

CELEBRATING
10
YEARS
PEST-FREE



Teaming with wildlife
*Guardians of the Bay of
Islands Inc. Annual Report*
Nga Kaiawhi o Nga Kaitiaki o Ipipiri
For the year ended 30 June 2020

2050 Whāinga 2050 Goal

The ancient dawn chorus is restored



With their extraordinarily haunting song, kōkako evoke the forests of ancient Aotearoa. Our goal is for their call to echo out from Rakaumangamanga once again.

Tō mātou Moemoeā

Our vision

Goal 1 By 2020

Enable efficient, reliable and cost effective operational and volunteer transportation.

Goal 2 By 2021

Every Bay of Islands student has experienced the Project Island Song outdoor classroom.

Goal 3 By 2023

Island tourism activities contribute 25% of the Project Island Song operational revenue.

Goal 4 By 2029

Habitat restoration enables kukupa, korimako, and ōi to return and thrive.

The islands of Ipipiri are an archipelago of sanctuaries, alive with the dawn chorus, where both people and New Zealand's unique wildlife prosper in harmony.

Project Island Song is a unique partnership between community group the Guardians of the Bay of Islands, Te Rawhiti hapū (Ngāti Kuta and Patukeha) and the Department of Conservation.

By drawing together the energy, talent and culture of local people the partnership is dedicated to achieving the common goal of restoring ecological balance to the islands and the mainland coastal forest of Rakaumangamanga/Cape Brett.

Together, through our key programme of activities we can achieve our mission to protect, sustain and help restore the natural birdlife of Ipipiri, to enable our special place and people to thrive now and in the future.



Biosecurity

Protecting the wildlife safe haven by stopping non-native predators and weeds from getting to the pest-free islands.



Revegetation

Restoring native habitat so that the islands flourish.



Weeding

Removal of non-native plants.



Native species reintroductions

Returning vulnerable native wildlife.



Education

Providing future generations of kiwis with inspiring learning.



Wildlife tours

Experience New Zealand's unique wildlife, wild as nature intended.

Pānui mai i ngā Heamana Message from the Co-Chairs

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Last year the Project Island Song partners shared a celebration of 'ten years pest-free'. This being the time since mammalian pests were eradicated from the islands of Ipipiri in the eastern Bay of Islands. The project partners - community conservation group the Guardians of the Bay of Islands who lead Project Island Song along with Ngāti Kuta and Patukeha hāpu from Te Rāwhiti and the Department of Conservation celebrated this milestone together with our project team, volunteers, supporters and the wider community. These wonderful people and organisations have all helped to make Project Island Song a success.

As we celebrated this milestone together in November 2019 at the Duke of Marlborough in Russell, little did we know that an event in Wuhan, China was unfolding that would stop the world in its tracks. During this year of global upheaval, we acknowledge those whose lives have been impacted by Covid 19, those who have helped us through it, and those whose jobs and businesses have been impacted. And we thank our lucky stars that we live in Aotearoa, where most of us are safe and had time to reflect, where Papatūānuku had a moment to rest.

We now look to the future with a new appreciation for our vulnerability, but also with hope that this event has presented an opportunity for Project Island Song and the wider Bay of Islands community to emerge stronger. We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world and have a responsibility to keep it that way. Our island sanctuaries are havens for taonga species that have evolved here over 80 million years.

The mainland coastal forest of Rakaumangamanga/Cape Brett is being protected and restored as part of a wider collaboration of groups (including Project Island Song) who are collectively working towards Te Tangi o Te Ata Ecological Sanctuary. The Maunganui Bay rāhui and a proposed Marine Mammal Sanctuary give us a glimpse of how this may extend into marine environment and could one day see all of Ipipiri become a sanctuary destination for all to enjoy.

The Guardians are hugely excited about the opportunities ahead. We have recognised that the operating model that had seen us through the past ten years may not sustain us into the future. We are exploring a creative, diversified and ambitious funding model to secure us for the next ten years and beyond.

This annual report reflects our achievements to date, our goals for the future and how we will accomplish these.

Noho ora mai,

Fleur Corbett and Barb Elboz

Co-Chairs, Guardians of the Bay of Islands Inc.

“We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world and have a responsibility to keep it that way.”



Tō mātou tau ki muri Our year in review

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I am pleased to introduce the Guardians of the Bay of Islands Inc. annual report for the year ended 30 June 2020. Over the last financial year, we have continued to deliver on our ongoing priorities, including the vital biosecurity, weeding, and habitat restoration programmes. In addition, we have focused our minds on long-term ecological restoration planning and the development of the Project Island Song strategic goals to meet its delivery.

Volunteers are the powerhouse of our work. To help empower our volunteers we implemented an integrated volunteer management system, the Project Island Song Volunteer Hub. Volunteers can now take control of their own dashboard and how and when they want to volunteer. The Volunteer Hub also improves our abilities to manage our growing portfolio of volunteer activities, enables more proactive engagement and communication, and improves our record keeping.

