



# Pomona Island Charitable Trust

## Annual Report 2021/2022

### Significant Events 2021/2022

Movie night in June, showcasing the film “Growing Up Kiwi”.

Andrea Vance (Stuff) filmed part of her series “This is how it ends” [The island](#) on Pomona Island  
Extensive audio monitoring of kiwi population being carried out on Pomona Island (David Cary)

Rat numbers on Pomona Island have increased steadily through the year as shown by camera monitoring data.

Two large bequests received

Gecko monitoring project on Rona (Lynley King)

Track maintenance on Pomona island

Trap upgrade on Pomona and Rona Islands completed

Possible stoat incursion on Rona Island thought to be bird predation.

Mouse incursion on Rona detected in March 2022. Incursion response initiated with DOC.

Bait station network upgrade on Rona underway.

David Fortune resigned as treasurer and trustee.

Harry Bull resigned as trustee.

Traps, monitoring devices, bait stations and catch data transferred to [trap.nz](#)

Trap trigger detection system installed on Pomona Island



*Rona Island: Painting by Liz Scott*

## **Introduction**

This Annual report records the activities of the Pomona Island Charitable Trust over the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

## **Organisation**

A total of 5 meetings were held in the 2021/2022 year. Meetings were held in May, August, September 2021 and March 2022. The AGM was held in August 2021.

At the AGM in August:

John Whitehead was re-elected as Chair.

Paul King was re-elected as Secretary

David Fortune was re-elected as Treasurer

Harry Bull tendered his resignation as a trustee in writing on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

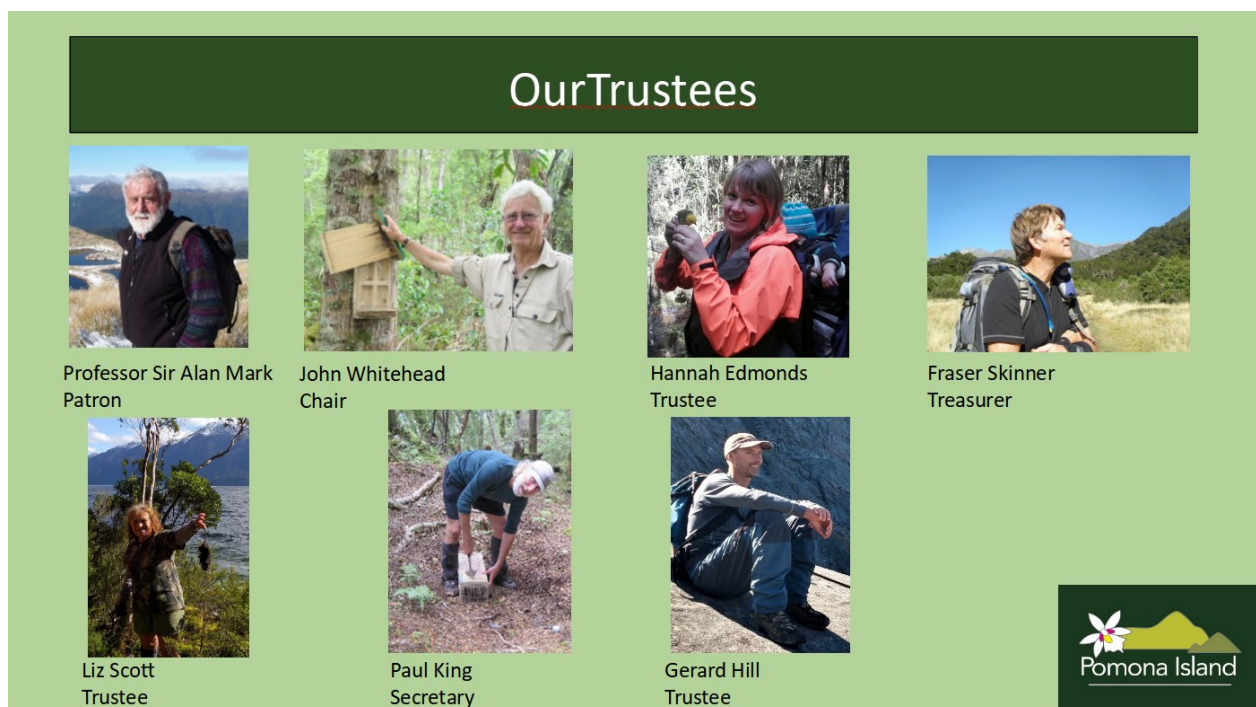
Professor Sir Alan Mark was re-appointed as our Patron.

