

Tēnā koutou katoa! In this issue you will read about kororā/little blue penguins, native planting at Dons Creek, and predator control at Warrington Spit. You will also hear from departing team member Jeanne.



**PREDATOR  
FREE**



**FOREST HABITAT  
RESTORATION**



**FROM  
SOURCE TO SEA**



**SEABIRD HABITAT  
RESTORATION**



**PREDATOR FREE**

*Making coastlines safe for native birds.*

The Halo Project Predator Free team have been working with AAPES (Animal Aquatic Plant Ecological Society) to monitor the wellbeing of kororā/little blue penguins around our coastline.

At Warauwerawera (Wharewerawera)/Long Beach 11 penguins, and 39 active burrows were present. An 'active burrow' is one with evidence of current or very recent use, i.e. feathers, fresh poo, prints in the sand etc. At Mapoutahi only four penguins were present, and 64 suspected active burrows.

Kororā/little blue penguins are on land between June and March raising their young in nests made under tree roots, in burrows, caves, rocky crevices, and in nest boxes throughout coastal forest, farmland, dunes and rocky areas up to 200 metres inland. We can support this 'at risk-declining' taoka (treasured) species by encouraging one another to keep dogs on a lead, or in sight on the wet sand away from penguin habitat, and to keep cats indoors at night!



**Halo Dashboard**

2018 - current  
Catch data:

RODENTS  29,546

POSSUMS  8,649

HEDGEHOGS  2,429


STOATS  589


WEASELS  343

FERRETS  139

Total catch #: 42,335  
Total # traps: **3,951**

Source to Sea data:

 Length of  
fencing (m): **16,000**

 # of native trees  
planted: **230,599**

Total  
volunteer  
hours  
**43,157**



Thanks to  
the huge  
effort by  
ALL our  
volunteers.





# PREDATOR FREE

Helping Dunedin become Predator Free by 2050



Above: Predator Free Field Lead Kim Miller working with the FTP Solutions team to install a gateway.

The Predator Free team have been working with FTP Solutions to install a pilot network of TrapNodes across 100 automatic self resetting AT220 devices in the zero-density zone.

The goal of this trial is to remotely monitor the device condition status in real time, reducing the need for in-person servicing from once every 3 months to once every 6 months on average.

FTP TrapNodes include image recognition technology that will allow the AI system to automatically identify which species is interacting with the device. This will better protect non-target species while still targeting possums.

The Halo Project will also use FTP TrapNodes as a part of the detection toolbox to achieve and maintain the zero-density goals across the 10,000 hectares surrounding Orokonui Ecosanctuary. As more and more possums are removed, we will be better able to understand how many possums are engaging with the devices as a measure of the total density of possums overall.

FTP Solutions is a global company which uses proprietary technology to collect large streams of data and present them through easily understandable interfaces, allowing the data to be used to make real time decisions. We believe this will be a game changer as possums become more difficult to find in this landscape.

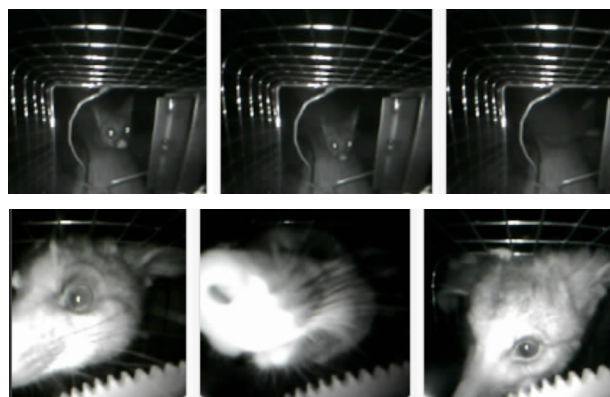
This trial is a first for Ōtepoti/Dunedin and will contribute to a best-practice guideline that can be carried out throughout Aotearoa/New Zealand.



Above left: Conor installs a solar panel.

Above right: The TrapNode up close.

Below: Enquiring possums caught on camera.



