



# ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2024 TO JUNE 2025

## PIROA CONSERVATION TRUST

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## PIROA BRYNDERWYNS HIGH VALUE AREA

Welcome to our 2024/2025 annual report. During this past year the Piroa Conservation Trust (PCT) has continued to grow in strength and impact, thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteers, hapū partners, landowners, and supporters across our region.

From the hills of the Piroa/Brynderwyns to the waterways of Bream Bay, our collective mahi has led to the elimination of over 6,500 pests, the expansion of predator control across 15,000 hectares, and the restoration of vital habitats through invasive weed removal, riparian planting, wetland regeneration, and innovative catchment projects.

This year, our work was recognised at the Northland Regional Council Whakamanawa a Taiao Environmental Awards, where PCT received accolades for Environmental Action in Water Quality and the Kiwi Coast Outstanding Project of the Year. These honours reflect the dedication and vision of our community and the long-term commitment to restoring biodiversity and protecting taonga species. Our catchment work mahi was also showcased at the annual Balance Farm Environmental Awards.

We celebrated our local conservation champions at the 2025 PCT Awards, highlighting inspiring individuals and groups—from tamariki trappers and weed warriors to habitat restorers and kiwi protectors—whose contributions are shaping a healthier, more resilient environment.

Our education programmes have flourished, engaging students in stream health monitoring, fish surveys, and kiwi listening, while our community nursery continues to thrive, supplying thousands of native plants and fostering environmental stewardship.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on strengthening partnerships, enhancing data collection, and expanding our reach through new roles and initiatives. With renewed funding and growing community support, PCT is well-positioned to continue its mission of protecting and regenerating our natural landscapes.

Thank you to NRC for being part of this journey. Together, we honour the past, celebrate the present, and look forward with hope.

# HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2024

## ENVIRONMENTAL RECOGNITION

Winner of the Kiwi Coast Outstanding Project of the Year for long-term, community-led conservation success

Winner of the Northland Regional Council Environmental Award for Action in Water Quality

Finalist for Action to Protect Native Life

Showcased Bream Bay Catchment Project at Northland Ballance Farm Environmental Awards



## CONSERVATION IMPACT

6,700+ pests eliminated

Predator control expanded across 15,000 hectares and beyond

Major weed control efforts targeting TW Cherry, climbing asparagus, privet, and moth plant

Habitat restoration including riparian planting, wetland creation, and ecological corridors

## SPECIES PROTECTION & MONITORING

Project Bellbird initiated to restore bellbird populations in Waipu

Annual Kiwi Survey completed across 11 sites with promising call rates

Kiwi listening volunteers monitored new and existing kiwi habitats

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- PCT Conservation Awards celebrated local heroes in trapping, weed control, and habitat restoration
- Education programmes expanded in schools with stream health monitoring, fish surveys, and kiwi listening
- Community nursery thriving with over 7,000 native plants and new partnerships

## TRACKING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE HVA

	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
NRC funding year	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
NRC HVA \$	169,000	176,000	207,000	185,901	185,700
Hectares in HVA boundary	23,500	23,500	23,500	23,500	23,500
NRC \$/HVA hectare	\$7.19	\$7.50	\$9.00	\$7.90	\$7.90
Hectares - active pest control (traps & toxin)	8,496	10,213	11,000	16,000	15,623
Mustelid traps deployed +	1,250	1,595	1,810	2198	2361
Total Traps deployed++	na	na	na	4183	3569
# pests removed via trapping +++	3,063	3,751	3,635	4,555	6768
Total bait stations				2340	3194
# of people involved in trapping groups +++	81	110	120	160	202
# of trapping groups	21	23	26	37	42
Invasive weed groups	9	13	10	8	8
Schools engaged + conservation programme	0	4	6	8	10

+ more detailed trapping results see annual dashboard 1 pager

++ combined mustelid traps, rat, possum, feral cat, mynah bird and pig traps. # dropped due to audit and duplicate clean up

+++ some people work across multiple groups so # is not unique individuals

++++ the YoY increase is due to a heavy focus on possum in Waipu West with which increased

