

CAPE TO CITY

It's in our nature

 Facebook: Cape to City

Nature Shed On Show

The Nature Shed, showcasing the biodiversity value of farmland, was a huge hit with fans young and old at the Hawke's Bay A&P Show this year.

Opening for the first time after a major transformation the shed highlighted the importance of biodiversity.

Star attraction Max the Green Gecko with his tree weta, eels and koura supporting acts, kept children well entertained. This allowed parents plenty of time to learn more from the team who were promoting practical actions people can take to support biodiversity.

Along with showcasing different species that thrive on farmland under the right conditions, the Nature Shed featured a model farmland highlighting ways to enhance biodiversity.

Sifting through leaf litter, making native seedling kits to take away, and a display on the 2050 predator free goals, including triggering a trap were also featured in the shed.

The Nature Shed was the result of a collaboration of 15 partners all working towards restoring healthy native biodiversity in Hawke's Bay. *See pages 4 & 5 for more photos of the Nature Shed.*

 **INSIDE:**

- Page 2 – Education Update
- Page 3 – Farm Profile: Horizon Farms
- Page 7 – Funding top up for Predator Free 2050 Project
- Page 4-5 – Cape to City in pictures and numbers
- Page 8 – Cape to City coverage map



Below: The finished mural on the side of the Nature Shed. Photo on right: Mural artist Cinzah Mertens making the final touches.



Education Update

Students build strong bond with nature

Cape to City's education programme is going from strength to strength delivering hands on, inquiry based environmental learning for school students through to professional development with teachers.

Our ongoing work has focused on three key areas

- a new education partnership with the Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT)
- the integration of long term education programmes in local schools
- outdoor-learning workshops for all school-staff

Over 20 primary and intermediate schools have now taken part since the project's inception. One of the positive benefits of the student-led programme, which focuses on critical-thinking, problem solving and decision making, has been seeing students developing stronger bonds with nature delivered through outdoor and cross-curricular engagement.

With two project-co-ordinators we've offered four different school-based programmes – bush education, marine, freshwater and backyard biodiversity.

The next step has been establishing professional development workshops for in-service teachers and a new and important education partnership with EIT that supports student teachers.

This is enabling more teachers to develop skills and build confidence in using the environment as a context for learning throughout the curriculum, and will ensure learning in the environment continues well beyond the life of our project.



A wall display documenting Haumoana School's engagement with the Native Bush Education programme

Local School Highlights

At Tamatea Primary School senior students learnt about the healing properties of native plants on their visit to White Pine Bush. Two students after researching the healing properties of the kawakawa; produced a booklet and made kawakawa ointment, which they shared with younger students.

At Haumoana School students potted self-sown native seedlings from leaf litter in the school garden which they sold at the school gala. They also hosted a class from another school to share their new environmental knowledge and created an impressive large wall display.

Te Mata School students raised money selling their school garden produce and used the proceeds to 'sponsor' a predator trap-line at Cape Sanctuary.

They created environmentally-themed outdoor games, developed a back field in the school grounds into a green space with native planting and set up predator monitoring stations. Students also sent out flyers in their local neighbourhood on how to provide safer habitats for native birds.

Under the spotlight

Name Wendy Rakete-Stones

Role/position title I am based at HBRC and my title is Project Leader – Biodiversity. In real terms this means I lead the Poutiri Ao ō Tāne, Cape to City and Predator Free Hawke's Bay projects.

What do you do as part of this role?

Our collaborative project has multiple workstreams all led by people from HBRC, DOC and Manaaki Whenua to deliver the milestones for our projects. Put simply, my role is to ensure our milestones are met on time and on budget. People are an essential part of our work so my role also includes a lot of engaging with and managing people.

How long have you been in the role?

I have been involved in various parts of our projects since 2011 and have been in my current role since October 2016.

What's the best part (most enjoyable) of the role?

