THE LIVE & LET LIVE PROJECT

Live and Let Live was a three-month pilot project based in an area of high biodiversity on the margins of the Waimea Inlet in the Tasman District.

It was designed to reduce predation on native birds and other species by trapping feral cats in an area with a domestic cat population.

The project trialled ways of working collaboratively with local cat owners in order to protect domestic cats during trapping, and to promote responsible cat management in the area.

Although the project received generous support from the Tasman District Council and the Department of Conversation, the project was an independent, community-led project.

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The project received a highly positive response and support from the community in general, and from residents and cat-owners in the pilot project area.

2. The project was facilitated by the fact that the Waimea Inlet is already the focus of conservation and restoration activities by individuals and community groups. This pre-existing understanding of conservation values, combined with pre-existing networks around the inlet, made word-of-mouth communication easier and also made it easier to obtain volunteer assistance when required.

3. Support of the project by Tasman District Council and the Department of Conservation gave the project considerable legitimacy with the public, with organisations like the SPCA, and with local veterinarians who undertook the micro-chipping on behalf of the project.

4. The offer to microchip domestic cats free of charge during the period of the pilot gave the project a clear and tangible means to demonstrate its aim of working collaboratively with cat-owners to protect their pets while feral cat trapping was in progress. 40 domestic cats were identified within project area by house visits. 37 vouchers were issued for free microchipping. 25 cats were actually microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

5. Information obtained by GPS tracking of the home ranges of local domestic cats proved a powerful tool in demonstrating the potential for predation by pet animals around Waimea Inlet.

6. The project did not follow-up reports from local residents of stray and feral cat sightings on their properties. Setting of traps in these areas (which were outside the project's defined trapping area) might be worth considering in future.

a. AIMS OF THE PROJECT

The project ran for a period of three months with the aim of reducing the predation of banded rail and other vulnerable native bird species on the margins of the Waimea Inlet - an area which is home to feral as well as domestic cats. The project aimed to reduce predation by trapping feral cats, and at the same time encouraging the responsible management of domestic cats.

SEE ATTACHMENT 1: Map of Pilot Area

The project also aimed to:

- Encourage community understanding of the significant ecological values of the Waimea Inlet
- Encourage community understanding of the impact of cats - wild and domestic - on native birds
- Collect data which will contribute to scientific research into predator control in NZ.
- To trial an approach to feral cat management in an area where domestic cats were also present

A critically important part of the project was to create allies for the project amongst local residents by protecting domestic cats during trapping and by keeping them informed throughout the project.

The project aimed to achieve its goals by:

1. Communicating fully with residents in pilot area
2. Collecting data about cat movements in the project area
3. Protecting domestic cats during trapping period
4. Advising residents on alternative ways to keep their cats safe during trapping
5. Trapping feral cats (in live capture cages)
6. Reporting publicly on the project at its conclusion

The project involved close collaboration between local conservationists, government departments and the local district council.

- Tasman District Council
- Department of Conservation
- Waimea Inlet Forum
- Tasman Environmental Trust
- Battle for the Banded Rail

b. CONTEXT

NATIONAL CONTEXT

The debate about the negative effect of cats on native bird species has reached a national level in New Zealand, in large part because of media attention focused on the activities of the Morgan Foundation which has argued strongly for the control of domestic cats and the eradication of feral cats.

It is a contentious issue which has provoked very heated debate.

Responsible cat management has been the subject of discussion, debate and activity throughout New Zealand involving interest groups such as:

- D.O.C. (Pest Control Strategies)
- Local government (Pest Management Plans and Strategies)
- Morgan Foundation & other advocates for responsible cat management
- Informal feral cat eradication campaigns throughout NZ
- Animal protection organisations e.g. SPCA
- Cat-lovers, pro-cat lobbyists

Active research is in progress in New Zealand on the range and effects of cat predation. Dr K. Heidy Kikillus, Victoria University and Myfanwy Emeny, Wellington City Council were very supportive of this pilot and gave public presentations at conclusion of pilot on research conducted and initiatives already undertaken in NZ setting to reduce predation by domestic cats. The presentation by Dr K. Heidy Kikillus was supported by funding from Environlink.

NATIONAL CAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Live and Let Live Project was launched in April 2016 very soon after a the establishment of a National Cat Management Strategy Group comprising eight national organisations to "develop a national overarching strategy for responsible, caring and humane cat management in New Zealand through a collaborative and proactive approach."

In commenting on the issue, the Strategy Group acknowledged that while "exact cat numbers are unknown" research suggest that there are "approximately 1,400,000 owned cats (NZCAC, 2016), an estimated 196,000 stray cats (NZVA, 2013)" and that studies show "between 0.2 and 1.2 feral cats per ha in natural landscapes, or 2.4 to 14 million feral cats nationally."

