautari was bereft of kiwi," Tao said. "Thanks to Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro, this taonga species has returned to a place where it once thrived. Now with deep gratitude, it is an honour and privilege to return these mokopuna of the original founders to their maunga, whenua

and people, and for their founder role in reversing the decline of Western brown kiwi population for Aotearoa."

Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari manager Bodie Taylor said the exponential growth of the kiwi population on the maunga is testament to collaboration and hard work between multiple parties.

"Kiwi conservation is not a standalone kaupapa," Bodie said. "Successfully bringing a threatened species back from the brink requires a huge amount of collaboration to build a shared vision. Together with Ngāti Koroki Kahukura and Save the Kiwi we're proud that a thriving population of kiwi call the maunga their home. It's a huge privilege knowing that the mahi going on here will directly contribute to more kiwi populations growing elsewhere."



Kōhanga Kiwi helps return kiwi to the Capital

In May 2023, 50 kiwi were released into the hills of Wellington as part of the Kōhanga Kiwi kaupapa. They joined 13 kiwi that had been released a few months earlier to create the first population of kiwi to be seen in the Capital for more than 100 years.

A welcome event at Pipitea Marae saw more than 200 people of all generations gather at dawn to welcome the first 25 birds to Te Whanganui-a-Tara. The kaitiakitangi of the kiwi was passed from Ngāti Koroki Kahukura to Taranaki Whānui, and the birds were released with The Capital Kiwi Project into the hills of Mākara.

A second event at Mākara Hall a few weeks later saw the remaining 25 kiwi arrive. Much of the work that has been done to create habitat where kiwi can thrive is thanks to volunteers getting involved in predator control, local dog owners putting their dogs through kiwi avoidance training, and landowners supporting the project, so this was a wonderful way to give back to the community.

The mahi behind Kōhanga Kiwi

Kōhanga Kiwi is a world-leading kiwi repopulation strategy driven by Save the Kiwi that aims to supercharge the growth of North Island brown kiwi. Kiwi eggs are lifted from the wild and incubated and hatched in captivity. Chicks are released into predator-free kōhanga (nest) sites, usually a fenced sanctuary or island, when they are about four weeks old, where they'll live the rest of their days finding a mate and breeding, without fear of predators. When these kōhanga sites reach an estimated half-capacity, the offspring of the original founder population will be either returned to the regions where their ancestors came from or used to bolster existing populations or create new ones.

Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari has been a kōhanga site for kiwi chicks from the Western region since 2005, after four kiwi chicks were gifted from Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro to Ngāti Koroki Kahukura to create a founder population of kiwi on the maunga. Save the Kiwi significantly ramped up the effort in 2017, and approximately 400 chicks have been released into Maungatautari. Today, thanks to the ideal habitat Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari creates within its predator-proof fence, it's estimated that 2,000-2,500 kiwi are now on the maunga.

The work that goes into locating kiwi, removing them from Maungatautari and relocating them to their new forever-home is immense. For this series of releases, teams of kiwi dogs and their handlers worked through the night over several weeks to locate kiwi, attach transmitters to them, and re-release them into a smaller area of the sanctuary.

After enough kiwi had been located came the official 'moving day'. Kiwi rangers went back into the smaller area of the sanctuary and located each of the re-captured kiwi using telemetry gear. Each kiwi underwent a thorough health check by a team of veterinary professionals and kiwi handlers. They were then loaded into purpose-built wooden boxes, lined with foliage. Finally, they were strapped into the back of vehicles and driven carefully to their destination.

A significant amount of this work was carried out by volunteers, whose mahi we appreciate more than they'll ever know.

The true value of Kōhanga Kiwi is its ability to essentially 'grow' kiwi in perpetuity while allowing the species to grow naturally in a wild setting. The programme ensures that the work being done by others to create safe habitat for kiwi is maximised. It also means there will always be a ready-made kiwi population that can be gifted to other parts of the western region that meet strict predator control measures.

The success of Kōhanga Kiwi comes down to strong relationships with iwi, Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, and the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai, passionate community groups, and the significant mahi completed onsite by both staff and volunteers.

From 2024, it is expected that 300-500 kiwi will be translocated from Maungatautari to other suitable places in the wild every year.

Kōhanga Kiwi process



Locate wild kiwi



Attach transmitters



Raise chicks



Incubate & hatch eggs



Locate eggs



Release chicks



Live in sanctuary forever



Locate progeny kiwi



Release



Arrival ceremony

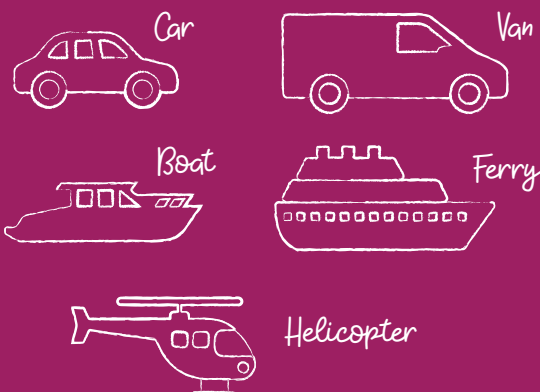


Relocate progeny kiwi

Kiwi releases around the motu great news for kiwi conservation

Over the last 12 months, kiwi have been moving to key locations all over the North Island, signalling growth for kiwi conservation goals.

Despite their inability to fly, these kiwi have chalked up a lot of travel time. Here are some of the modes of transport kiwi have taken to get from their kōhanga or sanctuary sites to their forever homes this year.