It is humbling and satisfying to be part of something that is having a

positive influence on our environment and communities. No matter what we do there is always a common key factor, people. I really enjoy working with a great team with diverse backgrounds, skills and talents, and the incredible people we meet and work with on this journey. It is always really rewarding when I take time to get out and connect with the work on the ground, whether it's planting or education programmes with students, it is fantastic to experience the project in action.

What changes/improvements of C2C programme are you particularly proud of?

We have achieved so much it is really hard to single things out. I am proud that we have delivered, and in some cases over delivered, on what has been quite an ambitious undertaking. It hasn't always been easy, and we haven't always got things right but we have always remained focussed and committed and built a strong team along the way.

Favourite natural environment/landscape to visit in HB?

I don't have a

favourite really although I do enjoy walks along the sea-front taking in the views out towards the Maungaharuru Range, Mahia and Cape Kidnappers. We are surrounded by beautiful scenery and places to visit.

Favourite fauna?

Tui

Favourite flora?

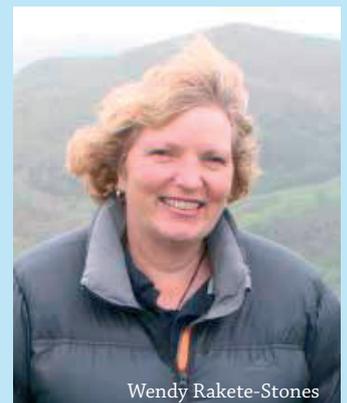
Kaka beak and Kowhai

When you have visitors to HB – where would you take them?

So many options.... Shine falls is often a favourite and Te Mata Peak on a fine day is stunning

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Time with my whanau, watching my kids play sport, watching rugby, gardening.



Wendy Rakete-Stones

Farmer Profile



A new horizon in on-farm pest control

Horizon Farming Limited is a sheep, beef and deer farming operation based in Hawke's Bay comprising of leased and owned land with a combined total area of approximately 8,148 effective hectares. Horizon runs eight different blocks from Havelock North to Woodville.

It runs approximately 72,000 stock units which comprise both breeding and finishing animals with a sheep to cattle to deer ratio of 62:36:2.

Horizon Farming is an early adopter of Cape to City and has four properties that are within the project's footprint.

In this issue of the newsletter we catch up with Horizon Farming Managing Director Stuart Ellingham.

When did you first hear about Cape to City? Was Horizon an early adopter?

Yes - we had been working with the HBRC on a couple of initiatives which flowed into Cape to City. There was some early dialogue with on farm meetings outlining the project, then feet on the ground with traps out for about 2 years now.

What Horizon farms have adopted the project?

All of our properties we manage that are in the catchment. We currently have 4 properties under our management covering close to 15% of total footprint.

What have been the key improvements across your farm(s)? Both in environmental changes/improvements and farming practices

Education - becoming aware of what pests are actually running around the property and to what level. Staff engagement in the programme - seeing some real benefits in the amount of bird life flourishing, and native plantings thriving.

What have been some of the challenges of adopting the project?

As the project aligns with our values we have experienced very little challenges - communication lines have been excellent, all on farm protocols have been followed, and feedback is great.

Of course there is more outside involvement across our properties which we have to be mindful of but we see this as a good thing.

How key has technology been in Cape to City?

There been no wireless tech used on our properties as yet, Topo maps with GPS trap lines and loops available if we would like them.

How do you think Cape to City will evolve?

It has the potential to be rolled out into other areas and lines up with the pest free by 2050 government aspiration - of course cost of running the project will be a hurdle to this.

The biggest challenge I see is goats and deer. These pests are growing in numbers as we create corridors for them to live in.

I think the other evolution will be producers inside the footprint potentially leveraging the story for marketing purposes.

What have been some of the other positive spinoffs - eg additional networking with other stakeholders (farmers/HBRC, DOC ...)

Building relationships by simply meeting and having access to key people in HBRC, DOC and QE2 has been invaluable. Not only for us, but also for them to understand a farmers perspective.

We are not all enviro-terrorists as some media would lead you to believe....