Celebrating 10-year pest-free was a highlight of the year. However, we have also faced major challenges. Northland experienced exceptionally low levels of rainfall. The impact the drought had on the islands was clear, with streams drying up and vegetation wilting. Along with water stations provided on private properties, over 60 temporary water stations were placed on Public Conservation Land for thirsty wildlife. Key to their impact was keeping the water stations clean, as unkempt dirty water can be devastating, due to disease infestation. Getting thousands of litres of clean water distributed to the islands was a major undertaking and would not have been possible without the amazing support of our volunteers, tourism operators, private landowners, and property managers.

Project Island Song's work, as expected, has been impacted by Covid-19. Monitoring for pest incursions on the islands, our weeding and planting programmes, floating classrooms and translocations were all put on hold during lockdown. Although this was a tough time for us all, when we were able to return to the islands, we saw that nature had thrived. This prompted us to release our video 'The Great Return' which highlights the opportunities both humans and nature have when we have time to stop and reset.

In the year ahead, we will continue to deliver our ecological restoration, education, and fundraising activities. Along with the Covid-19 postponed kākariki translocation, we are beginning the significant work on our next planned species reintroductions. These include Northland green gecko, tītīpounamu/rifleman, and our first invertebrate species, the wētāpunga.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the Guardians committee, our team of contractors, partners, members, volunteers, and landowners for their dedication and commitment to the important work we do.

Ngā mihi

Richard Robbins, General Manager, Project Island Song



10

years pest-free

39k

trees planted
since 2003

182

volunteers

4609

volunteer hours

6

reintroductions
to date

28

weeding days

4

planting days

7

pest incursions,
all removed

64

generous donors

130

members







Tīeke/North Island saddleback,
reintroduced in 2015

Ā tātou pūtea Our finances

The Guardians have been successful in mobilising grant support including Foundation North for our operational delivery, Joyce Fisher Charitable Trust to support our educational programme, and Lottery Environment and Heritage for our species reintroductions.

We received \$236,706 in FY19/20* but only spent \$164,088 due to lockdown and we have grants of \$210,254 carried over to be spent in FY20/21† on delayed translocations and education programmes.

Over the coming year spending is expected to rise sharply as we protect gains on the islands (including pest and weed control) and ramp up support for Te Tangi o Te Ata ecological sanctuary on the mainland.

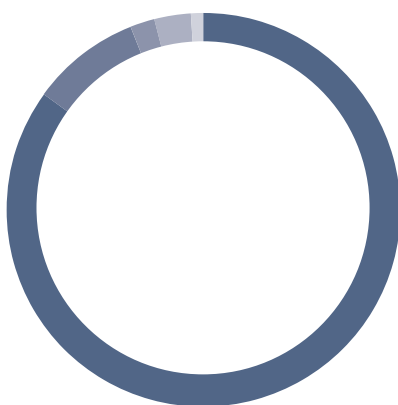
Spending on volunteer and mission delivery costs will also rise as we staff up to strengthen programme management. A new administrator and engagement manager have been

appointed to support the general manager. To enable effective programme delivery \$182,000 has been allocated to staffing in the FY20/21 budget. Volunteer in-kind contributions over the same period will provide significant extra value.

As a result of carried-over and new spending, total expenses are expected to double in FY20/21†. Revenues will have to rise accordingly to avoid an operating deficit and protect our financial viability.

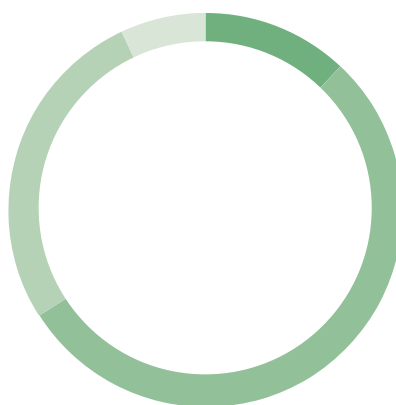
Fundraising over the coming year will focus on urgent spending for species reintroductions, habitat restoration, and education and engagement programmes. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 in FY20/21† for the operational and capital budgets. Our fundraising strategy will aim to diversify funding sources, improve flexibility and strengthen sustainability over the medium term.

Revenue \$192,842 100%



Grants	\$164,088	85%
Other donations and fundraising	\$18,169	9%
Fees and subscriptions from members	\$3,365	2%
From providing goods and services	\$4,855	3%
Interest income	\$2,365	1%

Expenses \$173,592 100%



Related to public fundraising	\$20,879	12%
Volunteer and employee/mission delivery costs	\$92,798	54%
Costs of providing goods & services	\$47,616	27%
Other expenses	\$12,299	7%

Surplus \$19,250

Assets \$301,855

Bank accounts and cash \$159,312

Other current assets \$127,314

Property, plant and equipment \$15,229

Liabilities \$221,921

Unused tagged grants and donations \$210,254

Other liabilities \$11,667

Net Assets \$79,933

*1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020 †1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

Tō tātou ekenga ki mua hāi Our future

Our sustainable future strategy has been developed to help us focus on our strategic direction. The four core areas are:

- Excellence in wildlife conservation
- Destination Project Island Song
- Resilient partnerships
- Viable enterprise

This year nature has taught us that by allowing ourselves to stop, refresh and re-boot we can thrive. Although our goals may have been impacted in the short term with our future strategy in place, we are able to adapt, look at alternatives and find possibilities and opportunities that may not have been available pre Covid-19.