### IN KIND CONTRIBUTION

7380 Volunteer hrs @ \$35 per hr *	\$258,380
Value (\$) of donations obtained for Habitat related work **	
\$4000 of which was plant donations for the nursery.	\$4,300
Value (\$) of donations obtained for general operations	\$ 3,500
Value (\$) of donations obtained for water quality related work	\$ 0
Value (\$) of donations obtained for predator related work +	\$ 4,800

**TOTAL \$ 270,900**

\* PCT also relies on the generous goodwill and contribution of over 9 highly skilled volunteers for key roles such as governance, strategic leadership, project management, partnerships, community engagement, comms, IT, finance, planning, reporting and fundraising, we estimate the value of this contribution at more than \$500k if we were to replace or remunerate these key roles. We are also in the process of reviewing/rescoping all of our core metrics, scorecards and way we measure our achievements hence why metrics are looking different than past years. For example, in this report the volunteer hrs do not include hrs of people working on their own land to conduct animal or plant pest control. These hrs are not trackable and not included in our H&S reporting.

\*\* Not calculated - the large discounts from Hammer Hardware, ITM Waipu....

## CELEBRATING CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS

The annual Awards highlighted the remarkable efforts of individuals and groups contributing to conservation across the region.

**PIROA CONSERVATION TRUST SUPREME AWARD - CATHY AND JOHN HAWLEY** are founding shareholders of Marunui Conservation Ltd, they have been pivotal in conservation efforts across Marunui and the wider Piroa/Brynderwyn area—including managing 33km of traplines, tackling weeds, and advocating for landscape protection. Their instrumental role in facilitating DOC's acquisition of a nearby 236ha bush block safeguarded the land from destructive firewood harvesting; it is now protected as the Brynderwyn Hills Scenic Reserve.

**TAMARIKI TRAPPER OF THE YEAR - RILEY MCKAY** joined the Mangawhai-based Rangatahi Programme in 2024. Supported by his grandfather, Riley has taken responsibility for trapping along the bike path from Waipu Cemetery to Waipu Cove—an essential line that protects nesting shorebirds, including the endangered Fairy Tern.



**WEED WARRIORS OF THE YEAR - CORALIE ROBERTS, DEZARAE WAETFORD, & MARILYN HUMPHREY** began with their own extensive backyard, this unstoppable trio are clearing an area of invasive weeds in the wetland at Flagstaff, and continued their mission along the adjacent cycle track, setting an inspiring example of grassroots action.

**NATIVE HABITAT RESTORATION - BRUCE AND JANINE COPLAND** have eradicated pests across 5 hectares of their conservation block and replanted with over 75,000 native plants. Their commitment extends across their 200-hectare property, supported by both personal effort and contracted work. Bruce and Janine also actively contribute to animal pest control operations in the area.



**ROOKIE TRAPPER OF THE YEAR - ANDY CABLE** is recognised for his promising start and dedication to conservation efforts. Andy started with us not too long ago and became deeply engaged in the work from the outset. Andy has helped with multiple operations in the ranges and is now dedicating more time to help support landowner/volunteer trappers on the Mangawhai side of the rangers.

**TRAPPER OF THE YEAR - DAVE CULLEN** is a long-standing contributor to kiwi protection since their translocation to the region twelve years ago. As a skilled and accredited kiwi handler, Dave pairs his field expertise with behind-the-scenes work, meticulously preparing traps in his spare time. His practical advice and grounded leadership continue to inspire others.

**MYNA TRAPPER OF THE YEAR - KENNEDY GARLAND** has successfully removed 211 Mynas using a variety of techniques. These pest birds are known to displace native species due to their aggressive behaviour.

## PREDATOR CONTROL/TRAPPING

### TRAP AUDIT

One of the biggest challenges in our trapping efforts is ensuring that catch data is accurately and consistently recorded. While this tends to run smoothly across larger traplines, it becomes significantly more difficult when volunteers or landowners are responsible for just a few traps. To address this, we're currently reviewing all traps that haven't recorded any servicing or catches over the past five months. This accounts for roughly 50% of our traps on both the southern and northern sides of the Brynderwyns.



