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## The Forest Bridge Trust Update

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23 December 2020 at 10:39



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# TFBT News December 2020

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## 2020 in Review

2020 will be a year that many are looking forward to turning the page on, but reflecting back on what has been done this year despite the interruptions is an encouraging way to end!

The [Eastern Connectivity Project has been moving ahead this year](#). So far we have held one workshop for the Matakana East area, a community meeting for the Matakana River hub - based on Green Road/Rainbow's End; and one for Whangateau. The latter two hubs will be consolidated early next year, when a pest control plan has been developed for each one, which will be tailored to work with their unique habitats, land uses and community interests.

Of course this will add to the great pest control efforts already happening in these hub communities even under the difficulties social distancing added to the task!

The Trust is also working around the outskirts of the Tamahunga area which will support the work being done by the Tamahunga Trappers to prepare it for kiwi translocations -- hopefully in 2021.

Our team has also been running workshops in 2 other new hub areas and continued to support our existing hubs and networks. Over 13kms of fencing has also been completed in our focus area.

The Catch IT programme also was able to be completed at Pakiri, Leigh and Matakana schools, despite the interruptions to the school year.

Our team has also grown this year. Through our Jobs for Nature funding partnership with Kiwis for Kiwi, we have been able to bring in resources to help focus on building what we are calling 'our central bridge' which is an area of 54,000 hectares connecting the existing wildlife sanctuaries at Mataia in the west to Tāwharanui in the east. The focus will be to get this area 'kiwi ready' through predator control and fencing to provide the habitat required for kiwi to one day be released. Of course, this means a large number of other native flora and fauna will also benefit!

So far, we have been able to recruit Maj de Poorter (Operations Manager), Emma Dore (Services Manager) and Tim Brandenburg (Fencing Coordinator) into the team to help to establish the team, processes and structure we will need to complete this task. You can read more about them, and the rest of our team [on our website](#).



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## Open Farms Programme.

[Open Farm Day](#) is a nationwide initiative, taking place on Sunday February 21, 2021 which brings rural and urban communities together. This is a great opportunity for farm owners to sign up as a host and share their story with the community with support from Open Farms who will help plan and promote your event.

If you are a farmer - large or small, rural or urban interested in being a host, use the links below to learn more about hosting with Open Farms or contact Nicky Berger at [nicky@openfarms.co.nz](mailto:nicky@openfarms.co.nz).

- [Event Hosting Guide](#)
- [Farmer FAQ's](#)
- [Register your farm](#)
- [Request a callback](#)



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## Trustee celebrates milestone

One of our Trustees, Thomas Stazyk and his wife Mahrukh have been working to restore their property, Cue Haven, at Glorit since 2008.

More than 170,000 trees have been planted since then, with the help of nearly 4000 volunteers and pro bono support. Four kilometers of walking tracks have also been painstakingly made throughout the property.

In 2017, the land was given to a trust - effectively becoming the community's for perpetuity.

[Last week, a massive professionally built viewing platform was blessed and unveiled](#) - Te Rite o Taranaki - named after the maunga behind the property, Taranaki which is significant to the local hapu, Ngati Rongo of Ngati Whatua.

[Go to the Radio NZ website](#) to listen to the full interview and view a short video.



For more information on Cue Haven you can also view their website :

[www.cuehaven.com](http://www.cuehaven.com)



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## Hōteo Project Update

The Hōteo Sediment Reduction project is an Auckland Council led initiative focused on reducing sediment run off in a 12km stretch of the Kourawhero Stream - a tributary of the Hōteo River.

Like most projects they had to pause in the first lockdown, but did manage to complete a number of fencing and planting projects. So far through the project they have fenced off nearly 2km of waterways and planted over 25,000 plants, protecting 6.4 ha (64,609 square metres) of riparian corridors and wetlands.

While The Forest Bridge Trust isn't involved in this project it is a good example of the huge gains that can be made by focusing on individual segments and connecting experts with the communities in these areas to determine the unique requirements for their habitats and waterways.

If you live along the 12km stretch of the Project reach (from the confluence of the Hōteo river – 12km upstream), or are on the main tributaries, you may be eligible to get assistance with fencing and planting of your waterway.

If this is something you are interested in or would like to check if you qualify for the funding please email Laurene at [laurene.dearlove1@gmail.com](mailto:laurene.dearlove1@gmail.com)

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## **In other news... Rats, Mice & 264,457 tracking records shed light on rodent dynamics.**

Researchers Susan Walker, Joshua Kemp, Graeme Elliott, Corey Mosen and John Innes used 264,457 rodent tracking records collected quarterly from 23,709 tracking tunnel stations in forests across the length and breadth of New Zealand over an 18 year period from late 1999 to late 2016 to get a clearer picture of how ship rat and mouse populations relate to each other and their environment. The results of their study have been [published](#) in *Biological Invasions*.

The research team used this massive data set to model what was happening in unmanaged rodent populations and find out more about what influences and limits population numbers. Their aim was to get a better understanding of the implications for native species conservation and to help conservation managers control rodent numbers more effectively.

[Here's what they found out.](#)





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## Majority of New Zealand Farmers see benefit in Biodiversity

What are New Zealand beef and sheep farmers' views on managing and protecting native biodiversity on-farm and what barriers do they face to taking positive action? Those were some of the issues investigated in a nation-wide phone survey. Fleur Maseyk and colleagues [report](#) on their findings in the latest issue of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*.

[Read more>>](#)



## Merry Chirpmas!

Most would agree that the Christmas cracker jokes don't really engage an audience after the family Christmas lunch. This year, you could try this fun quiz instead; [Which NZ native bird are you?](#) It could start some fun discussion —who knew deep down that Uncle Les really is a kea?

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From the Team at The Forest Bridge Trust

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