

Korokoro Environmental Group Annual Report September to end September 2017



Committee

Chair: Julie Haggie
Treasurer: Not filled
Secretary: Not filled
Members: Ruth Mansell, Paul Thomas, Tamsin Falconer, John Ainsworth

Thanks to all those who volunteers who have helped out, including:

Stephen Church, Greg Robson, Charles Anderton, Tamsin and ant Falconer, Julie Haggie, Cathy Priest, Vanessa Brown, Mike and Cathy Priest, Maarten Vink, Dan and Kelly Forster, Katherine McKenzie, Jacquie Harrison, Kirstie Knowles, Daniel Jones, R Bennett, Liam Daly, Dave McCluskie, Campbell Gardiner and any one else not included in the list above.

KEG has continued to provide community support on environmental matters during the year

Pest monitoring

Thanks to Paul Thomas and also to Sara Moylan from GWRC. Pest monitoring has occurred since 2009. The August 2017 report of the pest monitoring results showed that after steadily increasing over the last five monitors, rat tracking is now at its highest ever recorded in the Korokoro Valley site (32%), exceeding the previous high of 27% recorded in February 2013.

The mice tracking rate decreased slightly, but has remained fairly constant, between 30 to 40 % over the last five monitors (Figure 10). GWRC has also started setting traps for hedgehogs.

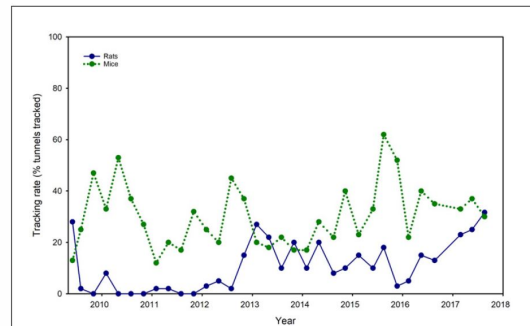


Figure 10: Rat and mouse tracking rates in the Belmont Korokoro KNE site

The GWRC report states that:

The relative abundance of rats is compared to management targets that have been set for the various KNE sites. For the Wainuiomata Mainland Island and East Harbour Northern Forest the target is a TTI of no more than 5%. For all the other KNE sites the target for rats is a TTI of no more than 10%.

No target is applied to mice because of the difficulty in controlling mice populations. Controlling rat numbers is considered to be more important than mice populations for protecting bird populations. Mice populations can also increase when rat numbers are controlled due to decreased competition for food.

Rodent tracking can give highly variable results. Consequently, these targets should be considered as aspirational rather than definitive. Management decisions should consider the degree of population change, time-of-year, or the prediction of a coming mast season.

Continuing Enviroschool support

Kelly has continued to support the Enviroschool project at Korokoro school, which focussed on the garden.

Refresh of the Korokoro walking map

Dan Forster and Kelly did a lot of work to refresh the walking map and we got 250 copies printed by Hutt City Council. It was distributed at the Korokoro School Fair and advertised in the Korokoro Community News. Thanks to Dan, Kelly and Craig Cottrill at Hutt City Council

Korokoro Access due to K-Mart

Ruth Mansell and Julie Haggie met with the Mayor to raise concerns about restriction to Korokoro resident access to Hutt Road due to the K-Mart building.

Whilst there we raised concerns about the lack of consultation with the community about possible loss of access to Priests Ave if the P2G goes through and also highlighted our main concerns in relation to the P2G project.

Represented at the Inanga Love Park meeting and picnic

In February 2017 Julie Haggie attended a picnic and meeting of interested individuals led by a group of artists who had collaborated to smarten up the Inanga Love Park and support the work of those doing work at the Korokoro stream exit to the sea, where the inanga are most likely to spawn.

Regular information provided in the Korokoro Community News

Ruth and Julie have provided regular updates on KEG work for the Korokoro Community news during the year.

Community Emergency Management response awareness

Julie Haggie worked with Sam Ripley from the Wellington Region emergency Management Office, to run a community bbq and information afternoon at the Korokoro School Hall in December 2016. This gave people the opportunity to talk about community preparedness in the event of emergencies.

Notable Trees.

From July through to September 2016, KEG lightly supported the appeal from the East Harbour Environmental Association Incorporated (EHEA), of decisions on the proposed plan change 36 to the Operative City of Lower Hutt district plan concerning Notable Trees and Vegetation Removal Provisions. The EHEA considered that the amendment by Hutt City Council to the rule resulted in a reduction of protection for trees. The appeal went to mediation.

P2G Petone to Grenada Link Road.

KEG monitored the progress on the P2G planning, including seeking an OIA on all relevant reports relating to environmental impacts.

Stall informing people about pest management

Julie coordinated the running of a stall at the Korokoro School fair 14 March 2017, along with GWRC (pest control information). The stall was quite popular as GWRC brought along pest traps and stuffed pests. We also gave out copies of the map.

For any communications regarding KEG or this report, please contact Julie Haggie, Secretary, Korokoro Environmental Group, 5891704, or visit our website www.keg.huttcity.org.nz