Cape Sanctuary & the Ruahine Ranges

14 years after 80 kiwi chicks were gifted to Cape Sanctuary to start a new kiwi population, 11 juvenile kiwi were returned to the Northern Ruahine Ranges in November 2022.

This achievement was a significant milestone for not only Cape Sanctuary but the future of Eastern brown kiwi. Of the four taxa of North Island brown kiwi, the Eastern brown kiwi is the one that needs the most help. The eastern region of the North Island is made up of very rough terrain, and much of it is very isolated which makes implementing and maintaining predator control very tough.

In addition, unlike the Western and Coromandel taxa, there hasn't been a predator-free kōhanga site capable of growing surplus kiwi for gifting back to the wild. Cape Sanctuary now fills this gap by operating an efficient sanctuary that, while not being completely predator-free, is performing exceptionally to have gone from a founder population of just 80, to now being home to an estimated 600 kiwi.

Cape Sanctuary is the largest predator-fenced and privately-owned and -funded wildlife sanctuary in New Zealand. Founded by Andy and Liz Lowe and Julian Robertson in 2006 and operated in partnership with Ngāti Mihiroa, Cape Sanctuary is now home to many protected native species including Eastern brown kiwi, kiwi pukupuku/little spotted kiwi, tuatara, takahē, kākā, kākārīki, wētāpungapunga/giant wētā, and several species of seabirds.

Over the years, the Cape has received 23 translocations of endangered species. On top of that, the peninsula is now a thriving hub of native species that have returned on their own due to the sanctuary's intensive predator control. In addition to the kiwi that live at the Cape, the team has also assisted other projects by rearing over 350 chicks as part of Operation Nest Egg. These chicks have been returned to safe sites in the wild once they have reached 1kg.

The Ruahine site where this first translocation of kiwi from the Cape were released has been made safe thanks to a huge amount of voluntary trapping work over the last 15 years. Without the mahi of a number of community trapping groups, it wouldn't be safe to return these birds to the Ruahine.

Cape Sanctuary's conservation model, supported by Save the Kiwi and the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai, proves that kiwi can thrive anywhere there's plenty of food to eat and effective predator control. Kiwi live in the Cape's native forest of course, but they're also thick in the sand dunes, farmland, and pine plantations. When you take predators away and give kiwi room to grow, they'll thrive, regardless of the landscape.

Motutapu & Rotoroa Islands

More than two years after a stoat incursion put a stop to releasing kiwi onto Auckland's Motutapu Island, 25 juvenile kiwi have been released onto the motu, heralding the re-launch of Save the Kiwi's "To the motu and back" Kōhanga Kiwi programme for Coromandel brown kiwi on the island.

Since 2012, Save the Kiwi and co-landowners Ngāi tai ki Tāmaki and the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai have been working in partnership to rebuild the Coromandel brown kiwi population by using Motutapu as a safe space for kiwi chicks to thrive and have offspring of their own.

However, in late 2020 a stoat incursion put a stop to kiwi releases onto Motutapu. A rāhui was placed on the island, giving Save the Kiwi, Ngāi tai ki Tāmaki, and Department of Conservation time and space to resolve the incursion and implement more predator control measures.

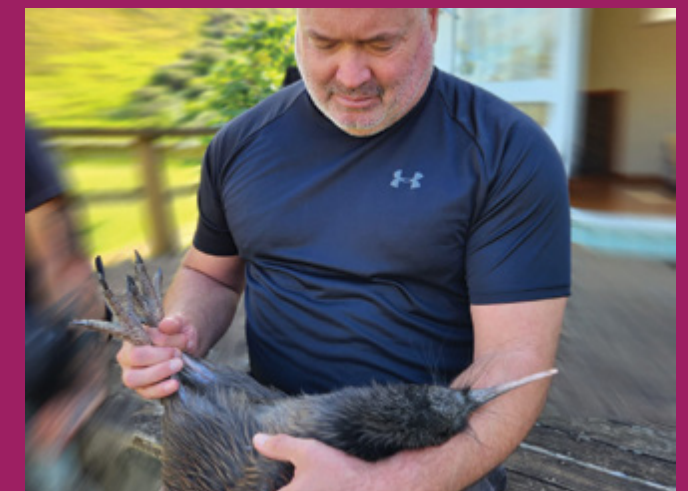
As a result, neighbouring Rotoroa Island stepped in to creche kiwi while Motutapu was out of action. Kiwi chicks were released onto the island at about four weeks of age, then retrieved when they reached approximately 1.2kg in weight and returned to the Coromandel peninsula.

In March 2023, a catching team of two conservation dogs and eight musters headed to Rotoroa Island to round up 20-25 kiwi that had been using Rotoroa as a temporary home. Once they were comfortably packed into kiwi travelling boxes, the birds were taken by boat to Motutapu Island where they joined 108 other Coromandel brown kiwi that have been released onto the motu over the last 10 years.

The success of kiwi conservation comes down to how well people work together. Save the Kiwi is so grateful for the Rotoroa Island Trust stepping in to assist while Motutapu was out of action. We have been heartened by everyone's willingness to help. The kiwi has a way of bringing all New Zealanders together, and it's a privilege to be a part of that story.



Image credit: Stuff





Jobs for Nature boosts biodiversity & creates employment for people at place

Over the last financial year, Save the Kiwi continued to see significant momentum in our whānau of projects funded by Jobs for Nature..

Under Jobs for Nature, the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai has been responsible for allocating \$488 million to partners and projects that will create nature-based job opportunities for approximately 4,800 people over five years.

