



ISSUE 1 • 2021

# THE MEG-A-PHONE

A Newsletter from Moehau Environment Group

FREE  
PLEASE TAKE  
ONE

## MEG Summer Holiday Programme 2021...

We had sun, rain, a bit of wind and over 750 people through our Summer Holiday Programme this January!

Kicking things off with a stall at Coromandel towns famous Keltic Fair, where we sold traps and merchandise and had some great conversations with people about native birds, predator control and backyard trapping.



During the Summer programme, among other activities, we made nature art on the beach in the rain at Waikawau DOC campground, listened for kiwi and found glow worms at night in Port Charles, met native geckos in the sanctuary at Driving Creek and watched movies on the haybales in the woolshed at Waikawau.

We are always on the look out for volunteers and new activities for our Summer Holiday Programme, so get in touch if you think you can help out.



Photos:  
Top L, An attendee at the 'Build a Weta Hotel' activity paints the hotel that she built.  
Bottom L, Sassy the Conservation Dog shoing of her 'catch' at the Coromandel session.  
Bottom R, Some of the MEG team on the job at Keltic Fair day.

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# MEG Fundraiser - A Night of Adventure!



Well it came with a warning - "you will be inspired!" And inspired we were when local adventurers Ally Davey and Jeremy Scott shared their intrepid stories with us.

Jeremy - born with a hole in his heart, open heart surgery at 4 years of age, fast forward a few years and at 34 he realises he's not living his best life and making the most of his second chance. So of course, he sets off on a solo 51,916km cycle ride from London to NZ! The challenges and experiences of the journey we expertly shared along with Jeremy's stunning photography.

Ally - not a new comer to the odd challenge, chose to swim from Little Bay around the tip of the Peninsula to Coromandel town, just a mere 70km! We played the short film "Moana Wai Wai" an evoking movie that depicts Ally's journey and her passion to raise awareness for our environment.

Both gave their time for our fundraiser in Coromandel town in November 2020 and then again in January 2021 at the Waikawau Woolshed as part of our Summer Holiday Programme.

A huge thanks to them both.

Photos: Top L, Adventurer Jeremy Scott preparing to tell his tale. Bottom R, Ally Davey photographed with her support kayaker, Wally Gilmer, on the night.



