

# Pomona Post



Pomona from the air: photo by Fay Edwards

*Kia ora Volunteers and 'Friends of Pomona'.*

*This is your Newsletter, which means that the Editor (Hawkeye) welcomes articles, photos, and comments relevant to the life of the Pomona Island Trust. Hawkeye will cast a beady eye over any items submitted.*

*Please submit items to pomona.rona@gmail.com .*

**See you on the next trap check!**

## News brief

Just like the rest of the country coping with the challenges and changes brought about by Covid, the Pomona Charitable Trust has had its own challenges and changes recently.

Coping with the after affects of the mega mast event 2018/2019 together with no access to either Pomona or Rona Islands due to the Covid 19 pandemic. has been and is a big challenge. Our team (part of the team of 5 million) of volunteers have been and are stepping up to challenge.

The Trust has had several changes in personnel since lockdown ended with our Secretary and founding Trustee Viv Shaw resigning. Also resigning were Trustees Chris Shaw and Neil Robertson.

The Trust would like to acknowledge all the work and dedication the resigning Trustees had put into the Trust over many years to restore Pomona and Rona Islands to a conservation success story.

## NOTES FROM TWO SMALL ISLANDS

### Pomona

Thank you to all the volunteers (vollies) who have emptied out 553 rats, 8 stoats and 3 mice from 4 trap checks since Covid alert level 2 has come in. We are hopefully on the way to 'flattening the curve' with our rat numbers. Also thank you to the Trailer Yacht Squadron for doing the mainland traps. Your help and enthusiasm for this job is just great. Two birthdays were celebrated on Pomona recently from our vollies. No ages mentioned..... but the cakes were delicious.



The photo.....here shows 2 rats caught at A02.

Rat numbers continue to break all records after the mega-mast.



### Rona

Just like fighting Covid 19, Rona's predator free status depends on its border defence. Therefore trustees have been busy checking the 'border' (mainland) traps. It is always satisfying taking out a rat or stoat from the last trap on the mainland opposite the island knowing that this one didn't make the swim.



Photo taken from the last mainland trap looking over to Rona



Rat on Rona

An elusive Rona rat was first detected on tracking cards a year ago. Since then, it has put in an appearance on cameras and tracking cards, but could not be tempted to sample peanut butter, nutella, erayz, or even try out a "run-through" trap. No traces have been seen since March, so it may have got lonely and swum back to the mainland!



## SPYING IN THE BUSH WITH SPYPOINT CAMERAS

We can now see what is going on in the bush when our backs are turned! Thanks to the generous donations from Nicky Cobb and Neil Robertson, and DOC Community Funding, we now have 30 Spyypoint cameras on Rona and Pomona. These cameras can run 24 hrs or just at night, and are activated to take either a photo, or video, when they detect movement. Some cameras on Pomona have taken up to 26,000 photos of rats at the height of the current rat plague. We have also used cameras to detect young kiwi, proving that

they have been breeding on Pomona, as well as monitoring for stoats.



14/01/2020 21:00 11°C SPYPOINT

# VIPP

VIPP stands for.....

## Very Important Pomona Person.

This column is going to feature a person involved in some way with the conservation work of the islands.

This edition of Pomona Post features.....

### Fay Edwards

Fay is our new contact person for organising Pomona trap checks. You might get to know her voice when you get a cheery phone call. Fay is married to the Trust's chair John so conservation walks & talks occupy a lot of their time when not spending time with their extended whanau.

Fay is one of those people who the more you get to know the more you realize what an amazing talented person she is. For example.....

. creative fibre artist currently working on an entry titled 'Predator Free 2050' for WOW.

- .past Luxmore Hut warden
- .tramped the length of NZ along the Te Araroa trail
- .walked the width of Britain
- .in her long and varied nursing career she was once a nurse in the Navy.

.masterchef not only for John but for the Anchor Island Kakapo team one time

.the editor has found out that Fay is good at chopping wood and is a champion cup winning daffodil grower

AND her favourite place on Pomona is the pick up beach at the end of the trap check!



Fay and Reg releasing robins on Rona.

photo John Whitehead.



Chair John Whitehead on Pomona soaking up the sun,

photo Fay Edwards

### Current Trustees of the Pomona Island Charitable Trust

John Whitehead .....Chairperson  
 Paul King .....Secretary  
 David Fortune ..... Treasurer  
 Liz Scott .....Trustee  
 Harry Bull .....Trustee

Professor Sir Alan Mark..... Patron

# POMONA PLANT HOTSPOT

As a new feature of Pomona Post a plant species is going to be highlighted.....'Hotspot'! Because Pomona has not got any browsing mammals (deer, possums) eating their way through the bush it is a pretty special place. Well we already know that, don't we !!

Volunteers out on the island will be able to look out for these plants, as a general location for plant spotting will be given.



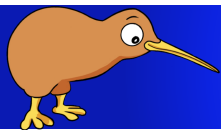
Stalagmite and Common maidenhair fern. To be found on the J line near an A24 at W09 between trap J01 and J02.



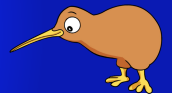
### Common maidenhair fern. (*Adiantum cunninghamii*)

An endemic species found throughout NZ in coastal and lowland forest. This fern likes drier situations (who doesn't) on banks or in rock crevices. Named after the English botanist and explorer Alan Cunningham (1791-1839). This stunning small and creeping fern has dark green to blue/green fronds that are pale blue/green underneath. Maidenhair fern is a popular house plant and apparently in NZ there is one such house plant which is 83 years old. The late Jean Penman of Auckland received a potted maidenhair fern on her 21st birthday in 1936 and now her family look after 'The Mother Fern'.

