



# 20/21

ANNUAL REPORT







# Contents

<b>Regional Map</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Who we are</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Our Members</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Our Board</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Chair's report</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>General Manager's report</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Our Strategy</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Funding successes</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Our Supporters</b>	<b>14</b>



## CONNECTING TARANAKI FOR THRIVING BIODIVERSITY



# Who We Are

**Wild for Taranaki is the region's biodiversity trust, supporting more than 45 conservation and restoration organisations working to protect and enhance the unique native plants, animals and ecosystems within Taranaki.**

Our purpose is to support and coordinate members for better efficiency, grow funding for the sector, and lead the region in a connected vision of thriving Taranaki biodiversity.

*“Wild For Taranaki has provided invaluable support to our charity. The quarterly catch-ups, public events, email updates and feedback on funding opportunities have enabled us to connect with other conservation projects, expand our work in the region and create strong partnerships. At Wildlife.ai, we are proud to be a member of Wild for Taranaki and look forward to keeping on working together to facilitate environmental conservation in Taranaki.”*

**Dr Victor Anton**  
General Manager Wildlife.AI

# What We Do

- Provide support for growing the work of Wild for Taranaki members
- Coordinate the sector including regular catch-ups, a biodiversity forum and problem-solving on key issues
- Connect groups for enhancing efficiency in the sector
- Encourage investment, secure funding and support funding applications
- Build partnerships
- Provide information and resources, such as planting guides and best-practice knowledge
- Advocate for biodiversity protection
- Promote success stories, encouraging individuals and groups to get involved
- Develop research.





# Our Members

**Our members are a hugely diverse bunch, from small grass-roots restoration groups to larger more formal organisations.**

Most are based within Taranaki working on environmental projects, such as replanting, trapping and reintroducing species, or supporting biodiversity efforts to add value as part of what they do. Some are national organisations and research-focused, connecting with us on shared areas of interest. All of our members are committed to seeing Taranaki biodiversity in a thriving state for the benefit of all.

# Our Board



**Roy Weaver** Trust Chair  
**Bev Gibson**  
**Simon Cayley**



**Michael Joyce**   **Lauren Wallace**   **Michelle Bird**   **Allen Juffermans**   **Jake Goonan**  
*(until January 2021)*

# Chair's Report

## Wild for Taranaki and its members working in the restoration and conservation sector have experienced a challenging twelve months as has the rest of New Zealand during these Covid times.

It is testament to the resilience of those working in the sector that it has continued to grow during the 2020/21 reporting period.

A strategic plan review was carried out early this year resulting in a sharper focus for Wild for Taranaki.

These are:

- 1. Connecting** with each other, with funders, with the wider community and conservation sector in New Zealand.
- 2. Enabling** sector upskilling, fostering innovation, and by distributing funding.
- 3. Growing Funding and Resources** for the sector and the region to realise the vision of thriving biodiversity in Taranaki.

Wild for Taranaki has now completed its first year as a fully independent entity, whilst retaining core funding from the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC), and gaining new core funding as a Regional Community Conservation Hub from the Department of Conservation (DOC).

We are very appreciative of this vote of confidence from both Central and Regional Government. Core funding enables us to accelerate the sharing of best practice from the network of hubs across the country and increase the focus on funding for our members' projects.

It has been great to see partnerships flourish and come to fruition. This includes stronger relationships forged with Iwi and being a key partner in He Hononga Taiao – The Taranaki Alliance, which successfully secured \$9.98 million in Jobs for Nature funding a dozen projects.

These projects signify a step-change in conservation funding in our region that will see large benefits for our biodiversity and a new generation of rangatahi skilled and leading the way.

Taranaki's Alliance partnership is being held up as a successful model for other areas of Aotearoa. It has demonstrated that representatives from Local and Central Government, Iwi and community can work together successfully for a common vision. Much of this work has taken place quietly in the background and is not widely known, though Wild for Taranaki is now starting to increase its public profile.

As a board we've been welcomed with several new board members this reporting period, including Simon Cayley, Lauren Wallace and Bev Gibson. Each of them brings core strengths, connections and expertise to the board table.

We've also said farewell to members Jake Goonan, Michelle Bird and Allen Juffermans. We thank Jake, Michelle and Allen for their time, energy and commitment to Wild for Taranaki.

Your board has been reviewing the Trust Charter and looking at how best it can serve as a governance entity. Looking ahead to next year this may result in some changes being proposed for your consideration and decision. As we approach the 10-year Anniversary of the Taranaki Biodiversity Accord – the agreement which brought this organisation into being, it is now an appropriate time to review our founding document to see if it remains fit for purpose for the next decade.

Thank you to all our members for your tireless mahi, your support, and for being part of the vision to protect and improve our native habitats, species, plants and ecosystems.

Lastly, a thank you to our funders who we rely on to get Taranaki's Regional Biodiversity Hub to a mature and secure place. We continue to be grateful to the TRC for its steadfast and long running support, including continued funding for the next two years.

