

Tēnā koutou katoa! In this issue you will read about the success of our grid of automatic self-resetting traps, hear about our incredible volunteers and have the opportunity to give us your feedback.



**PREDATOR  
FREE**



**FOREST HABITAT  
RESTORATION**



**FROM  
SOURCE TO SEA**



**SEABIRD HABITAT  
RESTORATION**

[CLICK THIS LINK](#) TO GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK THROUGH OUR RESIDENTS SURVEY & GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN A \$100 ARC BREWERY VOUCHER!



## PREDATOR FREE

*Working to achieve biodiversity gains*

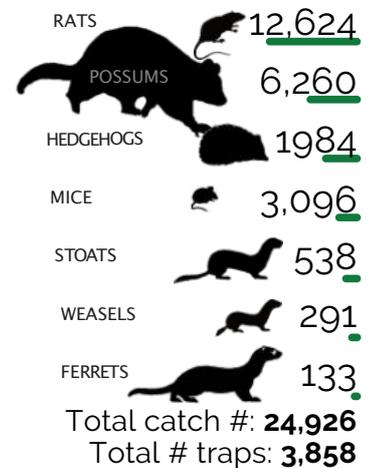
In the photo below is a baby kererū that our team discovered when installing a predator control device in a Waitati backyard recently. Kererū chicks stay in their nest for 4-6 weeks and are therefore vulnerable to predation. Rats, stoats, cats and possums eat the eggs and young; while cats and stoats will also attack and kill adult kererū.

Possums also compete with adult kererū for food (leaves, flowers, fruit) and devastate trees by consuming new shoots. Forest clearance and poaching are also threats to its survival.

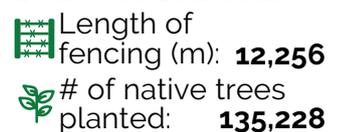
To counteract these threats we have installed a comprehensive grid of over 3858 predator control devices across our landscape. We look forward to seeing more biodiversity gains as our flora and fauna improves year on year.



## Halo Dashboard 2018 - current Catch data:



## Source to Sea data:



Total  
volunteer  
hours  
**35,267**





## PREDATOR FREE

Sharing resources to expand our collective knowledge

Our team enjoyed a day of bonding over the annual kororā/little blue penguin population survey! It is lovely for us all to reconnect with the 'why' that drives our work. Why do we remove predators from this environment? Why are we planting trees? Ultimately it is to support the survival of all of our native flora and fauna, and here in Ōtepoti/Dunedin penguins are an important part of this ecosystem.



This season we've counted 43 kororā/little blue penguins residing in burrows, rocky areas, under tree roots and in caves from Wharewera/Long Beach to Doctors Point.

This taoka species are onshore for 3-4 weeks during the moulting season (February - April) until their new coat is fully grown. They are unable to swim while their new coat is growing and therefore they are also unable to feed. As a result they often lose 3-4 kgs of weight. Some penguins will not survive this process and require all the support we can offer them.

The best way to support these birds is to stay away from them and to support predator control initiatives. The main predators of kororā are cats, dogs and ferrets, so keeping dogs on leads, and cats indoors at night is important.