What is rather interesting about the fern seen on Pomona is the presence of the stalagmites formed from the rock overhang.



# KIWI CORNER



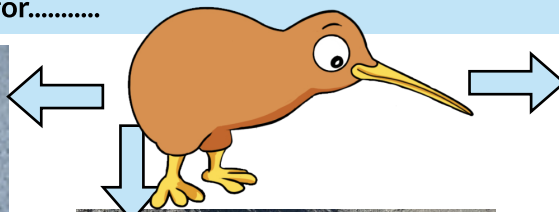
Kiwi corner is going to be a regular section featuring kiwi news from both Pomona and Rona Islands as they are both wonderful homes for kiwis of all ages.

Did you know Tokoeka (Southern kiwi)

translates to 'weka with a walking stick'.

This edition is going to give volunteers a guide on how to spot one of 'The Ghosts of Gondwana' as trying to spot a kiwi in daytime is not easy on Pomona.

So what to look for.....



## From the Archives

This photo is of the first full working bee on Pomona 2006. You might recognize a few faces.



## Volunteer news

For World Environment Day (June 5th), RNZ concert asked listeners to share their favourite NZ nature walk and share a story about why it is special to them and music to soundtrack the walk. One of our own Pomona vullie's shared a 'Special Place' which the editor would like to share with you.

You are welcome to send into the editor your own favourite place on Pomona and if you could, what music soundtrack would you play ?

LIFE AND SOCIETY / MUSIC

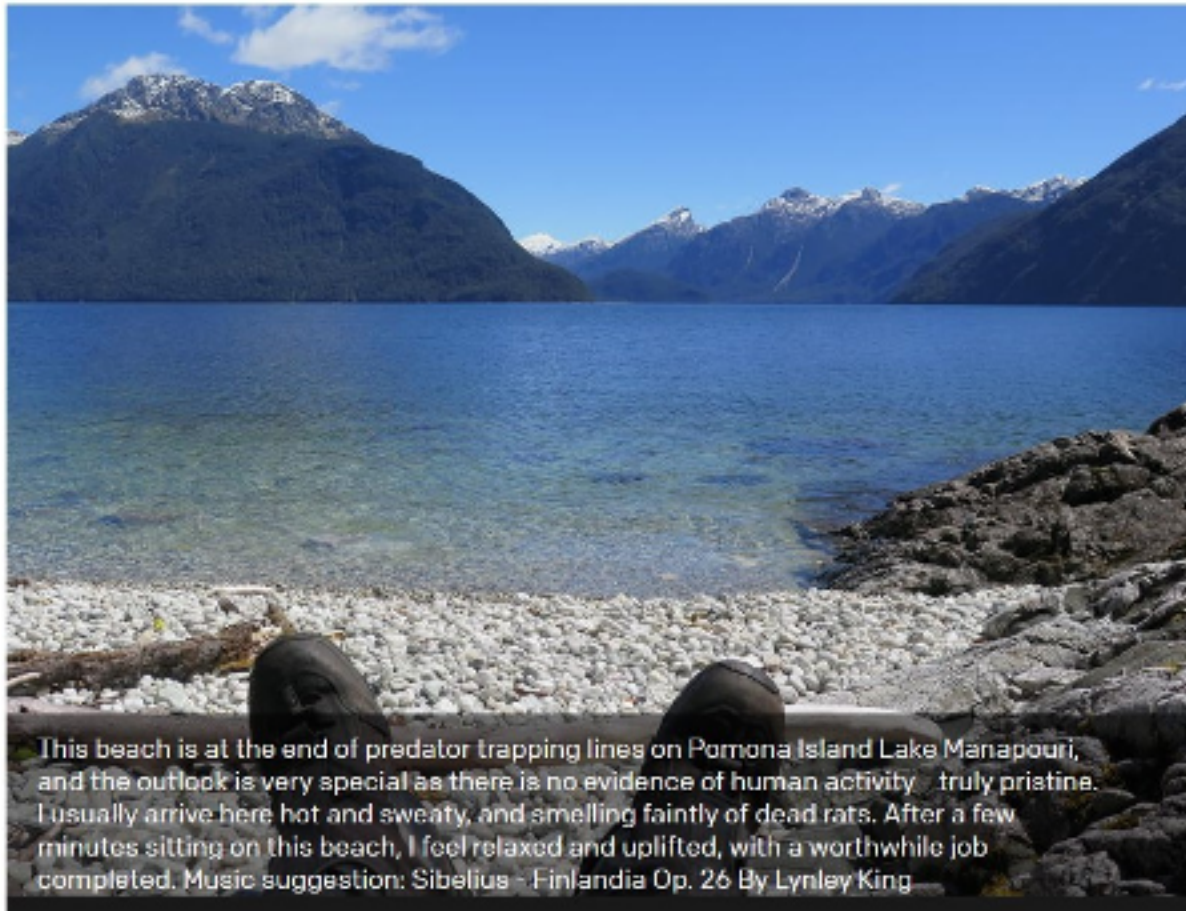
# NZ Nature Walk

From **Upbeat**, 5:00 pm on 5 June 2020

Share this



**RNZ Concert listeners are sharing photos of favourite local nature walks with us to mark Beethoven Pastoral Day. Here are some of the amazing views we've received from all across New Zealand. Ka pai, Aotearoa:**



This beach is at the end of predator trapping lines on Pomona Island Lake Manapouri, and the outlook is very special as there is no evidence of human activity - truly pristine. I usually arrive here hot and sweaty, and smelling faintly of dead rats. After a few minutes sitting on this beach, I feel relaxed and uplifted, with a worthwhile job completed. Music suggestion: Sibelius - Finlandia Op. 26 By Lynley King