This networking has thrown up other opportunities across properties we manage outside this catchment.

Also the education we have got of pest behaviour and trapping techniques has been interesting, but the real positive is seeing the biodiversity change when pests are taken out.

Have you taken any of the learnings of Cape to City and adopted these on other farms outside of the catchment?

Yes, but in saying that, our philosophy has been aligned anyway - we are constantly trying to improve the biodiversity on all our properties.

Does Horizon promote its involvement in Cape to City in any way? Is it part of the Horizon farming practice story?

Yes we promote it on our website but certainly could leverage more off it with our business partners.

Cape to City in pictures and numbers

The Nature Shed was busy at the Hawke's Bay A & P Show. Children and adults got up close and personal with lizards and wetas.



Waimarama full of bird song, native plants and re-established stream

Cape to City is well entrenched in the area

Waimarama is bustling with bird life, native plants are thriving and beautiful fresh water is flowing down the Waingongoro Stream.

Waimarama is situated within the Cape to City footprint and hapū representative Te Maangi Hamlin is part of the project team.

Farms in Waimarama area have been very actively involved in Cape to City from pest management through to plantings. In 2017 Waimarama Marae hosted the first Cape to City Māori engagement hui with over 80 attendees including many from hapū across the Cape to City catchment.

Former Waimarama Māori committee executive chairman Bayden Barber says the first stage of native planting along the stream has been completed with over 8000 plants being planted by locals, with support from Cape to City, over the last two years. New

funding by the Ministry of Environment will enable the next stage of 3km of planting to get underway in 2019 with some Willows and Poplar being cleared for more native plants.

"We've got 'Tuna' or more commonly known as native eels back in the stream and the native plants have brought back bird life to the area surrounding the marae, school, Kohanga Reo and Kaumatua housing.

"Ten years from now we will have a thriving little native forest along the stream."

Stage 1 was approximately ½ kilometre of plantings and boundary fencing while the next stage will be a further 2km.

"There was a bit of a joke at the official re-opening of the stream when some of my cows went down for a drink, so we've since fenced the stream and planted thousands of natives."

Cape to City in numbers

700,000 ha – the aim for land area across Hawke’s Bay that will be predator free eventually

26,000ha – the land area of the Cape to City programme

8800ha – the land area of Poutiri Ao ō Tāne

\$4.86m – funding allocated for Predator Free HB

1700 approx. traps across Cape to City

2567 estimated predators captured in traps

Cats 270

Hedgehogs 1650

Rats 481

Stoats 65

Weasels 12

2015 – the year Cape to City commenced

90 toutouwai re-introduced to the Maraetotara Plateau over three years.

2000 bird baseline counts

253,000 – plants planted across Cape to City

8237 – Volunteer hours for Cape to City and Poutiri Ao ō Tāne since 2015

50 property owners participating in C2C



1



2

1 A toutouwai (North Island robin) and miromiro (North Island tomtit) were translocated to Maraetotara Plateau in September 2017 in an effort to restore species lost through habitat modification and predation.

2 EIT and Cape to City signed a Memorandum of Understanding formalising the environmental education goals of the initiatives, while also providing EIT students and staff with direct access to leading-edge conservation.

3 Key stakeholders of Cape to City gathered at Mission Estate in July for the announcement of creating a predator-free Hawke’s Bay and funding of \$4.86m. See story on page 7.

4 Planting Day – Along Maraetotara.



4



3

Bayden has also been involved in implementing Cape to City pest control on a forestry block, which has seen a significant reduction in possums and other predators.

“We want to maintain a good pest maintenance programme and the reports we’ve received from the pest control contractor have been very positive. The area is now mapped out and we know exactly where the traps are.”

Other happenings

Summit presentation

Kaumatua Trevor Taurima presented on Poutiri Ao ō Tāne at the Ngati Kahungunu fishhook summit to the wider iwi community earlier this year. He has also been organising Hikoi Tutuki, (discovery and learning walks) a programme to enable hapū and community to re-connect with the whenua (land) and stories of Poutiri Ao ō Tāne and Cape to City.

