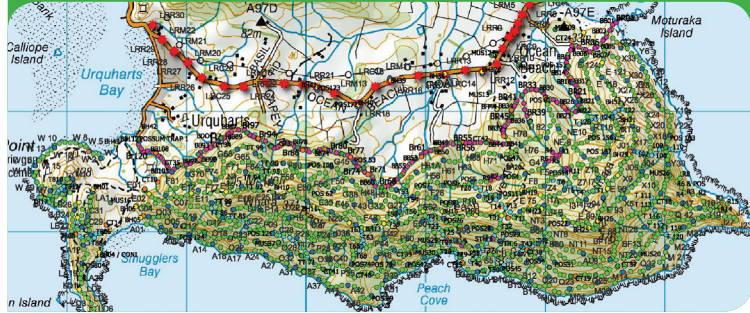


20 Years of Volunteers



Wow, another year and another newsletter!

Lots of people ask "How many volunteers are there at Bream Head/ Te Whara"? - a tough question as there are heaps of opportunities and some volunteers play more than one role.

BHCT's first volunteers started with a series of lines in and around Busby Head. BHCT legend (and do not think the term is being used lightly) Tony Climie now organizes the Busby Trappers and they still meet at the Urquharts Bay carpark at 9am the second Sunday of the month.

Another two of our legendary volunteers, Colin and Marjorie Edwards, started up the "Smugglers Track Maintenance" volunteer group. They meet on a more ad hoc basis these days but are still notable for the control of pesky and noxious weeds throughout the Busby Head/ Smuggler's Bay area.

Our core group now are the Trap&Toxin Volunteers - those servicing the traps and toxin stations on the main reserve (there are over 2150 devices)...This is by far our largest group of volunteers because there's more area to cover but also many of them work in pairs. This group started as trapping and toxin stations were situated more widely throughout the main Bream Head/ Te Whara Scenic Reserve. These volunteers are tough and many - like Rupert Newbold, Grant Stevens, Neil and Yvonne Beney, Bill Mallett and Geoff Pike cover areas of rugged terrain, steep slopes and rocky

outcrops.

Of course all the Trustees are volunteers and many of them lead committees of volunteers in areas such as communications and education.

And finally during the past few years, we have enrolled more of our great community members as 5 minute bird call counters, tree planters, nursery helpers, track maintenance crews and trapline maintenance crews.

BHCT is forever grateful for this dedicated community support and for anyone out there looking for a fun and rewarding outdoor experience, please get in touch.

Oh, and the answer is around 70.



Some of our amazing volunteers

If you believe you've seen Myrtle Rust:

- don't touch it
- take photos if possible
- note the location and
- contact the hotline on 0800 80 99 66



Become a Friend

We wouldn't be able to continue our mahi on the Reserve without the financial tautoko from our Friends. They see how their money is helping Bream Head/ Te Whara Scenic Reserve regain its natural ecology. How it becomes a great place for visitors to experience a healthy ngahere with abundant bird song.

When you become a Friend you automatically receive our bi-monthly Ranger Reports. You also receive invitations for events taking place in and around the Reserve. This can be a lecture about a specific conservation topic or an invitation to celebrate an important milestone. New monthly donations are acknowledged with a small welcome gift. Please send an email to info@breamheadtrust.nz or visit our website breamheadtrust.nz to learn how to become one.

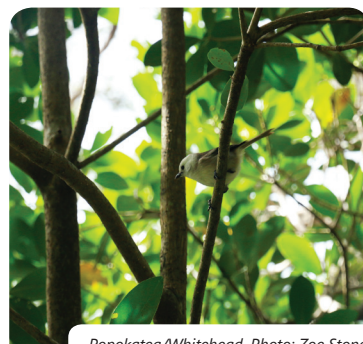
Future Funding

The Trust has recently entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Northland Community Foundation, a charitable trust that helps communities achieve sustainable income through philanthropic giving. We are excited about this new venture and will share more about how you can choose to help in this space over the next few months.

