



TASMAN
ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

Annual Achievements Report

August 2020



Executive Summary

In 2019, Tasman Environmental Trust (TET) developed a business plan with ambitious goals to scale up community conservation in our region over a five year period.

We have made excellent progress on those goals over the last 18 months with large new collaborative programmes coming on stream.

We believe the groundwork laid now is paving the way for significant environmental gains that will continue to unfold for generations to come.

Both the geographic spread and the investment in community conservation projects in the region have increased significantly. In 2017 TET was managing projects with a total grant value of less than \$300,000. This has grown to almost \$5 million.

This year we have seen a significant new programme established in the Moutere Catchment and Moutere Inlet worth close to \$3 million. TET's hub support enabled a keen community group to respond quickly to significant funding opportunities and make amazing headway in a short period of time. TET's established relationships with other significant stakeholders including Tasman District Council (TDC), Landcare Trust, Department of Conservation (DOC), and Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) also helped get this new project across the line.

The support we have received from Rata Foundation, DOC, TDC and other funders allowed us to scale up in a planned manner. We have put in place solid governance and management systems so we can seize opportunities with confidence.

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Amplifying community effort

TET lifts the administrative load so that community groups and volunteers can focus their energy on achieving great environmental outcomes. In the last financial year we:

- submitted 14 funding applications
- managed the finances, budgets and plans for 21 TET-supported groups and/or projects, and another four Cobb Mitigation Fund projects
- wrote 16 update reports to funders
- highlighted 14 projects on our website
- presented at seven public events
- organised 20 community planting/weeding events
- organised two school planting¹ and seven school trapping events or lessons
- organised seven training/networking events
- produced 15 newsletter editions for two publications
- ran 23 Board, committee and strategy meetings
- attended 13 strategy meetings run by other organisations.



Community planting day by the Waimea Inlet

1. Lower than planned due to Covid restrictions

More investment in our region's conservation

An important measure of TET's success is investment in conservation in our region. Since 2017, the value of the projects we manage has grown more than tenfold—from less than \$300,000 in 2017 to almost \$5 million currently. The project grants we currently hold are:

Value of Tasman Environmental Trust's current programme grants

as at August 2020

Projects supported	Total grant value (does not include in-kind contributions)
Healthy Estuaries	
Waimea Inlet	
Battle for the Banded Rail Trapping (includes Mapua Dawn Chorus and Cat Management)	\$ 82,497
Battle for the Banded Rail Habitat Restoration (includes Waimea Inlet 1BT)	\$ 1,193,650
Neimann Creek	\$ 40,000
Waimea Inlet Forum	\$ 1,460
Pearl Creek	
Moutere Inlet	
Kina Bird Song	\$ 2,500
Moutere Catchment (1BT)	\$ 1,930,000
Moutere Fencing (PGF)	\$ 952,000
Nelson	
Kokorua Spit	\$ 5,000
Golden Bay	
Farming 2030*	\$ 49,300
Motupipi Restoration	\$ 80,000
Mohua Streamcare*	\$ 25,000
Cobb Mitigation Fund Programmes*	
Lower Takaka Weeds	\$ 60,000
Mid Takaka Weeds	\$ 67,000
Takaka School Whitebait Connection	\$ 4,617
Oxbow Restoration	\$ 10,090
Motueka Valley	
Farmers for Whio	\$ 80,253
Other	
Abel Tasman Southern Halo Weed Control	\$ 159,730
Wasp Wipeout	\$ 72,776
Conservation Volunteers Newsletter	\$ 6,600
Climate Forum	\$ 62,500
Regional Predator Control Coordinator	\$ 45,000
Rare Plants	
Total value of programme grants	\$ 4,929,973

* The Cobb Mitigation Fund finances conservation in the Takaka Valley. It is provided by Trust Power and administered by TET.