David Fortune tendered his resignation from the Trust and as Treasurer on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The Trust would like to acknowledge the extensive work that David has been involved in since 2014 as a trustee, and more recently as treasurer.

Note that the position of Treasurer has since been filled. Fraser Skinner is the new Treasurer.

The make-up of the Trust at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 was therefore:

John Whitehead	Chair
Vacant	Treasurer
Paul King	Secretary
Liz Scott	Trustee
Gerard Hill	Trustee
Hannah Edmonds	Trustee



The Trust is registered as a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005 (CC22629). This registration enables the Trust to be exempt from tax, which means that anyone donating money to the Trust can claim the tax back on their donations. The Trust files annual returns which are available for public viewing on the Charities Services website.

## **Relationship with DOC**

Tony Preston (Biodiversity, Te Anau) is currently our DOC contact.  
The trust liaises with DOC Haast over kiwi matters.

## **Funding**

We are grateful to the following for financial support during 2021/2022:

DOC Haast

Donations

In the 2021 / 2022 financial year the Trust received funding from the following sources:

<b>Source of funding</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount (inc. GST)</b>
Donation boxes	No specific purpose	339
Donations, bequests	Pest control/eradication	105,738
Department of Conservation, Haast	Kiwi work	10,146
Interest	No specific purpose	660

## **Two large donations**

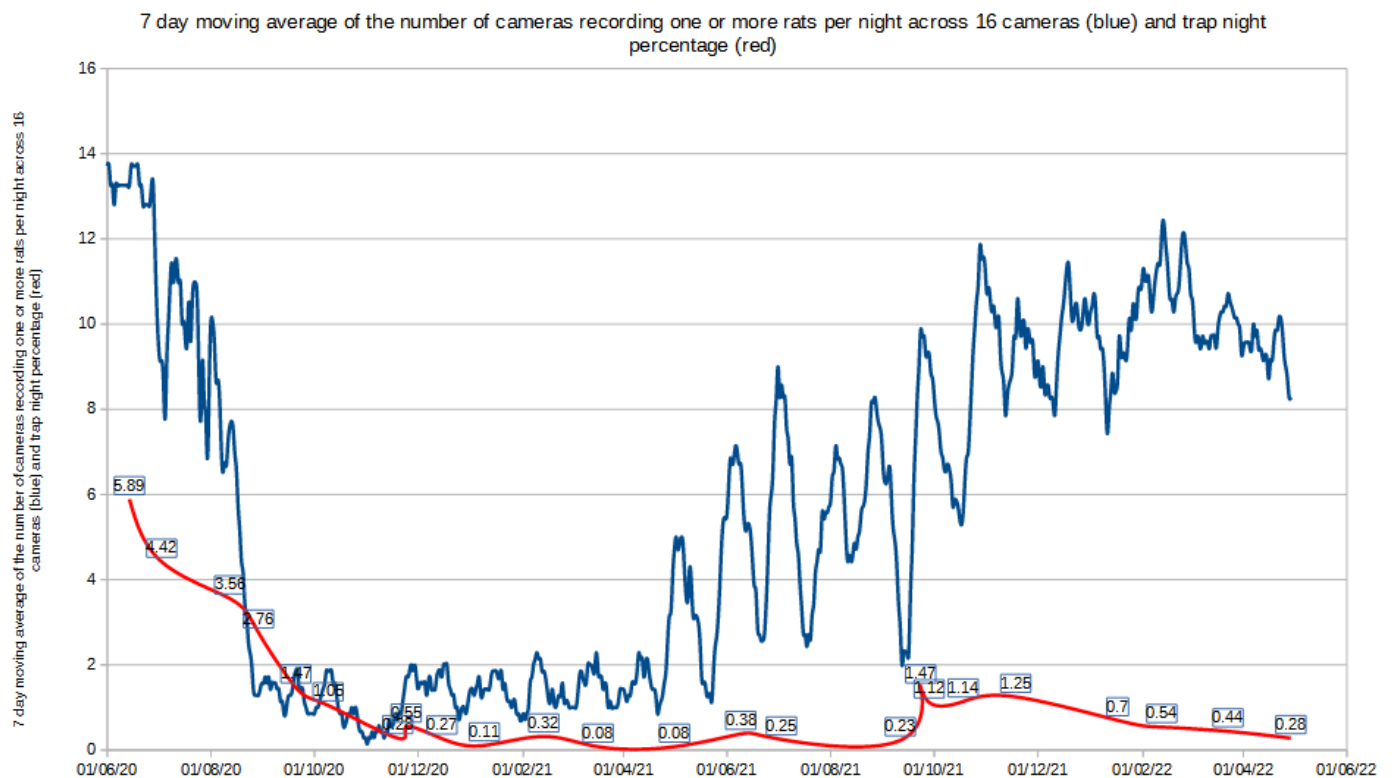
The Trust received two large donations during the year from the estate of Connie Wright and in memory of Bob Stannard., as well as numerous smaller sums of money. They are all appreciated and essential to the continuation for the work of the Trust.