VISION OF THE NATIONAL CAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

"Cats in New Zealand are responsibly owned and valued and humanely managed in a way that protects their welfare, and our unique environment, by 2025"

GOALS OF THE NATIONAL CAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

- All cats are responsibly owned, valued and the benefits of cat ownership are recognised The intrinsic value of owning a cat is recognised

- Cat management is supported through an appropriate legislative, regulatory and educative framework.
- The protection of our native species and ecosystems is enhanced through the humane management of cats (so that there are no feral or stray cats in New Zealand)
- Minimising the negative impact of cats on the community and our shared environment, both urban and rural.

Full National Cat Management Strategy available on line: ***http://tinyurl.com/National-Cat-Management***

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS:

- NZ Veterinary Association
- Companion Animal Society
- NZ Companion Animal Council
- SPCA
- Local Government New Zealand
- Morgan Foundation

OBSERVER ORGANISATIONS:

- Department of Conservation
- Ministry for Primary Industries

INTERESTED PARTIES:

- New Zealanders - cat owning and non-cat owning
- Regional and Territorial Authorities
- Cat groups
- Landcare New Zealand
- Federated Farmers
- AgResearch
- Academics
- Environmental groups

Internationally, responsible cat management has been of concern for some time and it should therefore be possible to obtain overseas research on cat behaviour, and outcomes of overseas attempts to reduce predation by domestic and feral cats.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Feral cats are already the subject of trapping and shooting activity over the Tasman region.

The Tasman – Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy includes feral cats as a Containment Pest with an objective to address their adverse effects through education and advice and assistance with control.

Many environmental groups are trapping cats as part of their restoration activities.

Some individual landowners are operating quite unapologetically, in vigilante fashion, shooting cats who "trespass" on their land.

In some areas any cat caught in a trap is shot without any attempt to discriminate between domestic and feral cats.

Other people, who are concerned about animal welfare, are anxious to prevent cruelty to animals during trapping and euthanising, and to prevent the killing of loved family pets.

Animal welfare fears have been fuelled by rumours of indiscriminate shooting or drowning of trapped cats.

The Live and Let Live Project attempted to find a mutually acceptable balance between these two groups - those primary concerned with feral cat control, and those primarily concerned about animal welfare.

c. PROJECT PLAN

1. Initial Information gathering:

- Maps and information about target area
- Contact lists and databases
- Trapping Plan developed to identify optimum positioning of traps, best time of year for trapping operation.

2. Setting Budget

- Project Manager fee
- Communications Plan
- Free microchipping programme
- Cameras – including purchase, siting, and maintenance
- Appropriate microchip reader wand – research and testing
- Design and printing of informational materials
- Venue for public meetings
- Phone
- Website domain name, set up and design

3. Establishment of agreements with essential partners:

Microchipping Programme - Contact local veterinary clinics, get buy in, establish agreement re cost, management, reporting, payment system.

SEE ATTACHMENT 2: Info sheet for participating veterinary clinics

SPCA – establish agreement for management of domestic (or cats of doubtful status) trapped during the project. TDC undertook this process in order to encourage a long-term working relationship.

4. Set Up of Administrative Systems:

- Create memorable name for the project
- Create logo

- Establish dedicated phone number, email address and domain name for the project
- Create website

5. Communicate with Residents

6. Collect Cat Movement Data

About cat movements in the project area – through GPS tracking of cats and on-site cameras

7. Launch Free Microchipping Programme

8. Trapping

9. Report Publicly On Project

d. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

1. COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS IN PILOT AREA

Personal contact was made with residents wherever possible to advise them about:

- The project
- Its purpose
- Trapping schedules
- Free microchipping offer

Microchipping was presented as just one way to protect cats during the trapping period, but collars were also suggested, and keeping cats inside at night during trapping.

The central message to cat owners was:

"*we want to reduce predation by cats - domestic and feral - on native birds and wildlife, but we also want to help protect your pet cats from harm while we are undertaking trapping.*"

Cat owners were also advised that cats who are contained at night are less likely to contract diseases, or suffer from injury in accidents or cat fights

The Project Manager visited each of the thirty-four homes in the project area and if possible made personal contact with householders, explained the project and ascertained number of cats in each household.

Information leaflets were left at all houses. **SEE ATTACHMENT 3: Resident's Information Sheet**

All owners who wanted to take up the offer of free microchipping were supplied with a numbered voucher valid at either of two designated vet clinics in Richmond.

2. COLLECTION OF DATA ABOUT CAT MOVEMENTS IN THE PROJECT AREA

Cat-owners on the Waimea Inlet (inside and outside the pilot area) were contacted and asked to participate in the study by allowing their cat to be fitted with a GPS harness for 7 days.

Fourteen cats were "volunteered".

GPS collars were supplied at no cost by the Cat Tracker Project in Wellington (led by Dr K. Heidy Kikillus of Victoria University).

Collars were couriered by Dr Kikillus to Nelson already primed, linked to individual cats and with batteries charged. Because batteries only retain charge for 7-10 days it was essential to get the collars fitted to cats as soon as possible after they were received.

Appointments were made by phone to visit the home of each cat "volunteer".

During the visit, the Project Manager and DOC Ranger explained the tracking equipment/ process to owners and fitted the collars to cats.