A big thank you also to DOC for committing to two years of funding, and to New Plymouth District Council, Toi Foundation, and corporate partner Powerco.

This is my final report to you as Chair of Wild for Taranaki, as it is time to pass the baton on to the next generation. Thank you for all the support you have shown me over the past six years. Getting any fledgling out of the nest is fraught with danger and uncertainty. We can now say that Wild for Taranaki has wings and is flying. It has an experienced and well respected leader in Andy Cronin, and he is ably supported by Danielle Gibas, who is continuing to hone her own considerable leadership skills.

They have been joined this year on a part time basis by Juliet Larkin who has added substantial depth to the Trust in the areas of media and corporate funding.

I wish all members every success in their endeavours to enhance the region's biodiversity.



**Roy Weaver**  
Wild for Taranaki's Chair

*“I sincerely appreciate the direction, funding support and connections Andy and the Wild of Taranaki team have helped provided me since starting my new roles as General Manager at East Taranaki Environment Trust. Your team does an amazing job. Thank you for the continuous support.”*

**Rebecca Somerfield**

General Manager Experience Pūrangi





# General Manager's Report

**Reflecting on this past year, a lot of things have happened, although sometimes in the midst of it, it can be harder to see the results until later on.**

It feels that most of my time is spent in meetings -that's because relationships and connecting people and groups together is so important to what we do. We've worked on developing relationships, ensuring existing groups and organisations are sustainable, and that we are growing capacity within the sector for new projects, as well as making sure long-term projects are maintained. Supporting groups to get funding directly to them is also key. Being part of He Hononga Taiao – the Taranaki Alliance, has been about having an oversight and voice at the table – knowing what's going on across all groups and where funding is best focused. Working with Iwi and Hapū led projects through the Jobs for Nature process has given us a greater understanding of their aspirations and how we can work together. My own personal journey learning Te Reo this year has been immensely rewarding. While I'm only at the very beginning, it is providing important context for me personally, and professionally.

In terms of funding successes, being part of securing significant Jobs for Nature funding in Taranaki has been major, and we were also able to build on our relationship with Toi Foundation, securing Covid Recovery funding from them for our members in the wake of last year's lockdown.

We've developed a range of prospectus for projects, not all of which have been immediately successful. However, the discussions have been had and these projects are ready to go, and can and will be matched according to appropriate funders and their priorities. These include projects on stream restoration, quantitative assessment of river health using remote sensing, seabird protection and shared data collection.

Our membership numbers continue to grow. We are up to 47 (as of September 2021) as we welcome on board new members Taranaki Mounga Project, Wildlife.ai, Green School, Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust, Western Institute of Technology and TOPEC.

We continue to provide support and engagement to our members, including regular member catch-ups and networking forums, such as a Coastal Marine Workshop, which has helped to consolidate a regional plan for protecting our seabird and shorebird species with community support. At the time of writing, we hope to hold our Biodiversity Forum in person. We've enjoyed developing a corporate partnership with Powerco and other groups to see areas planted in native trees at Omoana and Te Rewa Rewa. We've also supported Seachange Surveys in Taranaki and promoted Sea Week. Meanwhile we continue to help members one-on-one, including mentoring and advice and co-ordinated training courses where relevant.

Our small team at Wild for Taranaki has grown this year with the part-time addition of Juliet Larkin doing our comms. Danielle's role is being pivoted to support and grow biodiversity research in the region. Although lockdown has meant working from home, it has been lovely to work at our offices aka the Red Shed (Surf Life Saving building) at Port Taranaki, having a sea view and keeping a watchful eye on how the surf is doing.

Thank you to all our members for their support and involvement. Losing Simon Collins and more recently Tony Collins has been a personal and professional loss to many of us. We recognise the huge contribution they've made to Taranaki biodiversity and hope that our collective efforts in this space will keep their legacy going, one that we are continually shaping for the better for future generations and species.



**Andy Cronin**  
Wild for Taranaki's General Manager

**“** Under the stewardship of Andy Cronin, Wild for Taranaki have been the catalyst for a considerable increase in capacity for our organisation. The input into the regional funding accord working to securing a Jobs for Nature grant has been a game changer for us. I am very appreciative of the work Andy did to understand our organisation, its scope and needs and act as a conduit and advocate for us receiving the funding. He also played a part in us joining the Predator Free NZ apprenticeship scheme, for our Trust. Wild for Taranaki has provided real value as a regional leader for conservation in 2021.”

**Celine Filbee**

*Kiwis for Kiwis*



# Our Strategy

Below is a summary of our strategy. It was refreshed in 2021 with a three-year outlook.

## Our Vision

**Thriving Taranaki Biodiversity**  
 Taranaki's biodiversity is restored to a state where it is visibly healthy and provides significant benefit to communities throughout the region.