This gap in data capture has sparked a collaborative project with GroundTruth, focused on streamlining data entry for those managing only a handful of traps. We're exploring ways to make the process simpler and more accessible. More updates to come as the project unfolds.

### NEW SUBDIVISIONS

Over the past one to two years, it's been incredibly encouraging to see developers of new subdivisions proactively reaching out to PCT for support, advice, and guidance on pest control. Two large subdivisions on the southern side of the ranges are now well engaged, actively running bait station operations and trapping. Even more promising—they're now turning their attention to weed mapping as part of a broader ecological approach.

### MARKET DAYS

The team has participated in several market days over the year raising awareness to animal pest control and gathering volunteers names and supplying traps.

### TRAPPING NEXT STEPS - LAUNCH OF WAIPU BELLBIRD

It's been many years since the distinctive song of the bellbird – or korimako - was heard in Waipu village. Project Bellbird aims to change that, by getting the whole community involved in backyard trapping and habitat restoration, so that the birds and other native wildlife might return.

### PROJECT GOALS

A trap in one in every 5 backyards in the Waipu Village area. The whole community working together to reduce predator numbers, so that the bellbird /korimako and other native wildlife can thrive again.

**URBAN:** Backyard predator control.

Residents & businesses, with a buffer zone of traps around the village perimeter & water ways to target mustelids.

**RURAL:** Ecological corridor from Waionehu catchment to village by restoring habitat & reducing predators.





## BIRD SURVEYS

### ANNUAL KIWI SURVEY UNDERWAY AGAIN

Stage 2 of the kiwi survey has been completed, covering 11 sites. These sites will be revisited annually during the same listening window for the next five years - potentially longer.

While results are still being collated, early indications show good call rates at Marunui, and the Bream Tail/Robert Hastie Reserve area and to the north.

Some promising new sites near SH1, above Kaiwaka, have had acoustic devices deployed - formal results are still pending.

We look forward to sharing the annual report in the not-too-distant future with some more detailed explanation of what the data is telling us across the region.

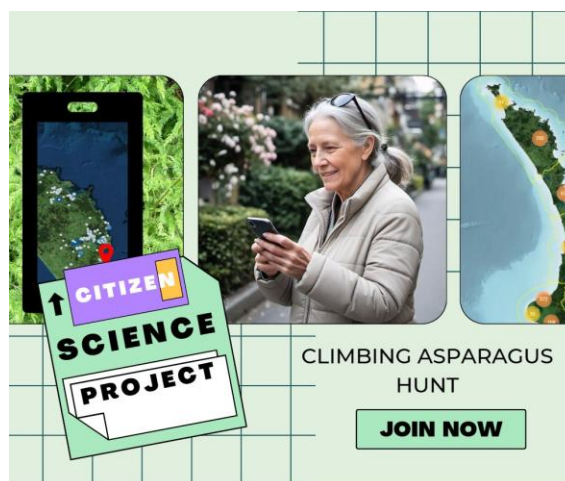
### KIWI LISTENING PERIOD

It's a wrap for our kiwi listening volunteers! During May/June our kiwi listening crew were out monitoring kiwi across the ranges, recording locations where kiwi continue to dwell and new locations and density. This is part of the DOC Annual Kiwi Call Count.

## HABITAT

### WEED MAPPING

This year's invasive weed work has been full of learning, adapting to a more strategic approach. Thanks to citizen science mapping using a digital tool called Weed Manager, we continue to map invasive weeds across the region. The mapping is enabling us to monitor problem areas closely and track progress on the ground



## COMMUNITY NURSERY

The Community Nursery continues to thrive thanks to the dedication of our manager Coralie and around 15 volunteers and growing community support.

With over 7,000 native plants in stock—including wetland species like carex and flax, and riparian plants like kowhai and totara—the nursery is helping improve water quality and biodiversity across the catchment. Despite storm damage in March that toppled internal posts and impacted some plants, repairs are underway with support from a local fencing contractor offering help on a volunteer basis.

Our plant stall at the Waipu boutique market was popular and brought in new volunteers and planting leads, and a raffle is going well.