In 2020, Save the Kiwi was announced as a recipient of \$19.7 million Jobs for Nature funding. Between mid-2020 and mid-2024, our goal is to use this funding to create more than 100 full-time equivalents (FTEs) and 110,000 hectares of kiwi-safe habitat. Save the Kiwi has an additional year of funding, taking us through to mid-2025.

Over the last financial year, we have continued to prove the value of the ‘fund one, distribute to many’ model of funding. We fund 11 independent projects through Jobs for Nature, from the Far North to the West Coast of the South Island.

During the 2022/23 financial year, Save the Kiwi surpassed our lifetime project goal of reaching 100 fulltime equivalents (FTEs), reaching 122 FTEs – two years ahead of schedule.

This is testament to our powerhouse of projects who are wholeheartedly committed to protecting biodiversity in their corners of Aotearoa and creating safe spaces for kiwi.

Teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime

Education and training opportunities are powerful ways of connecting communities and likeminded people, whether they know lots about kiwi or are coming in fresh. Rather than simply doing the work for them, Save the Kiwi is committed to teaching people how to do the mahi that will support kiwi in their area, the wider diversity, and their people at place.

Education also reinforces the fact that protecting kiwi is a ‘gateway drug’ to wider conservation gains. When we create safer habitat for kiwi by removing predators from the ecosystem, we are automatically making habitat safer for other species too.

One project we fund through Jobs for Nature is a kiwi training program. Managed by Save the Kiwi and led by Will Kahu, this program teaches participants key kiwi training skills including how to use acoustic recorders and the data generated by them, and how to handle kiwi correctly and in different situations.

Save the Kiwi’s National Predator Control Advisor John Bissell is also funded by Jobs for Nature. While some of his role is to support projects with incursions, significantly his role is to support projects with upskilling and education about ‘better than best practice’ predator control initiatives. In late 2023, we launched the Chasing Zero YouTube channel which is a collection of how-to videos hosted by John that take predator hunters back to the basics of effective trapping.

In the 2023/24 financial year, Save the Kiwi will expand on this model of capacity and capability building.

“When we create safer habitat for kiwi by removing predators from the ecosystem, we are automatically making habitat safer for other species too.”

The community returning kiwi to the heart of the north

Honeymoon Valley is an area of forest and farmland nestled between Te Tai Tokerau’s Kaitaia, Doubtless Bay and the Hokianga. The area is remote and off the beaten track, and many homes in this part of the world are off-grid and self-sufficient.

Honeymoon Valley Landcare Trust was established in 2015 and was birthed out of a passion for the land and a common desire to restore its health and viability. In 2020, the Trust successfully applied to Save the Kiwi for Jobs for Nature funding to create the Kiwi Corridor Project. The project encompasses land from Honeymoon Valley towards neighbouring Otangaroa to the east and Mangamuka to the west. Halfway through the funding, the Trust had increased their project area from 1,800 hectares to 7,000 hectares, including 153 kilometres of traplines.

While protecting kiwi is the short-term focus of this Jobs for Nature-funded project, improving overall biodiversity and creating local employment opportunities are the long-term goals. Operations revolve around trapping mustelids, encouraging responsible dog and cat ownership, implementing a weed action project, and maintaining and improving water catchment and water quality by supporting the neighbouring Nga Awa Peria Oruru River Project.

Honeymoon Valley Landcare Trust trustee Shayne Waldron says the uniqueness of the Jobs for Nature programme has allowed their project to progress faster than it would have otherwise.

“In the past we’ve been able to purchase traps thanks to generous funders, but very few funders pay for labour,” Shayne says. “That’s what makes Jobs for Nature so different to other funders. Being able to hire contractors to come in to cut traplines and set traps while creating jobs for locals has enabled us to expand much faster and larger than we’d been able to do, but in a way we’ve always hoped we’d be able to do.”

Miro Parsonson is a trapping contractor funded by Jobs for Nature. Technically his work revolves around kiwi conservation. But he says everything he does contributes to the overall biodiversity of the forest.

“The forest and the wildlife that live here all live in harmony – or at least that’s the goal,” Miro says. “Kiwi are the focus of our work but everything we do to help protect kiwi and create more habitat that’s safe for kiwi helps every other species that either currently lives here or used to live here and we’re trying to bring back.”

Bernard Coogan is the Honeymoon Valley Landcare Trust’s project manager. Born and bred in Honeymoon Valley, Bernard now lives there with his young family so “our two sons can enjoy a similar upbringing to what I had”.

“The success of the project is completely down to the people we’ve got working with us,” Bernard says. “Most of the people who are involved live in the project area. We have one trapper whose trapline starts from her back door. Everyone’s involved in it because we want to be. We live

“The forest and the wildlife that live here all live in harmony – or at least that’s the goal,”

here, we’re invested in the future of the area, and we want to do what we can to improve it and see it thrive.

“Kiwi have thrived here before. I think, as Honeymoon Valley residents, we have a responsibility to do everything we can to create habitat that’s safe for kiwi, protect the small numbers of kiwi that we still have here, and encourage them to come back.”



