

Poutiri Ao ō Tāne Newsletter, November 2018

A returned Poutiri Ao ō Tāne tītī.
One of a number of examples of how successful the project's translocation programmes have been.



From the mountains to the sea

Poutiri Ao ō Tāne is a collaborative ecological restoration project that began in 2011. It is a partnership between the Department of Conservation, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust, Ngati Pahauwera, Ngati Hineura, Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research, the Aotearoa Foundation, various landowners and businesses in the area.

The project is located on the Maungaharuru Range near Lake Tutira. However, the vision is to extend the project to the coast, or from the "Mountains to the Sea".

The project aims to create a safe place where native species can once again flourish on the Maungaharuru Range. It is achieving this goal through

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successful translocations of threatened species
 - Retired and re-vegetated 124ha of farmland
 - Demonstrated new and efficient ways to undertake pest control and monitoring over a wide variety of landscapes through innovative technology
 - Provided education initiatives that are reaching into local schools and communities

habitat restoration, animal pest control, species reintroductions, research, and community

engagement.

Iwi and community involvement has been fundamental to the achievements in this project. It is hoped that a network of habitats will be restored that allow Tangata whenua once again to connect with and utilise the whenua for cultural purposes.

Poutiri Ao ō Tāne provides a fundamental step to engage communities in conservation.

It is a shift away from preserving biodiversity in uninhabited and isolated forests towards more grassroot conservation which sees an integration of environmental, social, and economic values in the human-occupied landscape.

More recently Cape to City, sister project to Poutiri Ao ō Tāne, has joined this kaupapa.



Birds of a feather

Maungaharuru is closer to having a self-sustaining kākā population with the release of six new birds into Boundary Stream.

The six kākā were released in October 2017 increasing the population in the range to at least 21.

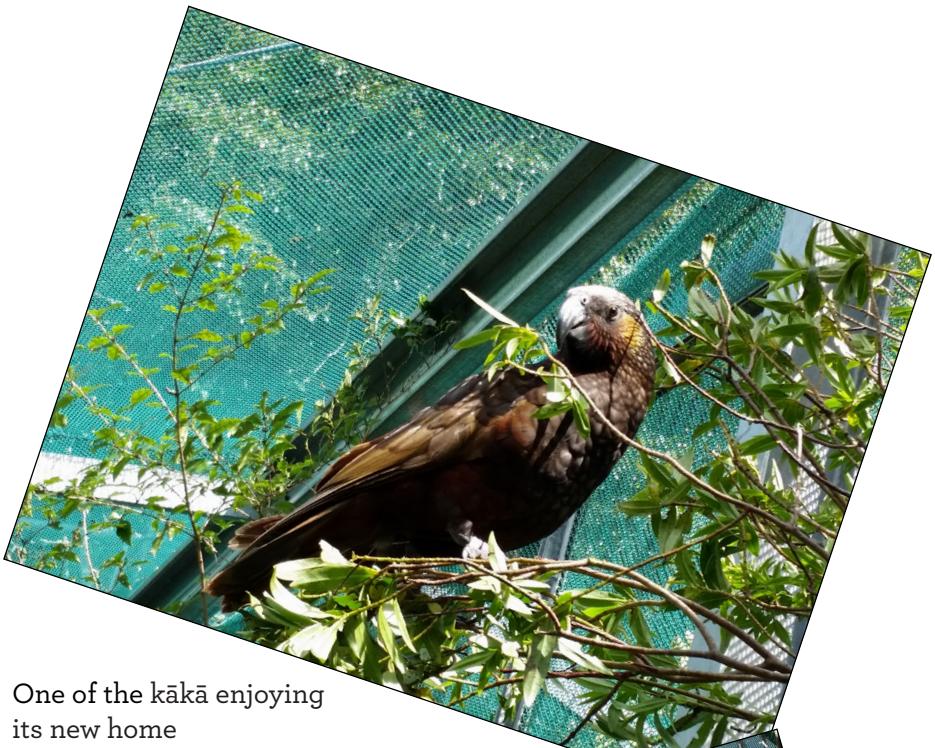
The ongoing translocations are addressing the kaka population decline following predator introduction and habitat loss, which saw many bird species disappear from the area.

