

Key Facts About Possum and Rat Control at Ōtanewainuku Forest 2023-2024



What's happening?

Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust is carrying out annual pest control in the Ōtanewainuku Forest (Ōtanewainuku Forest Stewardship Area and part of the Te Matai Stewardship Area). In consultation with the Department of Conservation, we will be using **Pindone pellets** in bait stations. We will continue to use **Sentinel traps** to maintain low possum numbers (covering a 1200ha control area. See map attached).

Timeframe

The operation will commence in the beginning of **August 2023** weather permitting, with the objective of all unconsumed baits removed by end of **April 2024**. Warning signs will be placed immediately prior to the operation commencing and left in place for **six months** (as per legal requirements).

Important Information

The pesticides we are using are poisonous to humans and to domestic animals. Poisoning can occur through eating baits or poisoned animals (secondary poisoning). The risk of poisoning can be eliminated by following these rules:

- ❖ **DO NOT touch bait.**
- ❖ **WATCH CHILDREN at all times.**
- ❖ **DO NOT EAT wild animals from this area.**
- ❖ **DO NOT allow dogs near bait stations or let them eat dead or dying animals from within or adjacent to the control area.**

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. Warning signs indicate that pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals. Warning signs will be placed at all normal entry points to this area. When signs are removed, this means that you can resume normal activities in the area. Please report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs. If in doubt, check with Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust or DOC.

Bait station and toxin images to further inform you as follows:



Photo 1: Pindone pellets will be placed in Philproof bait stations like this.



Photo 2: Pindone pellets.



Photo 3: Sentinel trap

Why we are controlling pests at Ōtanewainuku

Possoms and rats can severely affect the health of the forest. By browsing and eventually killing specific trees, possums alter the composition of the forest. Pests pose a significant threat to the threatened birds such as kōkako and kiwi that live in Ōtanewainuku. Possums and rats eat the eggs and chicks of our native birds; rats also eat seeds and insects. We have successfully kept pest numbers low for many years and the health of the forest has improved markedly as a result.

Kōkako have been reintroduced to Ōtanewainuku since 2010 when an initial 18 birds were released. This was followed by another release of 11 birds from Kaharoa Conservation Area in 2016 and 29 birds were transferred in August 2018. A survey undertaken in 2020 found 69 kōkako, an increase of 17 since the 2017 survey. Another exciting development from that survey was the dispersal of two pairs into a neighbouring property.

It is important that these birds have every opportunity to establish themselves in breeding pairs and territories. For kōkako to survive, pest control is essential.

Photo 4: Kōkako



Photo 5: Possum and rat feeding on a nest



Why we are using this method

We vary our methodology regularly as using the same method can become ineffective as pests can develop 'bait-shyness'. In 2017 we used Sodium Fluoroacetate. In 2018 we used Diphacinone blocks Ditrac and Feratox bait bags (Cyanide). In 2019, we again used Diphacinone blocks Ditrac and Feratox bags. In 2020, Diphacinone paste was used and in 2021, Diphacinone pellets were used. Pindone pellets were used in 2022.

Operational Planning

All pesticide operations on public conservation land require written permission from the Department of Conservation.

DOC assesses and approves all vertebrate pesticide operations on public conservation land on behalf of and following procedures approved by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). DOC approving managers apply conditions to ensure that all legal and policy requirements are met, and that any potential risks of the operation are managed.

Consenting agencies usually impose conditions on the operation to further safeguard the public and the environment. For example, we are not permitted to place any poison within 20m of any boundary or walking track, or within 25m of a water supply.

We have notified interested parties using this fact sheet, including local schools, health care providers, the police, and vet clinics.

If you suspect poisoning

Always contact:

- ❖ Your local doctor; or
- ❖ Local hospital; or
- ❖ National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766 (urgent calls) or 03 479 7248 (non-urgent and general enquiries),
- ❖ or dial 111.

For more information

Email: info@kiwitrust.org



On behalf of the Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust thank you for your interest and support.