Jobs for Nature wins at a glance

2022/2023 FY

- 53.7 FTEs created*
- 41,092 hectares protected
- 83,772 hours of paid employment
- \$3.376m paid in funding

Lifetime of Jobs for Nature programme

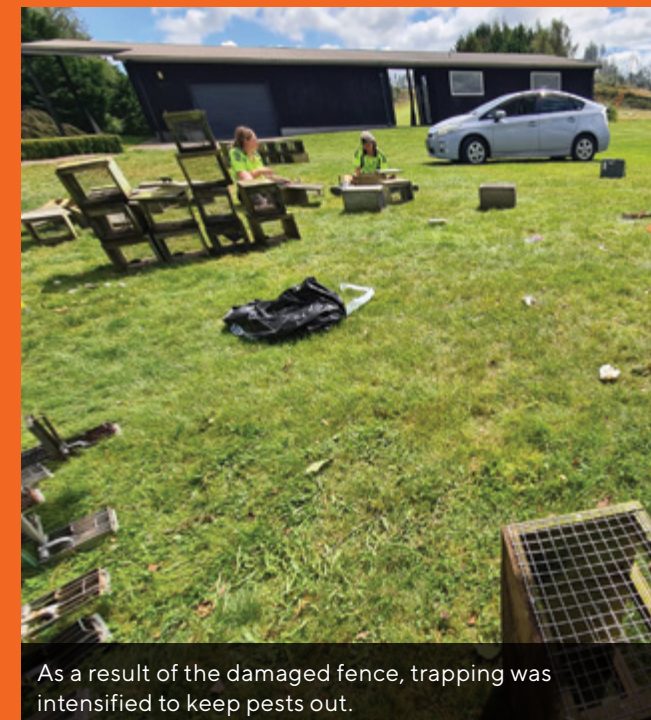
- 122 FTEs created*
- 120,516 hectares protected
- 190,320 hours of paid employment
- \$11.397m paid in funding

* Fulltime Equivalents, calculated at 1,560 hours per year

The impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on kiwi conservation efforts



The fence at Wairakei Golf + Sanctuary was badly damaged during Cyclone Gabrielle.



As a result of the damaged fence, trapping was intensified to keep pests out.

In February 2023, Cyclone Gabrielle devastated much of the upper Te Ika-a-Māui the North Island. While the impact on land and property was unfathomable in many regions, the impact on kiwi conservation efforts was also significant.

In the Taupō region, Wairakei was the hardest hit. Huge numbers of trees, largely pine plantation, were toppled or significantly damaged in the high winds. At Wairakei Golf + Sanctuary, 1800 trees were lost. The sanctuary is home to the Gallagher (formerly Crombie Lockwood) Kiwi Burrow and the Wairakei kiwi creche. The 5.5km predator-free fence around the perimeter of the sanctuary was damaged in parts, and the area was deemed unsafe for kiwi.

When the landscape was deemed safe and stable enough, kiwi rangers located the 12 chicks within the creche and relocated them to Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari where they remained until their release dates.

As a result of the damaged fence, evidence of stoats and weasels was detected within the perimeter of the sanctuary. Together with Wairakei Golf + Sanctuary, Save the Kiwi has implemented additional trapping and camera monitoring, and repaired the fence. Plans are underway to reopen the crèching facility in late-2023.

While it's almost impossible to say if there was a significant loss of life of wild kiwi due to Cyclone Gabrielle, many kiwi conservation areas sustained serious landscape and infrastructure damage. In Tongariro, a significant amount of forest was destroyed, while in Maungataniwha and Pohokura (in the Hawke's Bay), roading and drainage was extensively damaged. The biggest issue both Northland and Hauraki-Coromandel regions faced – and in some cases, continue to face – was access to their trap networks. Some projects reported that while their traps were still intact, access to check them or carry out any repairs was very limited due to damaged infrastructure. Many traps placed near waterways were also washed away.

In response to Cyclone Gabrielle, the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai announced additional access to funds for Jobs for Nature projects, to help affected projects recoup some losses.

Forestry a significant opportunity for kiwi conservation

Kiwi can only thrive in native forest, right? Wrong. In fact, New Zealand plantation pine forest is becoming increasingly valued as a viable option for growing and expanding kiwi populations to help reverse the population decline of New Zealand's national bird.

There are 1.7 million hectares of commercial forests throughout New Zealand, which offers a huge opportunity to expand the range of safe kiwi territory through the implementation of predator management in plantation forests.

We have initiated a relationship with the Forest Owners Association to ensure we have full knowledge of how they can best protect and grow kiwi populations in the forests they own or manage. Pine makes incredibly good habitat for kiwi, and due to the existing infrastructure, is much easier for humans to work in than dense native vegetation.

The FOA represents a significant proportion of New Zealand's forestry operations, so bringing the kiwi conversation to the forefront of their communications broadens the opportunities we have to create more kiwi-safe habitat around the country.

In April 2023, we welcomed Craig Balsom to the Save the Kiwi team as our Forestry Specialist, funded by Jobs for Nature. This role recognises the potential the forestry industry poses for kiwi conservation and overall biodiversity gains. Craig's wealth of knowledge and industry connections makes him an ideal person to start these conversations and develop relationships with forestry companies that are willing to join the cause to save the kiwi.

Save the Kiwi heads to the Fieldays – twice

In late November 2022 (delayed due to the pandemic) and June 2023, the Forestry Owners' Association invited Save the Kiwi to be part of their exhibition at the Fieldays. In 2022 Royal Wolf generously donated the use of a 40-foot shipping container that we used to create a simulated kiwi habitat walk-through. This partnership was the genesis of an ongoing sponsorship partnership (started in July 2023). Sitting alongside the FOA was a great opportunity to introduce ourselves to a rural audience that may have never considered kiwi conservation could co-operate with forestry.



Save the Kiwi forestry specialist Craig Balsom at the 2023 Fieldays.



