



October 2024



Working towards a pest free Kawau Island

Kawau Island multi-species eradication project

Project video

We're excited to share a video we created about the project to restore Kawau Island's natural environment. The video will support the New Zealand Nature Fund to help promote the project and raise funds. With a fundraising target of \$2 million, local landowners have kick-starting the fund by generously contributing over \$500,000 to date.

You can view and share this at the link here: youtu.be/QMMzGGV0x0U

To contribute to the project, visit nznaturefund.org/projects/kawau-island/ for more information.



New project webpages

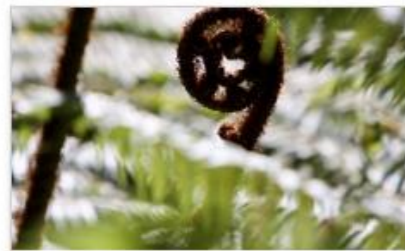
We have new Pest free Kawau Island webpages that provide in depth information about the programme to restore Kawau Island's unique environment, beginning with the removal of wallabies and possums.

You can also find a list of all previous Auckland Council updates to the Kawau Island community there.

<https://www.tiakitamakaurau.nz/get-involved/working-towards-a-pest-free-kawau-island/>

Working towards a pest free Kawau Island

Learn more about this partnership between Auckland Council, Ngāti Manuhiri and Department of Conservation working with, and building upon, Pohutukawa Trust's efforts to eradicate mammalian pest species from Kawau Island.



Pest free Kawau Island programme

Find out about the programme to restore Kawau Island's unique environment by eradicating wallabies, possums, rats and stoats.



Kawau news and updates

Keep up with all the important news and updates on the Kawau Island pest eradication project.

Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau is Auckland's conservation directory. It has everything you need to know about our natural environment, what we and community groups are doing to protect it from pests plants and animals, and how you can get involved. It has amazing tools like [pest search](#) and the conservation [resource library](#) along with a recently published ecological restoration guide, [Te Haumanu Taiao](#).

Community forum meeting

The next Community Forum meeting will be held online on Tuesday 12 November. We'll send out a link to register closer to the time. If you have received this email, you will also receive the zoom registration link. If you know of someone in the Kawau Island community who'd like to receive these updates or the community forum reminders, please email kawauislandproject@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz with their details.

The community forum meetings are held monthly online, and any member of the Kawau Island community is welcome to be a part of the community forum.

Commented [PS1]: Add how you can receive the link / be part of the forum

Tūturiwhatu / dotterels breeding season



Tūturiwhatu (Northern New Zealand dotterels) have started laying eggs this breeding season. Dotterels are easily disturbed, and their eggs become quickly exposed to heat or cold when adults are flushed off their nests. If a dotterel is acting distressed and running in front of you, they are trying to lure you away from their nest. Please move away carefully as their eggs are highly camouflaged in the sand.



The safest place to walk at this time of year is on wet sand. Some community members set up temporary fences around known nests. Give nests a lot of space – especially if you are walking a dog as they can frighten and disturb the nesting dotterel.

Kororā or little blue penguins are also breeding. Chicks and incubating adults are very vulnerable in their nests and their scent is almost irresistible to dogs. They nest in all kinds of places such as rock crevices, walls and under houses, wood piles or pipes.

In both cases, please keep dogs on leash in areas where birds are nesting and help us protect our treasured native species.

Set sail with care: stop pests from crashing your trip

Heading to Kawau for the Spring Splash Regatta? Getting the bach ready for summer? Or just keen for a fish and a bit of relaxation on the water? Whatever the adventure, make sure you're not bringing any unwanted stowaways with you. The warmer weather means more chances for hitchhikers like rats, ants, and plague skinks to sneak on board.

Check your equipment, gear and boats: rodents, ants, plague skinks, and weeds are emerging with the warmer temperatures and may hitch a lift. Give your gear a good shake out if it's been stored over winter before you pack.

Clean your boat and gear: look for biofoul (plants, algae, small animals) on your hull and dirt on your shoes or tramping gear. Any gear that's been used in areas where kauri grow could carry kauri dieback disease, seeds or pests. Clean dirty gear and footwear to remove all soil and seeds.

Close all food containers: pack food into sealed containers and then zip up bags to keep pests out.

If you spot Rochelle and Rosie the dog at Sandspit Wharf, come say hello and get a free sniff test!

Enjoy your summer and help protect our Hauraki Gulf. For more info check out <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment/what-you-can-do-for-environment/Pages/transporting-items-hauraki-gulf-islands.aspx>

Ecosystem monitoring on Kawau

Since late 2024 Auckland Council has been working with a team of ecologists to set up and survey a network of permanent forest monitoring plots across Kawau. During each survey the team marks out a plot grid in which they identify all of the plant species within three forest tiers: seedlings, saplings and trees. In addition to this, they undertake a series of 10-minute bird counts to identify the types of birds frequenting the plots and the surrounding area. This work supports the Kawau Island multi-species eradication project and will be used to track the long-term outcomes of the project through time.

The information collected will help the project team assess the current condition of forest ecosystems and will be used as a baseline, or reference point, from which future changes can be compared. The intention is that these plots will be resurveyed following various milestones of the project, with data collected used to understand how native forest species and habitat are recovering following the different phases of the project. It will also help identify where further action, such as weed control, may be required to ensure forest recovery is following the right trajectory and ensure overall success of the project.

Have a safe and enjoyable long weekend.

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