Other efforts to re-establish the population include reducing predator numbers through a trapping network in the region.

The kākā release follows three previous releases between 2013-2014.

Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust Kaiwhakahaere Matua/General Manager, Shayne Walker said the release of more taonga to Maungaharuru is another important step toward the reverberation of the Maunga where the bird life once blocked out the sun.

He said as Tangata Whenua for the range they were very pleased with their collaboration with this project in reintroducing kākā and other taonga in seeking to restore the Mauri of Maungaharuru.



One of the kākā enjoying its new home

DOC Ahuriri-Napier Operations Manager Connie Norgate releases a kākā.



Education is vital

Collaboration is an essential part of the Poutiri Ao o Tāne project in all areas of its work including the vital education stream.

Now led by the Maungaharuru-Tangitū Hapū, this work is founded on embracing the sacred knowledge of Tāne.

Between 2011 and 2014, the project's education work primarily centered around school-focused

programmes delivered by the Environment, Conservation and Outdoor Education Trust (ECOED), either independently or in partnership with the Department of Conservation (DOC).

However, this work has evolved both in the types of education surrounding the Poutiri Ao o Tāne project and the ways in which education is delivered.

Today the programme has taken a hands-on look at how this knowledge and hapū values can be practiced in everyday life.

This is seen through programmes

such as 'Weedership', which combines the management of noxious weeds with the principle that young people will take responsibility and become successful in life by learning to choose and develop useful values.

Poutiri Ao o Tāne educationalist Pereri King says the benefits of connecting with the environment as a whanau enables a sense of belonging for all people.

"My hope is, through education, we can do more for the environment and as we do, we do more for ourselves," he says.

In Brief

Cape to City and Whakatipu Mahia - Predator Free Mahia are now sister projects to Poutiri Ao ō Tāne. Cape to City extends from Havelock North to beyond Waimarama and forest remnants at Kahuranaki. Whakatipu Mahia is focussed on possum eradication and encompasses the whole peninsular. For more information visit www.capetocity.co.nz

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In an effort to see the incredibly rare kākābeak/ngutu kākā once again bloom across the Hawke's Bay landscape, volunteers who have grown wild sourced plants are collecting seed from these plants for redistribution into the wild.

Deer, goats, pigs, hares, stock and introduced garden snails have eaten it into near extinction but with the help of these enthusiasts over 2 kg of seed

has been collected in anticipation of aerially distributing it onto bluffs and secure sites.

If you think you may like to help out by growing plants and collecting the seed please contact Alan Lee at: [alee@doc.govt.nz](mailto:alee@doc.govt.nz) or on 027 539 6278. Kia ora!



**MTT Office Manager Charmaine Butler with Kaumatua Bevan Taylor and DOC Director Strategic Partnerships/Treaty - Joe Harawera at the gifting ceremony**

apologised for "the immense prejudice it inflicted on the hapū by the proclamation of a confiscation district."

Among other things, the Crown also apologized for its acts and omissions which impacted on hapū lands, fisheries and other taonga.

The reserves returned to the hapū represent a glimpse of the native bush and wildlife that flourished in Hawke's Bay in the 1800's – and a vision for what it could once more look like in the future.

Species such as toutouwai/robins, kākā, kererū, and kōkako have regained a foothold in this area, which also provides critical habitat for a wide range of native invertebrates and plants.

"This koha of reserves to the people of Aotearoa is not only an acknowledgement of the traditional hapū ownership, and the illegal confiscation by the Crown" says Shayne Walker, Kaiwhakahaere Matua/General Manager of Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust.

"It also signifies the preparedness and generosity of the hapū to the Hawke's Bay community and our eco-system."

More information on the cultural significance of the reserves can be found on the Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust website at [www.tangoio.maori.nz/gifted-lands](http://www.tangoio.maori.nz/gifted-lands).

## Reserves returned to hapū

Last summer saw four Department of Conservation reserves in northern Hawke's Bay returned to their rightful owners - hapū represented by the Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust, a key partner in Poutiri Ao ō Tāne. The Hapū then gifted the reserves to all the people of Aotearoa, the following week.