# PREDATOR FREE

Buffer zone work continues

Predator control work has begun on the coast from Warrington to the Waikouaiti River!

Warrington Spit is a unique habitat within this landscape. This site is home to many of our native birds and is an important birthing site for pakake/sea lions.

The team have engaged volunteers to install monitoring tools such as tracking tunnels and chew cards. This work will allow us to understand the current predator levels in the area.

Once the monitoring is complete we will begin the roll out of predator control devices targeting possums, stoats, ferrets and weasels, with expected by-catch of rats and hedgehogs.

Plans are being made to undertake bird counts throughout the Spit. This important monitoring will help us understand the positive outcomes predator control can bring.

The team are keen to hear from anyone who might like to participate in the ongoing volunteering required to ensure the wildlife that live here are as safe from predators as they can be.

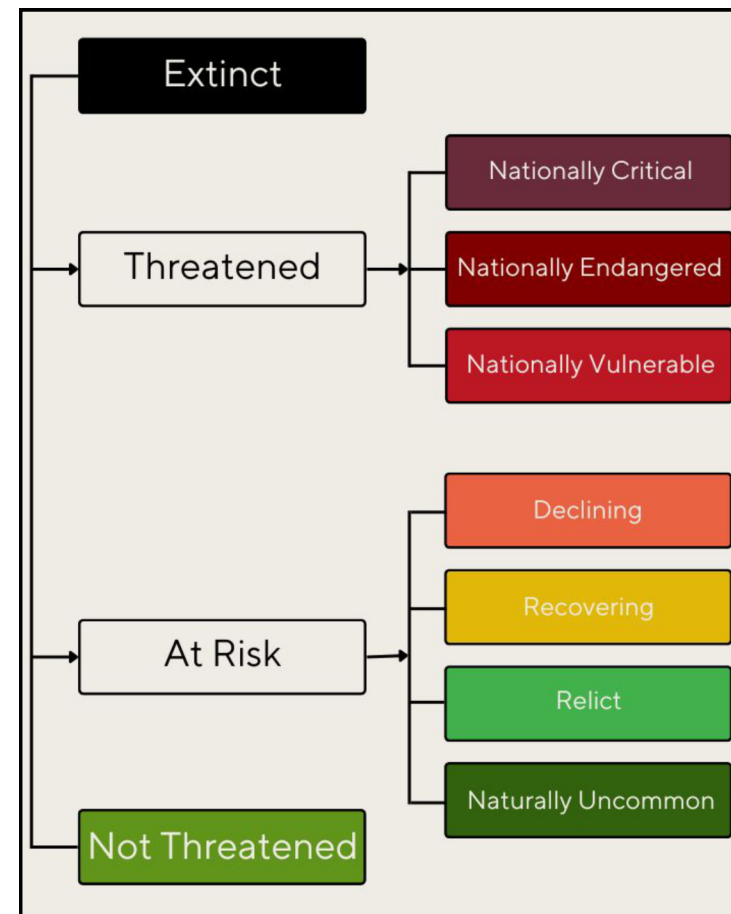
If you would like to participate in our work here, or you'd like more information please email us at [info@haloproject.org.nz](mailto:info@haloproject.org.nz) or check out our website [www.haloproject/predator-free](http://www.haloproject/predator-free) and [www.facebook.com/halobeyondorokonui](https://www.facebook.com/halobeyondorokonui).



Above: The proposed locations of predator control devices and monitoring lines.

Left: Flow chart outlining the conservation status for our native flora and fauna.

Below: Using [www.ebird.co.nz](http://www.ebird.co.nz) we were able to export this list of the birds that have been most commonly seen at Warrington Spit.



