

Ornate skink, *Oligosoma ornatum*  
Dylan van Winkel

# 2021

# IMPACT REPORT SUMMARY

**Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi,  
engari he toa takitini**

Success is not the work of one, but the work of many



**Jenny Hanwell, Project Manager**  
**January 2022**



# Community Engagement:

- > Build structure
- > Increase knowledge & understanding
- > Establish partnerships

Community Hub Activators started work on:  
**Army-Bay-Gulf Harbour,**  
**Whangaparaoa Central-Arkles Bay**  
**Tindalls-Matakatia Hub areas.**



Interactive talks given to  
**775** school learners



Community Hub Activator Andrea Dick in action at a trap handout event



# 1350

Backyard traps now distributed to the community since April 2020



**30** Residents borrowed possum or stoat traps from our 6 week trap library

**578** workshop, event or online competition participants.

## Collaboration across the community:

- Hibiscus Men's Shed
- Te Herenga Waka o Ōrewa Marae
- Gulf Harbour Marina
- Gulf Harbour Country Club
- Whangaparaoa Library
- Local businesses
- Restore Hibiscus & Bays
- Shakespear Regional Park



**1045** facebook followers via Hibiscus Coast Forest & Bird host page.

**315** community & volunteer group page members



Theresa, I received a three-year strategic plan to grow the project, encourage residents to get involved, and begin trapping on their own properties, and there are now more than 300 people trained to look after predator-control lines in local parks and reserves.

Together, they are contributing 2000 hours of their time each year, and their hard work is paying off with sightings of kākāpū, kiwis, and increasing numbers of pōkaiwhiri, rātōka, and tūi.

They now look after 160 traps and bait stations, and are monitoring about 20,000 rats and more than 200 possums each year. Fifty species of native birds have been recorded across our 300ha project area.

In some areas, rātōka have come together to be part of their own Hibiscus Coast and are doing their bit to get rid of every single pest on the peninsula.

Residents from Boreham Drive joined the project in early 2021. Their properties are next to mature native forest along the West Drive, an important spot for local wildlife.

The small street group has caught more than 150 rats on their properties and have worked with the Forest & Bird team to install a predator control line on the reserve that runs along the bottom of their section.

As Pest-Free Hibiscus Coast heads towards its tenth birthday, we look at what has been achieved thanks to the dedication of local volunteers and residents.

**Jenny Hamwell**

For the past seven years, Forest & Bird member Theresa Hickey has been a volunteer with Pest-Free Hibiscus Coast. She looks after 100 bait stations and 80 traps, helps other backyard rangers, does bird counts, and helps with local school group visits. Last year, she won the project's Outstanding Volunteer award.

The team has been motivated to help after meeting from the 1980s to 2010.

"I was quite shocked when I learned of the plight of many native birds in New Zealand and wanted to do my bit to help," she says. "My health has benefited, as the project helps keep me fit and active. I have made friends and learned a great deal about wildlife here."

The Hibiscus Coast, north of Auckland, is filled with native and exotic birds to get out and enjoy, and there are many more than 300 people trained to look after predator-control lines in local parks and reserves.

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Featured in Forest & Bird magazine, plus regular articles in Hibiscus Matters newspaper and 2 other local publications.

Thank you to Mark Whittington and Deborah Colson for their contribution as Hub Activators in 2021.