Written consent, acknowledging the potential risks of the collar, were obtained and owners were left with written information sheet and contact phone numbers in case of any difficulties. Owners were assured that they were at absolute liberty to remove the collars at any time if their cat reacted negatively to the collars.

RESULTS OF GPS TRACKING

A. Via GPS tracking of "volunteer" domestic cats

14 cats fitted with GPS harnesses.
12 cats successfully tracked for 7-day period – in two cases the GPS tracker malfunctioned.

Results expressed as home range of each cat in hectares:

CAT ID	RANGE in HECTARES
A	42
B	29
C	15
D	8.9
E	5.7
F	3.7
G	2.9
H	2.6
I	2.3
J	1.5
K	1.2
L	0.7

Data collected from the 12-cat sample suggests that that:

- Home ranges vary greatly between cats – from 0.7 hectares to 42 hectares in this sample.
- Even cats with relatively small home ranges visit areas which are home to vulnerable native bird species.
- Some cats cross very busy roads and are at risk of accident and injury, or involvement in fights with other cats.
- Suggests that if all home ranges of domestic cats in pilot area were patched together, then total potential predation area would be very large.
-
- **B. Via Camera Network**
- Six motion-activated infrared cameras were set up around the inlet within high biodiversity areas or where there were indications of the presence of predators e.g. scat, tracks or sightings.
- The cameras were set up by D.O.C. and local volunteers were trained on how to check cameras and relay data to D.O.C. Thereafter, the volunteers took responsibility for the task of monitoring the cameras. The cameras were loaned to the project by D.O.C. High tides and storms damaged

three cameras beyond repair (electronics and salt water don't mix!) These cameras were replaced by Tasman Environmental Trust.

RESULTS OF CAMERA SURVEILLANCE

Images of predators such as cats, stoats, ferrets, rats and hawks were captured on camera.

During visits to houses in the pilot area a number of residents reported sightings of feral cats on their properties. No attempt was made to follow-up these sightings by placing traps in the identified areas.

3. FREE MICROCHIPPING PROGRAMME

- Each property in pilot area visited. An information sheet was left with all householders spoken to, and left in letterboxes of any households where personal contact proved impossible.
- Microchipping Vouchers were given to any resident with cats who wanted to take up offer of free microchipping. Vouchers each had unique number, and an expiry date in order to encourage early uptake

SEE ATTACHMENT 2: Info sheet for the two participating veterinary clinics: The Vet Centre and Town and Country Vets, Richmond

SEE ATTACHMENT 4: Microchipping Voucher

RESULTS OF FREE MICROCHIPPING PROGRAMME

- 40 domestic cats were identified within pilot area by personal contact (house visits) or observation.
- 37 vouchers were issued for free microchipping and registration on the Companion Animal Register.
- 25 cats were actually microchipped – by The Vet Centre or Town & Country Vets, Richmond
- Not all cats were microchipped under the scheme. Some cats had already been microchipped, or their owners felt their cats were at low-risk of being trapped.

4. TRAPPING

A. Set Up Trapping Network

B. Test microchipping wand / Develop methodology for checking if captured cat is microchipped.

C. Monitor Traps/ Capture Feral Cats.

DOC Best Practice methods were employed during trapping - all activity undertaken in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 1999

- Live capture cage traps were used
- Each trap was checked daily, within 12 hrs of sunrise

- Animals were treated humanely

The following checklist was employed to assist in deciding if a captured cat should be released, referred to SPCA or euthanised:

- Has community been informed of trapping operation?
- Have cat owners in area been offered free microchipping of cats?
- Is cat wearing collar? If so, assume domestic cat, take to SPCA for rehoming or to assist in identifying owner
- Is cat microchipped? If so, contact registered owner via Companion Animal Register
- Is there any doubt whether cat is feral or domestic? If yes, to be taken to SPCA for rehoming or to assist in identifying owner.
- Does behaviour of trapped cat suggest it is feral? If yes, euthanise

NOTE: The most effective way to euthanise captured feral cats is by rifle shot. The person who undertakes this task must have the right temperament, as well as a firearms licence and an awareness of the Health and Safety issues involved .

5. PUBLIC REPORTING ON PROJECT

A. Informal

During the course of the project, information was relayed through informal networks, semi-formal networks such as local conservation groups, and via "over the fence" discussions between neighbours and volunteers in and around the project area.

B. Formal

At the conclusion of the project, formal public reports were made on the purpose, methodology and outcomes of the project.

Al Check of DOC, who had been very involved in the project, and Ro Cambridge, the project's manager presented a joint report on two different occasions:

- At a public meeting on 13 June 2016 at the Headingly Centre, Richmond
- At a meeting of the Tasman Biodiversity Forum on 14th June 2016 at the Tasman District Council

Dr Heidy Kikillus of Victoria University and Myfanwy Emeny, Team Leader Urban Ecology, Wellington City Council presented complementary reports at each meetings.