The sites include Boundary Stream Scenic Reserve, Bellbird Bush Scenic Reserve, and the balance of Opouahi Scenic Re-

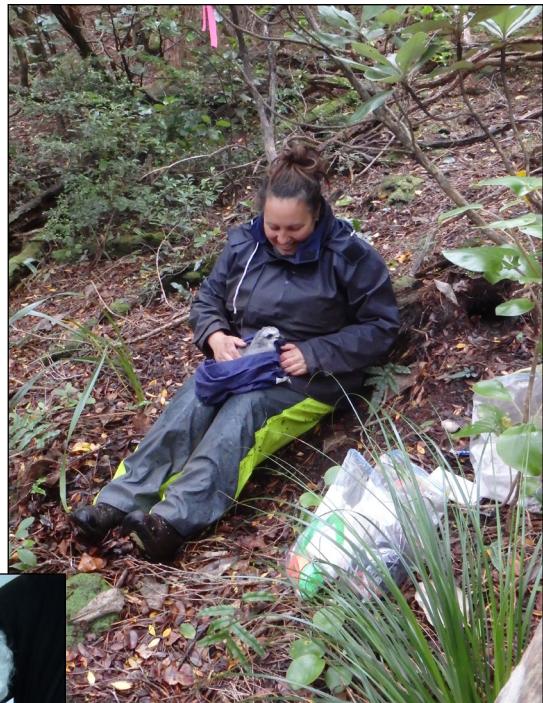
serve in the Maungaharuru Range. The fourth reserve is the coastal Whakaari Landing Place.

The return of the reserves in recognition of hapū rangatiratanga goes some way to redress grievances that arose a century and a half ago, when on January 12, 1867, the Crown unjustly confiscated the majority of the hapū takiwā/traditional area.

In the Maungaharuru-Tangitū hapū Deed of Settlement the Crown



Volunteers Agathe, Lilian and John removing a kōrure chick from its burrow for its daily feeding.



Whenua Hou Komiti member Estelle Leask preparing a chick for its journey.



Kaumatua Trevor Taurima and Hinei Reti welcome chick Rangimarie.

## Maungaharuru to roar again

The Maungaharuru range may one day roar again, as adult tītī/Cook's petrel and kōrure/mottled petrel, translocated as chicks almost five years ago, start to return.

Once these birds nested across the range in their millions, and when flocks took off or landed the thunderous sound of their beating wings brought the range to life.

However, habitat loss and predation by introduced mammals such as rats caused the tītī and kōrure to become locally extinct.

This is why Poutiri Ao ō Tāne initiated translocation programmes for these two species.

"The name Maungaharuru translates into English as 'the mountain that rumbled and roared,'" says Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust (MTT) Trustee Tania Hopmans.

"It would have been an amazing sight to see thousands of tītī and

kōrure flying out at dawn and returning at dusk."

This is something the Bay may once again get to experience first-hand.

**"The name Maungaharuru translates into English as 'the mountain that rumbled and roared'" - Tania Hopmans**

### Bringing the tītī home

Almost five years ago, 113 tītī were translocated from Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier

Island to Maungaharuru under the Poutiri Ao ō Tāne project with the aim of establishing permanent populations in Hawke's Bay.

Translocations of a similar scale continued for the next three years.

As part of the programme a sound system was set up to replicate a tītī colony, hundreds of manmade burrows were built, a predator-proof fence erected around the 1.9-hectare enclosure and countless volunteers gave freely of their time to feed the chicks before they fledged.

It has taken this long for the return because tītī, like the kōrure, are specialist deep water or pelagic foragers – often out at sea for five years before returning to their nesting sites to breed.

At a distance of 23.9 kilometres from the sea, the site is the most inland of any seabird translocation attempted, and at 1000 metres



DOC Seabird Contractor Cathy Mitchell checking over one of the chicks.

One of the 99 kōrure chicks that was translocated from Whenua Hou.



Volunteers and staff taking a break at the Maungaharuru nesting site.



above sea level it is also the highest translocation.