With strong community engagement and a clear environmental mission, the nursery remains a vibrant hub for conservation, education, and connection.

We have run one weed control workshop in the past year.

For weed control, this year's focus was around seasonal targeting of invasive species: Taiwan Cherry (Tch) in winter/spring, and Climbing Asparagus (CA) and Moth Plant (MP) in summer/autumn. A strategic approach to planning was taken where to focus our efforts on these 3 weeds using Weed Manager including a citizen science project to map CA. Local newspaper stories and social media drew attention to the 3 priority weeds generating enquiries and advice.



- 1) **CLIMBING ASPARAGUS** is more widespread than initially anticipated - particularly in Mangawhai and Cullen Road/Waipu Cove which has prompted revisions of our plans. Climbing Asparagus has been sprayed in numerous locations, but unfortunately, it is spreading more rapidly than we are currently able to manage. We need help - as ask all landowners to get rid of the weed if they have it present on their property.

- 2) **MOTH PLANT** has also been found to be prevalent across large areas of Waipu village and Mangawhai Heads. Hundreds of Moth Plant pods have been collected to help prevent further dispersal. We need help - as ask all landowners to get rid of the weed if they have it present on their property.
- 3) **TAIWAN CHERRY:** Key progress included the removal of nearly 200 Taiwan Cherry seedlings on a property in Mangawhai and mapping of more than 10 other locations with multiple trees/seedlings present.

### VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Groups have made significant progress in areas like the Waipu cycleway and wetland at Flagstaff. The Langs Beach SWAT team continue their significant progress in tackling large areas of privet, mignonette, moth plant, and morning glory in the Mangawhai Gorge, Langs Beach and Waipu cycleway.

Further collaborative efforts are planned with KDC, Mangawhai Lions, and Zonta.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The nursery is also exploring exciting opportunities, supplying new wetland projects on the Waionehu River and supporting Project Bellbird.

Over the next year we aim to form new weed action groups and SWAT teams in Mangawhai and Waipu, expand partnerships, refine climbing asparagus strategies and launch awareness campaigns for woolly nightshade and passion vine.

We are also exploring drone technology to tackle large areas of invasive weeds. Our habitat programmes continue to empower communities and landowners through support, equipment, and education.

## EDUCATION & VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

### VOLUNTEER GROWTH & ENGAGEMENT

Numbers continue to grow through our digital community awareness initiatives, but there is always more that we can do. Over the past 12 months we have:

- Continued a monthly volunteers mojo dinner.
- Continued volunteer recruitment

- Increased community awareness via social media and media stories
- Continued newsletter, community presentations, market stalls, mailbox flyers, posters and more.

### RANGATAHI CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Now in year 2 in partnership with The Shorebirds Trust our 'Rangatahi Conservation Programme' continues to be a great success with youth and well supported by speakers and volunteers.

### IN SCHOOLS

The PCT continues to develop relationships and work with youth within the HVA. These are:

- Mangawhai Hills College
- Waipu Primary School
- Mangawhai Beach Primary School
- One Tree Point School
- Otamatea High School
- Bream Bay College
- Ruakākā Primary School
- Kaiwaka Primary School
- Maungatūroto Primary School
- Bream Bay Kindergarten



## CATCHMENT GROUPS

### BREAM BAY RIVERS COMMUNITY PROJECT UPDATE

Over the past twelve months, the Bream Bay Rivers Community Project, funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), has made strong progress in supporting farmers and landowners to improve water quality and biodiversity across our catchment.

A snapshot of what we've achieved in partnership with Patuharakeke Taiao unit includes riparian fencing and planting of the entire Takahiwai Stream (3.2km), planting of over 20,000 native trees and shrubs, six demonstration sites, two edge of field or mini wetlands, field days and community collaboration with schools, businesses, Northland Regional Council, Mountains to Sea Trust and industry partners.

Some recent highlights include: an inanga rearing pond with native inanga consistently observed in traps, a handwoven harakeke ladder installed on a weir to support native fish movement, planted vegetation on river banks and in wetlands showing a strong survival rate of 80–90% after nearly 3 years, predator control initiated to support habitat restoration and inanga spawning sites, and a digital tool to measure a cultural health index.