## **Predator control Pomona Island**

### **Rats**

14 trips to Pomona Island have been completed since March 2021, principally to carry out pest control and monitoring. From April 2021 to March 2022, 367 rats were caught in stoat and snap-traps. This is considerably less than the year before when 1096 rats were caught in traditional traps. Unknown numbers have been killed in A24 self-setting traps and by using Pindone in bait stations.

However, the graph shows that although there is an increasing population of rats on the island (camera activity) the trap night percentage has not increased since October 2020, indicating that there is a population of “trap-shy” rats, with plenty of food available to them outside of the traps



### **Stoats**

11 sightings of a stoat on camera have been made since April 2021, and one stoat was caught in a trap. It is thought that there may be a solitary stoat on the island at present.

### **Camera monitoring**

Our camera network across Pomona has continued to operate well, giving a reliable measure of the rat population, together with detecting stoats. There are now two Automatic Lure Dispensers, which are popular with kiwi.



*Kiwi at Automatic Lure Dispenser at C05, Pomona Island*

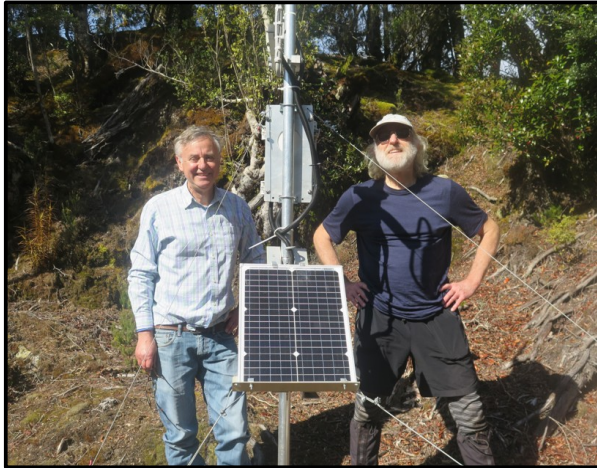


## **Trap Trigger Detection System**

In September 2021, Gary Chisholm, with the help of our volunteers, installed a Trap Trigger Detection System attached to 12 stoat traps in the NW corner of Pomona Island. This system gives us an indication of the likely number of traps which have been triggered across the island, and helps us to plan more efficient trapping trips.

It consists of a base station on the helipad connected to SWARM satellite system. It also has a radio link to an internet connection in Manapouri township.