100th kiwi released into Whangapoua Forest

In May 2023, Project Kiwi and Summit Forests released the 100th kiwi into Whangapoua Forest on the Coromandel Peninsula as part of their campaign to reverse the population decline of New Zealand's national bird.

A plantation forest owned by Summit Forests NZ (formerly owned by Ernslaw One) and a member of the Forestry Owners' Association, Whangapoua Forest is a site where ground-based predator control is carried out to help keep kiwi safe. It's here that Project Kiwi releases juvenile kiwi hatched and reared to a 'stoat-proof' weight, giving them a hugely increased chance of survival for when they inevitably encounter a stoat.

Save the Kiwi Coromandel brown kiwi coordinator and Project Kiwi project manager Paula Williams says Summit is a key partner, and the project location is an important connecting site in restoring kiwi populations on the peninsula.

"Over the decade Project Kiwi has been managing this project, Summit has shown great enthusiasm and willingness to support this kaupapa started by Ernslaw One," Paula says.

"Through monitoring, we know the kiwi inhabiting this block have stayed over successive years, which tells us the mix of native pockets around waterways and pine plantation of Whangapoua Forest suits their needs.

"This knowledge is helping to reshape perceptions around the value of commercial forestry for kiwi recovery. There are 1.7 million hectares of commercial forestry across New Zealand, so thinking about how we can harness this for the sake of kiwi is full of opportunity."

Whangapoua Forest manager Norbert Klein says it's a privilege to work alongside a group that's so passionate about kiwi conservation.

"Understanding kiwi can thrive in plantation forest gives the forestry industry a tangible way to contribute to New Zealand's overall conservation goals," Norbert says. "Partnering with Project Kiwi over these last 11 years, and now celebrating the release of the 100th kiwi into the Whangapoua Forest, enables us to give back to the Coromandel community in a way that is genuinely valuable to the future of New Zealand's national bird."



Pictured are Summit Forest's Fumi Tajima (Corporate Planning Manager), Paul Thompson (GIS Specialist), Managing Director Kenji Okawa, and Norbert Klein (Whangapoua Forest Manager).

The rising impact of dogs on kiwi conservation gains

Man's best friend is not always a kiwi's best friend.

An important member of many New Zealand families is their dog. But dogs are the number one reason why adult kiwi are killed in the wild. Because kiwi don't fly, they don't have a breastplate that protects their internal organs. This means even just a gentle nudge from an inquisitive dog has the potential to fatally injure a kiwi, even if they're just playing.

Injuries caused by dogs can result in a long, drawn-out, painful death for kiwi. Damaged internal organs can cause extensive internal bleeding. Despite a kiwi having a strong kick when provoked, a dog can easily snap their legs too. For dogs that enjoy the chase (even if they're not trying to kill), chasing a small brown creature that smells interesting could be very tempting.

Dogs originate from wolves. Even domesticated pet dogs that are good with children or have been bred to be calmer or friendlier have the potential to hark back to their roots. Others have been bred specifically for hunting and retrieving prey.

A kiwi could live for 45–60 years and hatch 200 eggs in its lifetime. The death of one adult kiwi could significantly impact a local population of kiwi, particularly if that population is already small or recovering.

Northland a specific focus on dogs v kiwi

While the average lifespan of a kiwi is approximately 40–65 years, in Northland it's significantly less –just 14 years. This is largely due to the impact of dogs in the region.

One reason why dogs are a challenge in Northland is because the area is a popular holiday destination. Especially over summer, holiday town populations boom as out-of-towners arrive, often with their pet dogs in tow. Northland is also home to a large anti-establishment population that doesn't respond well to pro-conservation messages. There is a large population of unregistered dogs and 'dogs without homes' too, making it tough for local conservation groups to keep kiwi and other vulnerable wildlife in their project areas safe.

Dog owners the biggest challenge in the fight for kiwi

While dogs pose a significant threat towards kiwi, it's actually more of a human problem than a dog problem, with irresponsible dog owners giving all dog owners a bad name.

Responsible owners who keep their dogs on a lead when out for a walk, who obey 'kiwi live here' signs to keep their dogs away, who use designated dog parks and off-leash areas to exercise their dogs, and who keep their dogs under control particularly overnight are kiwi conservationists' friends.

Conversely, irresponsible owners who think their dogs have a right to go wherever they want whenever they want directly endanger kiwi and other vulnerable wildlife. In areas like Northland where there are dense populations of kiwi near where people live, this is particularly concerning.

Fortunately, irresponsible dog owners and those who fight against conservation messages are a minority. Unfortunately, they're a loud minority.



Save the Kiwi's response to the dog problem

In response to the national dog problem, Save the Kiwi has created a Dog Specialist role through Jobs for Nature.

Emma Craig has worked with kiwi in Northland for more than 20 years and has seen first-hand the impact of dogs on the kiwi population throughout the region. Her role as Save the Kiwi's Dog Specialist focuses on improving the relationship between conservation groups and dog owners and working with authorities like local councils and government agencies to improve the protection of kiwi while maintaining the rights of dogs and their owners. Emma also manages the national Kiwi Avoidance Training programme.

Save the Kiwi has also joined a working group to focus on the dog problem in Northland. Established by the social sciences team at the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai, this working group includes representatives from local councils, dog control, and kiwi conservation groups and is working on practical ways to mitigate the impact of dogs on kiwi. Ideas range from establishing pop-up dog parks over the holidays, to providing dog registration discounts if they participate in know-your-dog workshops.

Why are kiwi so vulnerable to dogs?