Celebrating! 20 Years Bream Head/ Te Whara Conservation Trust

On Sunday 11 September in the good company of many of our volunteers, Friends and the Whangarei mayor, the Trust celebrated its 20th anniversary. It was the perfect moment to reflect on what has been achieved over the years. In the beginning the goal was to build a predator proof fence for the area. It turned out this was not viable due to the terrain and the ongoing costs. A core area was established and Pete Mitchell established a comprehensive grid of bait stations and began to monitor the results. The results were almost instantaneous, which was very motivating. It led to the very exciting discovery in 2013 of the Bream Head skink. The following year it was confirmed by Te Papa that the skink was a new species with its unique DNA. All the hard work over the years was acknowledged at the Westpac Business Awards in 2013 where the Trust received not one but three awards! In 2014 Adam Willetts who took over from Pete Mitchell established the last remaining bait line in one of the remaining areas of the Reserve, "tiger country", as Pete called it. It is here that a small colony of grey-faced petrels were discovered. Extensive trapping and monitoring has resulted in three successful fledging since 2016.

In 2016 and 2017 populations of toutouwai and the popokatea were translocated into the reserve and monitoring is still underway to determine their success. In recent years a new intensive trapline called "load the road" was established to try to improve the first line of defence into the Reserve. We very much look forward to all future successes at Bream Head/ Te Whara Scenic Reserve.



Popokatea/Whitehead. Photo: Zoe Stone



NEWSLETTER : Sept/Oct 2022 GET INVOLVED / CELEBRATING 20 YEARS / SUCCESSES / AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Message From The Chair

Greg Innes - Chair BHCT



After 20 Years, it is satisfying for us all to see our Rangers and Volunteers achieving results for the ecological restoration of Bream Head/ Te Whara. The Grey-Faced Petrel is a recent success story, everyone waiting with "bated breath" for the monitoring results:

100% GFP chick survival and fledging over summer 2021/22. Nine Chicks survived from 10 eggs (1 egg found out of burrow but not predated). Third successful GFP egg/chick protection season for BHCT (out of five seasons). Seven chicks banded (highest ever).

BHCT also successfully installed a stronger second boundary of traps along Ocean Beach Road called "Load the Road" which has been catching some very important predators before they make their way into the Bream Head/ Te Whara Scenic Reserve.

The Trust's Head Quarters have become a facility where Ranger's work from, volunteers meet, and the community gathers. In challenging times for the Whangarei Heads Community, Bream Head/ Te Whara Scenic Reserve is a cornerstone for community wellbeing, providing a place for all to enjoy thanks to the mahi of volunteers, members, sponsors and donors.

The Board meets every month at MAQ in Hunt Street, who kindly make their Boardroom available for the Trust. Northport, Northpower and RefiningNZ have been our key sponsors, with Foundation North being a key financial contributor along with DOC, NRC, WDC and Pub Charity. It is encouraging that Foundation North is supportive of the Trust's wider picture, embracing biodiversity, community wellbeing, and the beginnings of a partnership journey with local iwi and hapu.

The Trust's governance and direction is undertaken by the board with management of areas of focus largely undertaken by committees which consist of trustees and community members. These areas of focus are Education; in a strong school presence, STAG; (Science Technology Advisory Group) Scientific Research with new technologies as part of Tertiary education, Fund Raising; Communications; and the Trust's core role of Restoration. This allows skills and expertise to be focussed where they are used best, and creates capacity for the Trust to sustain its people to work towards and achieve our intended direction. The Trust's volunteer hours are recorded to

provide a paper trail of community support to our funding stakeholders. Thank-you all for the hours of time that have been provided.

We are having discussions with Ngatiwai who in turn are engaging with Hapu, beginning the co-governance /co-management journey. This is about time given Bream Head/ Te Whara Scenic Reserve is a space we collectively identify with.

The Trust has recently joined with the Northland Community Foundation to create an endowment fund which could potentially see sustainable and perpetual income resulting from generous donors wishing to leave a lasting legacy.