Bird	Conservation status
Kuaka/Bar-tailed Godwit	Declining
Tarāpuka/Black-billed Gull	Declining
Tōrea/South Island Oystercatcher	Declining
Karoro/Southern Black-Backed Gull	Not threatened
Tarāpunga/Red-billed Gull	Declining
Tara/White-fronted Tern	Declining
Tētē-moroiti/Gray Teal	Not threatened
Tōrea pango/Variable Oystercatcher	Recovering
Pohowera/Double-banded Plover	Declining
Pūtangitangi/Paradise Shelduck	Not threatened
Kawau tikitiki/Spotted Shag	Nationally Vulnerable
Poaka/Pied Stilt	Not threatened
Kawaupaka/Little shag	Relict
Spur-winged plover	Not threatened
Taranui/Caspian Tern	Nationally Vulnerable
Tauhou/Silvereye	Not threatened
Matuku moana/White-faced Heron	Not threatened
Kuruwhengi/Australasian Shoveler	Not threatened
Pārerā/Grey duck	Nationally Vulnerable
Warou/Welcome Swallow	Not threatened
Pūkeko	Not threatened





## SOURCE TO SEA

Inspiring transformational change for increased landscape resilience

During 2023 the Source to Sea team worked hard to support residents in our project area to plant native seedlings.

We supported the community at 12 sites in Dons Creek, including Waitati School. Altogether these locals planted 7,880 seedlings! 300 metres of fencing was installed where needed to protect the plantings from stock.

A planting plan was made for each site depending on the habitat (wind, soil moisture and competition with gorse were the main factors). Training in site preparation and planting was provided if needed.

All sites have been visited for quality control and the plants are doing well. We've been really impressed with the enthusiasm and hard work everyone has put in. Their sites will provide habitat for species moving outside of Orokonui Ecosanctuary and will connect wildlife to some of our existing plantings. These plantings will provide much needed habitat too for the native species that live in our waterways, such as the banded kōkopu, giant kōkopu and inanga that we know are at home here.

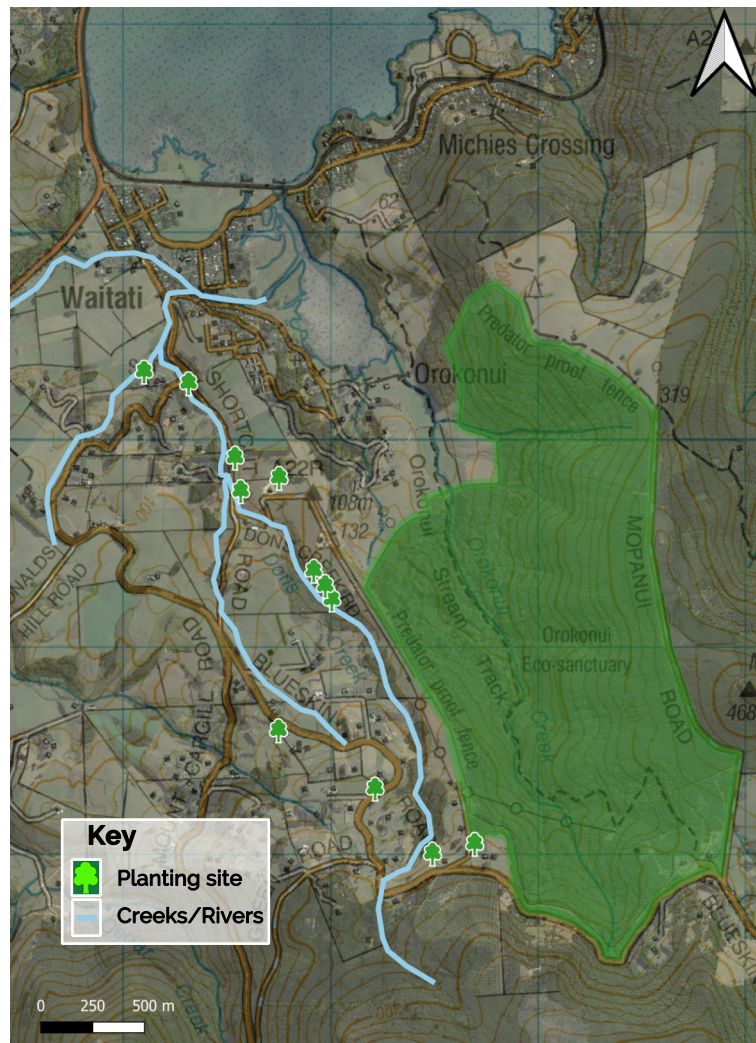
Revegetation is one of the most important steps in achieving habitat restoration, which is vital for the survival of our native flora and fauna. Connecting habitat and connecting community is what it's all about!