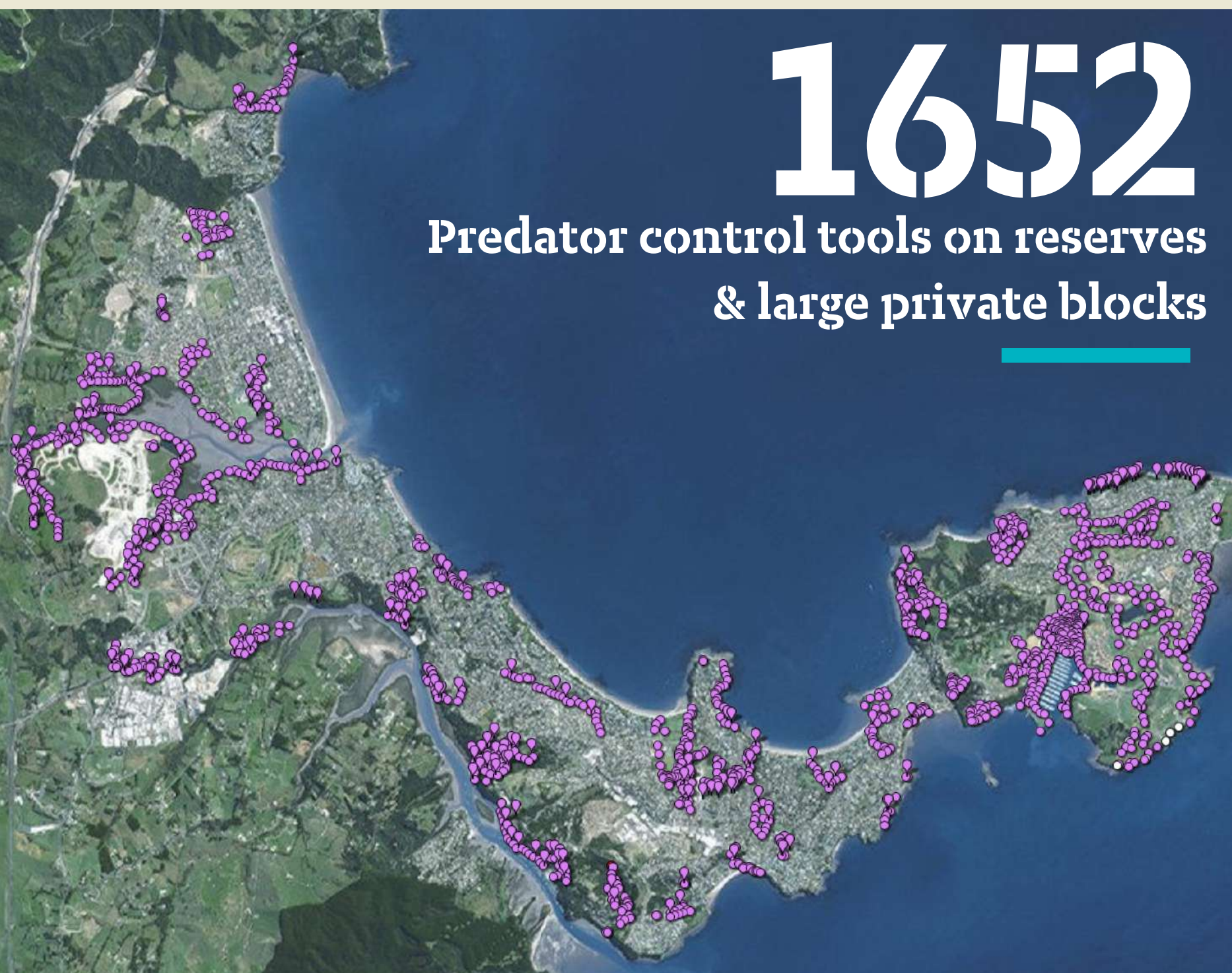
# Predator Control Network

> Build structure, increase knowledge, support ecosystem connectivity

**Tē tōia, tē haumatia.**

Plans for 2022 will grow the trapping network further, reaching nearly every park, plus:

- establish a targeted network of stoat traps
- install a network of self-resetting Goodnature traps near Weiti River & Wade Heads bush



**292** new predator  
control tools  
installed in 2021

**17** new predator  
control lines, total 90,  
plus 5 extensions

**86** reserves protected,  
in partnership with  
Auckland Council

**PREDATOR CONTROL  
SPECIALIST RECRUITED.**

**>54,000**  
rats removed

Twice as many as in 2020 due to  
larger control network & improved  
practice.



**211** possums  
trapped

**293** hedgehogs  
trapped

**5** stoats & weasels  
trapped



**104** Active  
volunteers  
contributing...

**>50000** hours

**24** volunteers  
trained in  
2021

Special thanks to Paul Wilkinson for giving  
his time to enable us to collect this data.



**Mauri tū, mauri ora!**



# Monitoring

**Ka ora te whenua,  
ka ora te tangata.**

9th annual bird count completed  
with Massey University

**500** x 5 minute bird  
counts carried out  
by 26 volunteers

Bird survey Masters Thesis found  
populations of 18 bird species  
were stable or had significant  
increases (2013 - 2020),  
especially tūi and riroriro

> Most common bird species on  
the Whangaparāoa Peninsula  
have healthy populations for an  
urban environment, comparable  
with similar studies from healthy  
or predator-free environments

## Reptile Survey

& monitoring plan completed  
by herpetologist Dylan van  
Winkel, with staff & volunteers.

**105**

new records were added to the  
reptile database for the  
Hibiscus Coast as a result.

Native reptile hotspot sites  
were identified across the  
predator control network.  
Recommendations are in  
place for ongoing  
monitoring



Riroriro, grey warbler  
JP Mower



Tūi  
Anna Arrol



Copper skink, Dylan van Winkel



## Pest Animal Monitoring Plan Implemented

**318**

Monitoring devices  
serviced by

**12** volunteers, plus  
Orewa College  
students

## Mustelid Monitoring Plan

developed, and trail camera  
network mapped, to be  
installed with ZIP Motolures  
in 2022.



Special thanks to Forest & Bird National Projects  
Manager David Bowden who left the organisation  
in September 2021, for all his support, skill and  
hard work to enable this project to continue  
growing towards achieving our vision.



In addition, during 2022 we will:

- > expand our community engagement into two new hub areas
- > recruit for a new role, Kaitohutohu Tikanga Aotūroa Māori. Advisor in the natural world view of Māori in relation to predator control and community engagement.
- > seek funding to increase the long term sustainability of the project, expand monitoring and move closer towards the long term goal of predator eradication.



Some of the team at the 2020 Very Coastie Christmas community event: Rhiannon Thomas (Predator Control Support), Pauline Smith (Project Founder and Branch Chair, Emma Johnstone Gill, (KCC), Steph Dixon (Branch Treasurer), Vern Rule (trapping and reserves volunteer), Paul Wilkinson (volunteer data manager), Derek Kelsey (trapping volunteer), Rachael Randall (former Restore HB Manager), Kane Kvasnicka (Restore HB Restoration Adviser)  
Front: Jenny Hanwell (PFHC Project Manager), Julian Fripp (trapping volunteer), Sinead Brimacombe (Auckland Council).



**Forest & Bird**  
TE REO O TE TAIAO | *Giving Nature a Voice*

**FOREST & BIRD**  
**HIBISCUS COAST BRANCH**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS FOR  
BACKING OUR VISION AND MAHI:**

