

Annual Update

February 2024



Three Peninsulas Project

Ecological restoration in the heart of Queen Charlotte Sound



Community-led pest control in action!
Natalie Johnston services an A24 rat trap

Three Peninsulas is a landowner-funded project aiming to protect birdlife and native forests across the 290ha headland between Lochmara and Torea Bays.

It is a model of how a community can work together to create additional havens for wildlife on Sounds peninsulas.

The Three Peninsula project relies on trapping predators through an intensive trap network that includes:

- 222 self-resetting A24s (rats)
- 138 Sentinel traps (possums)
- 25 Flipping Timmys (possums)
- 18 self-resetting AT220s (possums, rats and stoats)
- 24 DOC 200 traps (stoats)
- 2 Trapinators (possums)



The trap network is serviced twice annually by professional contractors, with occasional possum trap checks in between that. Several bach owners also contribute by voluntarily checking traps when they are down.

A big thanks for your efforts!

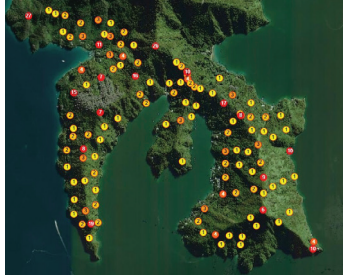
What are we achieving?

Possums

1276
removed

That is a lot less possums munching their way through native vegetation each night!

In 2023, 386 possum captures were recorded (including 214 from the AT220s, 130 from Sentinels and 36 from Flipping Timmy traps)



Rats

maintained
<20%
tracking

We measure our rat control success by a rat monitoring index, which DOC generously undertakes. If we can keep that index below 20%, that is a sign that rat numbers are low. And we've managed to keep the rat index below or close to that since 2020!

Stoats

12
removed

Stoats are generally in low numbers and so we don't expect lots of captures. But each one is good!

Pub Charity to the rescue!



Did you know it costs approximately \$3,000 in consumables for each full service of the A24 rat trap network? Low rat numbers will deliver the biggest short-term benefit to birdlife in the area.

In December, Pub Charity generously provided \$5,858 to purchase consumables for the next two servicing rounds. Thanks Pub Charity!

Of course, we still need to fund professional contractors to undertake this work. The labour cost is about \$3,500 per servicing round, for which we rely on landowner donations.

Facebook feedback

We know the trapping is making a difference, alongside the Trust's ungulate and wilding pine control projects. But don't ask us – here's what the locals are saying on Facebook...



Marie George

We have spent the last 3 months in Double Cove and have definitely noticed more birdlife and happy to say we haven't heard any possums at night. Well done and a fantastic job by the whole team



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Great effort team. You are making such a difference to a stunningly beautiful part of Aotearoa New Zealand.



Mark Logan

Thanks for all your efforts, sensational. Logan Family. 🙏



We really appreciate all the feedback!

Tomtit sightings



Have you seen a tommit in the project area? These small forest birds are sensitive to rat predation, and infrequent in the inner Sounds. Yet, we have started noting their presence in the Three Peninsulas project area. That is an exciting sign of progress – we'd love to hear any other sightings.

Deer control

The Trust is planning to extend its deer, goat and pig control programme throughout Lochmara and Onahau Bays this autumn. This will include an overlap with the 2022 operation, behind Karamu and East Bays, where we know deer have repopulated.



What We Need From You

Attached to this newsletter is an annual subscription form. Please continue to support this project.

We can't keep it going without landowner support.