It is for these reasons that the Poutiri Ao ō Tāne team went into this not knowing if the translocation would work or not.

However, with the return of the first tītī, named Waitangi, after so many years at sea marks the first sign of the translocation's success.

MTT Kaumātua Trevor Taurima said he is very pleased with the return of the tītī back to the maunga and hopes it is a sign of many more to come.

#### Achieving an Aotearoa first

Trevor hopes may be realised sooner than thought possible because in the wake of the returning tītī a kōrure adult was discovered at the Maungaharuru nesting site.

This return was especially important as the Poutiri Ao ō Tāne kōrure

translocation programme was the first of its kind in New Zealand.

Between 2014 and 2018, 368 birds have been successfully translocated from Whenua Hou/ Codfish Island, off the coast of Rakiura/Stewart

**“It is exciting news to hear about the return of the first kōrure to Maungaharuru”  
Tane Davis**

Island, to the local nesting site.

This year saw the final planned translocation under the programme with 99 kōrure chicks successfully relocated to the Maungaharuru nesting site.

Tania Hopmans, Trustee for

Maungaharuru-Tangitū expresses ‘our gratitude to Whenua Hou for their manaakitanga in providing us with the opportunity to rejuvenate these taonga to our Maunga.’

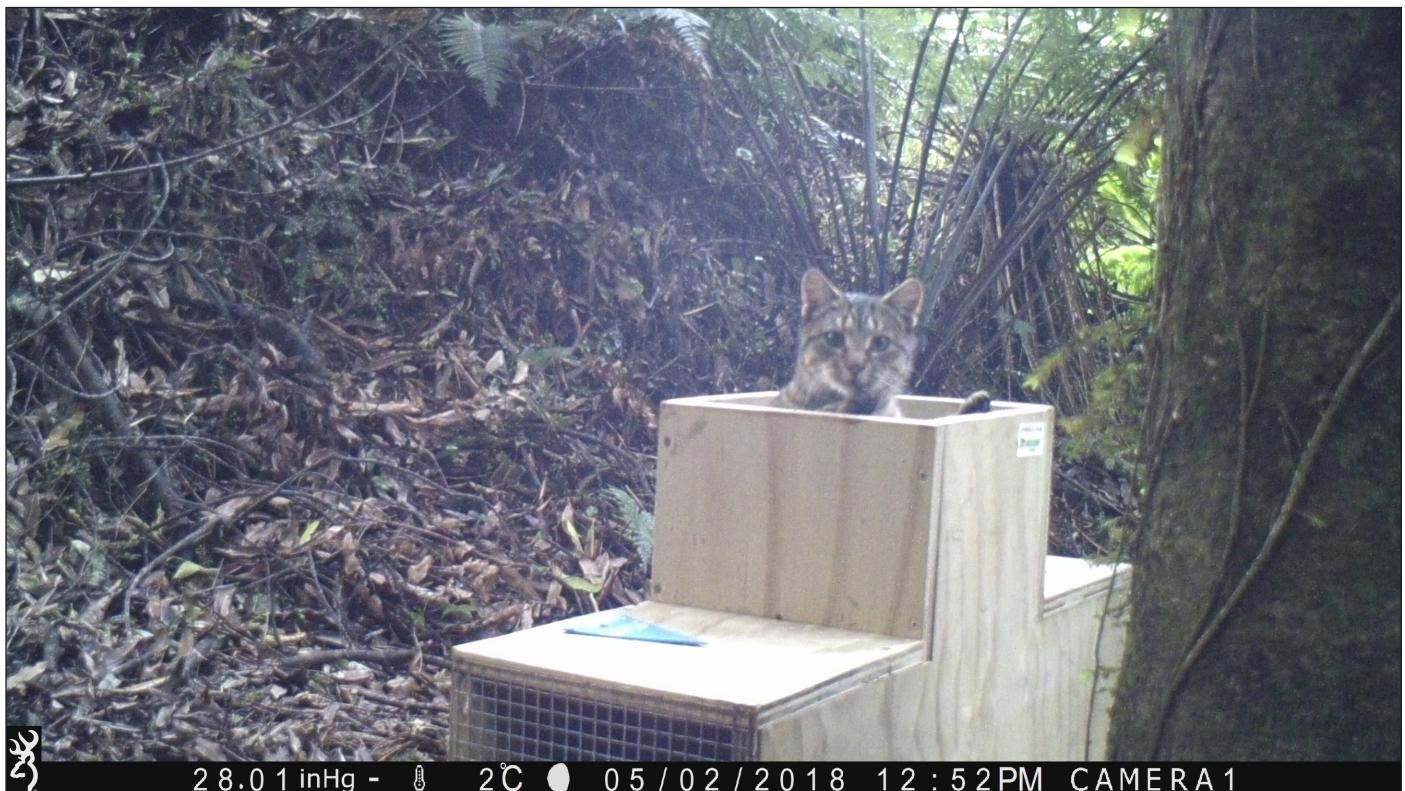
Whenua Hou Komiti Chair Tane Davis congratulated all involved saying this outcome is very satisfying.

