



# FRIENDS OF A'DEANES BUSH

## ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2017 – JUNE 2018

### 1. To facilitate involvement of local community and raise public profile

- Sherwood school visited the Bush 9 times over this period. Calendar year of 2017 had a focus on bats and moths – during this time we mounted and identified the moths caught in the first part of the year, and did a bit of research on Long tailed bats. Calendar year of 2018 has a focus on trees, lizards and popokatea.
- Community planting day in September 2017 with a focus on celebrating 10 years since the inception of the project. We planted about 400 plants and then had a shared bbq which FOSS organised. About 40 people came to this celebration.
- 1 student (ex Sherwood) participated in servicing traps as part of Duke of Edinburgh award for 6 months. Volunteer time approximately 1 hour per week.
- Liaise and supervise with Bel Group and Young Farmers / Rob Barry that have helped to service 40 traps in surrounding landscape (Halo traps). Unfortunately they are not continuing with this, although BelGroup are happy to continue paying someone to do it.
- Kept Tamatea Taiwhenua updated with happenings in the bush with a presentation in 2017 .
- Sent out updates to Friends of A'Deane's Bush by email
- Kept updated a Facebook page for Friends of A'Deane's Bush
- Hawke's Bay Branch of Kiwi Conservation Children (KCC) came for a day visit with approx. 35 children and families participating.

### 2. To monitor presence of introduced mammals

- Table 1 - Tracking tunnels showing percentage of tunnels tracked.

date	24.11.17	14.02.18	8.05.18	
rats	2.6	17	5.8	
mice	45	29	97	
hedgehog	5.2	12	0	
insect	29	50	0	
untracked	25	0	3	

- Rodents appeared to have a very good breeding season despite copious quantities of bait being deployed and eaten. There wasn't any massive seeding so it was difficult to tell what was driving the population explosion, except good weather.
- 3 A24 traps installed and had cameras on them to see what was using them. One camera got stolen within one week of it being deployed. Cameras were taken in for a few months after that. However, 2 A24s were also deployed at Puahanui Bush, with a camera on one. Over 3 months, with GN stoat and mustelid lure being used, only 1 rat actually put it's head anywhere near the trap, but didn't get it right up and wasn't killed. Many other animals sniffed around the trap, (rats, mice, 10 cats, possums, ferrets,) but not one of

them showed any interest in the trap or the lure. No stoats were found to be using the area or interested in the trap.

### 3. To control introduced mammals

- 50 traps within the Bush cleared and rebaited every 2 weeks in summer and once a month in winter
- Table 2 : trap results within the bush

		Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18
	totals		totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals
hhogs	25		1	2		1		8	1	7	4	1	
cats	7		3			1					1		2
rats	24		2	1	2	1		3	2	7	3	1	2
mice	1											1	
stoat	2		1					1					
birds	1							1					
ferret	4		2	1							1		
kitten	0												
weasels	3				2						1		
possum	3		1	1					1				
rabbit	0												
	70												

- Halo traps - Liaise and train Young farmers group who have serviced 42 traps in surrounding landscape over 6 months from October to March but have now stopped this service. Traps loaded onto Trap.nz. We will find some other people to take over the maintenance of the halo traps in the near future.
- Table 3: trap results in the Halo.

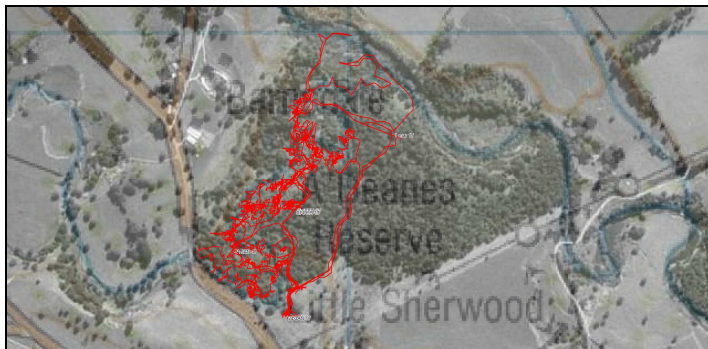
		Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18
	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals	totals
cats	12		5	1								6	
ferret	2		1							1			
stoat	0												
weasels	1					1							
hedgehog	62		5	8	10	18		1	2	9		9	
rat	9				2	2			1	3		1	
mice	1		1										
bird	3		1			1		1					
possum	0												
rabbit	0												
Total	90												

- RatAbate pulsed throughout the bush approximately every 8 weeks between September and May – a total of 200 baits of 100 grams = 20 kgs.
- Possums – monitor done by Dineen monitoring – 0 RTC. However, we had caught one the week before, and the line was through the edge of the bush and in blackberry which residual possums are unlikely to be living in. Over the year just 2 caught in sentinels, but a bit of interference at bait stations noted.