Dr Kikillus reported on her "Cat Tracker" study of 250 domestic cats in Wellington City tracked using GPS collars and gave some international context about responsible cat management.

Myfanwy Emeny talked about the approaches taken by Wellington City Council to protect native animals while balancing the rights of cats and their owners.

C. Via the Media

Articles on the project appeared in The Nelson Mail 20/5/2016 and 9/6/16 and in the Tasman Leader on 19/5/2016.

SEE ATTACHMENT 5: Press Clippings

e. DISCUSSION

PUBLIC REACTION

An assumption made early in the project that the most negative reaction would come from cat-owners proved unfounded.

In fact, cat-owners in the pilot area were without exception interested and positive about the project and were in sympathy with its aims of reducing predation on native wildlife in what is effectively their "backyard".

This may be explained by the fact that:

- The project took into account the fact that cats are often much-loved members of a household.
- The project was conducted with the utmost transparency.
- Communication included person to person contact
- Clear information was supplied about trapping schedules, and a proactive attempt to minimise harm to domestic cats was made by offering free microchipping.
- Rural people are probably more aware than city dwellers of the interrelationships between species and the environmental impact of weeds and pests of all descriptions.
- Many are involved in environmental activities as volunteers, recognise the interrelatedness of plant and animal species.

In practice, almost all negative reaction came from anti-cat lobbyists and activists.

Many of the individuals and groups who were wary or critical of the project are very active in planting, weeding and trapping programmes and their concerns are driven by their exasperation at what they see as inadequate local and national government approaches to the issue of predation by feral and domestic cats on native birds.

Concern from this quarter centred on:

- The perceived impracticality of the project which was viewed as relatively expensive and labour intensive and hampered by bureaucratic processes.
- That the project would not kill enough cats, fast enough, to make any impact on the welfare of native birds and wildlife.
- That they had not been consulted during the setup of the project.

The SPCA and some individuals, expressed animal welfare concerns.

Animal welfare concerns centred on:

- The risk that during pilot trapping programme domestic cats might be misidentified as feral cats and euthanized unnecessarily, and to the distress of their owners.
- Inhumane handling of trapped cats during pilot programme.
- Rumours that cats were being killed indiscriminately and inhumanely in other areas in Tasman district e.g. that traps being thrown into river with cats inside, in order to drown the cats. Those concerned about animal welfare naturally wanted assurance that the pilot project would not subject trapped cats to this kind of treatment.

In addition, the SPCA was concerned at the potential drain on their resources if, in projects such as Live and Let Live, trapped domestic (or potentially domestic cats) were simply delivered to them to be re-homed or euthanized.

CHALLENGES

The pilot project succeeded because it had adequate funding, was able to enlist considerable individual and group volunteer assistance, and had the support of D.O.C., Tasman District Council, local landowners, and two local veterinarian clinics - The Vet Centre and Town and Country Vets, Richmond.

The success of any similar project, or an extension of Live and Let Live to other areas locally, would need to take into account the following factors:

1. EXPENSE

The total cost of the pilot project was $13,442.00 (exclusive of the value of volunteer contributions)
SEE ATTACHMENT 6: Detailed Pilot Programme Expenditure Report

Costs included the following:

A. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS:

- Travel
- Website
- Phone
- Design and printing
- Meeting spaces
- Funding
    - Applications for funding
    - Reporting to funding bodies

B. PEOPLE COSTS

- Project Manager (paid)
- Department of Conservation
- Volunteer Involvement

- Steering Group
- Trapping
- Communication networks
- TDC support including administrative support, photocopying, use of meeting rooms, information
- SPCA Nelson
- Dr K. Heidy Kikillus, Victoria University
- Myfanwy Emeny, Wellington City Council

C. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT COSTS

- Cameras
- Traps
- Bait
- Microchipping
- Microchip readers

2. SUPPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

The pilot project relied heavily on the manpower and expertise of the Department of Conservation. However, it is DOC's mandate to control feral, not domestic cats, so it may not be feasible to expect this degree of support in the future unless the project focuses on the control of domestic cats within high biodiversity areas.

3. SUPPORT OF TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Similarly, the project's success depended to a large degree on the support of Tasman District Council. Steering group and other meetings took place in TDC meeting rooms. Two TDC staff members actively supported the project administratively and made TDC resources and expertise available as required. The Council met costs of the microchipping domestic cats in the area. The Council's involvement in the project also lent legitimacy to the project.

4. SKILLED AND COMMITTED VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION

To continue to operate the project would require:

a. A Steering Group with expertise and networks within and on the borders of project area.

b. A crew of volunteers willing to assist in setting up and monitoring cameras, setting up, baiting and monitoring traps, identifying trapped cats as either feral or domestic, and euthanising of feral animals.

c. At least one volunteer who needs to be willing to euthanise feral cats, using a rifle. They need to be licenced to operate a firearm and understand Health and Safety risks.

d. Cooperative landowners who will allow the setup of traps on their properties and/or access to trapping areas via their properties.

