

Endeavour Inlet Conservation Trust

Spring 2018 e-Newsletter



Greetings to all our supporters

Daylight saving is upon us and we can now look forward to the warmer months ahead in Endeavour Inlet and more generally in the Marlborough Sounds. It has been a significant and busy year for the Trust. Most exciting though are the reported sightings of karearea (New Zealand Falcon) in The Pines after many years absence and the sighting of kakariki on Puhikereru Mt Furneaux. We wish to acknowledge the hard work of all those involved in Trust activities over the years who have made this possible and hope that with our ongoing efforts these numbers will continue to grow.



Endeavour Inlet Conservation Trust 7th Annual General Meeting

The 7th AGM of the Trust was held at Easter at Furneaux Lodge with a good turnout to support our work. A key point of discussion was the need for additional support to keep the administration side of the Trust functioning given increasing demand on volunteers. It was agreed that the focus of the Trust for the time-being would be consolidation rather than expansion.

Following the AGM resignations were sadly received from three original members of the Trust— Stu Barr, David Duns and David Rhodes. We are pleased to advise that they will continue to support and advise the Trust but in a less formal capacity. Our sincere thanks to these members for their outstanding contribution over many years. Three new Trustees, Ginny Rhodes, Liz Everiss and Ian Sutton were elected at a Trustee meeting in April. All three are locals who share our values and are keen to take a more active role. We look forward to tapping into their energy and enthusiasm in the work of the Trust. Please find below some brief information about our new members:

Ian Sutton - Ian is a computer programmer who started his own business in 1997, sold it in 2015 and then moved on to find a new direction in 2017 (still being determined). Ian has been coming to Endeavour Inlet since he was a small child with his parents (Bev and Wink Sutton) staying at Cathies' house originally, until the Suttons built their own house on their section (behind the Cathies section) about 10 years ago.

Liz Everiss - Liz has always worked in education-related roles. She currently works at Open Polytechnic, until recently as Head of School, Education. Although Liz is a new resident at The Pines, she isn't new to the Sounds as for many years her family have holidayed in Ruakaka Bay. They look forward to their new life in Endeavour Inlet.

A brief bio from Ginny Rhodes, our other new Trustee, will be included in the next newsletter.

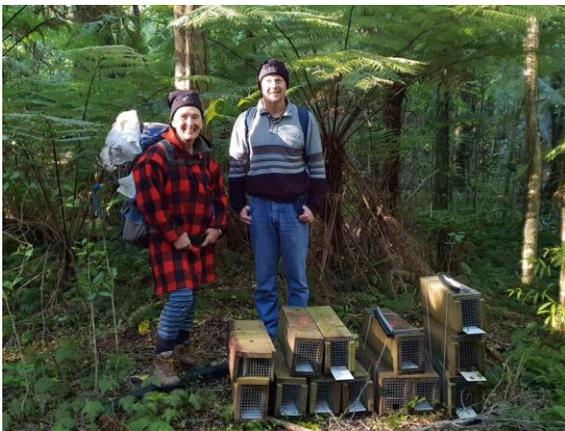


Trapping Update

Trapping pests continues to be an important part of the Trust's work. Our focus this year has been on replacing old manual traps with self-setting traps. All the old rat traps in Howden's Bush and the waterfall line have been replaced with Goodnature A12 traps. This means that less volunteer time will be needed in the future to check these traps. We were pleased to donate the old traps to Picton Dawn Chorus.



At the same time maintenance work on all traps in the network has been carried out by Keran Duley and Mitch Rhodes. This was a great effort and important to do as it means we continue to get optimal performance from our traps. We also had a visitor to the inlet who replaced all the cannisters for the self-setting traps on the Rimu network –it's a time-consuming 10.5 hours round trip so this effort was much appreciated. The Trust has also been a recipient of funding from the World Wildlife Fund (NZ) for the bridle trail and wetland project. The trap-line has been mapped out and flagged – the next step now is to establish the traps. We also have a funding application with the Rata Foundation (for more self-setting traps) and should hear whether or not we have been successful sometime this month.



