

REFLECTING ON 2022...

Tēnā koutou katoa,

PFR has made great strides in 2022, with lots of progress to celebrate. From building our project team to securing funding from DOC and Manaaki Whenua, 2022 has been all about the 'set up'.

We're continuing to explore funding and relationship opportunities which we're confident will set Predator Free Rakiura in good stead for the work ahead.

In this month's update, we'll share an exciting update about some fieldwork Predator Free Rakiura has begun this month, we congratulate Halfmoon Bay School on their fantastic rat catching Competition, and we highlight some of the activities we've been up to since our last update in Stewart Island News.



Most of all, we'd like to thank those of you who we've already worked with thus far for all of your support and wish the entire Rakiura Community a meri kirihimete and hope you have a fantastic summer.

We're looking forward to updating you again in our next issue of SIN! If you would like to stay in touch with us our Facebook page will also keep up to date on what we are doing as well:

www.facebook.com/PFRakiura

Hei konā mai,
Campbell.

MOUSE RESEARCH STARTS THIS MONTH!

Research and Operations Manager Kev Carter has been wading into a few waterways around Oban this month, taking water samples to be sent to Wellington!

These samples will be processed by Wilderlab, a company which specialises in eDNA, to see if there are any traces of mice around Halfmoon Bay.

eDNA is short for environmental DNA, and it refers to small traces of genetic material left behind by living organisms in the environment. A sample of soil or water which is tested for traces of DNA can reveal the species that have lived in or travelled through the area.

We'll be taking samples from streams close to Oban, and some a little bit further out, too. The results will help us to understand

if mice are present only close to town, which might suggest that they come and go on boats or with visitors. If we find traces of them further out of town, then that might suggest there's a bigger population of mice than just one or two.

It's important that PFR finds out whether there are mice present on Rakiura, because if they are here, and we eradicate rats and feral cats, then we could see the mouse population explode - creating a new problem for our taonga species!

We are expecting the results from Wilderlab in early 2023, and we'll determine our next steps from there. We'll keep you updated throughout this process.

If you'd like to know more about our mouse eDNA sampling work, visit our website.

HALFMOON BAY SCHOOL'S RAT CATCHING SUCCESS

PFR was delighted to sponsor a few prizes for the phenomenal tamariki at Halfmoon Bay School, who caught more than 600 rats over the past few months as part of their rat catching competition.

Bella here caught the most rats - 64!

Congratulations to every one of these inspiring students for their mahi. We were really impressed by these young people's passion for their environment, and we know that



as Stewart Island / Rakiura residents, they are the most important part of protecting this awesome place and the special taonga which live here.

Their efforts have meant a lot - it shows the community and the rest of Aotearoa that *"if kids can do it, why can't we?"*.

SOME VISITORS, AND SOME CATCH UPS!

We really appreciated being able to host representatives from Predator Free 2050 Ltd (PF2050LTD) on Rakiura at the end of October.

PF2050LTD is a possible funder for Predator Free Rakiura, and it was important that we were able to show them not only how wonderful Rakiura is, but to chat with them about some of the logistical challenges an eradication on this scale will present.

We introduced them to the SIRCET team, and even visited Ulva Island during the trip – where we were able to meet tieke, koramiko, and weka, of course!



There is no doubt that PF2050 Ltd recognises the value in PFR's goals and aspirations, and they're keen to support us in some way. We'll let you know as soon as we do what that might look like.

In November, we visited the SIRCET team, and were treated to a mini tour of some of their traps on Ackers Peninsula.



As always, we're inspired by the mahi of SIRCET and others like Mamaku Point and RMLT on Te Onecki and grateful for their time. It was awesome to be able to properly meet each other, and for our teams to get to know one another a little better.

TUTURIWHATU MISSES OUT ON THE CROWN

PFR endorsed and supported the campaign for Tūtūriwhatu – Southern NZ Dotterel for NZ Bird of the Year – you might have spotted some of the posters around town!

While we didn't manage to get into the top 10, the tūturiwhatu landed at roughly 11th place.

While we congratulate the rock wren for taking out the crown, we've got our feathers crossed next year's campaign will see tūturiwhatu rise to the (mountain) top!



REMEMBER!

You can get in touch via the website: www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz

You can email us at info@predatorfreerakiura.org.nz

You're welcome to stop for a chat any time you spot a team member on-island!

We look forward to catching up in 2023!



Restoring our natural haven
Rakiura, mauri ora