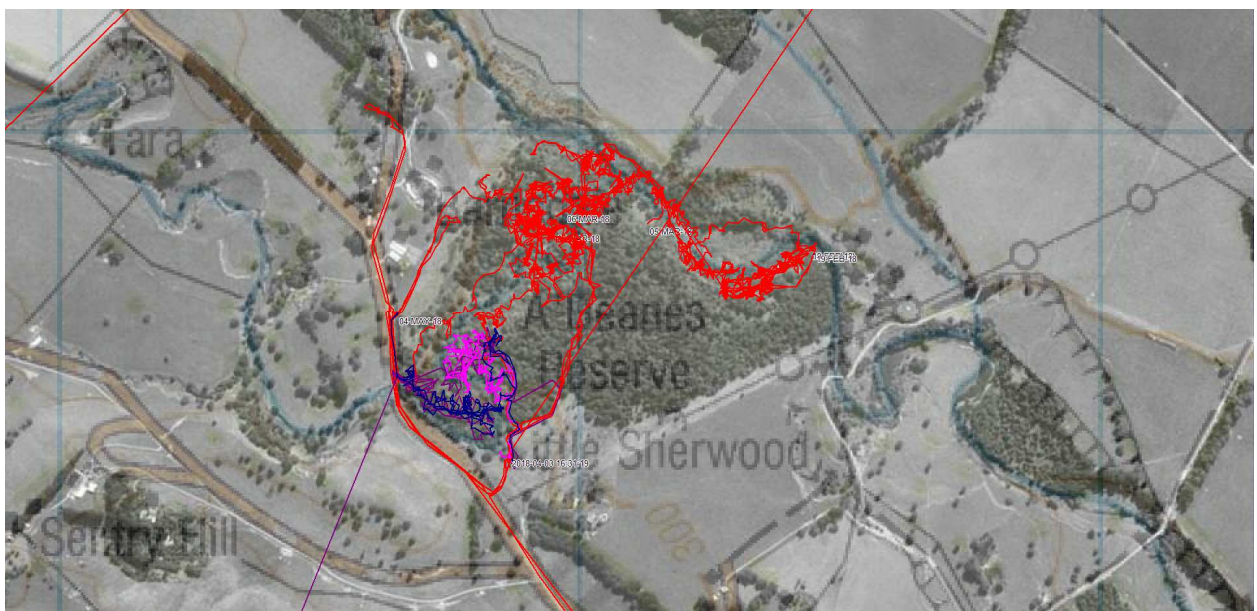
#### 4. To control invasive plants

- Approximately 100 person hours were spent searching for and treating Old Man's Beard by cut and paste with Vigilant or spraying sprawling plants with a glyphosate and metsulfuron mix. The whole river system, banks and edge of the bush were searched again with another 50 adults found and treated and hundreds of juvenile and seedlings. Many of these are amongst thickets of blackberry so can be hard to find and treat.
- Periwinkle and Tradescantia were treated twice with Triclop.
- Selaginella along the track was treated by DOC.
- Some cotoneaster (8) and flowering cherry (5) plants were also controlled.

Map 1 – OMB tracking in Jan – Mar 2017



Map 2 – OMB tracking Jan – May 2018



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## **5. To monitor native species response to above control**

- Weta houses all occupied with Auckland tree weta – occupancy rates vary. Also some of the rifleman boxes contain Auckland tree weta too.
- Lizard and Insect retreats checked at least twice a year – Peripatus, Auckland tree weta, spiders and darkling beetles all common inhabitants
- Bats were recorded using automatic recorders during January. Also a bat searching evening with handheld detectors recorded just one pass. About 10 people came to that evening.

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## **6. To re-vegetate margins of bush and wetlands in appropriate species**

- Sherwood school shade-house has a coordinator funded through DoC Community Fund – the shadehouse produced 380 plants for the bush over the last year. 34 Children were involved in all aspects of growing and planting.
- DOC Ahuriri nursery provided about 400 plants which were planted at the community planting day

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## **7. To re-introduce appropriate locally extinct species**

- 59 Rifleman were translocated in April 2014 and a further 31 in April 2016. The birds were once again monitored through the breeding season of 17 /18 with 3 families with 2-3 fledged juveniles in each family found. One family contained a banded bird from the first transfer. More families than this would be expected if survival and recruitment is even moderate. However, birds were difficult to monitor as they were unresponsive to playback calls. Some further survey work was carried out in March and April – with birds still be very unresponsive to playback calls. A few birds were found scattered throughout, although all birds seen were unbanded juveniles so very difficult to tell if they were the same birds or not.