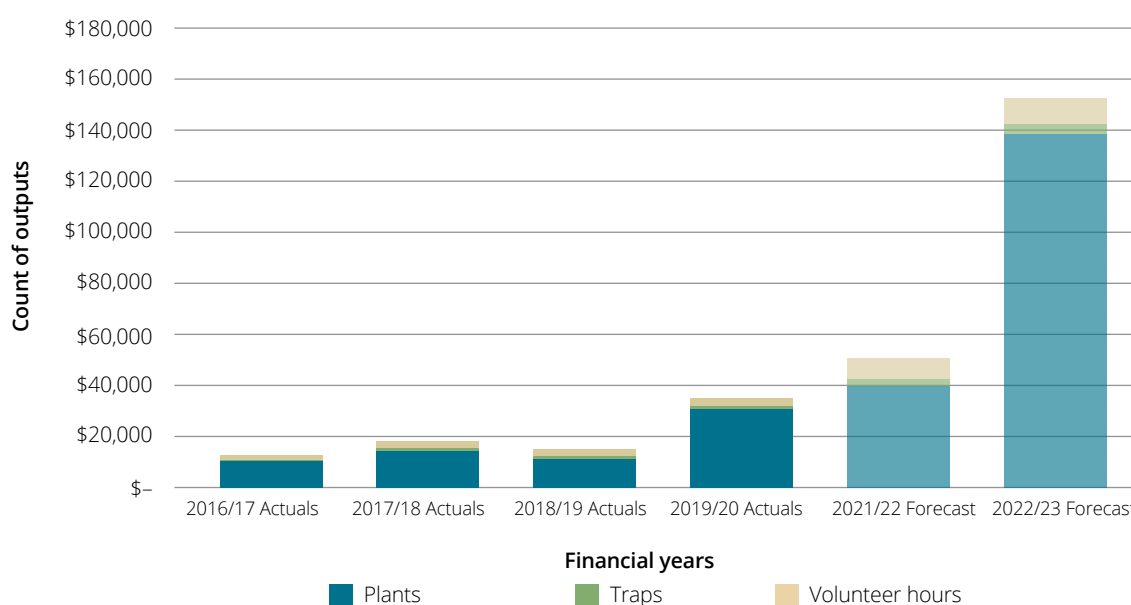
Increasing environmental outcomes

Over the past financial year, we achieved the following project output measures:²

- 1,049 monitored traps, up from 861 the year before
- 31,451 native plants planted, up from 11,662 the year before
- 3,166 volunteer hours donated, up from 2,688 the year before.

This achievement is despite a global pandemic and two years of significant drought. TET is incredibly proud of both this achievement, and the ongoing dedication and commitment of its team and hundreds of volunteers and supporters to achieve this result.

Conservation outputs by financial year



2. These figures are audited as part of our annual financial reporting .

Progress in focus areas

Healthy estuaries

Work in the Waimea Inlet is gaining momentum. The One Billion Trees funded work is achieving milestones and strengthening partnership arrangements. This planting season saw record-breaking public planting days with 50 or more local volunteers at most events. Based on the strength of our existing programme and the demonstration of broad community support, TDC successfully secured an additional \$1.1 million for habitat restoration around the Waimea Inlet.

Moutere Inlet has been added as a focus area this year with the Moutere catchment riparian restoration project under way, and Kina Bird Song group beginning trapping.

TET also hosted a Blue Carbon workshop. We are developing a regional Blue Carbon proposal focusing on restoring salt marsh and better understanding the science of carbon sequestration in estuaries in our region. The Nature Conservancy has put forward Waimea Inlet and Wairau Lagoon as possible pilot sites for a global Blue Carbon credit scheme.

Mohua Golden Bay

The Project Mohua Management Group was established in June 2019 to develop a community-led conservation plan supported by TET. The plan is in final stages of development and puts the group in a strong position for developing landscape-scale programmes for Golden Bay.



Trapping officer for the Battle for the Banded Rail demonstrates best practice

Motueka Valley

In recent months we have collaborated with NEXT Foundation fellow, Naomi Aporo, to develop a webmap and a stakeholder engagement plan. These both set strong foundations for the next phase of action planning with the community. Farmers for Whio is progressing strongly, with a field officer employed and the trap network expanding at pace. 270 traps have been deployed completing the river corridor sections in the Graham and Pearse valleys and the Motueka river between.

Regional predator control

Our Regional Predator Control Coordinator has surveyed all trapping groups in the Tasman Region and worked with consultants developing a species vulnerability model to help prioritise areas for predator control. We are now consulting with partners on TET's regional predator strategy.

More collaborations

We have continued to work on developing collaborative networks for more effective community conservation outcomes.

- **Nelson City Council** has proposed a trial partnership agreement to be reviewed in subsequent years.
- **Tasman District Council** has included an ongoing contribution to TET in their draft long term plan. We regularly collaborate on specific projects including Waimeha Inlet work and Moutere Catchment.
- **Department of Conservation** provides significant operational and project support.
- **Iwi** connections are strengthening. We have made a concerted effort this year to develop a stronger partnership approach with iwi in our region and to understand how we can support each other.
- **Other environmental NGOs** — We have maintained relationships with The Nature Conservancy, NEXT Foundation, Project Janszoon, Friends of Flora and Health Post with the aim of identifying opportunities to collaborate on regional programmes.
- **Other government agencies** — We have had relationship-building conversations with the Ministry of Primary Industries and Ministry for the Environment. We have established a successful collaboration with Corrections with a focus on habitat restoration activities.