“As chair of the Whenua Hou Komiti it is exciting news to hear the return of the first kōrure to Maungaharuru,” he said.

Both sites will continue to be monitored as we wait for the return of more tītī and kōrure.

To read more: DOC Blog on Kōrure translocation – series of 3. <https://blog.doc.govt.nz/tag/korure-translocation/>

# Feral cats reduced by 50%



A feral cat in a chimney trap. The traps are used as PAPP bait stations.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) carried out a study on the 1000-ha pastoral property Toronui Station, near Boundary Stream Mainland Island.

A single application of a new poison has the potential to reduce the number of feral cats in an area by up to 50 per cent.

The research focused on the use of para-aminopropiophenone or PAPP, a toxin that has been developed as a more humane and effective control tool for predators such as feral cats.

After the bait is eaten the onset of symptoms is rapid and stoats and cats are usually unconscious within 45 minutes.

Not only is this single-use poison humane, PAPP rapidly breaks down within the body and has a low toxicity to birds.

Over the course of the study the HBRC researchers conducted feral cat control on Toronui Station using 48 PAPP bait stations. HBRC staff monitored cat populations before and after the control operation

using camera traps.

The number of feral cats was monitored using the camera traps for three weeks before the PAPP operation, and again for three weeks immediately after baiting finished.

Manaaki Whenua used this data to assess the effectiveness of the cat control operation.

What they discovered was that

**“Researchers recommended that more PAPP baiting should be carried out to further reduce cat numbers.”**

not only had 50 per cent of cats been controlled by PAPP, but that most detections of cats in the post-control period were near the edges of the study area, suggesting these may have been animals mov-

ing in from the surrounding area.

The researchers recommended an additional PAPP operation should be carried out on Toronui Station to further reduce feral cat numbers.

However, weather constraints meant a planned second application couldn't go ahead.

A similar operation was undertaken at Ngatapa Station, another nearby pastoral property.

This time two pulses of PAPP were delivered resulting in a 73.5% reduction in feral cats.

With these results, it is likely future programmes will deliver greater, and longer lasting, benefits for native biodiversity and agriculture.

For more information please visit the Cape to City website at [www.capetocity.co.nz/resources/reports/](http://www.capetocity.co.nz/resources/reports/) or the Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research website at [www.landcareresearch.co.nz](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz)

# Hikoi celebrates Lake Tūtira

History and restoration were the kaupapa for a gathering to replant native flora at Lake Tūtira.

Tutira Mai Nga Iwi and Poutiri Ao ō Tāne whānau hosted the Hikoi Tutuki, or journey of achievement, to celebrate the local taonga.

The day started with a local history lesson, delivered by Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust (MTT) Ranger Pereri King, about the importance of the lake both culturally and environmentally, and ended with everyone getting their hands dirty planting natives around the lake's edge.

This hikoi was of great significance to local hapū that come under the MTT, as hapū ancestors seasonally lived by Tūtira, which is evidenced by the remains of six pa sites.

Pereri explained on the day, the Hapū whakatauākī for Lake Tūtira is ko te waiū ō tātau tīpuna – the milk of our ancestors - this refers to an abundance of kai and spiritual sustenance.