- A kiwi's natural response to danger is to freeze.
- Kiwi are flightless so they can't easily get away from a dog.
- Kiwi don't have a protective breastplate in the chest so it's easy for their internal organs to be damaged.
- Kiwi are unusual creatures and have a strong, interesting smell. A kiwi to a dog can be like catnip to a cat.
- As kiwi return to areas where they used to live, dogs and kiwi are now living closer and closer to each other.



KAT keeps more dogs away from kiwi

The Kiwi Avoidance Training programme, run in partnership between Save the Kiwi and the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai, has seen significant growth in the last financial year. As kiwi return to areas where they used to live (either due to translocations or naturally) and kiwi and humans (and by default, dogs) start living closer to each other more people are becoming aware of the impact their dogs could have on kiwi.

KAT is one tool that can help reduce the threat dogs pose to kiwi in the wild. The best way to protect kiwi is to keep dogs out of kiwi habitat altogether. However, kiwi avoidance training can be a useful tool for dog owners to deter their dogs from injuring or killing kiwi if they do go into areas where kiwi live. It's not a silver bullet and won't make a dog 'kiwi proof' though. In the same way rugby players need to train to remain at the top of their game, dogs need to be retrained regularly.

While the KAT programme is targeted at 'dogs with jobs' like farming and hunting dogs, more owners have enrolled their pets in the scheme too. We don't advertise KAT as a solution for pet dogs, but we won't turn them away either.

Kiwi Avoidance Training wins during the 2022/23 FY

- 3,176 dogs put through the official KAT programme
- 2 hui to upskill and assess new and existing trainers
- 8 new trainers entered the KAT programme



Creating safe habitat key to future kiwi population growth

Our mission to return kiwi to places where they once lived is only possible if the places they're returning to are safe enough.

Predator control and kiwi conservation go hand in hand. To protect kiwi at place, to boost dwindling populations, and to recreate populations where kiwi haven't been seen or heard for decades requires an enormous amount of predator control and significant community buy-in.

While kiwi incubation facilities, Operation Nest Egg, and Kōhanga Kiwi build the next generation of kiwi, future homes for kiwi also need to be built. Predator Free 2050 has made phenomenal inroads in raising Aotearoa's collective awareness about the importance of predator control, and the recognition that if we want to continue to see taonga species like the kiwi in our forests, the hard yards need to be done now.

This financial year has seen some significant milestones be met thanks to the power of community-driven predator control initiatives. In November 2022, 13 adult kiwi were released into the hills of Wellington, becoming the first kiwi to call the Capital home for more than a century. This was only possible after 5+ years of intense community engagement between The Capital Kiwi Project, Taranaki Whānui, and the local Mākara community which encompasses landowners, businesses, residents, and school children. The Capital Kiwi Project had a dream to return kiwi to Wellington, they united a community around the dream, everyone got onboard with predator control and dog control initiatives, and they've seen the fruit of their efforts with kiwi now roaming their hills.

It's a similar story near Omaha, north of Auckland. A small community group called Tamahunga Trappers has been carrying out predator control in the Tamahunga forest for 13 years. They started with 54 traps and caught 12 stoats, 2 weasels and 65 rats in their first year. The groups now has over 225 traps on eight trapping circuits throughout the forest, plus many neighbours undertake their own trapping to support the kaupapa. Annual catches average around 30-40 stoats, 5 weasels, and 200 rats.

In March 2023, 10 kiwi were translocated from Motuora Island onto Mt Tamahunga. Similar to Wellington, this was the first time kiwi had been seen or heard on the maunga for a century. Again, this milestone was testament to the passion and drive a community group had to restore the biodiversity of a region by implementing stringent pest control measures.

Funding key to future predator control wins

In order to continue seeing these sorts of significant wins, more investment needs to be put into predator control. While it's essential work, it's hard and often invisible and thankless. Much of it is carried out by volunteers and community groups that operate on the smell of an oily rag.

Though admirable, this is not sustainable in the long run, nor scalable in many areas where landscape scale solutions are needed. International events like the war in Ukraine and global recession fears, along with the rising cost of living here in New Zealand, are also pushing up the prices associated with predator control.

Taking predator control to the masses

We believe that education and upskilling is also key in seeing future predator control gains. This financial year, Save the Kiwi launched a YouTube video series called "Chasing Zero". Featuring our National Predator Control Advisor John Bissell, "Chasing Zero" is filled with tips and tricks to turn trappers into predator hunters and help them catch more.

"Chasing Zero" is a valuable opportunity to assist local predator control initiatives on the ground in an easy, cost-effective way. The vision of this video series is to make trapping easy to understand and accessible to everyone, while empowering community groups with the resources they need to perform better.



Image credit:

- 1 Predator Free Hauraki Coromandel Community Trust
- 2 Backblocks Environmental Management

Save the Kiwi in the media

Zoo Miami creates powerful media opportunity for Save the Kiwi

In May 2023, news broke globally that a kiwi was being mistreated at Zoo Miami in Florida. Video was captured and shared on social media of a kiwi known as “Paora” being stroked like a cat and trying to duck for cover from bright fluorescent lights during public experiences.

Much of the New Zealand public was outraged at the mistreatment of this kiwi, and the story made news on every media outlet in New Zealand, plus many outlets overseas.

Paora’s predicament prompted Save the Kiwi to respond to media requests as the public demanded answers to a number of questions, ranging from “Can Paora be returned to New Zealand?” to “How should a kiwi in captivity be appropriately handled?” to “How many kiwi are overseas?”. Other conservation organisations including the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai and Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA) were not in a position to comment so Save the Kiwi picked up the mantle to respond on everyone’s behalf.