A community dinner to wrap up the project was well attended with guest speakers including local MP Grant McCallum, QEII Trust Northland regional representative Kieran Pullman and Graham Matthews, Bream Bay Catchment Coordinator.

In very recent news MPI funding for the project has been renewed which will enable the momentum achieved over the past 2.5 years to continue with a focus on catchment groups planning and delivering change.

## OUR TOP CHALLENGES & PRIORITIES

- Deepen partnerships with iwi/hapu, community, business groups and academic institutions.
- Expand safe operations awareness and use of Conservation Hub
- Boost community led delivery



- Expand nature positive priorities- increase intensive predator control in the Open Sanctuary to 2,000 hectares, initiate predator free village projects (Mangawhai urban and Project Bellbird in Waipu) and tackle priority weeds: climbing asparagus, moth plant, Taiwan cherry, Woolly nightshade and vines
- Monitor and measure impact
- Build a resilient future focused team

## GOVERNANCE & SAFE OPERATIONS

Over the past year, PCT trustees have been actively shaping the strategic direction and strengthening the governance of the Trust. Key achievements include new policies for finance, safe operations, meetings, trustee induction and training, and shaping a business plan with a focus on partnerships, measuring our impact and creating a resilient organisation.

Over \$250,000 in new funding has been achieved to support conservation and catchment work. Trustees also supported proposals for new roles to support the operations team and advanced partnerships with iwi and hapū through a new Mana Enhancing Agreement. Their oversight ensures PCT remains community-focused, financially sound, and ready to meet future challenges with confidence.

Safe Operations remains a focus for the Trust - we are delighted to have recently achieved Sitewise accreditation. Work will continue to rollout our Hub app across volunteers. To date we have had no serious harm incidents, and that incidents are reported and reviewed by the operations teams to learn from and adopt improved practices.

### OUR LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Northland Regional Council

Waipu Menzshed

Mangawhai Bunnings

Kiwi Coast

Department of Conservation

Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board

Mangawhai Natives

Waipu Hammer Hardware

Waipu ITM

The Mangawhai Club

Northpine

Whangarei District Council

Waipu & Mangawhai 4 Square

The Cove Camp/ Waipu Surf Club



#### CATCHMENT GROUP SPECIFIC SPONSORS

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)

Fonterra

Dairy NZ

NZ Landcare Trust

Whitebait Connection

Pub Charity

Whangarei District Council Community Grants Scheme

# APPENDIX

## HABITAT MANAGEMENT SCORECARD 2024

### DATA COLLECTED

Volunteer hours: 1973 this year - compared to 1566 hours for the year previous

Value (\$) of volunteer contribution (valued at \$30/hr) this year \$59,190 compared to \$46,680 for the year previous.

Number of volunteer group individual engagements 192 versus 142 the previous year.

Number of public events, educational events, market days and promotional talking engagements specific to weeds: 5 compared to 4 in the year previous (1 workshop, 3 market stand, 1 presentation).

*Note, that wider presentations about all aspects of the Trust including Weeds have also occurred in addition by various Trust leaders.*

GROUP	EVENTS	HOURS
Weed swat team (NORTH SIDE)	10	100
Waipu community nursery	96	860
Waipu coastal walkway/Langs beach reserve/Ginger group	32	710
Mangawhai community park weeders	34	144
Marunui Conservation LTD	12	120
Waipu cycle way / flagstaff weeders	8	39
TOTAL APPROXIMATE	192	1,973

Number of engagements (contact/support/advice provided) with private landowners: 16

Note: The ideal measure and long-term goal is to be able to track the numbers and map landowners actively engaged in weed control, but for ease of reporting numbers of engagements is suggested

# PIROA BRYNDERWYNS HIGH VALUE AREA

*is better off with animal & plant pests gone!*

The Trust supports community-led conservation efforts across a 23,000-hectare + area encompassing Waipu, Mangawhai, and the extensive coastal lowlands and Piroa/Brynderwyn ranges in between. This region has been designated a High Value Area (HVA) by the Northland Regional Council, which allocates funding for conservation initiatives endorsed by the Trust.