The first was in Tutira and included planting native species around the lake shore.

MTT makes great progress at Tutira

Maungaharuru-Tangitu Trust continues to be actively involved and is making good progress in the restoration of Lake Tutira. It seeks to create more habitat for the taonga species and provide opportunities for hapū members to actively participate in the restoration of the environment.





Funding for Predator Free Hawke's Bay

The Government has invested \$1.6 million over four years into creating a predator-free Hawke's Bay, taking the total funding to \$4.86m.

The first phase of the project is aimed at eradicating possums from 14,500ha on Mahia Peninsula within four years, as an initial step towards ridding the region of predators. It builds on the success of Cape to City and Poutiri Ao ō Tāne projects.

"This investment in Hawke's Bay is the second major investment by Predator Free 2050 Ltd. I hope you will share a lot of experience, practical knowledge, research and innovation so that you both build on the work that's happening in the regions," she said.

The Hawke's Bay Regional Council has invested \$1.17m in the project.

HBRC chief executive James Palmer said the project fits with the council's overarching goal of improving the region's natural ecosystems and biodiversity and was reflected in the council's Long-Term Plan and proposed Regional Pest Management Plan.

"The regional council is committed to building strong partnerships and this project is all about working alongside iwi, local and national organisations and the Government to achieve common goals.

"Getting rid of these predators will also release pressure on areas that we're replanting, which will give our native species a chance to thrive - the birds will start doing the work in terms of spreading the seeds for us.

"There's a growing emergence of what we're doing to get better fresh-water outcomes and better land-use outcomes for better biodiversity outcomes," Mr Palmer said.

Predator Free 2050 chief executive Ed Chignell said predator control at Cape Sanctuary and the Maungaharuru range shows how native seabirds, threatened land birds and other unique wildlife such as tuatara can return to the region once predators are removed.

"This project gets us started on the East Coast and enables new innovation and approaches that will be essential for our national predator free goal," he said.

Spotlight on possums

Native birds make welcomed return

The combined efforts of farmers to address the issue of possums on their farms has led to a significant reduction in the number of pests, so much so that where there once was a plague of possums, there is now an influx of native birds, Hawke's Bay farmer, Bruce Wills says.

The goal of possum eradication is within reach, some believe.

The former Hawke's Bay and national Federated Farmers president said farmers supported predator eradication programmes.

"Hawke's Bay has been one of the more significant possum areas in the country and that we have been funded to pursue this possum eradication on Mahia Peninsular is very exciting and we are certainly fully supportive of it.

"Possums have been a major challenge for the farming community. We are very enthusiastic and supportive of any endeavours to reduce the numbers. That's obviously what we've been doing over many years, but now to move to the next step, which is possible eradication, that's really exciting."

Not only were possums detrimental to the native bird population, bovine TB affected farmers' livelihoods. In TB-risk areas, possums cause the majority of new herd infections in farmed cattle and deer.

On his Trelinnoe Station, the numbers of possums were "astronomical" - "devastating the natural flora and fauna".

Through the likes of the OSPRI TB-Free programme and the regional Pest Management Plan, he now only sees one to two possums a year - "it has been an incredible turnaround".

"Hawke's Bay Regional Council were very supportive and they've been highly successful with possum control measures for many decades.

"For the first time ever in this country we're going to have a go at eradication of possums in a confined area. This is going to be watched closely by all of New Zealand. If we can prove the concept at a sensible price, and we achieve eradication, then we will be taking the technology and what we have learned to the rest of the country."

Gift a T Shirt for Christmas and give to Cape to City

New Zealand's only native land mammals are two species of bat/pekapeka. Long-tailed bats like to roost in large, old, native trees and feed on whatever flying insects they can find while hunting at night with echolocation.

An awesome looking T Shirt with a longtail bat design is available with \$5 from every sale going to the Cape to City conservation programme.