Fortunately, Zoo Miami admitted fault almost immediately and withdrew Paora from public appearances. Zoo Miami is in the design phase of a new enclosure for Paora (construction is expected to start in early 2024) and Save the Kiwi has been called upon numerous times in an advisory role. Since the news broke, Save the Kiwi has developed a strong working relationship with the team from Zoo Miami, particularly the zoo’s communications director Ron Magill.

Despite the obvious corrections Zoo Miami had to make, this was an unintentionally good media opportunity for Save the Kiwi and kiwi conservation. While the outrage was warranted, it was also a great opportunity to talk to the country about the problems kiwi back here in Aotearoa face. It was incredible to see the whole country backing one kiwi in the US, but kiwi in our own backyards face attacks from dogs and other predators daily.



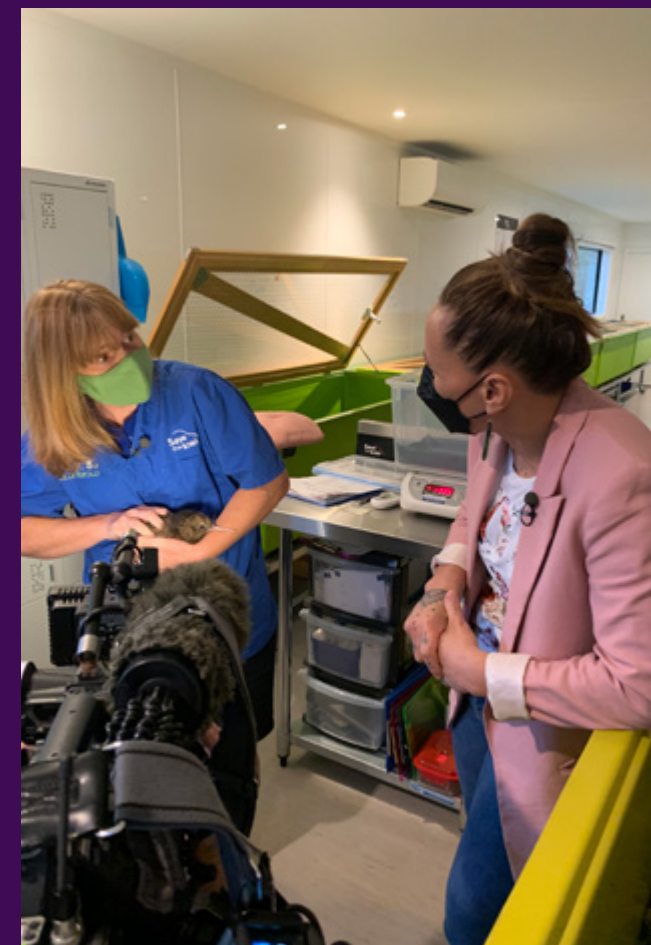
Jenny-May Clarkson joins ambassador team

This year Save the Kiwi welcomed TVNZ’s Breakfast host Jenny-May Clarkson to our team as an ambassador. Jenny-May’s relationship with Save the Kiwi started in February 2022 when a chick hatched live on Breakfast. Breakfast viewers named that kiwi “Parakuihi” (te reo for “Breakfast”) and Jenny-May released it into Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari a month later.

During Save the Kiwi Week 2022, Save the Kiwi hosted Jenny-May at the Gallagher (formerly Crombie Lockwood) Kiwi Burrow where she broadcast live and participated in several kiwi health checks. Following the show she released a chick into the Wairakei creche.

Jenny-May and Breakfast also broadcast live from Pipitea Marae in May as 25 kiwi from Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari were gifted from Ngāti Koroki Kahukura to Taranaki Whānui as part of Save the Kiwi’s Kōhanga Kiwi kaupapa.

To bring Jenny-May into the fold as an ambassador was a natural progression. From day one she has shown a genuine interest in learning more about this taonga species and spreading the word with her television audience. Her enthusiasm about kiwi and te ao Māori is infectious and we’re privileged to have her on the team.



Meet our sponsorship whānau

Save the Kiwi, along with the community, hāpu and iwi conservation projects that we support, could not do what we do without the support of our committed whānau of sponsors and supporters. We are proud to partner with some of Aotearoa's most iconic brands who not only do good things for the people of New Zealand but also want to do good things for kiwi conservation.



Whittaker's

Whittaker's has sold 1,795,958 chocolate kiwi since they launched this iconic Easter treat back in 2015. Over the years, Whittaker's has generously donated a proportion of every chocolate kiwi sold to Save the Kiwi. Whittaker's contributions to kiwi conservation have been significant, and we're proud to be friends with one of New Zealand's favourite brands.



Rheem

In November 2022, Rheem New Zealand GM Mark McCutcheon and HR Manager Jessica Bensley visited Rotorua Island to release three kiwi chicks. Rheem is part of Save the Kiwi's much-appreciated sponsorship whānau, and it was wonderful to show them what their support is going towards.



Comvita

In March, Comvita ran a competition to name and release a kiwi. 10-year-old Andrew from Palmerston North won with the name "Korokora". Andrew was accompanied by reporter Sacha McNeil from Seven Sharp to release Korokora onto Rotorua Island.