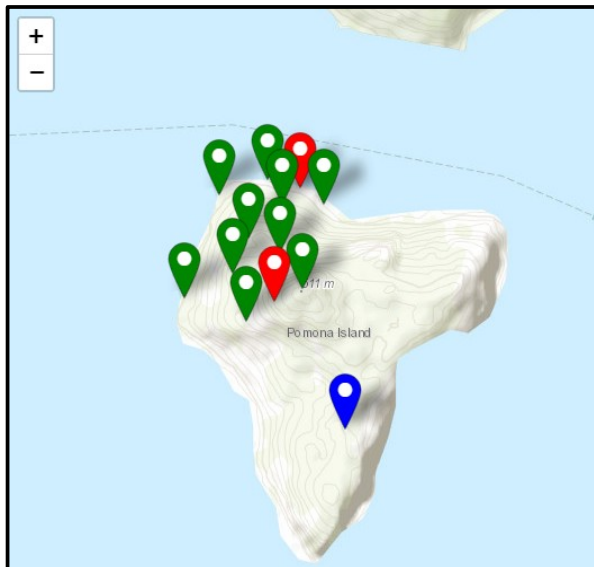
Each trap has a switch and UHF radio transmitter which “talks” to the base station. Notifications are sent to a website when a trap is triggered.



*Gary Chisholm and Paul King after installing the base station*



*The first rat detected using the trap trigger detection system*



*Website showing triggered traps (red) and non-triggered traps (green). Blue is the base station*



*Radio installation at D09*

## **Pomona Mainland Traps**

The Southland Trailer Yacht Squadron, led by Ross Forrester, serviced the traps to the north of Pomona Island every 2 months. They sailed out to Hurricane Passage 6 times during the year, and caught 8 stoats and 22 rats in the 72 traps during the year.



*Southland Trailer Yacht Squadron in Hurricane Passage*

## **Predator control Rona**

11 trips have been completed to Rona and the Rona Mainland since March 2021, to undertake pest control and monitoring, kiwi work and bird monitoring.

### **Rats**

No rats were caught or detected on Rona during the year.

### **Mice**

Mouse footprints were detected on tracking cards in March 2022, the island having previously been clear of mice since November 2020. The Trust has mounted an incursion response with the help of DOC.

### **A possible stoat incursion**

In September 2021, a DOC kiwi ranger reported a predated seabird on Rona. The Trust mounted an incursion response, checking all monitoring devices and servicing the traps. After 3 trips and ongoing vigilance, it was decided that the predation probably wasn't due to a stoat.

### **Camera Monitoring**

The network of 10 cameras across the island continues to work well and Automatic Lure Dispensers are now in operation in front of two of the cameras.

## **Rona Mainland traps**

Rodents and mustelids are an ongoing threat to Rona. The mainland traps to the north and west of Rona were serviced regularly and a total of 59 rats and 9 stoats and 4 mice were caught during the year.

## **Haast Tokoeka**

### **Pomona**

Haast Tokoeka are regularly seen on most of the 16 cameras across Pomona island. However, we do not have clear idea of the kiwi population on the island.

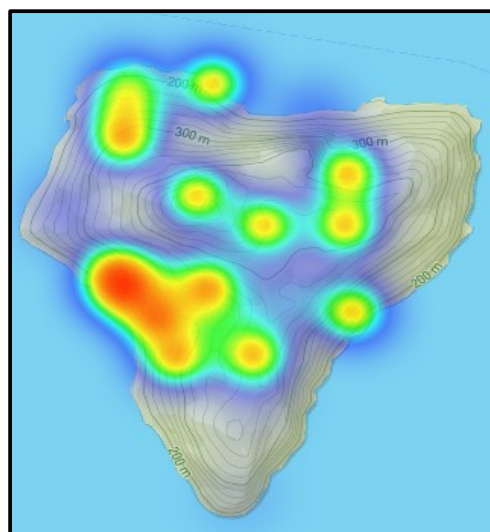
The Pomona Trust has an enthusiastic volunteer (David Cary) currently running audio monitoring of Haast Tokoeka across the island.