To buy a T Shirt visit www.tumbleweedtees.com/ and look for the bat designed T Shirt (as pictured).



Predator and biodiversity monitoring will help determine trapping effectiveness

Trapping across the Cape to City area started in 2016 but with over 26000 hectares it took two years to roll out the trapping network. Presently there are about 1700 traps on over 50 properties.

Manaaki Whenua (Landcare research) is monitoring biodiversity in the Cape to City area, and in an adjacent non-treatment area for comparison. Monitoring will tell us if:

- ✔ predator numbers are reducing by the trapping
- ✔ populations of native species are recovering as a result.

Predators are being monitored annually using motion-triggered cameras. These have shown that feral cats are common and widespread throughout the area, while stoats and ferrets have been detected in low numbers.

Although it is too soon to expect any measurable reduction in predator numbers our initial monitoring results provide a baseline for comparison in future years.

As predator populations are reduced by trapping, we would expect native species to become more common and widespread.

Manaaki Whenua is also monitoring populations of native lizards and invertebrates and birds are being monitored by a local environmental consultant. Tracking tunnels are being used to monitor lizards and invertebrates (as well as rodents), wētā houses for invertebrates, and artificial cover objects for lizards.

Tracking Tunnels – Lizards

Small numbers of geckos have been detected in tracking tunnels in both the treatment and non-treatment areas. Last summer, gecko footprints were five times more common in the treatment area than in the non-treatment area. While it is still too early to be sure, this could represent the beginnings of a biodiversity response to predator control. Skinks have been detected in a small number of tracking tunnels in the treatment area only.



Wētā

Wētā tracks have been detected in tracking tunnels in both the treatment and non-treatment areas. However, with such low numbers of detections, it is too soon to say if there are any trends in wētā numbers.

Wētā houses

The average number of wētā found in each wētā house has been slightly higher in the treatment than in the non-treatment area; numbers of spiders and other invertebrates have been similar in both areas.

Artificial cover objects (ACO's)

ACO's have detected small numbers of geckos in both the treatment and non-treatment area. Like the tracking tunnels, ACO's have detected more geckos in the treatment than the non-treatment area (particularly during summer), but numbers are still too low to make firm conclusions. Skinks have been detected in small numbers only in the treatment area.

Conclusions

While it is still too early to draw any firm conclusions about the effectiveness of the predator control, these preliminary results are encouraging as they confirm that our monitoring methods are detecting a wide range of species. Monitoring will continue each year. Once predator control has had more time to take effect, we hope to see fewer pests and more native species across the Cape to City area.

For more research information, including the most up to date reports visit our resources page – www.capetocity.co.nz/resources. The Cape to City research programme is very broad – ranging from social science, economic research to pest, habitat and biodiversity research.



What's on

Network

Optimisation –

Using the trapping information and research recommendations in the Poutiri Ao ō Tāne widescale predator control network, traps that historically catch a lot will be left in place and those that have no, or very low catch rate will be moved to new locations. The Poutiri Ao ō Tāne network will also be extended by 4000ha.

Whakatipu Mahia –

Predator Free Mahia Possum eradication and predator suppression will get underway by March 2019.

Wireless trap monitoring

will be deployed on some of the Cape to City and Poutiri Ao ō Tāne traps as part of overall network optimisation

The Cape to City Landowner survey

will be re-delivered mid 2019. A baseline survey was delivered in 2015. This will allow the project team to assess changes in attitude and understand landowner perspectives now that trapping has been on the ground for a few years.