5. COMMUNITY COOPERATION

The residents of the pilot area, including cat-owners were supportive of the aims of the project. This made communication relatively easy. There was an excellent response to microchipping offer and requests to GPS-track cats (which involves considerable cooperation and assistance from cat owner to be successful).

6. ANIMAL WELFARE CONCERNS

It will be important to work closely with the SPCA to allay concerns about the human treatment of cats, and the potential drain on SPCA resources if trapped domestic (or potentially domestic cats) are simply delivered to them to be re-homed or euthanized

f. RESPONSIBLE CAT MANGEMENT - THE FUTURE

1. TASMAN DISTRICT REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Tasman District Council will be revising its Regional Pest Management Plan (TDC RPM) in the near future.

The Council intends to write a draft Regional Pest Management Plan on the basis of initial consultation with key stakeholders and an assessment of the distribution of costs and benefits of the possible intervention options. This draft document will then be put out for wider consultation/public submissions

Until there is a shift in public opinion about the keeping of cats as pets, it is unlikely that cat management regulations would be accepted without protest. Currently New Zealanders tend to believe that cats need to roam, and it would be inhumane to keep them inside, or contained in pens outside – although this is regular practice in catteries.

Any sudden change in the laws and regulation regarding cat registration and control is likely to stimulate huge resistance. Perhaps because of this, although feral cats are likely to be referenced in the TDC RPM, RPMP is not the right instrument or legislation to manage domestic cats. Any such management would be by way of a bylaw under the Local Government Act, a rule under the Resource Management Act or under specific animal control legislation.

However, there is a possibility that pest management strategies which include both feral and domestic cats could be implemented for designated “high value” sites. It can be argued that, although domestic cats generally fall outside the ambit of the TDC RPM, they constitute a threat in high biodiversity sites and that in these sites at least, they should be managed.

It is suggested that the Live and Let Live Project could make a submission on the TDC RPM to this effect:

1. Proposing a Predator Management Plan for the Waimea Inlet which could be fed into TDC policy, thereby give the Live and Let Live Steering Group a mandate, and suite of activities to consider.
2. Highlighting the success of the Live and Let Live project in achieving local buy-in and support of responsible cat management.
3. Suggesting that the same methodology could be used to create cat-free "buffer zones" around high value sites by controlling or managing both feral and domestic cats.

2. FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR LIVE AND LET LIVE

The Steering Group recommends that the Live and Let Live Project remain active, and not await outcome of deliberations by TDC regarding its Pest Management Plan.

Continued activity would:

- Build on local acceptance and success of pilot programme
- Keep sustained pressure on predators with an annual 3-week trapping programme.

3. EXTENSION AND CONSOLIDATION ACTIVITIES:

- As above – have input into Regional Pest Management Strategy or other relevant statutory instruments.
- As above – create a Predator Control Programme for the Waimea Inlet
- Report to residents in pilot area on outcome of project in acknowledgement of their input and collaboration
- Continuing to keep contact with residents and advise them of future trapping dates
- Development of a dedicated database of residents and conservation volunteers. At the moment this information is not very comprehensive, is scattered across diverse groups, is usually in the form of Excel spreadsheets.
- Involve local primary schools – Mapua, Mahana and Appleby schools in particular – creating future champions of responsible cat management.
- Continue discussions with SPCA on best ways to collaborate - on local and national level
- Continue to work with local landowners, particularly in areas contiguent with pilot area.
- Find a way to have an influence on National Cat Management Strategy
- Broaden the scope of the Live and Let Live Website:
    - A resource for cat management projects across New Zealand and some areas of Australia
    - Clearing house on local and international cat management strategies and research.
    - Reports on local predator control programmes and contact details
    - Warnings to locals of trapping schedules
    - Helpful information for cat management groups e.g. how to access traps, microchip readers, manuals and guides.
    - Link to Cat Tracker Wellington maps (not Live and Let Live cat maps)

- Hyperlinks to related activities in NZ and overseas e.g
    - Morgan Foundation
    - Predator-free New Zealand
    - Research Sites
    - National Cat Management Strategy Group
    - Regional Cat Management Policies
    - Relevant Facebook pages

4. EXTEND THE LIVE AND LET LIVE PROGRAMME IN ORDER TO CREATE A BUFFER ZONE AROUND ORIGINAL PROJECT AREA

The most logical approach to creating a buffer zone around the original project area is as follows:

- **Rough and Rabbit Islands.**

  Easiest and most obvious possibility as it is contiguent with Pearl Creek, and low risk of domestic cats in the area. There would be some risk of trapping dogs, weka or hawks.

- **Best and Bell Islands, the Shell Bank**

  A high diversity area, but more problematic because of higher number of residences and therefore likely to contain more domestic cats. It's close to existing boundaries of the Live and Let Live Project. Because some local conservationists are already conversant with the Live and Let Live Project and the local terrain, there may be a pool of volunteers willing to do trap setting, baiting and monitoring.

- **Brook Sanctuary Halo Area**

  Another, more distant location where the Live and Let Live approach could be employed.