However, a hundred years of sedimentation and pollution has severely affected the water quality of this taonga.



Planting at Lake Tutira as part of the Tūtira hikoi

To help fix this, MTT secured funding in 2016 for a two-year project to help improve the mauri of Lake Tūtira and its wider catchment of lakes and waterways.

The project is called Tūtira mai ngā iwi, and it is using different knowledge systems including Mātauranga Māori, local environmental knowledge and science to undertake short-term actions and long-term planning.

The short-term actions include wānanga, pest plant removal, planting, fencing, science reporting,

landowner and community engagement.

While fixing the water quality issues will take time, this project will help the group to plan and progress in their role as kaitiaki.

The replanting as a part of this hikoi is part of a much longer term plan to restore this taonga.

Further hikoi are planned for this year around the district. For more information on when these will be happening keep an eye on the Poutiri Ao ō Tāne Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/poutiri](http://www.facebook.com/poutiri)

## SSRT technology at Boundary Stream

In February 2018 the Boundary Stream Mainland Island (BSMI) rat population is at its lowest ever thanks to 1552 traps that have been in place since late 2014.

The A24 self-setting rat traps (SSRTs) were deployed by DOC staff in October 2014, with rangers placing them on a 100x50m grid throughout BSMI. Initially peanut butter was used to lure rats into the traps. This was eventually replaced by a choc-olate-based lure. During this time the traps had to be serviced on a two-monthly basis, with their maintenance and associated track infrastructure



The A24 self-setting rat trap and dead rat

time consuming for staff.

However, in August 2016 automatic lure dispensing pumps were installed to keep the lure odour fresh.

It was this move that cut down the two-monthly servicing of these trap lines to six months. Moreover, the automatic lures stopped the

build-up of mold which the static lures were prone to developing.

Then, in February, during the routine monitoring of tracking tunnels, rangers discovered that rat levels in BSMI were down to two per cent.

That is, rats only visited two per cent of the 120 tracking tunnels.

Rat tracking rates have been steadily coming down from 21% in February 2015. This has been aided by a couple of bait station operations. With the aim to keep the rat population below five per cent – this is great news for staff and local wildlife!

# In the media



Kaumatua Trevor Taurima being interviewed by TV1 for the 6pm news following the kōrure translocation this year. <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/shifting-sea-birds-inland-hawkes-bay-shows-results>

Watch a great short video about Poutiri Ao ō Tāne and Cape to City which was presented at this years Fieldays. Go to the Cape to City homepage: [www.capetocity.co.nz](http://www.capetocity.co.nz)

## Poutiri Ao ō Tāne thanks supporters

An important part of achieving the Poutiri Ao ō Tāne vision is engaging the community and landowners, both in the Tūtira area and across Hawke's Bay.

Community buy in and stakeholder engagement are essential for insuring the long-term success and acceptance of the project.

Community members play important roles as advocates, volunteers, landowners and funders.

In turn for this support, Poutiri Ao ō Tāne provides the community with ecosystem services, environmental and outdoor edu-



**"Thank you"** says the kākā cation opportunities, and a sense of pride.

As such Poutiri Ao ō Tāne would like to thank the following project partners and providers who all have helped contribute to its success over the years: the Aotearoa Foundation, ECOED,

landowners, Hastings District Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research, Landcorp Farming, Maungaharuru Tangitū Trust, Ngāti Hineuru, Ngāti Pāhauwera, Panpac, Cape Sanctuary, and the Tūtira Maungaharuru Forum.

And finally, thanks is given to those volunteers who have provided over 15,000 hours of assistance, their passion and our appreciation for their commitment is unmeasurable.



Breathtaking view from the seabird site on the Maungaharuru Range

To read more about what is happening with Poutiri Ao ō Tāne visit:

Web: [www.poutiri.co.nz](http://www.poutiri.co.nz)

For reports: [www.capetocity.co.nz/resources/reports/](http://www.capetocity.co.nz/resources/reports/)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/poutiri](http://www.facebook.com/poutiri)