

March 2024



Kawau Island multi-species eradication project

Working towards a pest free Kawau Island

Community forum reminder

Reminder for expressions of interest

As mentioned in our previous email on 1 March, we have proposed the establishment of a community forum as part of a new project structure. For more information on the new structure and other important updates, please see the attached letter.

The purpose of the forum is to act as a conduit between the community and the steering group to share updates, ideas, concerns, or suggestions both ways. Ideally it would ensure a diverse range of community voices and perspectives including businesses, charitable trusts, conservation groups, and residents / ratepayers.

As it may take some time to establish this group, council is looking to support the establishment of the community forum with the intention of stepping back and empowering community management of the forum as soon as this is achieved.

To establish the group, we are seeking interest from individuals or organisations who would like to be a part of a community forum.

Please send your expressions of interest to kawauislandproject@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz by 2 April 2024. We have extended this deadline to incorporate the Easter holidays.

Join the Kawau conservation movement

A number of community groups are undertaking conservation work on Kawau Island. If you would like to get involved in restoring and protecting Kawau Island, please reach out to one of the conservation groups below.

Pohutukawa Trust

Though established in 1992 by Kawau Island landowners, the Pohutukawa Trust's efforts date back to 1955 when Ray Weaver identified possum browse as the main threat to Kawau Island's Pohutukawa trees. Without intervention, the historic trees would be lost.

Despite the New Zealand Forest Service's 1985 assertion that Kawau was ecologically worthless, the community mobilised in 1986, determined to take action to protect the precious trees. They led the first large scale use of Timms traps in New Zealand resulting in approximately 10,000 possums being removed.

Recognised as an official project of New Zealand's Sesquicentennial Celebrations in 1990, this success laid the foundation for the Trust's formal establishment. Focused on the conservation of indigenous species on Kawau and across New Zealand, the Trust aims to rehabilitate



native flora and fauna, to control introduced marsupials and other pests through humane means, and where practicable eliminate them from Kawau Island.

Since its inception the Trust has gone on to achieve astounding results towards removing possums, wallaby, stoats and rats from the island. Their efforts have led to significant ecological recovery on Kawau, earning the Trust the National Green Ribbon Award in 2003 for exceptional environmental protection leadership. Native seedlings now thrive, and birdsong is plentiful.

If you would like to assist The Pohutukawa Trust or get further information, please contact us by email at admin@pohutukawatrust.kiwi

Kawau Community Conservation Trust

Are you ready to join Kawau's Rat Pack? Whether you are a permanent resident or only get to visit a few times a year, you'll no doubt be keen to see rats gone from around your place in paradise.

The Kawau Community Conservation Trust has been set up to do exactly that – bring our communities together to wipe out rats on our own, and each other's properties. Most importantly, we want to give people choices about how rat control is done at their place – and manage this through our own trusted community.

This is something we can do ourselves – starting right now - to make a major difference to our native birds and forests.

If you are interested in joining our cause, please click here to complete the survey. We want to know your views – including what you're already doing to control rats. You can sign up to manage rat control at your place and/or have your Kawau friends look after your place to wipe out rats. You can also tell us if for any reason you don't want to be part of this programme. And we'd be thrilled if you'd like to be a Team Leader to coordinate all the other keen rat catchers in your bay! Please refer to the attached map for a summary of our current team leaders and the areas where we're seeking volunteers.

We're hoping to hear from everyone who loves their place on our beautiful island.

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCZBGYW>

Tiaki ō Kawau

“To protect, restore, and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity of Kawau Island.”

Many people share a vision to see much of Kawau Island restored to a self-sustaining, diverse native ecosystem thriving with an abundance of New Zealand flora and fauna.

Tiaki ō Kawau is an island inclusive environmental group who supports interested Kawau islanders to protect and restore the natural environment to the island's full potential.

Together we can restore the islands natural environment by proposing, supporting and implementing environmental initiatives such as; revegetation and restoration projects, invasive weed control, identifying available local resources, sharing of equipment and knowledge, and providing education and motivation for individuals and groups undertaking environmental work on the island.

Communication is the key to support and progress. If as an individual or group on Kawau you are pulling out weeds, planting native plants, trapping rats, protecting native birds, then you are already a 'Guardian of Kawau'. If you'd like to be part of the Tiaki ō Kawau communications and support network then please feel free to join the very young Tiaki ō Kawau Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6620443944687719>

For more information, please contact Michael Wheatcroft: wheatcroftmj@gmail.com