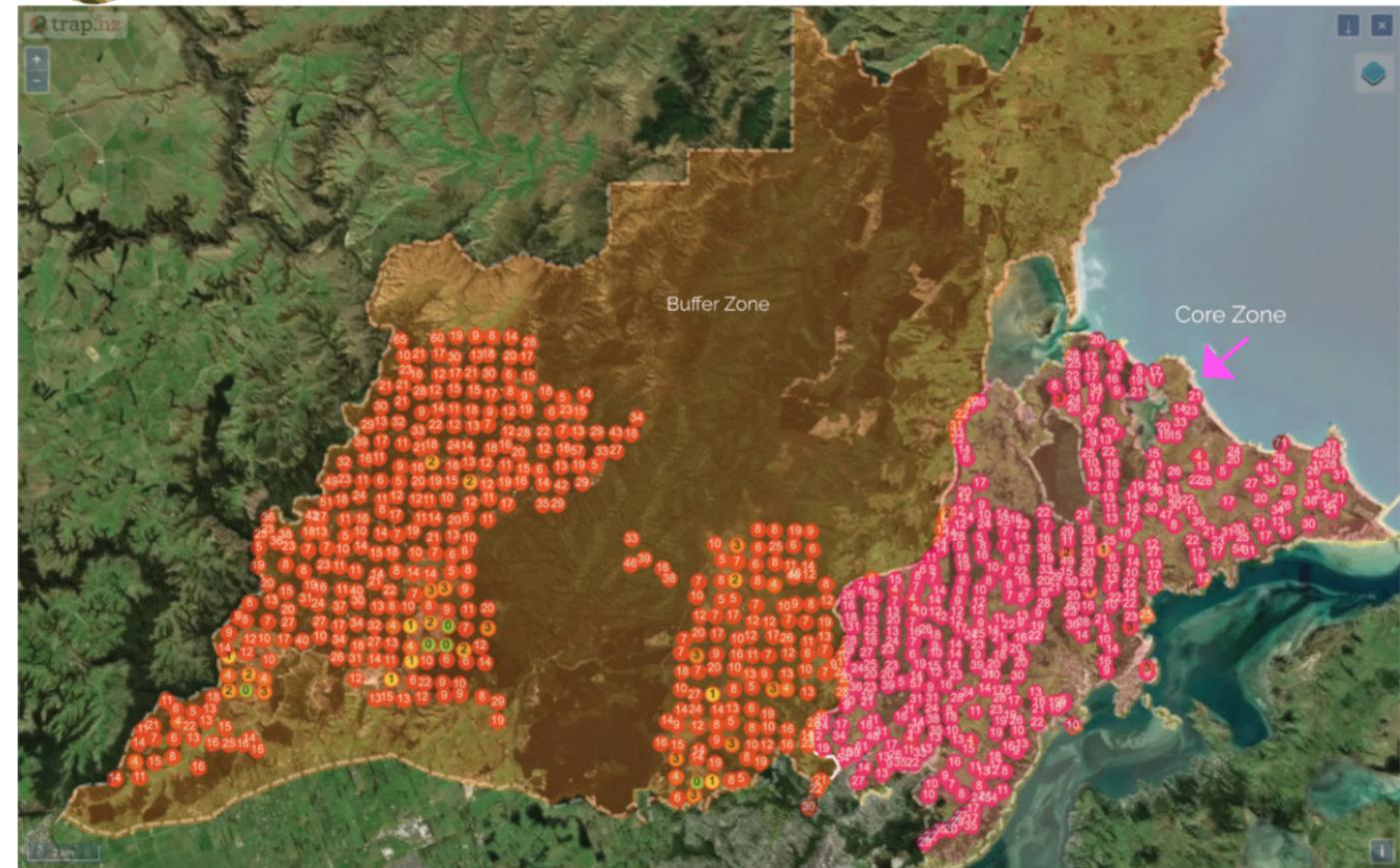
Kororā are classified as 'declining nationally'. To support seabird species such as these we have installed mustelid control devices along coast lines throughout the Halo project area.

"You may see penguins that look particularly scruffy during the moult, this is normal. However, if you are concerned about a penguin, please call 0800 DOCHOT and alert others if they are entering areas where penguins are moulting," said DOC Marine and Coastal Species Liaison Officer.



## PREDATOR FREE

Transformational change for increased landscape resilience



The Predator Free team has been installing more automatic self-resetting AT220 devices. There are now 855 of these devices installed across the entire Halo Project area, 417 of which have been installed across the buffer zone since 2022. Since these devices were installed they have removed 14,280 predators. They achieve such impressive numbers by self-resetting. Unlike conventional devices, which need to be manually reset, the AT220 can remove predator after predator for up to 6 months. The numbers in the circles above indicate the number of predators removed per device.



Over Summer our mustelid control device lines have been checked fortnightly as juvenile stoats move away from their mothers in the hunt for new habitat. These devices are set up in plywood boxes throughout the Halo Project area on reserves and roadsides.

We'd like to shout out to all the awesome volunteers who were committed to this mahi over the summer holiday period. Since 2018 we have removed 999 mustelids! The orange and red dots in the map above identify hotspots in areas of established vegetation such as Mihiwaka.

### COMMUNITY MEETINGS

We are hosting information evenings in Warrington, Seacliff and Kāritane.

Come along and meet the team, hear what we are up to, share your own predator control endeavors and register your interest to be kept up to date on local opportunities to volunteer.