Assessing Pest Eradication Success

A couple of initiatives are underway to help us assess the effectiveness of the Trust's trapping initiatives. Approximately two years ago EICT hosted a group of students from Michigan University in the Inlet doing a survey of powelliphanta, the native Aotearoa New Zealand carnivorous snail, in Howden's Bush. Dr Jeanette McGuire who runs the programme is returning with another group of students in March 2019. This time they will do some monitoring of pests in our area and will then compare the results with another area where there is

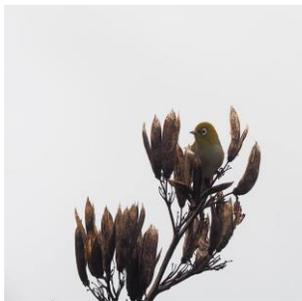
no trapping. The aim is to give us a better understanding of the effectiveness of our trapping work and pest reduction. We look forward to welcoming them again to the Inlet.

Counting Birds 2018

In addition to monitoring the effectiveness of pest reduction the Trust recently completed its second annual bird count. This is likely to become an annual activity as bird counts are a good indicator of success. The count has again been undertaken by Patrick from Wildlife Management International Limited. Patrick reports that everything went well during his time in the inlet where he carried out 55 counts. Patrick said "the highlight was getting kakariki on one of the counts and then seeing three the following day only 400m from where they were heard the previous day. Plenty of the usual suspects

around too." Patrick will provide a full report for the Trust so please follow Facebook to read how the birds are doing in the Inlet. Thanks again to Judy and John Hellstrom for accommodating Patrick during his stay.

The usual suspects in the EICT area which Patrick refers to are the korimako (bellbird), tui, piwakawaka (fantail), miromiro (tomtit), kereru, touhau (silvereye/waxeye), kahu (hawk), weka, kotare (kingfisher), ruru (morepork), pukeko. Seabirds seen in the Inlet include gannets, fluttering shearwaters, oystercatchers, herons, little blue penguins and a variety of shags. More endangered species which we hope to see return eventually include mohua (yellowhead), South Island robin (Toutouwai), whitehead (pōpokotea) and kaka (and eventually kiwi)



You can also be a bird counter – Last year Patrick signed the EICT up to E-bird, a tool for recording birds around the world. E-bird has a smart phone app that allows you to enter bird counts, works off line and uses GPS! If you haven't already, we urge you to create your own account (free and easy) and to then add the Trust as a friend. To do this go to "My ebird". Then click "Manage my contacts", enter the Trust's username (EICT01) and click 'add'. This enables you to add your ebird lists to the Trust's lists. There are also five-minute bird count notebook field forms available at www.nzbirdsonline.co.nz. This is a good way to learn more about birds. The site includes photos and bird recordings to assist with recognizing birds. Happy bird counting.

Volunteer Corner

Calling for new Volunteers'



We need new volunteers to step forward and assist with checking and maintaining the trap lines. We will train and support you and work around your availability. There are easy terrain trap-lines and more challenging longer trap-lines - something to suit all. **Training** will be run this year on **30th December at 11am** on the Verandah at **Furneaux Lodge**. For more information please contact Ginny Rhodes on ginzrhodes@gmail.com. A reminder will be sent out prior to this date.

January Market 2019 –Last call for an organizer. Given the success of our previous market days we are keen to have another market in 2019. At this stage though it is looking unlikely unless we can find an organizer. Is there someone out there willing to organize the 2019 Market Day. If so we would love to hear from you asap. Please contact Liz Everiss at the following email: brucegcampbell@xtra.co.nz.

Acknowledgements

As always our sincere thanks to sponsors and volunteers for their donations, services and time to ensure the sustainability of the EICT. We especially wish to acknowledge:

- Outward Bound for their enthusiastic volunteers – we are currently organizing another working bee for January in the wetlands area to cut gorse and barberry. If anyone is in the inlet when they are here we'd love to have you help out.
- A donation of \$500 from a Swedish couple who visited the inlet.
- Cougarline <http://www.cougarline.co.nz> continues to be a major supporter. They have transported traps and other equipment as EICT's work has expanded. This year they transported Outward Bound students, new equipment, and Patrick who completed the bird count, thereby making it possible to work in remote locations.
- Rata foundation for their funding of automatic traps
- Robinson family for their ongoing support
- DoC for their ongoing support and encouragement
- Individuals and families who have made donations and have supported the work of the Trust.

Our next newsletter will be circulated in early 2019 (March). In the mean-time you can keep updated via our facebook page.

From all of us at EICT we wish you all the very best for the upcoming holiday season.

