

TALKING POINT

Push for predator-free Bay

Projects seen as a way for his hapū to build capacity and contribute as kaitiaki.

By Ed Chignell

This week's announcement of Hawke's Bay as our second major investment opens up important pathways to the Predator Free 2050 goal.

I've been in Napier over the past fortnight meeting movers and shakers behind Predator Free Hawke's Bay.

Campbell Leckie from Hawke's Bay Regional Council has low cost rural predator control firmly in his sights and believes savings of up to 50 per cent or more may be realistic.

He's encouraged the development of a new, easy-to-reset trap for mustelids and cats called the podiTrap, plans to work out the minimum number of traps required in a landscape and to monitor them remotely. He's also using a humane toxin, para-

aminoacroprophenocone or PAPP, developed in New Zealand for mustelid control.

"If we can drive the cost of farmland predator control down, we can deploy resources more widely and accelerate the mission," he says. In a few months he expects "zero predator areas" will be enabled as a category in the council's 20-year Regional Pest Management Plan.

The platform for this work has been laid through the Cape to City and Poutiri Ao o Tane projects, both built on strong partnerships between local and central government, iwi, philanthropists, land owners and research agencies. Shayne Walker, general manager of the Maungaharuru-Tangitu Trust, sees the projects as a way for his hapū to build capacity and contribute as kaitiaki.

Recent Treaty settlements have enabled him to set bold ambitions, reversing a pattern that saw the hapū's land shrink through confiscation from hundreds of thousands of acres to three, on the most flood-prone part of the region. Bringing taonga species back into ancestral landscapes sits at the heart of them, and cadetships for rangatahi/youth are included in the project's operational plan.

He tells me that this year the Poutiri Ao o Tane project, north of Napier, celebrated the first tūi/ Cook's petrel and koruru/mottled petrel chicks to be born in the Maungaharuru Range since seabird translocations were initiated five years ago.

Businessman and philanthropist Andy Lowe is another keen supporter of the project. Along with other land owners



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Ed Chignell says Predator Free Hawke's Bay is a careful assembly of experience, resources and ambition.

Photo / Matt Hunt

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Campbell Leckie, Hawke's Bay Regional Council

around Cape Kidnappers he created Cape Sanctuary 12 years ago, at 2500ha the country's largest

privately-owned wildlife restoration project. The list of wildlife returned there includes tomtit, whitehead, rifleman, robin, North Island brown kiwi, pakeke, grey faced petrel, banded rail, Cook's petrel, diving petrel, tuatara, kakariki, takahē, kākā and giant weta.

The Cape to City project in the Tukituki River catchment aims to spread the sanctuary's biodiversity gains Hawlock North's way. "When we build the predator proof fence around the Cape Sanctuary we saw it as a temporary measure. Not having to replace it in 40 years would be a definition of real success."

The Predator Free Hawke's Bay project's initial focus is on 15,500ha at Mahia Peninsula and plans to eradicate possums within four

years, alongside mustelid and cat control. It offers an easily defendable area suited to the recovery of North Island brown kiwi and has a strong leadership and partnership commitment from Rongomaiwahine iwi and landowners.

Predator Free Hawke's Bay is a careful assembly of experience, resources and ambition that anticipates social and ecological transformation across the region. It's also a generous and strategic boost to our national goal.

Ed Chignell is chief executive of Predator Free 2050. The Crown-owned company is contributing \$162 million to the \$4.86m Predator Free Hawke's Bay project announced this week.

HOT TOPICS

Top five online

Most read stories on hawkesbaytoday.co.nz

- 1 Water storage scheme intellectual property sold
- 2 Weekend tragedy on Hawke's Bay roads
- 3 Slip 'somewhere' may be cause of water issues
- 4 PakiSave Hastings pickets to continue
- 5 11 special needs athletes to compete in South America

Quiz

- 1 What or who first made these catch-phrases famous? "Show me the money."
- 2 "You bet your sweet bippy."
- 3 "Be all that you can be."
- 4 "Every day, in every way, I am getting better and better."
- 5 "To infinity, and beyond."

Joke of the day

Q What do you call the owner of a tool factory?
A The vice chairman.

Bible quote

"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and join to his wife: And they two shall be one flesh: so then they are no more two, but one flesh." (Mark 10:5-8 A/K/V)

History

- 321:** Roman emperor Constantine, a Christian, proclaims Sunday a day of rest and religious observance.
- 1778:** Prussia declares war on Austria, starting War of Bavarian Succession.
- 1881:** Britain persuades Turkey to sign convention with Greece, whereby Greece gets Thessaly.
- 1944:** Soviet forces retake Minsk from Germans, capturing 100,000 troops.
- 1950:** US and North Korean troops clash for first time in Korean War.
- 1954:** Food rationing, imposed during World War II, ends in Britain.

Birthdays

- Franz Kafka, Austrian author (1883-1924)
- Ken Russell, English film director (1927-)
- Tom Stoppard, British playwright (1937-)
- Sir Richard Hadlee, NZ cricketer (1951-)
- Tom Cruise, US actor (1962-)
- Yearley Smith, US actor (1964-)

Quiz Answers

- 1 Jerry Maguire
- 2 Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In
- 3 US Army recruitment slogan from the late 1970s to 2001
- 4 Emile Coue, a the French positive thinking advocate and teacher
- 5 Buzz Lightyear, Toy Story

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FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Our Facebook post "Horser's mysterious death devastates Haamona owners and friends" has prompted the following comments.

- **Jude McNeill:** Poor baby, RIP Diesel.
- **Kim Cui:** Heart-breaking.

- **Lynley Halpin:** So, so sad. Poor pony.
- **Rob Johnson:** Stink.
- **Samantha Hughes:** Diesel was such a beautiful boy and did not deserve this kind of ending to his life. I hope the police find those responsible for this incident and I hope the council pays notice to the

fact that something needs to happen along this road to prevent it being used as a race track. #justicefordiesel

THOUGHT OF THE DAY: I smile every time I think about...

- **Hiranda Solomon:** Food. :)
- **Karen Taohau:** My grandchildren.

- **Leon Davidson:** Making people happy.
- **Gary Brooks:** Not having to spend hours stuck in traffic.
- **Benny Rob Arata:** My family.
- **Steven Waerea:** Fishing.
- **Dennis Gore:** How lucky I am to live in Napier.
- **Sandy Fryer:** My grandchildren.