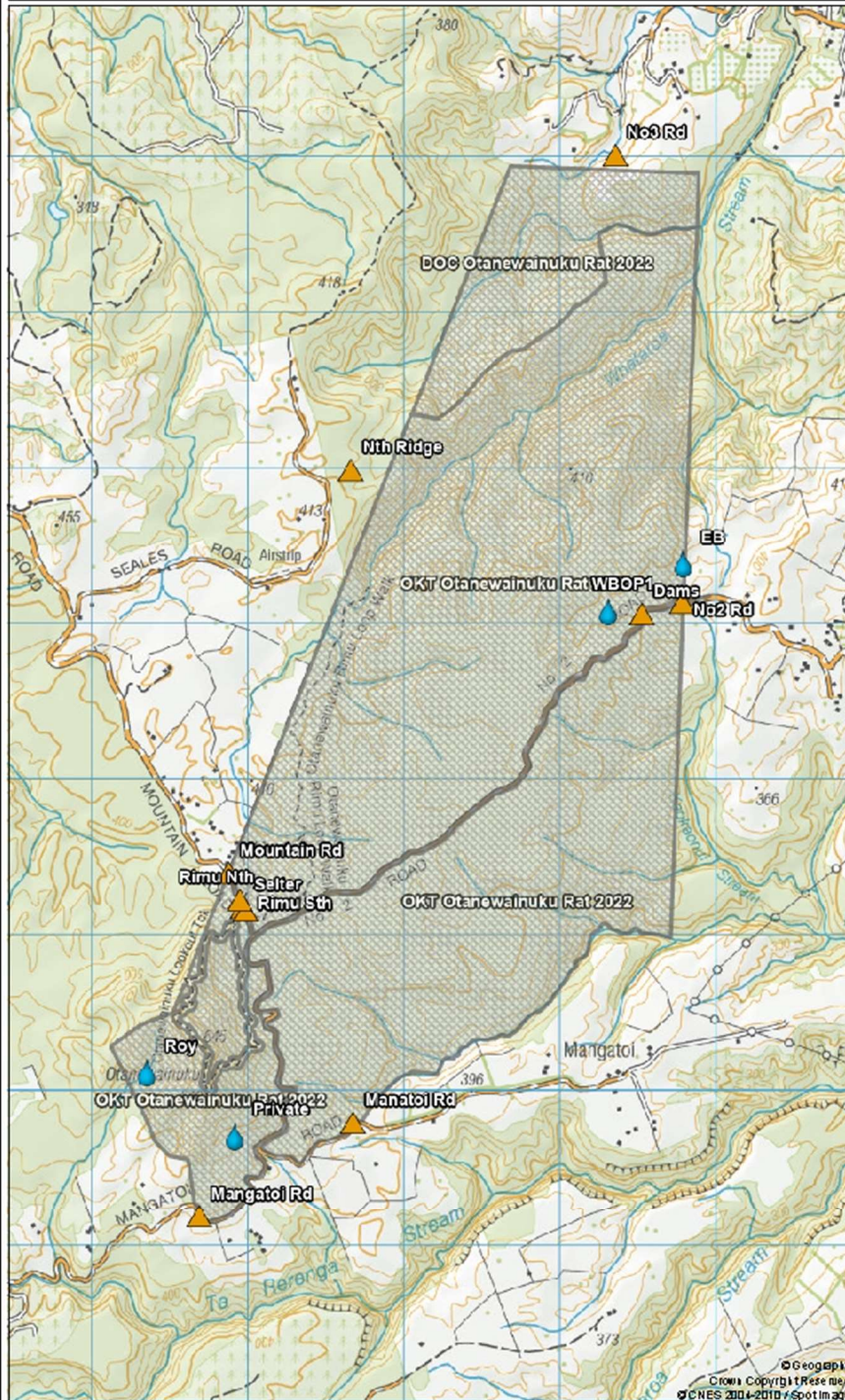
Peter Crane

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Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust Treatment Area 2022 (approx. 1200ha)

Date Printed: 4 July 2022



Legend

-  Water Intakes
-  Warning Signs Proposed
-  Treatment Blocks - Propose



This map is a user generated static output from an internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, or recent, or otherwise reliable. THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

1.8 SCALE 1:36,112 0 1.8 Kilometers

Projection: NZGD_2000_New_Zealand_Transverse_Mercator