Contact

In March, after some delays caused by wild weather and cyclone damage, Kids Greening Taupō took three groups of student leaders through the Crombie Lockwood Kiwi Burrow as part of their annual Kiwi Contact tours. Sponsored by Contact Energy, Kiwi Contact allows local school children to get up close and personal with kiwi eggs and chicks. Thank you to Wairakei Golf + Sanctuary for making this programme possible too.



Royal Wolf

Royal Wolf is Australasia's largest provider of shipping containers. At the 2022 Fieldays, the team generously donated the use of a shipping container for our display outside the Forestry Hub. From little things big things grow and our four days at Fieldays resulted in a multi-year sponsorship. Since then, they've already rolled their sleeves up at a team tree planting day on Auckland's Motutapu Island.

Leadership team



Michelle Impey
Manahautū
Executive Director



Ross Halpin
Pou Matua Rapu Pūtea
Marketing & Sponsorship
General Manager



Tineke Joustra
Pou Matarau
Operations Manager



Paul O'Shea
Pou Tahua
Whakarite Kaupapa
Incubation Team Leader
& Account Manager



Morgan Cox
Pou Uruao a Motu
Māori Engagement
National Coordinator



Ora Barlow
Pou Uruao a Motu
Māori Engagement
National Coordinator

Board



Richard Leggat



Lady Jennie Fenwick



Joe Harawira



Henry Brandts-Giesen



Kate Graeme



Ruud Kleinpaste



Alistair Ryan

Financials

Save the Kiwi shares a goal with the Department of Conservation, its long-time partner in the national kiwi recovery programme, to increase each species of kiwi by 2% per annum. Save the Kiwi is responsible for distributing funds to the community from the successful “Save our Iconic Kiwi” bid to Treasury by Kiwis for kiwi and DOC together in 2015. For this year, the fund for community was just under \$500,000.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

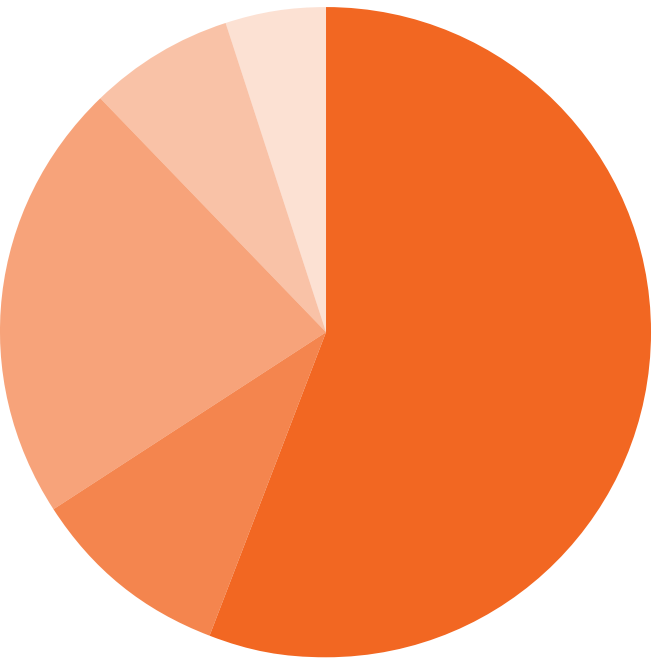
REVENUE	
Fundraising revenue	236,716
Donations, sponsorship and royalties	1,079,245
Grant revenue	4,813,438
Interest, dividends and other investments	29,153
Total revenue	6,158,552
EXPENSES	
Conservation project funding	4,045,112
Fundraising expenses	80,080
Organisational support	1,873,796
Total expenses	5,998,988
Net surplus/(deficit) attributable to The Kiwi Trust	159,564

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 2023

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash at bank	1,767,370
Debtors and prepayments	834,512
Property, plant, equipment and investments	457,209
Total assets	3,059,091
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Creditors, accrued expenses and employee costs payable	1,322,376
Deferred revenue (grants with conditions)	877,380
GST payable	0
Total current liabilities	2,199,756
Total assets less total liabilities (net assets)	859,335

Annual contestable funding grants

The Department of Conservation’s Save Our Iconic Kiwi funding allows us to support community and Māori-led kiwi conservation groups via our annual contestable funding grants.



- Predator control: 56%
- Operation Nest Egg: 10%
- Monitoring & translocations: 22%
- Project support: 7%
- Research: 5%

Predator Control

Controlling predators in kiwi habitat is the prime focus of the hundreds of community-led kiwi conservation groups around the country. The work done also provides a haven for other native birds, reptiles, and insects. Save Our Iconic Kiwi funding helps these projects set up and maintain hundreds of trap lines that form a protective shield against invasive pests and predators like stoats, ferrets, and rats. This safe habitat will be home to the increased numbers of kiwi that we will breed in years to come.

Operation Nest Egg

Rearing chicks in secure facilities gives them the best chance of surviving until they reach around 1kg in weight, at which point they are much less vulnerable to predation. Operation Nest Egg (ONE) is a highly effective way of increasing the survival rates of kiwi chicks so they have more chance of reaching breeding age and contributing to increasing kiwi populations.

Project Support

To coordinate projects that rely heavily on volunteers and run 365 days a year often requires full-time staff support. We recognise the necessity of these roles and provide administration and project support funding. We also support advocacy work and kiwi avoidance training for dogs.

Monitoring & Translocations

In order to know when we can lift eggs, keep an eye on the overall health and genetic diversity of kiwi populations, and understand what’s going on in the wild, we need to monitor kiwi. Translocations are used to manage genetic diversity, move kiwi into underpopulated, but protected, areas, and support ONE.



savethekiwi.nz