



Annual Report 2018



REMUTAKA
CONSERVATION TRUST

Regenerating
our natural
habitat

Annual Report 2018

Presented by the President on behalf of the Executive Committee

This Annual Report is presented to the 30th Annual General Meeting of the Rimutaka Forest Park Charitable Trust Inc. to be held in Petone, Lower Hutt on 10th October 2018.

Highlights of the Year

This has been another momentous year for the Trust, going into our 30th year. I wish to comment on some highlights:

1. We won the Heritage and Environment Category of the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards for 2017, a significant reflection of the very capable work carried out by our volunteers. A small group were able to attend the evening & collect the Award
2. Another year of acoustic recorder surveying of Kiwi distribution was completed, and the analysis demonstrated a significant increase in the Kiwi range since the 2011-13 and 2014-16 surveys. This effort is worthy of mention because it demonstrates just how our volunteer members, over a number of years, have used their skills and knowledge to gather robust scientific data to demonstrate the benefits of our activities.
3. Alongside that, we continued to monitor a sample of breeding kiwi to retain the visibility of Trust activities within the Park, but also to provide the practical basis for the advocacy that some of our members are nationally known for.
4. It is all very well to keep Kiwi safe from animal pests, when perhaps well-meaning dogs can kill Kiwi very easily. So, we continued running Kiwi avoidance training for dogs and this year 97 dogs went through the training procedure. Securing funding for this is proving difficult.
5. There was continued work on the second stage of the Community Fund project known as JtD2. One of our members has taken on a contract to identify and mark new trap sites within the Catchpool Eco Hot Spot to finally complete that project.
6. We were successful in our bid for additional Community Fund finance to bolster the work already done and extend into gecko monitoring. Some traps will be repaired, and others purchased in the project we now call JtD3. Finalising the contract for these funds demonstrated just how important it is not to promise too much from our volunteer base
7. Our volunteer trappers continue to do amazing stuff. They contribute their time and energy to ensuring “their” traplines continue to do the task they were designed for – to

keep the targeted pests at a level low enough to allow the kiwi population to prosper and grow. The work done by our volunteer statistician is great for keeping track of the trap catch successes.

8. The Trust volunteers also continue to engage in carefully planned and managed vegetation restoration work. They reviewed and revised the Catchpool restoration plan, which included mapping new restoration zones and accepting the realities of wilding pine growth and volunteer availability. Trust volunteers on this project also collected seed & grew those on. They also managed groups of school kids as well as corporate volunteers to plant trees grown in our nursery as well as remove woody weeds from the planting zones. Because a lot of our primary and intermediate forest species are Myrtles, we continued to be involved in the Myrtle rust surveillance programme in the Park.
9. This year your Committee revisited our strategic plan and adjusted some of the targets to better reflect the reality of a volunteer-based Society. Arising from this project, we have a more professional Communications plan developed by a small team of skilled volunteers; we changed the operating name of our society to Remutaka Conservation Trust to reflect the geographic name change after the Treaty Settlement; and we have a web site domain name change as well.
10. We have been working with the Department of Conservation to encourage them to complete the harvest of the remaining mature pines in the Park but depart from usual government policy and use the funds from that operation directly for conservation activities within the Park. This philosophy has now been accepted and we look forward to working closely with the Department to put this into effect.
11. Our Health & Safety policy and procedures continue to be implemented. I am very pleased to report that we had no Serious Harm incidents during the past year. Several minor and near-miss incidents were reported at Committee meetings, & actions have been taken around those.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met regularly during the year and acted in a governance role for the various activities undertaken by groups within the Trust. We continue to have Health & Safety as a standing agenda item.

The 2017/18 Committee elected at the last AGM was:

President	Geoff Cameron
Vice President	Peter Cooper
Secretary	Grant Watt
Treasurer	John Cranefield.
Committee members	Rosemary Thompson, Susan Ellis, and Pierre Tellier.

John Cranefield is stepping down from the Committee this year, ending a seven-year period of serving this Trust. His stewardship of the Society's accounts has been invaluable to me over the last 3 years, and I wish to publicly thank him for that and acknowledge the tremendous input he has made to the running of this Society.

Rosemary Thompson is also stepping down from the Committee, although she has volunteered to carry on with some of her tasks. Rosemary has been a tower of strength within the Committee, taking on a number of important roles over the time she has been a member. She has guided me through several tricky situations and has always been able to provide friendly if direct advice.

Finances

John Cranefield has set out the Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2018. You will see from these Accounts and the Statement of Service Performance just how complex the Trust accounts have become. The skill and dedication of John to this work continue to be appreciated by all the Committee, and by me.

Our financial position continues to be sound. As in past years our funds have been used effectively to implement various conservation-related activities. Donations, 'Sponsor a Kiwi', 'Sponsor a Trap' and 'Sponsor an Egg' schemes continue to provide valuable financial support for kiwi translocation activities.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of grant sponsorship during the year from:

- Department of Conservation,
- Wellington Community Trust,
- Pharazyn Trust,
- Hutt City Council
- Four Winds Foundation,

Kiwi naming rights were purchased by:

- Village Accommodation
- Image Childcare;
- The Drew Family

Other companies, agencies and individuals have provided a range of services and support to us. All have helped to advance the society's goals of achieving improved conservation of Rimutaka forest ecosystems and wider public enjoyment of the forest park.

Joining the Dots, Stage 3

We were successful in our application for a further Community Fund grant that will enable us to:

- Purchase additional acoustic recorders and cameras for kiwi and other bird monitoring;
- Establish baseline data for lizards in the Eco Hot Spot;

- enhance our trap network by deploying additional traps;
- continue the maintenance on our older traps.

Public Relations

A small group of volunteers worked with industry professionals to produce a new Communications Plan. This has been accepted by the Committee and will form the basis of our communications in the future.

Our new website, www.remutaka.nz continues to be popular and is the major point of access for information about us. Peter Cooper continues as our webmaster,

Our Facebook page has more than 300 followers, and our Twitter site is also active.

Appreciation

On behalf of the Committee I want to give a big Thank You to all who have helped the Society operate successfully as a voluntary environmental organisation during the year. Members and non-member volunteers have contributed enormously to the full range of pest control trapping, kiwi population maintenance, Catchpool Valley restoration, fund raising, public relations and other activities.

I would also like to acknowledge the assistance and friendly cooperation from the staff of the Department of Conservation. We do appreciate your support and we look forward to cooperating again in the future. Staff of the Greater Wellington Regional Council and the Hutt City Council have also been very helpful.

Last, but by no means least, I wish to thank the members of the Executive Committee for the thought and considerable effort they have contributed towards the effective running of the Trust during the past year. An organisation such as this Trust does not run itself, and the membership at large should be very proud of the efforts your Committee put in on a voluntary basis

Geoff Cameron
President
October 2018