He is using audio moths at 10 different locations at a time and is using a AviaNZ Tokoeka recogniser to detect kiwi calls. They are then hand labelled to check for true positives. He has collected 2600 calls so far and aims to identify individuals and get an estimate of population.

The heat map shows the number of calls per night since October 2021.



*Audio moth on Pomona Island*



*Heat map showing the number of Haast Tokoeka calls per night since October 2021.*

Camera data has so far given the best indication that the population is breeding, as young birds can be identified on the camera network. Left: Adult Right: Juvenile

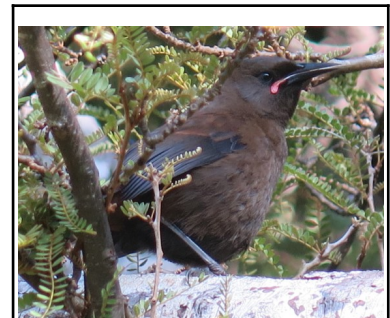


## **Rona**

Rona has continued to act as a crèche and staging post for Haast Tokoeka, either on their way to Haast or other sanctuaries such as Coal Island. Trust members and volunteers have been involved in releases, catching and medical checks for the small number of kiwis on Rona.

## **Tieke on Rona**

The remaining few Tieke on Rona are holding on, with only a few birds seen on any one day. It is possible that, as well as possible predation by falcon, some birds may have moved to the mainland as a pair of birds was sighted near Moturau Hut on the Kepler Track in late summer 2022



*Tieke on Rona. Photo:  
Lynley King*

## **Robins on Rona**

The small robin population, which was established in May 2019, continues to thrive, with young birds being seen regularly.