**WARRINGTON - Warrington Hall - 22 May 6pm**

**SEACLIFF - 11 Russell Rd - 25 May 6pm**

**KĀRITANE - Kāritane Hall - 30 May 6pm**

### PUBLIC PLANTING DAYS at WHAREWERAWERA/LONG BEACH

All tools provided including a sausage sizzle on weekends - register to [info@haloproject.org.nz](mailto:info@haloproject.org.nz) for wet weather notifications.

**Sat 22 April 10am - 3pm**

**Sat 6 May 10am - 3pm**

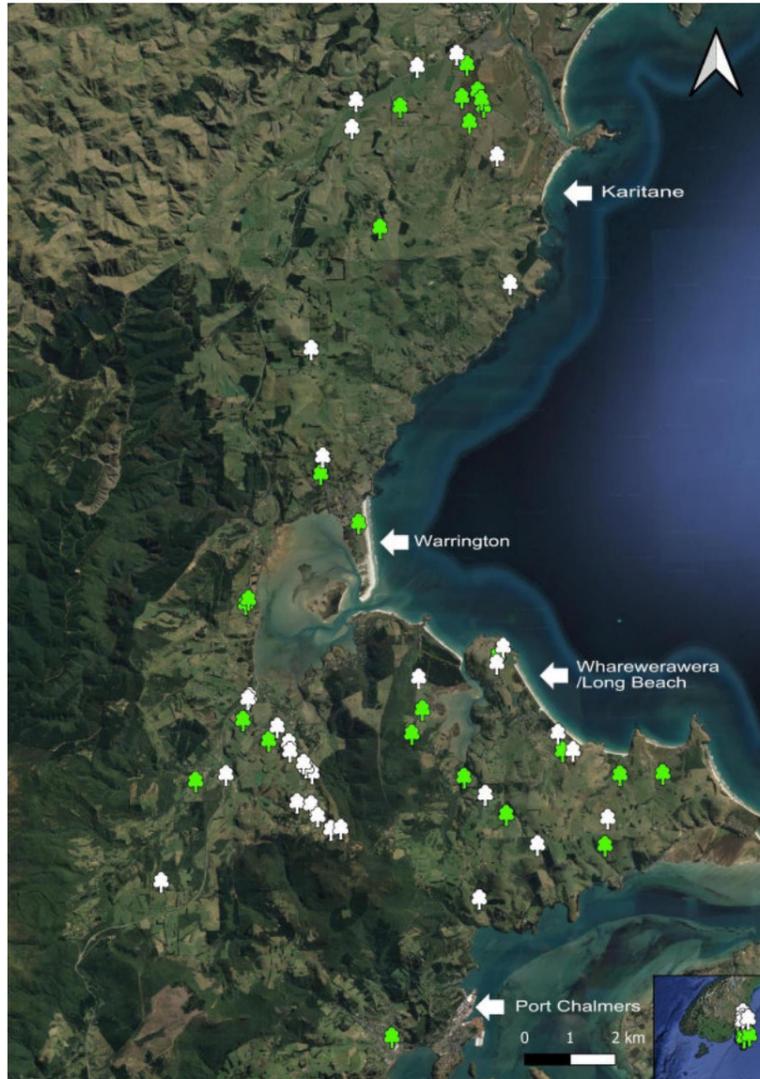
**Tue 9 May 10am - 3pm**

**Wed 31 May 10am - 3pm**



## SOURCE TO SEA

When habitats are connected, biodiversity benefits greatly



Key	Year	# of sites	Hectares	Km fencing	# of plants
	21 – 22	26	30	11	135,158
	23	40	34	5	94,000



The Source to Sea team have been working hard to process applications from residents who are eager to improve and protect the biodiversity on their properties.

We are thrilled to have had a vast number of applications and look forward to helping our community achieve their revegetation goals. This year we will work over 40 sites to plant 94,000 native seedlings.

Residents of Dons Creek Road and the Long Beach catchment will collectively have a great impact on their environment. Their sites will provide habitat for species moving outside of Orokonui Ecosanctuary and will connect wildlife to some of our existing plantings.

Some of our planting sites are publicly accessible, such as the Wharewera/Long Beach DOC reserve and 'Waitete Bush' a locally owned QEII reserve which flanks the river next to state highway one near Waitati. Here we are working with residents to develop a walkway which will allow for safe access to the river and this future forest.

Revegetation is one of the most important steps in achieving habitat restoration, which is vital for the survival of our native flora and fauna.

Left: Source to Sea planting sites.

