

 **REMUTAKA**
CONSERVATION TRUST

Regenerating
our natural
habitat

Rimutaka Forest Park Charitable Trust Inc.

Annual Report 2025

Presented by the President on behalf of the Executive Committee

This Annual Report is presented to the 37th Annual General Meeting of the Rimutaka Forest Park Charitable Trust Inc. (Trading as the Remutaka Conservation Trust) held in Petone, Lower Hutt on 22nd October 2025.

Executive Committee

The 2024/25 Committee was elected at the last AGM and comprised of:

President: Malcolm Arnot

Vice President: Geoff Cameron

Secretary: James Moore

Treasurer: Karen Baker

Committee members: Alan Peck, Rosemary Thompson, Peter Simpson, Celeste Derozier, Jennifer Andrews, Ian Duncan, Geoff Cameron.

The committee continues to work hard to ensure the Trust runs smoothly and fulfills its obligations. The committee has met eight times during the year, with an additional meeting to review and update the Trust's five year operating plan.

Alan Peck is stepping down from the committee at this AGM. Alan joined the RCT committee in 2018 and has made a significant contribution to the running of the Trust through his work looking after the communications portfolio, in fundraising applications and rewriting the trust constitution to meet the new charities requirements.

Kiwi Project

1. Deployment of new traps phase 2

A key focus has continued to be on the replacement trap programme started last year. During the year we have purchased 200 traps and boxes for the next phase of the deployment. Half of these traps, along with three load carriers, were purchased with a grant from the Pub Charities, the remainder from the Trust's accumulated funds.

149 traps were helicoptered to the north of the park (GWRC land) during May with deployment along the 15 traplines over the coming months as the weather improves and volunteer time allows.

Old traps have also been helicoptered out to the Catchpool, the condition of these will be assessed for use on closer, more easily accessible traplines, for parts or maybe sale/give away depending on their condition. We hope to keep to a minimum the number that need to be disposed of.

The project continues to be well led by Ingrid Greenslade, with a huge amount of support through time and physical effort from James Wright, Joanne Youthed, Matt Russell, Nic Sanders, Mike White, Melody McLaughlin and Penny Evans. We also thank DOC, as this project would not have happened without their support and partnership, in particular Angus Hulme-Moir, Pip Cox, Elly Peters and Dave Allen.

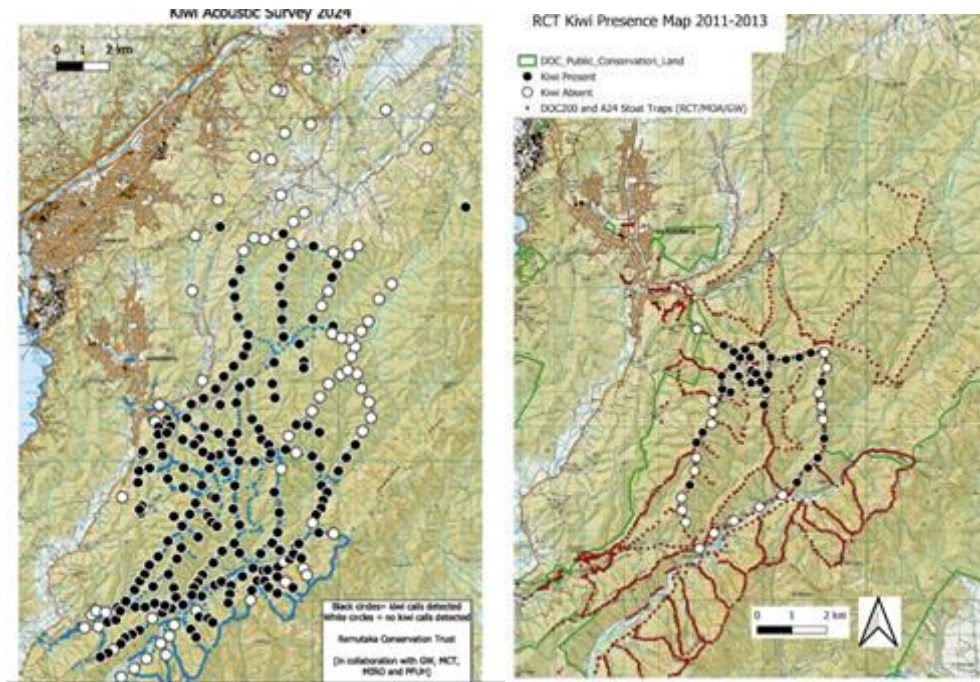
We have also been able to take advantage of DOC staff volunteer day to deploy new traps along the

Orongorongo track.

