



moehau
environment
group

'Pāteke Hotspot' Coromandel Kiwi Project



**Help us protect our
Pāteke, our native
aquatic bird species
& our kiwi!**



Stoats kill our native bird species and hunt both day and night. They have excellent eyesight, good hearing and a strong sense of smell and can move very quickly. Unfortunately they have a huge impact on our native bird populations and eat baby birds and eggs in nests. Stoats check every burrow and hollow they see and if they find a ground-nesting bird it has very little chance to escape.



Pāteke - Brown Teal,
the rarest duck found in Aotearoa.

Population Count: 2000-2500
estimated to live in the wild.



Weweia - New Zealand dabchick

Estimated at 1,900-2,000 individuals
estimated to live in the wild.

ABOUT MOEHAU ENVIRONMENT GROUP

MEG has a long standing history of predator control and community advocacy in Coromandel Town and in the north of the peninsula. Our aim has always been about controlling the presence of mustelids, rats, possums and wild cats.

It is common when someone encounters a stoat for them to get in touch with us and we do everything possible in assisting them in accessing traps and learning how to become a trapper. It was just this that started occurring repeatedly from November 2022 through to January 2023. Members of the community started approaching 'MEG' telling us about their stoat experience around town. A family of stoats was seen swimming across the river and another stoat(s) was reported to be brazenly running around properties and whipping about the rivers edge. The loss of ducklings that ensued was also noticed.

Right next to this hot spot of stoat activity is a river which travels from the Coromandel ranges to the sea. The river borders Hauraki Road which goes to Coromandel Town's Refuse Centre and Sewage Disposal Plant and it is at the Sewage Disposal Plant where one of Coromandel's local bird photographers just happened to discover the congregation of a variety of different native bird species such as pāpango (black teal/ NZ scaup), kōtuku ngutupapa (royal spoonbill), weweia (New Zealand dabchick), pūtakitaki / paradise shelduck, rakiraki/mallard, poaka/pied stilt and in prolific numbers, pāteke/brown teal.

We are looking to create a new trap line in this area to protect these treasured pāteke and other aquatic bird species so this coming summer stoats are not seen running around town. This is important as stoats can travel up to 45 kilometers and will leave their mother's den to find new territory.

As Coromandel Town is not far from native bush and the Coromandel Ranges provides its backdrop, we have the presence of kiwi in the hills, kaka in people's backyards, morepork, kereru, tui and many different native bird species.

Thousands of predator traps cover the Coromandel peninsula but are predominantly found in the bush and along walking paths. Seeing a trap in the town or in a person's backyard is rare. A lot of trap lines have been placed to protect kiwi and help create a safer habitat for kiwi to survive. When trapping does not occur in an area it can become the perfect breeding ground for stoats and predators.





Sewage Ponds
opposite the transfer
station

Retirement Village

Our aim to place traps in at least **30 backyards** but ideally in each house along Hauraki road, in the downtown residential houses behind the shops at the bottom of town and at the retirement village. We want to work with local iwi, businesses and our school. We want to place traps into the community space of the Memorial Forest which runs along the river, the wharf where boats are serviced, the neglected netball courts/ skatepark, and as close to the council owned sewage ponds and refuse centre as possible with council permission.

Our aim is to get at least 50 Doc 200's into the field and to do a baseline survey using tracking tunnels and bird counts.

Stoat Hot spot

We aim to :

- Monitor our species & protect Birds
- Work with local iwi
- Build & Install traps
- Get more traps into our local backyards.
- Work with our local school & community
- Work with local council, land owners and businesses
- Humanely trap stoats & rats.



Once we have our trap building materials we will work with local teachers from the Coromandel Area School and get the kids to assemble the traps while they learn about native birds and predator trapping.

This will provide a great opportunity for the next generation of 'trappers' to learn about trapping and conservation management.



Pāpango-(black teal/ NZ scaup) , the only diving species found in Aotearoa. Protected since 1930



Rats and stoats prey on indigenous birds, reptiles and invertebrates. They have caused the decline or extinction of many of our native insects and lizards.

Join this project by sponsoring us

We need funds to purchase the trap materials and get this project up and running. Your financial contribution will provide the ability to purchase the materials needed to build the trap box and purchase the trap mechanism. A volunteer trap builder will cut the wood and pre drill the holes, and the children from the Coromandel Area School will assemble the boxes. MEG volunteers will place the traps into position and the new trap line will be added to the Coromandel Kiwi Project. Get in touch with us to talk about our different corporate sponsorship tiers and how we can work together. Thank you so much for your donations! We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for you and your generous donation!

Every stoat we are able to catch in Coromandel town, is one less stoat breeding and predated on kiwi and our other native bird species.

Website: www.meg.org.nz
Email us on info@meg.org.nz
or follow us on Instagram &
FB

or phone MEG's Community Engagement
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