There have been changes in Trustees over the past two years with Robin Lieferring, Rod Gates, Claire Pearson and recently John Gardiner leaving the Trust's Board, but still contributing through their involvement in committees or an advisory capacity to the Board, and we have welcomed Jenny Lawrence, Nicola Hartwell, and Annelies Struijcken onto the Trust Board.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the sad passing of Kim Tito. Kim was a stalwart supporter of the Trust and willingly shared his knowledge and understanding of Mātauranga Māori and tikanga. He will be sadly missed.

On behalf of the Trust, I would like to thank all those involved.

Ngā Mihi

Greg Innes - Chair



The Education Hub

Bream Head/Te Whara CONSERVATION TRUST



Trustees

Greg Innes (Chair)
Nicola Hartwell (Deputy Chair)
Bill Mallett (Treasurer)
Geoff Pike
Lil Craig
Roger Tuck
Jenny Lawrence
Annelies Struijcken

Department of Conservation Liaison

Neil Forrester
Kallan Mehrtens

Education Committee

Lil Craig (Chair)
Claire Pearson
Mandy Tate
Jane Norman (Enviroschools)
Jacqueline Knight (Enviroschools)
Suzanne Woodgates (Kiw North)

Communication Committee

Annelies Struijcken (Chair)
Mick Buckley
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Corinne Scott

Rangers Committee

Geoff Pike (Chair)
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Tom Flynn-Plummer
Jenny Lawrence

STAG Committee

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Tom Grinsted

Secretary

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Volunteer Co-Ordinator

Jenny Lawrence

Fundraising Co-Ordinator

Jenny Lawrence

Rangers

Tom Flynn-Plummer
Tom Grinsted
Wauku Mei



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



FOUNDATION NORTH
Te Kaitiaki Pūtea o
Tamaki ō Tai Tokerau



WHANGAREI DISTRICT COUNCIL



Lottery Grants Board
Te Puna Tahua
LOTTO FUNDS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY



Thank you for the photos in this newsletter courtesy of Zoe Stone, David Munro, Dan May, A.A.M.Bos, New Zealand Birds Online - nzbirdsonline.org.nz, Department of Conservation and NZ Plant Conservation Network.

breamheadtrust.nz

breamheadtrust.nz Bream Head/ Te Whara Conservation Trust, 310 Ocean Road, Whangarei 0174. Email: info@breamheadtrust.nz

Financial Report



The Bream Head/ Te Whara Conservation Trust has been privileged to receive multi year funding from Foundation North. This puts us well on track to continue the core ecological restoration goals in addition to our education program, operational supplies, ranger contract rates and some special projects. Thank you Foundation North!

This past financial year has also welcomed new grant funding from the Lottery Community Fund that has helped immensely with our ongoing operational costs as well as specifically for an increased trap check schedule on our first line of defense "load the road".

Our operational budget covers a vast array of supplies that are critical to our success but are often overlooked when planning our annual expenditures. An example is a necessary toxin change mid year that

resulted in a larger than anticipated cost.

When recognizing ongoing financial support - we can never forget the long term relationship we have with Pub Charity. Pub Charity provided funding for some of the first traps to go into service. They helped us purchase our headquarters, our marquees, and funded ranger training among many other projects and important operational costs.

In addition to these grant funds we have a loyal base of "friends of the Trust" – some who contribute monthly or annually and have been standing by the ongoing work since the trust was formed 20 years ago. We are grateful for all the support given and it enables the trust to demonstrate improved conservation values and ongoing community benefits.

Our greatest asset is the terrific Whangarei Heads community and those who come to volunteer their time. Whether it be trapping, weeding, working in the nursery, bird surveys or helping with one of our committees - the project would not succeed without your support.

A summary of the last three financial years plus the full set of accrual based audited financial statements can be found on our website - go to breamheadtrust.nz

Here is a brief summary of our last year's financial results.

DOC Contracts	\$42539
NRC contracts which includes \$44793 of PFNZ	\$53778
Donations	\$43912
Grants (includes F North, Pub Charity, Lottery Oxford, WDC)	\$106098
Total Income	\$246327
Total Expenditure of which \$227528 or 96% is spent "on the hill."	\$237451



Education Report

To ensure the longevity of any conservation project we need to inform and engage our young people, the ones who will fill our shoes and expand on our work into the future. Our education programme aims to do this. The Bream Head/ Te Whara Scenic Reserve is a rich resource for learning about biodiversity, it is also a shining example of what can be achieved when communities come together for a cause. Conservation work gives so many opportunities for personal growth and wellbeing; by actively involving students on the Reserve, they get to experience this first hand.