Led by the community, the Piroa Conservation Trust (PCT) facilitates funding and resources for numerous conservation groups and landowners working collaboratively to restore healthy ecosystems. Their efforts focus on predator control, weed management, water quality, and revegetation within this high-value landscape.

The kiwi population is increasing, with locations monitored across a broad area from Bream Tail to SH1. Other rare native species, including the fairy tern and bittbern, also inhabit this region. These species form part of an amazing, vast and intricate ecosystem.

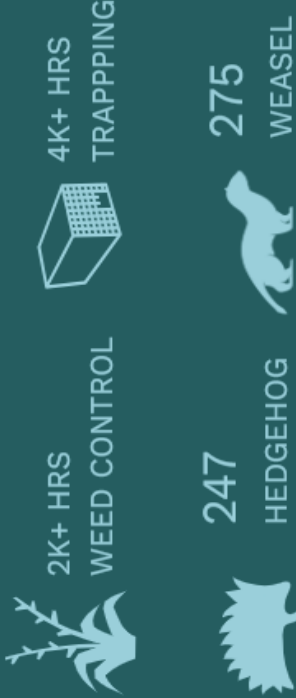


Open Sanctuary

\*Numbers shown are for trapping only.  
Estimates from toxin operations are not included



## PESTS TRAPPED IN PAST YEAR



## WHAT WE'VE SUPPORTED THIS YEAR

- Kiwi survey showing dispersal of Kiwi & increased numbers
- Community Nursery producing over 10,000 plants for riparian planting
- Monthly Mojo dinners for volunteers
- 10 Schools with conservation programmes
- 5 minute bird count confirming increased bird numbers including Bellbird & Tomtit
- Significant pest plant operations including removing sacks of Moth Plant seed pods, hundreds of Taiwan Cherry seedlings, & kilometres of Morning Glory vine to name a few.

## WHAT'S NEXT

- Open Sanctuary concept
- Grow Special Weed Action Teams (SWAT) to tackle gnarly projects
- Project Bellbird aiming to bring Bellbird back to Waipu
- Implement revised strategic plan



2025 DASHBOARD

## TRAPPING DASHBOARD

PROJECT	Possums	Rats	Ferrets	Stoats	Weasels	Feral Cats	Wild Rabbits & Hares	Feral Pigs	Magpie	Myna	Hedgehog	Mice	Other Catches?	total pest animals caught
Brynderwyn Barrier	32	711	0	56	57	17	3		3	40	5	1		925
Fish Bach - Mangawhai		2									1			3
Flagstaff		62		12						1				75
Jude Rd / Pebblebrook	17	5									32			54
Kapawiti Kaitiaki		16		1		1								18
King Rd Reserve	15	89		1	2					24	2			133
Langs Beach Estate	10	15					23	14		2				64
MacLester	93	170	1	7		4		4			70			349
Mangawhai Predator Control	8	171		9	2				1	14	12	7		224
Manulife Waipu Forest	1	311		50	67		4		6	24				463
Marunui	46	297		7	10	2				2				364
Marunui Ring of Steel South	3	307		11	27	1	6			31				386
North Waipu River	4	25		9	15	5				4	3			65
Oi Kaitiaki		79		3	6					18	3			109
Pa Hill	7	15			1	2				2				27
Piroa North Trappers (Massey)	90	130		9										229
Ruru Kaitiaki	14	301		9	38		1	15		21	18	7		424
The Sanctuary	7	50		3	2	3				5				70
Upper King Rd Trappers	7	8		1					1	2				19
Waihoihoi River	26	9		2						1				38
Waihoihoi Kaitiaki	8	83		6	14		3				1			115
Waipu Kiwis	24	230		10	21	2	24		4	211	26	54	3	609
Waipu West	1168	285		5	10	27	1	8	14	3	15		0	1536
Wairahi Trappers (was Lang C)	12	157			3				2	12	100			286
Waorahi Kaitiaki	5	122		11				34		1	6	4		183
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1597</b>	<b>3650</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6768</b>