*Robin on Rona. Photo:  
Lynley King*

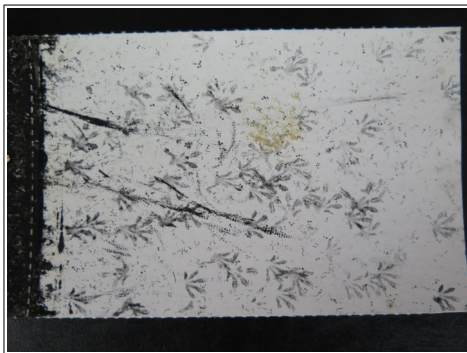


## Gecko Monitoring on Rona

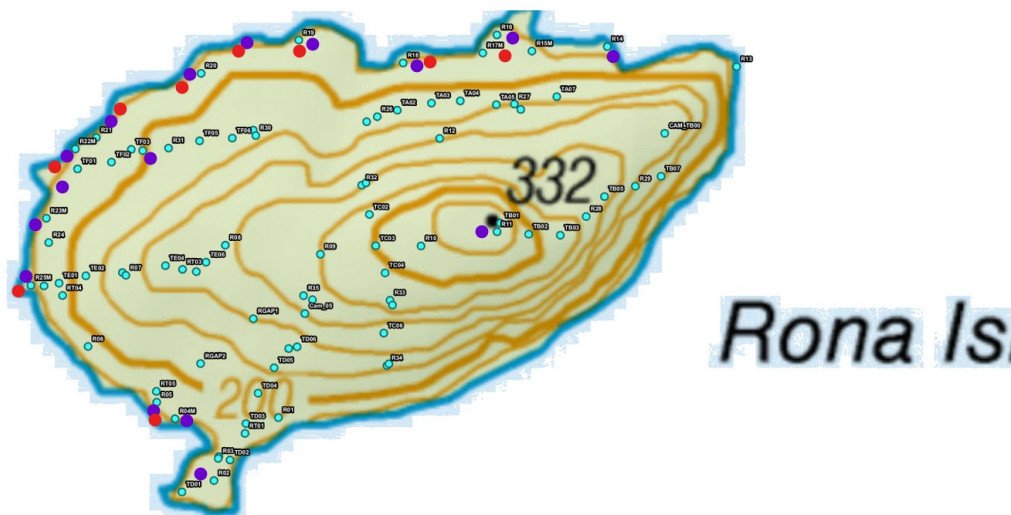


*Kōrero gecko – Woodworthia 'Otago/Southland large' on Rona. Photo: Lynley King*

Rona Island supports a population of the Kōrero gecko – *Woodworthia* 'Otago/Southland large'. Over the summer of 2021-22, volunteer Lynley King set up a monitoring project to determine the gecko's distribution and abundance. She set up 30 tracking tunnels in various locations on the western and northern shoreline of Rona. She has found that there are 4 distinct gecko hotspots around N and W shoreline of Rona, and intends to set up 6 permanent monitoring sites, based on 4 hotspots, as well as initiating some off-ground tracking tunnels.



*Gecko prints on tracking card*



*Purple dots – tracking tunnel locations Red dots – locations where gecko prints were recorded during summer 2021-22*



## **Bird Monitoring**

Bird call counts were taken on both Rona and Pomona during the summer.

## **Health and safety**

The Trust has continued with their improved Safety Toolbox briefings at the start of every trip to the islands. All volunteers are briefed on Emergency Procedures, and have several methods of summoning assistance including PLBs.

Three Trustees (John Whitehead, David Fortune and Paul King) completed a First Aid Basic Plus course, delivered as an online modules and by Dave Johnson (DOC).

## **Data collection and analysis**

Some volunteers have used the trapping app “Walk the Line” and all trapping data has been stored on the “Animal Pests – trapping” database. Our data is therefore part of a national database of pest management. This system is being superseded by a new application - [trap.nz](https://trap.nz)

## **Track work on Pomona**

Ben Crouchley and his crew completed 5 days track maintenance on Pomona in October 2021. This has significantly reduced the time taken to service traps along the longer routes on the island.

## **Trap Upgrade**

Simon Marwick (contractor) finished the trap upgrade on Pomona Island in October 2021. Part of the project was to kea-proof around 180 stoat traps. Funding has come from a DOC Community Fund DOCCF5-044, which has now been completed



*Simon Marwick carrying traps at C05 - caught on camera!*

## **Volunteers**

This year, volunteers have contributed a total of 1211 hours on Pomona and Rona since March 2021, representing 25 trips to the islands. David Fortune is thanked for running several trips to Rona using his own boat to service the traps, tracking cards and cameras on Rona and to empty the mainland traps North and West of Rona. The Trust also thanks the Invercargill Trailer Yacht Squadron for servicing the trap network on the mainland to the north of Pomona Island.

## **Boat Transport**

Nick and Maree Key of Southern Frontiers Ltd Water Taxi Service are thanked for providing reliable and friendly transport to Pomona and Rona islands.



*Volunteers ready for a day on the islands Photo: Nick Key*

## **Communications**

A Pomona Island Film Evening in June 2021 featured a showing of “Growing Up Kiwi”, an award-winning film by Maddy Brennan. We attracted a capacity audience at the DOC visitor centre. We were also able to update the public on recent developments on the islands.

Hannah Edmonds and Gerard Hill have contributed regularly to the Trust's Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/pomonarona>

Tim Mann (tim mann design) has continued to assist with running the Trust website) <https://pomona-island.org.nz/>

Lynley King has produced three issues of the popular "Pomona Post" newsletter this year. These are available on the Trust website <https://pomona-island.org.nz/document-archive>



### **Artistic**

Trustee Liz Scott has painted two scenes of Pomona and Rona Islands, which have been made into cards.



*Pomona Island. Painting by Liz Scott*

### **Conclusion**

The end of the 2021-22 year sees the Pomona Trust in a secure financial position, but with significant challenges ahead. New pest control technology has been introduced to the islands and volunteers are keeping up-to-date with latest developments in pest control.

We have a steady core of loyal volunteers to do the hard mahi, and several volunteers are doing interesting monitoring projects. Last, but not least, the Haast Tokoeka are breeding on Pomona!

### **Trustees of the Pomona Island Charitable Trust June 2022**