Over the past few years, we have been building our education programme, creating resources for teachers and promoting learning opportunities to schools. With the support of our head ranger, we have worked closely with the Northland Regional Council Enviroschool facilitators and the KiwiNorth educator to welcome school groups on to the reserve. We tailor a programme to suit the learning intentions shared with us by the schools and are able to connect them with specific experts to suit their needs. Our aim is that after their visit to the Reserve students have hope that we can work together to improve ecological outcomes for the benefit of us all.

This year we have updated the Bream Head/ Te Whara Conservation Trust website which now has a special education section. The opportunities for learning on the Reserve are extensive and our vision would see more engagement across all sectors of education for the benefit of all. We have the first stage of our 'Education Hub' completed with concrete seating installed; as finances allow we hope to develop this further with information boards and some form of shelter.

This year our programme has continued to be affected by Covid 19 however we have had four visits from schools with some 175 students involved and more schools are beginning to plan visits in the future. We held another Principals and Teachers Information Evening in September to share what we offer schools.

If there is anyone who would like to join our education team please contact us, this work is very rewarding.



Operations Report

It is interesting to me, reflecting back over the last twenty years, at how stable our trustees and volunteers have been, yet how many changes have occurred within the ranger realm. In this newsletter I will focus on the changes to our rangers during this past year.

We said goodbye to rangers Simon and Claire Braithwaite who returned to Claire's home town of Perth to have their first baby. We also said "Bon Voyage" to Keith Townsend who went on extended leave for a trip to England.

Luckily, during the year we recruited three fine young rangers, Hadden Morrison, Tom Grinstead and Wauku Mei. Hadden recently accepted a job at Predator Free Whangarei and is replaced by Wauku. They are all very capable young men who began as volunteers and just seem to be able to turn their hands and minds to anything.

However, the big news story is that our head ranger Adam Willetts is hanging up his boots after eight years tackling our fierce terrain, constant pressure from our target pests, animal and vegetable, and all the demands of the ranger committee. His infectious love for the environment, natural talent with volunteers and school groups will be hugely missed.

Adam succeeded in getting rat tracking down below 1%, which is



a remarkable achievement for an unfenced conservation reserve. He managed the translocations of toutouwai/ North Island robin, and popokatea/whitehead, which I think is a great legacy. We fledged grey face petrels/oi for the first time to our knowledge, thanks to his effort and energy. Adam was always keen to try new technologies, anything that might improve the survival of our native fauna and flora. As we say farewell, we wish him all the very best as he moves on to new projects.



Enter our new head ranger, Tom Flynn-Plummer. Tom has been working for DOC on the Kauri Coast for the last three years. He has a degree in zoology and ecology, and a masters in environmental management. And lucky for Tom, we have a job right up his alley!

Original Artwork



Three years ago, our calendar artist - Brooke Hartigan - let us know that she could no longer produce artwork for the Bream Head/ Te Whara fundraising calendar. The funds raised by the calendar sales kept our rangers in uniform so this was a bit of a setback. But not for long....Two BHCT trustees said they knew of another artist - also a conservationist, who might be able to help and his name was Terry Fitzgibbon.

We made contact with Terry and he was keen to jump on board - and he



already had some images to show us that were beautiful in his very unique style. After several months of work, we produced our stunning 2021 art calendar - recycled art paper and bound in such a way that all images could be framed for hanging.

Last year, Terry reformatted those Bream Head/ Te Whara nature scenes from the calendar, to produce two sets of greeting cards. Same images (plus a couple of new ones) in a smaller format. These cards are still available through BHCT for \$20 for a set of 10 assorted cards. If you are looking for a gift representing our local scenes or planning on sending our cards this Christmas...now's the time to place your order!

You Can Help ...



