



Key Facts about the Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Catchment Trust & Windy Hill Sanctuary Great Barrier Island

Who are we?

The Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Catchment Trust was formed in 2001 and is a registered Charitable Trust which manages the Windy Hill Sanctuary and the Aotea Community Native Plant Nursery. The voluntary Trustees are: **Judy Gilbert**, Founder, Trust and Sanctuary Manager, landowner Little Windy Hill; **Deb Badraun**, landowner Rosalie Bay; **John Ogden**, Professor of Ecology, and **Derek Bell**, landowner. The Trust was created to formalise the management of ecological restoration and to expand existing pest management projects initiated in 1999 by south-eastern Great Barrier Island landowners.

What's the objective?

The Trust's overall objective is to sustain and enhance the biodiversity of the area by removing invasive plants and animals creating a Sanctuary within which native species can flourish, threatened species can be protected, and species that have been lost to the Island reintroduced. The Trust engages the community in the benefits of conservation and is committed to assisting the fragile economy of the Island by creating conservation based employment.

What's been happening?

For the past 23 years the Trust has been raising funds and employing field workers to systematically remove invasive plants and animals; monitor species outcomes; and research best practice. The area currently under intensive management for rats, mice, pigs, and feral cats totals 800 hectares. The Trust has two full and two part time field workers and a part time contractor. North Island robins were translocated into the Sanctuary in 2004, 2009 and 2012, two rare chevron skinks were released at Windy Hill by DoC in 2004, and three pateke released in 2011. In January 2011 a Duvaucels skink was trapped - the second only sighting in 40 years. Three surveys of Hochstetters frogs have been undertaken in the Te Paparahi.

Why are we controlling pests?

This area of the Island has long been considered ecologically significant. It is remote, has little development, and has large areas of undisturbed coastal-broadleaf- podocarp mature forest. The Sanctuary area has been designated a **Biodiversity Focus Area** by Auckland Council and is recognised under **Category 4 of the National Priorities for Biodiversity on Private Land**. Three areas totalling 267 hectares are covenanted with **QE11 National Trust**. The sanctuary is home to threatened species pateke brown teal duck, black petrel, Duvaucels gecko, chevron and striped skinks, kaka, and kereru. The Category C rare plant pimelea tomentosa is found on the coast. The landowners have responded to the call for all NZrs to halt the waning of the country's biodiversity.

How is it happening?

Over 100 km of tracks with 6000 bait/trap stations and 80 cat traps have been established in 6 pest project areas to remove rats, mice, and feral cats. From 1999 to 2004 trapping was the sole method used to