Our financial requirements going forward

Historical support from grants

These have been very generous and appreciated, in the short-term there have been delays due to lockdown, however, we will catch up in the coming year and will be working hard to sustain grant support going forward.

New spending on priority programmes

Going forward we want to be able to sustain progress on islands, ramp up support for Te Tangi o Te Ata and ensure staff support to improve our programme delivery. We are also looking to increase our capital spending for our engagement hub and water transport.

Fundraising strategy

We need to look at additional funding from diverse sources. This will help us to improve our flexibility and strengthen our sustainability over the medium term whilst maintaining prudent financial management.

For future generations

Children of Russell School
building pest traps as part
of our Floating Classroom.
Urupukapuka







Species monitoring

Reintroduced in 2018, the ongoing monitoring of Duvaucel's gecko is being carried out to determine population growth.

Ngā mihi ki ngā Kaitautoko

Thank you to our people

As a charity we are hugely reliant on our people. Together with our volunteers, members, funders and sponsors we are able to bring the islands of Ipipiri alive again with the sound of native New Zealand birdsong.

Volunteers

Without the commitment of our strong volunteer base Project Island Song would not have achieved what it has done to date. As we look to the future we are aware how important our volunteers are to our ongoing success.

Members

Our members and corporate members contribute to the restoration and ongoing sustainability of the project. Whether it's hands getting dirty in the soil to plant a tree or making a financial contribution, our members support us to help ensure locals and visitors alike can enjoy a unique year-round experience of Northland's subtropical climate, spectacular scenery and natural heritage.

Project Team

The Guardians hugely value our team who help to make the project a success. We are committed to building capability and capacity and providing sustainable employment for local people.

Funders and sponsors

With the generosity of financial and in-kind donations our funders and supporters provide us with, we are able to sustain the work we do.

We are grateful to receive support from the following organisations:



"Volunteering with Project Island Song allows me a day out of the office to hear the birdsong, I love seeing the bush regenerate and the boat trip out to the islands."

Barbara Parris
 Botanist and weedbuster

Barbara has been volunteering with Project Island Song since 2007 and has played a vital role in gathering data from the islands to assist in weed control.

"I really enjoy the people and the worthwhile work in a very special place in NZ."

Jane
 Volunteer weedbuster and planter

Jane has volunteered with Project Island Song for seven years.

"Project Island Song is a charitable trust that desperately needs more funding to expand on the work they do. We think preserving wildlife is important and it's our way of contributing to the project."

Peter & Greg
 Arcadia Lodge, Project Island Song Corporate Members



Close your eyes... imagine the Bay of Islands you want to see

By supporting Project Island Song, we can help your vision come true...

Be a friend

Join our membership programme and help us save rare and endangered native wildlife.

Be a volunteer

Gift your time and skills to our volunteer programme and meet some amazing people and wildlife along the way.

Be a corporate member

Join our corporate membership programme and help to ensure locals and visitors alike can enjoy a unique year-round experience of Northland's subtropical climate, spectacular scenery and natural heritage.

Visit the online shop

Support Project Island Song's work by visiting our online shop where you can buy clothing and bags and more. See our website for details: projectislandsong.co.nz

Be a donor

As a charity we rely on the support of everyday kiwis and visitors.

\$10 could pay to get a native tree planted on the islands.

\$60 could fund a pest trap protecting Project Island Song for one year.

\$300 could help transport our volunteer weedbusting team to the islands.

\$1000 could help get a local primary school on our Floating Classroom education programme

\$4000 could help reintroduce an endangered native species to the islands.

Leave a gift in your will

A gift in your will to Project Island Song is a simple way to make an enduring contribution to protect and restore the natural heritage of the Bay of Islands. With your help, imagine what we could achieve for the benefit of future generations.

Be a visitor

Come and experience the pest-free Islands of Ipipiri in the Bay of Islands firsthand. Walk among regenerating native bush and trees, take in stunning sea views. Listen to the birdsong and spot reintroduced tīeke (saddleback), toutouwai (North Island robin), pōpokatea (whitehead) pāteke (brown teal) and many other species.

Fundraise for us

There are so many innovative ways of raising money, so whether you are running a marathon or having a bake sale, why not fundraise for Project Island Song and help to bring back the birdsong to the islands, note by note.

Follow us and share our story on social media

Visit us projectislandsong.co.nz

Facebook @project.island.song

Instagram @projectislandsong

YouTube /projectislandsong

If you've seen a pest on the islands please call the island pest detection hotline immediately on **0800 362 468** and also email us at **pest@projectislandsong.co.nz**

Have a question or just looking for information?
info@projectislandsong.co.nz

Interested in volunteering?
volunteer@projectislandsong.co.nz

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Caring for the environment is vitally important to Project Island Song, which is why this document is printed using Intertek Green Leaf certified inks on responsibly sourced paper.



**PROJECT
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