The Cape to City

Community Survey will be re-run in late 2019. A baseline survey was delivered in 2015. This will allow the project team to assess changes in attitude. Link to 2015 survey results <https://www.capetocity.co.nz/assets/Reports/Cape-to-City-project-community-survey.pdf>

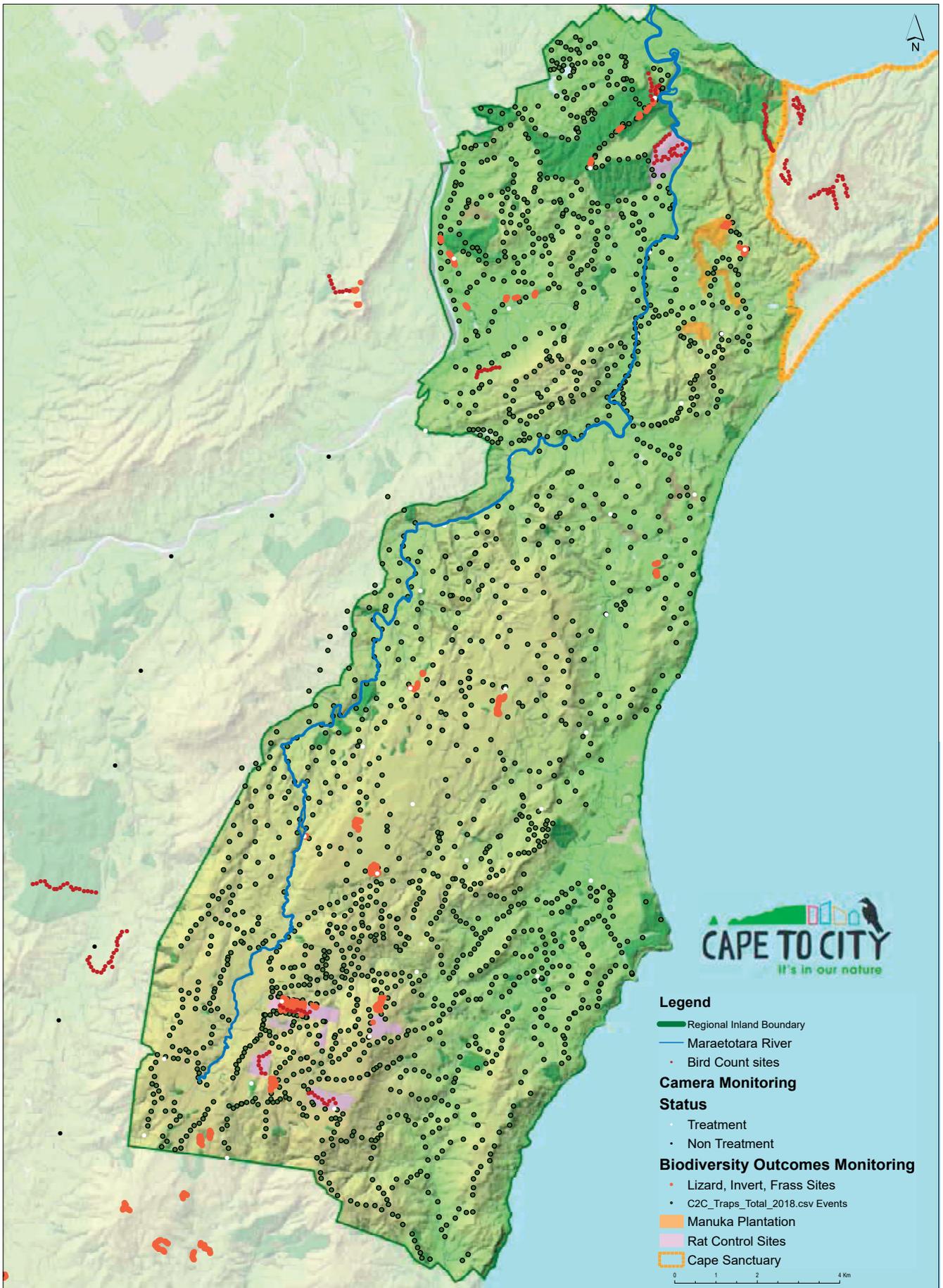
Ongoing Biodiversity and predator monitoring

will continue in February 2019. This is done annually to detect changes over time in Predator abundance and biodiversity recovery.

Stay connected to Cape to City events on our FB page.



Facebook: Cape to City



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