Bottom left: Waitete Bush

Below: Frank O'Neill admiring the year old plantings at Waitete Bush



## SOURCE TO SEA

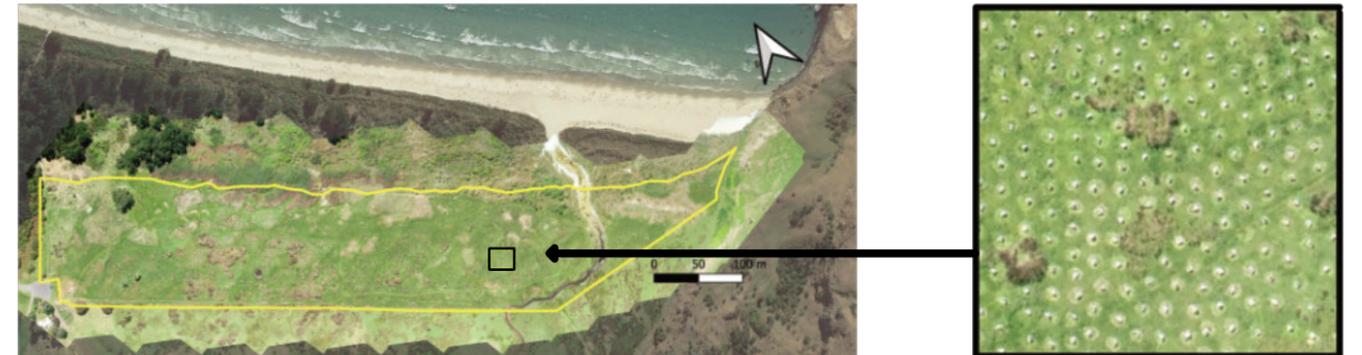
Together we can achieve our revegetation goals

Thanks to the help of 845 volunteers, in 2022 the Source to Sea team planted 31,500 native seedlings at Wharewera/Long Beach. This year we will plant another 7000.

The team has been monitoring the site to remove any invasive weed species and control rank grass. We are pleased to report a survival rate of 76%. This is an impressive result considering the long, dry summer we have had. We are confident this density of plants will provide ample shade, shelter and seed source for natural revegetation in years to come.

We will be planting more of the species that thrive here such as harakeke/flax and tī kouka/cabbage trees, alongside species classified as 'at risk' such as *Teucrium parvifolium*, *Olearia lineata* and *Coprosma acerosa*. Later in 2023 we will install an informative sign to showcase the unique features of this protected site to visitors.

Below: Check out this awesome drone photo of the planting site. The zoomed in box shows the density of plants here.



Volunteers have been hard at work helping to repot and weed our native seedlings. We have repotted 21,000 plants this season with almost 400 hours contributed by volunteers including Dylan who reports "it was good fun and also hard work".

Having a nursery allows us to purchase seedlings at a very young age and take care of them until they are large enough to be planted. This can save us up to \$6 per plant which is substantial when you are planting tens of thousands of seedlings. The nursery also allows for our team to continue working outside of the planting season in Summer.





## OUR VISION

from Silver Peaks to sea, communities and nature thriving in balance

## OUR MISSION

to inspire and work with our communities to enhance, protect and connect with this landscape

## OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

**Community Action:** Working with our community to be kaitiaki of this landscape

**Leadership:** Inspiring transformational change for increased landscape resilience

**Community Education:** Building and sharing resources to expand our collective knowledge

**Science and Research:** Collaborating with science providers to fill our knowledge gaps

**Partnerships:** Working in partnership with our community, Māori and our funders

**Governance:** Operating at the highest standards of governance and delivery



WHAREWERA WERA / LONG BEACH

# PICNIC & PLANTING DAY

10-3

Sat 22 April

Beach Street DOC reserve  
Sausage sizzle provided!  
Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves if you have them  
Register by email  
[info@haloproject.org.nz](mailto:info@haloproject.org.nz)

Wild *Cunedin* Otago's Māori NEW ZEALAND  
FESTIVAL OF NATURE



[CLICK THIS LINK](#) TO GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK THROUGH OUR RESIDENTS SURVEY & GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN A \$100 ARC BREWERY VOUCHER!

## CONTACT THE RIGHT PERSON

If you wish to get hold of us, you can use the generic email: [info@haloproject.org.nz](mailto:info@haloproject.org.nz), or choose from below:

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The Halo Project wishes to thank all our volunteers, supporters and funders for their ongoing support.

THANK YOU