## Our Values

**Ngātahitanga** Collaboration  
**Panekiretanga** Excellence  
**Tapatahi** Integrity  
**Whakarāmeme** Inclusiveness  
**Manaakitanga** Kindness

## Our Purpose

### CONNECT

#### Opportunity

Creating connection to enhance efficiency in the sector. Bringing parties together for the common cause of "Thriving Taranaki Biodiversity".

#### How will we measure success?

Stakeholders in the sector know and value each other, Wild for Taranaki, and the services it provides.

### ENABLE

#### Opportunity

Supporting the continuous improvement of our members and the community, taking the region closer towards our vision of "Thriving Taranaki Biodiversity".

#### How will we measure success?

Members feel enabled and supported by Wild for Taranaki.

### RESOURCE

#### Opportunity

Resourcing the sector in order to enable "Thriving Taranaki Biodiversity".

#### How will we measure success?

Members report that they have access to enhanced resourcing.

# Funding Successes

In the 2020/21 financial year we provided support to enable the following organisations to receive funding. Support included helping with applications, coordinating meetings, working with funders and working with applicants for suitable matches.

Our collaborative approach with funders means we are involved with more complex submissions for larger sums of funding. Prospectuses have also been developed for future funding opportunities, including stream restoration, GIS mapping of sedimentation flows, seabird protection and shared data collection.

## Covid Recovery Funding from the Toi Foundation

Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust - \$9800, Taranaki Kiwi Trust - \$5000, MAIN Trust - \$5000, Eastern Taranaki Environmental Trust - \$12,000, Rapanui Grey Faced Petrel Trust - \$2800 and Tiaki Te Mauri o Parininihi Trust - \$5400.

## Jobs for Nature Funding from the Department of Conservation

Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust \$480k, to protect roles of staff employed by the trust and ensure ongoing specialist species management, pest-free sanctuary skills and management of its biodiversity and biosecurity programmes.

Taranaki Kiwi Trust, Tiaki te Mauri o Parininihi Trust and Te Kōhanga Āhuru \$480k each, to drive a range of working protecting taonga species such as kiwi and kōkako including upskilling people recruited and predator/pest control covering 20,000 hectares.

Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Trust, Ngāti Tawhirikura Hapū and Tui Ora \$927k (plus \$400k from Project Crimson funding) to restore ecological corridors of Waiwhakaiho River from Taranaki Mounga to the sea through planting, weed control, fencing and pest eradication.

Parininihi ki Waiototara Incorporated to deliver the Tupu Rawa project \$1.2m to restore and enhance biodiversity and cultural values across waterways, stream tributaries and wetlands throughout the Taranaki Region. This will build on work the organisation already has underway across 3300 hectares of land adjacent to waterways.

Ngaa Rauru Iwi \$1.4m for Kiitahi Nursery to propagate eco-sourced native plants for use across the Taranaki and Manawatu regions. Includes roles to expand operations and its catchment restoration approach to the Waitotara Valley catchment and land management team.

Taranaki Mounga Project and Ngāruahine Iwi, \$720k to expand predator control work alongside waterways on the southern slopes of Taranaki Mounga. Extended mustelid control in the area will support the recovery of the whio population and also protect habitat for planned releases of western brown kiwi.

## Wild for Taranaki

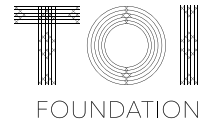
In addition, Wild for Taranaki secured Community Conservation Hubs funding of \$150k for two years from the Department of Conservation, \$7.5k from the New Plymouth District Council, and \$235k from the Taranaki Regional Council for operational funding for the next two years.

Our philosophy is not to be in competition with member groups for local funds and that any funding received has to serve the aim of providing collective benefit to the region.



# Our Supporters

A huge thank you to our supporters. Without your financial and in-kind contributions we wouldn't be able to and work towards achieving our vision of thriving biodiversity in Taranaki.



“ Really appreciated the efforts of Danielle to secure excellent guest speakers to present at the TSB Hub in Hāwera for Seaweeek 2021. As 'Project Reef' has a marine focus, it was a particular highlight to hear about the work of Naomi Puketapu-Waite, research communicator with MetOcean Solutions, and involved with the Moana Project. Wild for Taranaki also hosted the Taranaki marine forum in October. Taranaki's marine stakeholders joined together for a thought provoking session exploring regional scale opportunities for marine and coastal conservation.”

**Karen Pratt**  
Co-project Lead Project Reef

“ Wild for Taranaki was pivotal in the establishment of He Hononga Taiao which successfully secured \$9.98 million in jobs for nature funding of 12 projects. This is a game-changer for restoration projects in our region to have secure, year-on-year support. We are proud of how Wild for Taranaki has evolved, especially under the leadership of Andy, Danielle and the Board. We're proud to work alongside them - they also take a long-term view of restoration across the whole region.”

**Sean Zieltjes**  
Co-project Manager Taranaki Mounnga Project







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