## Kiwi Aversion Training

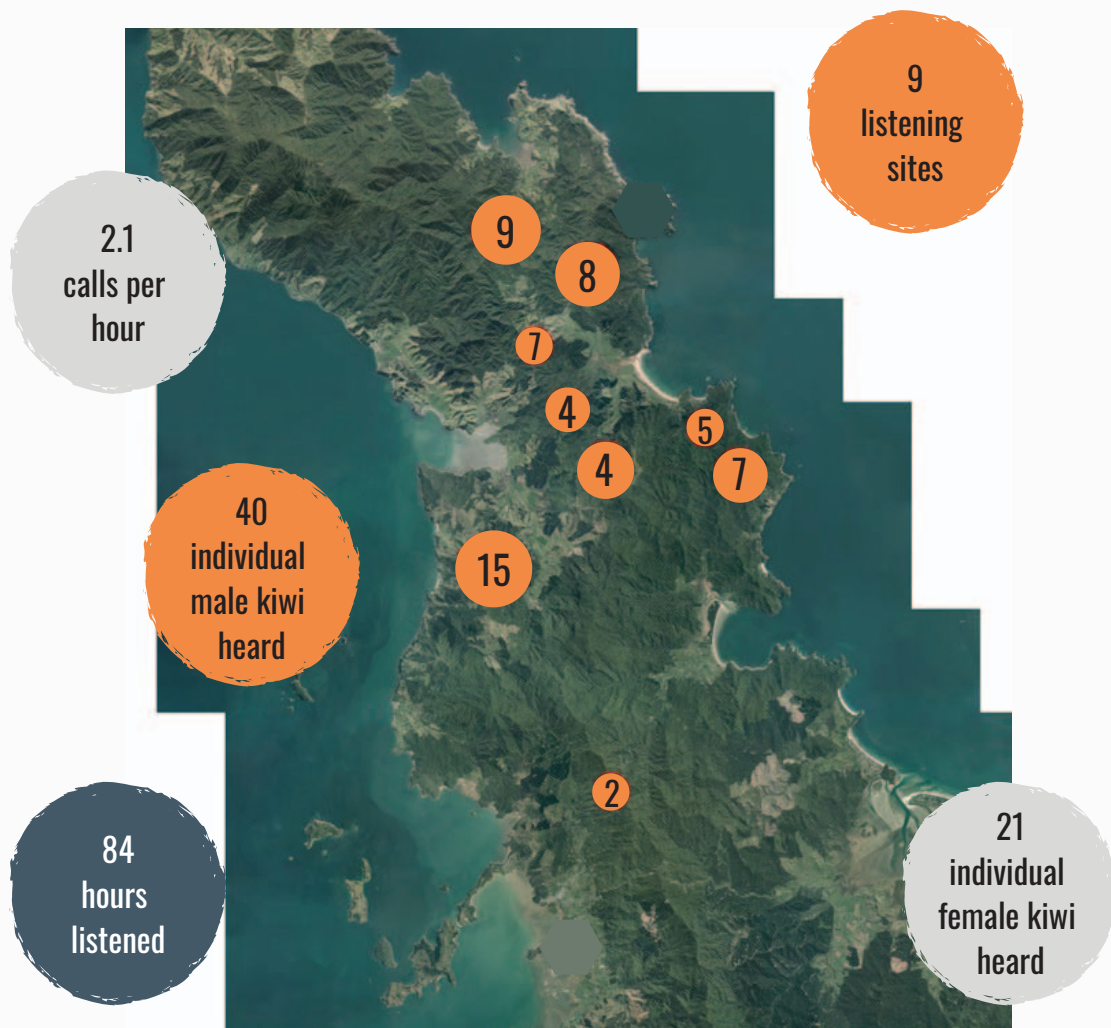


In January Moehau Environmandt Group, in collaboration with The Department of Conservation and Kiwi for Kiwis, held two free kiwi aversion training sessions in Northern Coromandel.

These sessions were well attended by holiday makers, pig hunters and local dog owners. In total we had 42 dogs in the two sessions. A huge thank you to Kerry Whittle for offering his property as a venue for the Papa Aroha session.

For other kiwi aversion training dates please contact Kauaeranga Visitor Centre; 07 867 9080; [kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz)





## MEG Annual Kiwi Listening Survey

The results of the 2020 Kiwi Listening Survey are in, thanks to our awesome kiwi listening MEG volunteers.

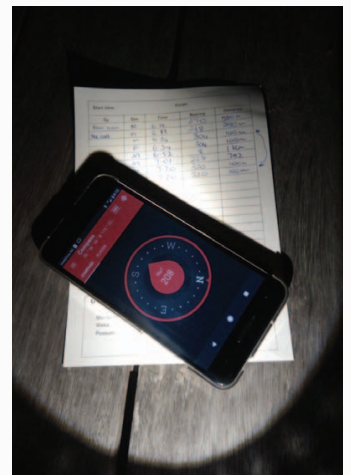
Listening sites were surveyed for 2 hours in the evening during winter from 2-5 times each. The dots show the number of individual kiwi estimated from the call counts.

All sites had both male and female calls, but typically more males were heard (possibly because females call less and are harder to hear at a distance).

Estimated individual bird numbers were up on last year and the estimated number of kiwi is still trending upwards since our records began in 2011 - great results! Thanks goes to all the predator trapping efforts by our field team, contract trappers and volunteers.



Photos: Above, MEG committee member Steph shows off her kiwi listening setup, reclining in a deck chair with a glass of red in hand while wearing multiple layers including a sleeping bag!



# What's That Weed - Woolly Nightshade



Also known as Tobacco weed or Kerosene plant, Woolly Nightshade is a small tree with velvety oval grey/green leaves that are whitish underneath. With dense clusters of purple flowers followed by clusters of small round berries that ripen from a hard green to a soft, dull yellow. It grows and matures rapidly forming dense stands, preventing establishment of native plant seedlings. It is also allelopathic, which means it produces toxins that poison the soil. Pull up all small plants and leave on site to rot down. Or cut and paste stumps with appropriate herbicide. Cut stems re-sprout quickly and it will reseed profusely in bared sites. Maintain shade by planting dense cover.

## Catch Data For Target Species



**Stoat**  
2020 Total - 230  
Project Total - 2666



**Weasel**  
2020 Total - 56  
Project Total - 982



**Rat**  
2020 Total - 2062  
Project Total - 19,653

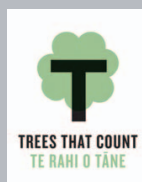


**Ferret**  
2020 Total - 3  
Project Total - 6

## Sponsor a Stoat Trap

Would you like to sponsor a stoat trap within our kiwi sanctuary? Well you can! For just \$65 per year you can help provide protection for kiwi chicks in the wild. You'll receive a certificate, a map showing the location of your trap and the catch data for the sponsorship year. Not to mention lots of warm fuzzies!

## Thanks to our Volunteers, Members, Sponsors & Funding Partners...



Tangiaro Kiwi Retreat  
Pepper Tree Restaurant & Bar  
Richardsons Real Estate Coromandel  
Coromandel Adventures  
Coromandel Four Square  
Coromandel E Bikes  
Long Bay Camp Ground  
Star & Garter  
Driving Creek Railway & Pottery  
Driving Creek Conservation Park  
Four Square Coromandel  
Mitre 10 Thames

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