
HOCHSTETTER-Special Issue

October 05

A Pause... and cause for celebration.

After four years of hard work three animal pest control projects are now fully installed and being maintained and consolidated. They include the Group's Kiwi Sanctuary stoat control programme covering 7200ha; the 'Rat Attack' project of 350ha at Port Charles; and the latest- the 'Collar Buffer' possum control project covering some 3000ha in total.

This latest is doubly cause for celebration as it represents the very successful partnership between farmers, local landowners, regional council, DOC, NZ Landcare Trust and a volunteer conservation organization.

Moehau Environment Group started out some three years ago with the creation of a 'model farm' pest control project in Otautu Bay, covering 190ha.



Significant support was given by NZ Landcare Trust, and the Transpower Landcare Trust Grants Programme, which provided the funds to install a bait station network across the whole farm for possum control. The project was seen as an opportunity to put conservation into the working landscape and hopefully provide an example for others to follow.

Serious reinfestation from the North and East put paid to any early celebrations, however, as it was soon realized there were very high possum numbers in the forested blocks alongside the farm.

Over the next twelve months, the NZ Landcare Trust coordinator, liaised with landowners, and negotiated firstly with Environment Waikato, who were about to start their stage three Key Ecological Sites protection programme, over 2500ha of private rural lands, to reduce possums and rats to very low numbers. A special thanks goes to them for taking on some extra peripheral areas to enhance whole project including two dry stock beef farms, and a multiple-owned lifesty block.

Otautu Bay Farm – Western seaboard

(centre-middle distance. Mt Moehau in background)

A deal was also struck with DOC, for MEG to carry out a further 200ha of intensive pest control over the heavily infested Paeroa forest block, on the eastern boundary of the Otautu Bay farm. Many thanks for the generous and prompt financial and logistical support.

This has amounted to an eight kilometer coast-to-coast, one kilometer-wide bait station network for possums and rats and will provide buffer protection for the 18,000ha of the northern tip of the peninsula..

Between MEG and EW, seven people have been employed part time, for the past three months, to cut tracks, and install and fill the baitstations.

For MEG's part, that's 550 baitstations over 400ha covered by 17kilometers(approx) of tracks.

And the 'model farm'? – Thanks to further funding from the Transpower Landcare Trust Grants Programme—



a celebratory “Outside Volunteers” weekend will be held on the 12th and 13th November for the final knockdown of possums and rats on the Otautu Bay Farm. This will complete the project.... for this year at least!

Moehau Environment Group gives special thanks to NZ Landcare Trust for all their support over the past two and a half years.

The partnership has been a rewarding and productive one as shown by the example above.

The funds from the Transpower Landcare Trust Grants Programme has made the difference to the success of this project.

The Trust has played a significant role in many other projects with MEG as well.

Denize Farm at the eastern seaboard end(Mt Moehau in the background)

Finally a special thanks to all our members and volunteers who have given so generously over this past year.

**Don't forget our Volunteer Weekend
12-13th November.**

**Contact: Wayne Todd 07 866 6928 or
Lettecia Williams 07 866 6926 for further
details .**

**Booking is essential for accommodation(no charge)
Bring your own food, bedding, and outdoor gear.**

Watch for our Summer Holiday Programme advertising- due out next month.
Bookings will be essential for many of these activities.

'Protecting the future by regenerating the past'