2. Monitoring surveys

Two major surveys have been completed. The diurnal bird survey led by Winifred Long, results of which have been delayed until AI is available to interpret the data collected.

The kiwi survey led by Susan. The results of this survey and the success of the whole kiwi programme is best illustrated by kiwi presence maps below, where the black indicate kiwi are present:



3. Trapping data

The Trust's 'day-to-day' work continues to be the checking and rebaiting of our trapping network which now includes 1004 traps, not including the network of A24 traps, as catch data is not collected from these traps. This is a huge volunteer effort by our 124 dedicated trappers.

The Trust's trapping year runs from 1 October – 30 September, the results for the nine months to 30 June 2025 are:

Trapping activity	Year to date	Previous year to date
Trap checks	16,235	15,537
No of trappers (est)	694	595
No of trapper hours (est)	3,571	3,022
Data management hours	339	265

Catch		
Mustelids	104	89
Rodents	1,334	1,607
Hedgehogs	10	26
Possoms	101	14
Cats	0	4
Total	1,549	1,740

Notes regarding the information provided in the above table:

1. The number of volunteers is an estimate of the number who went out trapping during the reporting period, not the total number of trappers on the list of trappers available. As trappers usually do more than one check during the year, trappers will be counted each time they go out.
2. Volunteer hours are only a rough estimate as they are based on the approximate time a trapper takes to do a line, and the normal number of volunteers who go out each time a line is checked.

4. Kiwi avoidance training for dogs

Two kiwi avoidance training days were undertaken during the year. The Trust runs this programme at a small loss as it raises awareness amongst dog owners of the danger dogs pose to kiwi, is good publicity for the Trust and is a regular source of new members. The number of dogs trained during the year totalled 119. The Trust collects money on behalf of the trainer Willie Marsh.

Hunters with dogs employed by DOC or GWRC need their dogs to be certified before they can undertake work in the park. The Trust is the only Wellington based organization currently running such a programme.

Finances

The reviewed financial performance statements are presented as a separate item. The trust is in a strong financial situation with sufficient funds to cover our budget for trust trapping and phase 3 of the trap renewal activities in 2025/26. I would like to thank our Treasurer, Karen Baker, for her excellent work in this area, and I would also like to give special thanks to our new performance reviewer Barry Howzatson, who gives his time free of charge and ensures that we meet our statutory performance report requirements.

External relationships

During the year the Trust has been involved with several external agencies and projects of relevance to us.

- Continued engagement with DOC through Elly Peters, Pip Cox and Angus Hulme-Moir. I would also like to acknowledge DOC and the DOC staff who provided extensive support and partnership to the trap deployment team. Wellington Regional Council and the Wainuiomata Water Collection Team.

- The Hutt City Council and the Pharazyn Trust have been long term financial supporters of the Trust, and along with Save the Kiwi.
- The Trust is represented on the “Catchpool Remediation Governance Group,” advising DOC on the expenditure of the funds generated from the pine harvest, by Ian Armitage.

Communications

Alan Peck continued to be responsible for the Communications aspects of our work, including the Remu-talker and the notifications to members. Rachel Thompson continues as the Remu talker editor. We will of course be looking for a replacement for Alan after the AGM.

Our 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, ably managed by Laura Dalby, has more than 300 followers.

Highlights of the Year

This has been another big year for the Trust, and the highlights have included:

1. Completion of the Second phase of the trap renewal project.
2. Another year of hard mahi by our trapping volunteers over our extensive trapping network.
3. Save the Kiwi - thanks to Alan P for this who has done most of the leg work for this (third year we have received a grant \$18,000 this year and \$20,000 in the 2025/26 year).

HCC - long term support \$10,000 p a

Pub Charity - highlighted at last year's AGM but money actually received this year just over \$18,000

Pharazyn - long term support. \$5,000 current year

Department of Conservation -can't always support us financially but invaluable with the trap deployment and other support.

\$5,000 The Sue Freitag and Barry Dent Charitable Trust Fauna recovery NZ (friends of Ian Armitage).

Obviously, all our members and doners who continue to support us year in year out.

4. The completion of two Kiwi avoidance training courses for dogs, thanks to Rosemary Thompson and Georgina Wedge

5. There were no serious harm incidents reported during the past year.

Appreciation

On behalf of the Committee, I want to give a big Thank You to all who have helped the Trust operate successfully as a voluntary environmental organisation during the year. Members and non-member volunteers have contributed enormously to the full range of Trust activities.

I would also like to acknowledge the assistance and friendly cooperation from the staff of the Department of Conservation, particularly for their support and partnering with us for phase two of the trap deployment project. We 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 extremely helpful to us too.

Malcolm Arnot
President
October 2025

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