SUGGESTED PROCESS:

- Establish Budget

  SEE ATTACHMENT 7: Draft budget based on cost of Pilot Project

- Initial reconnaissance of predator activity in these area using cameras.
- Design of a trapping network
- Establishment of trapping team - suitably resourced and trained to bait and set traps, monitor, use of wand, euthanasia technique.

THE PROJECT IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT, ASSISTANCE AND COLLABORATION

OF THE FOLLOWING:

Steering Group Members

- Martin Heine
- Kevin McClintock
- Gillian Bishop
- Paul Sheldon (TDC)
- Rob Smith (TDC)
- Al Check (DOC)
- Ro Cambridge – Project Manager
- Local Landowners
- Residents and Cat Owners
- Individual conservationists & community conservation groups

- Tasman District Council
- Department of Conservation
- Tasman Environmental Trust
- Battle for the Banded Rail
- Waimea Inlet Forum
- The Vet Centre, Richmond
- Town and Country Vets, Richmond
- SPCA Nelson
- Dr. K. Heidy Kikillus, Victoria University
- Myfanwy Emeny, Wellington City Council
- Tasman Canvas, Motueka
- EnviroLink

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g. DOCUMENTATION/ATTACHMENTS

1. Map of pilot area - Appleby area of Waimea Inlet, Tasman District
2. Flyer for participating veterinary clinics – used to confirm information and plans already established through personal contact
3. Information leaflet distributed to residents in pilot area
4. Voucher confirming resident's eligibility for free cat microchipping
5. Media Coverage
6. Project expenditure report
7. Draft Budget for extension of pilot programme
8. Home page of Live & Let Live website

ATTACHMENT 1: Map of pilot area - Appleby area of Waimea Inlet, Tasman District

ATTACHMENT 2: Flyer for participating veterinary clinics – used to confirm information and plans already established through personal contact

liveandletlive.co.nz

Live & Let Live

TOWN AND COUNTRY VETS

Info on Free Microchipping Programme

1 AIM OF THE PROGRAMME

Live and Let Live is a 3-month pilot programme, supported by D.O.C., Tasman District Council and the Tasman Environmental Trust, based on the Waimea Inlet.

The inlet is home is of international importance for migratory bird species, and is of national significance for other endangered or threatened species. It is also home to a population of feral cats which prey on native wildlife.

Until now, conservation efforts around the inlet have concentrated on weed control, planting and the trapping of small predators like rats and stoats. However, during May this year, these efforts will be extended to include the trapping of feral cats using live capture cages.

The Live and Let Live programme is piloting ways of working collaboratively with residents to keep their cats safe during the trapping period.

We are recommending that residents in the pilot area keep their cats inside at night, and we are offering free microchipping and registration on the Companion Animals Register. See attached RESIDENTS' FLYER

We are reassuring cat owners of the following:

- Cats are not harmed in any way by the cage itself.
- Cages will be checked daily, within 12 hours of sunrise.
- All microchipped cats will be released immediately.
- If there is any doubt whether a cat is feral or a pet, it will be delivered to the Nelson SPCA as a stray.
- Feral cats will be destroyed humanely by a Department of Conservation ranger.
- Trapping will be managed in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

2 ELIGIBILITY

Free micro-chipping is only available to residents/cats living within a very proscribed area close to the Waimea Inlet. We hope to make personal contact with all residents and supply them with a PERSONALISED NUMBERED VOUCHER – see sample attached.

If you are approached by cat-owners seeking free microchipping - but are unsure of their eligibility - please refer them to the Project Manager, Ro Cambridge. See CONTACT DETAILS below.

3 Payment for Microchipping & Registration Services

Residents are being directed to just two vet clinics: the Veterinary Centre and Town and Country Vets.

Tasman District Council will pay $68.50 for the microchipping and registration of each eligible cat.

Eligibility should be proved by residents through the presentation of a personalised and numbered voucher or (emailed) approval from the Project Manager.

Tasman District Council will pay for your services upon receipt of an invoice quoting **PURCHASE NUMBER 327344**

This order number authorises up to 10 microchipping procedures. However, a fresh order number will be issued if the total number of authorized procedures exceeds this number.

Live & Let Live

CONTACT DETAILS

PROJECT MANAGER
RO CAMBRIDGE
PHONE OR TEXT: 022 0705047
EMAIL: liveandletlivenz@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.liveandletlive.co.nz

ATTACHMENT 3: Information leaflet distributed to residents in pilot area

A MESSAGE TO CAT OWNERS ON THE WAIMEA INLET

FERAL CAT-TRAPPING WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE WAIMEA INLET IN MAY 2016

Live & Let Live

The Waimea Inlet is of international importance for migratory bird species, and is of national significance for other endangered or threatened species.

Unfortunately, it is also home to populations of wild cats which are known to prey on native wildlife

Until now, conservation efforts around the inlet have concentrated on weed control, planting and the trapping of small predators like rats and stoats.