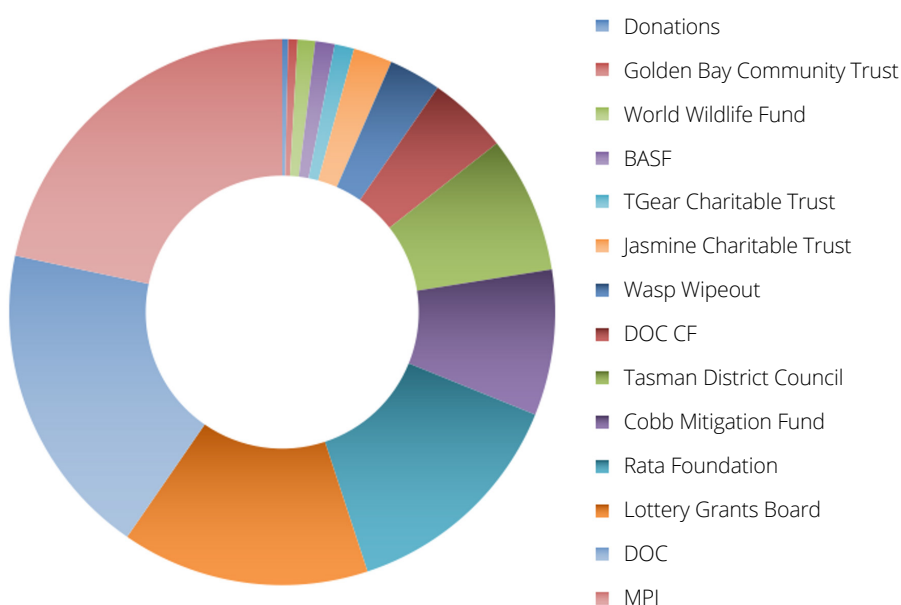
Family of Whio on the Graham River 2019

- **Other local entities** — This year we developed closer working relationships with Whenua Iti Outdoors, NMIT and Tasman Bay Guardians and continue to explore how we can better align our programmes. Our Regional Predator Control Coordinator has surveyed local trapping groups and individuals to learn how we can better support a groundswell of effective community trapping.
- **Conservation hub network** — We are members of a national conservation hubs network, sharing resources, ideas, and experiences.

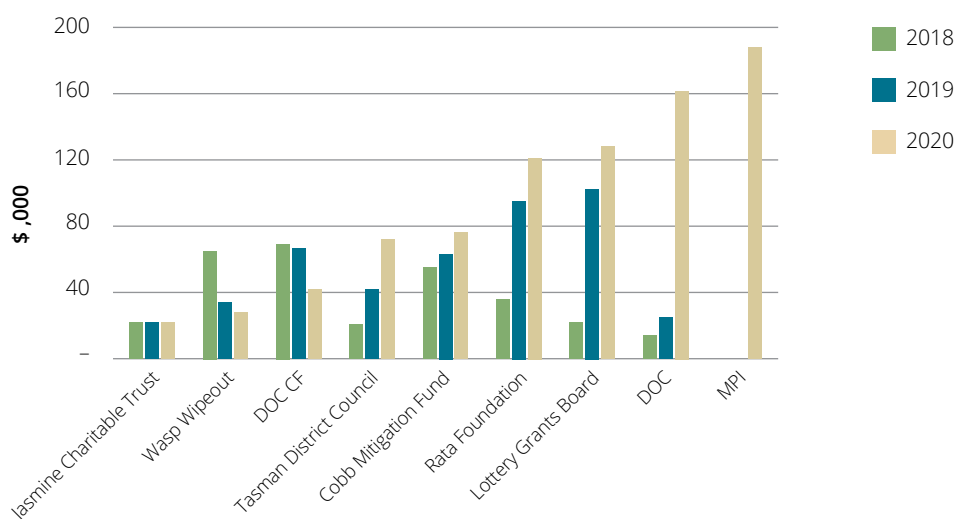
Diversifying our funding base

We have developed a sustainable funding plan with a focus on diversifying our untaged funding to support hub activities. Priority fundraising actions this year include developing a membership programme, increasing donations, and setting up a bequests programme. In 2019/20 we received funding from 14 different sources.

Grant sources financial year 2019/20



Sources of significant funding received by TET over the last three financial years



Boosting communications

Over the past year we put in place the building blocks for a stronger voice for community conservation. Nick Ryan, an employee of XVI in Sydney, donated his time to run a 'Tone of Voice' workshop and develop a guide for our communications. We have also developed a communications plan that identifies priority actions over the short and medium term.



Strengthening governance

The board of trustees is committed to a culture of continuous improvement. It carried out an assessment of board strengths and capabilities and has completed annual self-reviews using the NZ Navigator assessment tool. Staff and board members have participated in a number of governance training events.

The board has focused on developing a robust set of policies and procedures to guide culture, decision making and accountability. TET has seven formal policies that guide all its activities. The policies have been signed off by the board and policy review is now part of the board's annual work plan.