Get Involved

Volunteers are at the heart and soul of all our work. If you would like to join a diverse and interesting group and participate in rewarding ecological restoration projects, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Jenny Lawrence at volunteers@breamheadtrust.nz



Bird Monitoring and 5 minute bird call counting!

BHCT has a group of volunteer "twitchers" who traverse key areas of the reserve on a quarterly basis capturing all the sights, sounds and species of birds inhabiting the reserve. This data is entered into E bird and analysed to identify long term trends and progress in ecological restoration and translocation projects. Small groups of monitors head out early morning on designated tracks for approximately 3 to 5 hours, four times a year. If you are Interested in ornithology, have good hearing/ listening skills and a good level of fitness this might be for you!

FORT Forest Recovery Team

On the last Sunday each month, we get together with our Weed Action buddies and tackle weedy patches on the fringes and in accessible areas of the reserve.

Sign Up

Sign up on our website and receive monthly Rangers Reports and our annual newsletter.

Be a Friend

If you make a regular \$10 monthly donation you become a Friend of Bream Head/ Te Whara Conservation Trust. See our website for more details: breamheadtrust.nz



The Busby Trappers

On the second Sunday of each month at 9.00am in the Urquhart Bay car park, volunteers meet to continue restoration work at the Bream Head/ Te Whara Scenic Reserve by aiming to control pests and weeds in the area around Busby Head. Busby Head is within easy reach of most fitness levels and a great opportunity to learn more about the reserve and the work we are doing.



The Bream Head/ Te Whara Predator Control Volunteers

Regular checking, clearing, re-baiting traps and bait stations, trap and trap line maintenance and recording the outcomes are an important part of the extensive pest control work of the Trust. Our amazing predator control team is responsible for maintaining designated trap lines on a monthly or bi-monthly schedule. Want to make a difference? We are always looking for fit, committed individuals to join our team of trappers.

The Nursery

Nursery volunteers meet on Tuesday morning for 2 hours - 9:15 - 11:15 followed by a cuppa at Rupert's shelter. It's a lovely shady spot and we mostly tend to the seedlings we are growing for winter planting days. It's a great volunteer opportunity and while the work is done weekly, you are not expected to turn up each week but as it suits your schedule

The Smuggler's Track Maintenance Group

Working to eliminate weeds and keep the Smugglers track in good condition is the focus of this group of volunteers and following the retirement of some of the most committed in the group we are actively looking for new volunteers to join in for a "happy, social morning while getting the job done" Colin Edwards and Roger Clarke are currently organising working bees as needed and you can contact them through

volunteers@breamheadtrust.nz

STAG Science and Technology Advisory Group

Recent webinars sponsored and run by Predator Free 2050 Trust have shown the breadth and depth of research and development taking place throughout NZ.

Trapping technology is becoming increasingly "smart" as a result of our incrementally improving understanding of predator behaviour. Improvement and refinement of digital and thermal imaging accompanied by improvements in data capture and interpretation using artificial intelligence have driven the improvements in trapping hardware.

The ability to identify predators and differentiate them from non target species is allowing targeted toxin delivery and live capture devices.

Devices are increasingly becoming self managing allowing for longer periods between human inspection and also being able to be monitored and managed remotely using wireless and satellite technology for example.

All of this exciting new technology takes significant time to go through the process of R&D and subsequent approval before it goes to market. All of this work is of course being

affected by current world economic and supply chain challenges so we will need to continue to work with what we currently know is working for the Trust whilst keeping a keen eye on developments.



Our Oi Population

We have referred several times in this newsletter to the successful fledging of a group of grey-faced petrels (Pterodroma gouldi or Oi).

So much mahi has been put in to keep our chicks safe, that we've become a bit like proud parents and proud parents like to brag about their uri.

Adam Willetts, our former project manager/ head ranger and Cathy Mitchell, our local seabird expert and volunteer, have put in many hours monitoring the study site, creating a defence line with tireless trapping and baiting. The site they had to work



on is really steep and could only be reached using ropes.

I hope you enjoy these photos, with thanks to Shannon Courtenay, and let's hope we can welcome these noisy birds back in approximately 4 years' time when they will return to breed themselves on Bream Head / Te Whara.

breamheadtrust.nz