However, during the month of May this year, this trapping will be extended to include the trapping of feral cats using live capture cages. Feral cats are easier to catch at this time of year because they grow hungrier as their regular food supply decreases.

If your cat stays close to home, it is very unlikely to end up in one of these cages.

However, the risk does exist.

The Live and Let Live Project would like to help keep your cat safe during the trapping period.

KEEP YOUR CAT SAFE WITH FREE MICROCHIPPING & REGISTRATION

To help keep your cat safe, Live and Let Live is offering free microchipping and free registration on the Companion Animal Register. If your cat is caught in one of the live capture cages, this microchip will identify your cat as a loved family pet and it will be released immediately.

Free microchipping of cats is only available to owners living within the project boundaries and through stipulated vet clinics. See overleaf for more details.

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SUPPORTED BY

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai

tasman district council

Tasman Environmental Trust

WHAT HAPPENS IF A CAT IS CAUGHT IN A TRAP?

It is important to note that cats are not harmed in any way by the cage itself.

- Cages will be checked daily, within 12 hours of sunrise.
- All microchipped cats will be released immediately.
- If there is any doubt whether a cat is feral or a pet, it will be delivered to the Nelson SPCA as a stray.
- Feral cats will be destroyed humanely by a Department of Conservation ranger.
- Trapping will be managed in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

ABOUT MICROCHIPPING

Microchips are about the size of a grain of rice and are implanted, by syringe, into the scruff of an animal's neck. Each microchip has a unique number which can be detected by a reader which is very like a supermarket barcode reader.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE MICROCHIPPING

Free microchipping of cats is available to owners living within the project boundaries shown in the map, and through these vet clinics:

VETERINARY CENTRE
77 Gladstone Rd, Richmond
Phone: 03-544 5566

TOWN AND COUNTRY VETS
35 Mcglashen Avenue
Richmond
Phone 03-544 1200

You will need to present a numbered voucher at the vet clinic to confirm your eligibility.

Vouchers can be obtained from
Project Manager, Ro Cambridge
Tel: 022 0705047 Email: liveandletlivenz@gmail.com.

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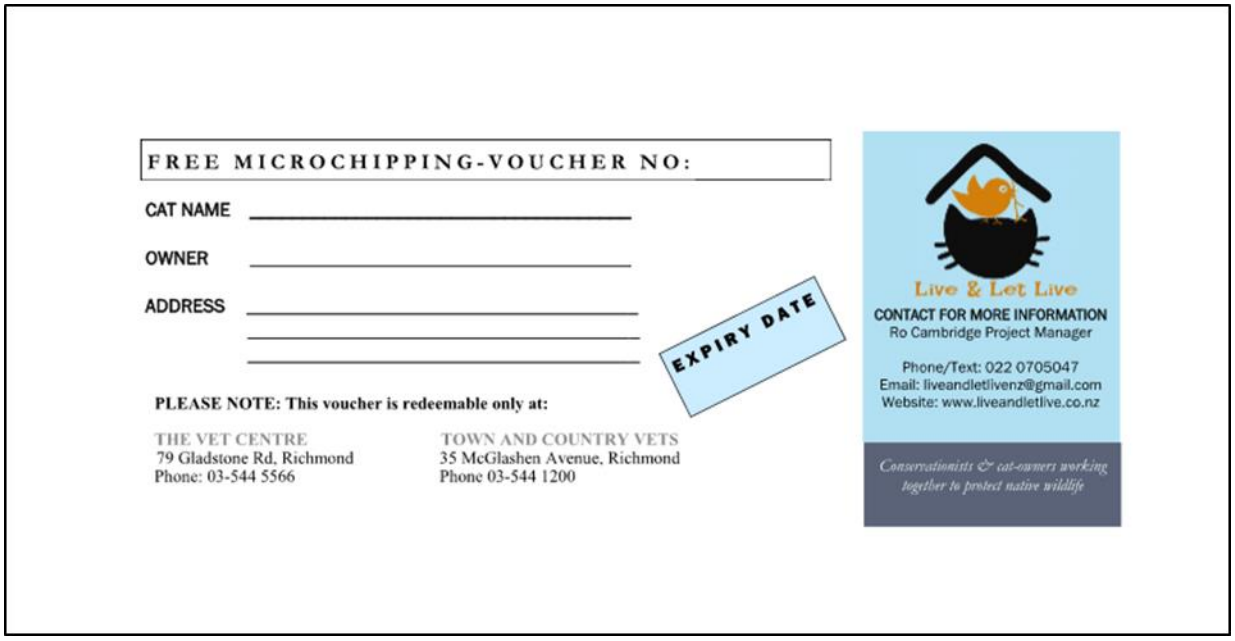
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
The Project Manager Ro Cambridge
Phone or Text: 022 0705047 Email: liveandletlivenz@gmail.com

ATTACHMENT 4: Voucher given to residents to confirm eligibility for free cat microchipping

To minimise likelihood of misuse, each voucher includes cat's name, and has an expiry date + unique number



FREE MICROCHIPPING-VOUCHER NO:

CAT NAME _____

OWNER _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

_____

EXPIRY DATE

PLEASE NOTE: This voucher is redeemable only at:

THE VET CENTRE
79 Gladstone Rd, Richmond
Phone: 03-544 5566

TOWN AND COUNTRY VETS
35 McGlashen Avenue, Richmond
Phone 03-544 1200

Live & Let Live

CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION
Ro Cambridge Project Manager

Phone/Text: 022 0705047
Email: liveandletlivenz@gmail.com
Website: www.liveandletlive.co.nz

Conservationists & cat-owners working together to protect native wildlife

ATTACHMENT 5: Media Coverage

Trade Me cats contribute to the high number of unwanted strays wandering urban streets.