Above: The Nature School children helped Ed to plant 440 seedlings.



Above: Ruth planted 400 seedlings on Blueskin Rd.  
Below: Callum planted 1,000 seedlings at this site, with Orokonui Ecosanctuary in the background.  
Right: All planting sites are marked on the map. Each site improves habitat for species spilling over from Orokonui Ecosanctuary and improves the quality of waterways.



## SOURCE TO SEA

Working with our community to be kaitiaki of this landscape

The Halo Project Source to Sea team is becoming significantly smaller due to a lack of secure funding, which has sadly meant that our beloved Volunteer Coordinator Jeanne Hutchinson has moved on. We are gutted to see Jeanne go, but wish her the best for her future.

We interviewed Jeanne to get her feedback on what it was like in her role at the Halo Project, this is what she said:

### 1. Why do you work in conservation?

*Nature is my heart's home and I feel committed to helping Papatūānuku thrive.*

### 2. What do you enjoy about coordinating volunteers?

*Volunteer coordinating is an opportunity to work alongside passionate people from all walks of life.*

### 3. What are some highlights of your time with the Halo Project?

*Working as part of an amazing team, creating a safe habitat for our native fauna and flora was a highlight for me.*

### 4. How do you think community can advance the goals of conservation?

*There is a lot of mahi to be done to reach our conservation goals, and the community has proven that many hands make light work.*

### 5. What is your favourite native plant and why?

*Tough one, I think at the moment it would have to be horoeka, *Pseudopanax crassifolios*, representing transformation and change.*

### 6. How can conservation advance the goals of (help) our community?

*A resilient community works together for a common goal, and conservation is a noble cause for any community, to help members connect and enjoy nature together.*

### 7. What is next for you?

*I will be working with volunteers and community as the South Dunedin Street Festival coordinator which is on 16th March 2024.*



Above: Jeanne at home in nature.  
Below: Jeanne worked with many schools including Pūrākaunui School featured here.





## Native creatures of Aotearoa/New Zealand

P Ī W A K A W A K A M T K M C J J D X S H  
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 H S Z H Z C B B F N L Q Q P O E A J O S E  
 R X K I W I Q D T A N D G P M R Q I R M K  
 U B U E Y O C U U Q U O U D D C M I I Y O  
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 E U H P K A V V L B A M H K B D Ā N K K J  
 K J W C J R U X T G I R A H A Z K B Ā A V  
 X N W X H C R N U F H I A Q E U Ā G K H Q  
 G Y Z P R Y Q E Q B Z B H P N W R Y Ā Ē V  
 Z A J Z M L Y E Y K J D L F S P I V D X L  
 I N O D W Y F G L O K P G V O Y K U R Z E  
 Q I W Q O Z I B P G M P U B M M I I X A K

Can you find and circle the reo māori names of 11 native birds and reptiles.

### Clues:

1. I am a green gecko
2. I have red under my wings
3. My name is spelt with 3 letters
4. I am the national manu/bird of this country
5. I am the biggest reptile in Aotearoa
6. I live on the Otago Peninsula
7. Sometimes you can hear me call at night
8. I like to chatter and follow you
9. I live in swamps and near rivers
10. I am a big bird, common in Ōtepoti
11. I am big and blue, find me at Orokonui Ecosanctuary

### The Halo Project Source to Sea is seeking corporate sponsorship.

Want to support your workplace to enhance, protect and connect with our landscape? We are keen to hear from any businesses who feel they would like to do more for our environment. Please reach out to Jennifer Lawn via [jennifer@haloproject.org.nz](mailto:jennifer@haloproject.org.nz), or 021 651 939.

### CONTACT THE RIGHT PERSON

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

**THANK YOU**



Word find list: kāka, tuatara, pūkeko, takahē, kereru, pīwakawaka, mokokāriki, kiwi, ruru, toroa, tui