Nelson Mail April 18th 2016

NelsonMail

Cat sale ban unlikely

Hi-tech trial to track estuary cat

Nelson Mail
14th June 2011

Cat management discussed

HELEN MURDOCH

Appleby's recent three month cat management trial has opened the door for a regional discussion on balancing cats and conservation.

The trial saw a dozen cats were tracked with GPS collars and cat cameras catch felines prowling the Waimea Estuary's edges.

About 50 people attended Monday night's meeting in Richmond, which wrapped up the trial's processes and results and saw addresses by Victoria University's Dr Heidy Kikillus and Wellington City Council urban ecology team leader Myfanwy Emeny.

The trial was a joint project between the Waimea Inlet Forum, the Department of Conservation, Tasman District Council and Tasman Environment Trust. It was managed by Ro Cambridge.

Kikillus has led cat tracking and cat camera research in Wellington while Emeny spoke of the city's cat management strategies.

Kikilius said cats were opportunistic hunters which did not stay on their home turf.

An online survey, with 2600 cat and non-cat responders, showed half supported cats being registered, nearly 89 per cent backed mandatory de-sexing and 70 per cent mandatory microchipping.

"It is a question of trying to balance cats and conservation," Kikillus said.

The city's animal bylaw was up for review and the council was discussing the issue with cat lovers, the SPCA, vets and conservationists. A public poll showed 95 per cent would take steps to protect wildlife – if those steps were proved to be effective.

Bylaw proposals included microchipping and registering cats, the council taking a greater role around responsible cat ownership, improving rates of desexing and advocating for a national policy or strategy on cats.

Cambridge said the Appleby trial was not about demonising cats but improving understanding of the issue and encouraging responsible cat ownership. It saw all landowners across a block of land bordering the Waimea Inlet informed and cat owners offered free micro-chipping for their pets. Ten capture traps were set over three weeks and three feral cats were caught and euthanised.

Tasman District Council's biosecurity and bio-diversity coordinator Paul Sheldon said the Regional Pest Management Strategy was up for review and would be replaced by the Regional Pest Management Plan by a joint committee of Nelson City and Tasman District councillors.

Tasman District Council environment and planning manager Dennis Bush-King said the challenge was to decide what the cat management regime would be, who would manage it and who would pay.

ATTACHMENT 6: Pilot Project Expenditure Report

PILOT PROJECT EXPENDITURE

Communications strategy (One-off expense, not required for extensions of project)	$1,500
Public Meeting (reporting on pilot to community - not required for future work)	$130
Project Manager Services	
Contact approx. 50 households in pilot area: door knocking, phoning & leaflet	
Contact with households and GPS monitoring of cats (optional)	
Deliver and monitor microchipping vouchers	
Set up and manage free microchipping service with local vets	
Liaison with Steering Group, DOC, TDC, SPCA & local environmental groups	
Act as point of contact for media enquiries	
Write text and design leaflets for public distribution	
Website development	
Create Project Report as PowerPoint and present to public meetings	
Written project report	$6,000
Plus	
Microchipping 25 cats @ $60 (TDC)	$1,500
Field cameras 3 @ $202.90	$608.70
Traps 10 @ $142.30	$1,423
Bait (estimate) 12 days x 10 traps x $2.50/day	$300
Cat control bag (DOC purchase)	$130
Microchip reader (TDC loan)	$1800
Time to set and check traps	
(3+3+3+3 = 12 days x 2 times/day x 2 hours = 48 hours @ $35/hour) $1680	
TOTAL COST PILOT PROJECT	**$13,442**

ATTACHMENT 7: Draft Budget for extension of pilot programme

Assume 50 households –

Contact time 2 hours/30 household 60 hours at $35	$2,100
Printing vouchers and leaflets	$100
Assume support for microchipping 25 cats @ $60	$1,500
Field cameras 2@$205	$410
10 additional traps 10 x $142.30	$1423
Bait 15 x $2.50/day x 12	$450
Checking traps daily	
(9 days * x 2 times/day x 2.5 hours = 45 hours @ $35/hour)	$1575
Microchip reader and Cat control bag (loaned)	
Estimated cost per area	**$7,555**

*No prefeeding reduces days required to 9

ATTACHMENT 8: Home page of website developed for pilot programme

Provided easily accessible information about pilot programme and can be extended to include roll-out of programme in other areas.