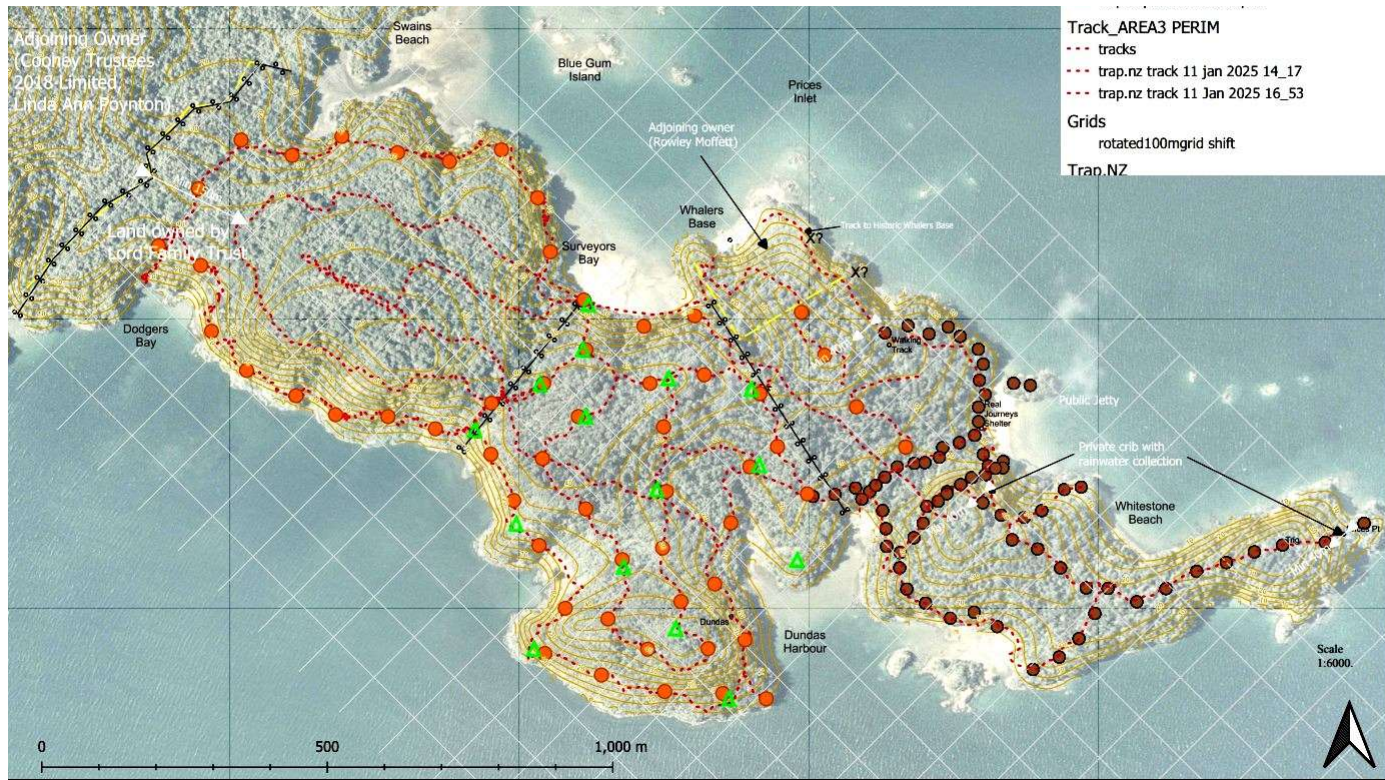


New Track Cutting

Tracks are essential for being able to distribute traps and bait devices around the property, so a huge number of hours have been spent over this summer developing routes and making them easily walked. This work has been carried out by a combination of Andy and Jenni, Andy Marshall, a number of volunteers, and our contractor, James Ware, of HMB.



A serendipitous outcome of these new tracks is a whole new appreciation of the Millars Beach property! We have discovered beautiful coastal vistas and outlooks, stunning stands of rimu, a wonderful variety of types of bush. We have stumbled over kiwi. We have not calculated the distance of all the new tracks but it will be quite a few kms! (see pics on next page for some new views)

New Trap Installations

The new generation of automatic self re-setting traps (NZ Autotraps) are "AT520's". We still need more, but the available funding allowed the purchase of 15 and all are being deployed in Area 2. (Previously not trapped at all). Installation is almost done - just another couple of days' work. Part of this work included installing radio aerials on a couple of prominent high points. The two key guys from "FTP Solutions", the company providing this product, came to Millars for 2 days to set up and train us in setting up these new devices. We still have the second part of the training to do - how to access, download and view the data in real time. (This will be done by zoom meeting quite soon). However, as soon as they were set up, they were busy knocking off big fat possums and rats immediately! The new devices are different in that they have:

- A much more powerful battery
- A radio antenna
- A solar panel
- A camera which records the animal interacting with the trap



Networking

As a result of several opportunities (some face to face, some by zoom), we have connected with folk from several other projects, including Shane (the employed pest manager at The Neck), Sircet (the urban Stewart Is project), and Bluff Hill / Motupohue (a very well established project - David Swan there has been extremely helpful). Overall we feel we are very much part of a community of people rolling their sleeves up and just getting on with trying to have a positive impact.

Website

We are in contact with Te Ara Polytech to get some free help making our website a bit more snazzy. The main purpose of that is so anyone who stumbles across it will be so impressed they will feel inspired to donate!

www.millarsbeach.org

Next Steps

Our goal is to work towards heavy predator suppression in a way that is sustainable in terms of both cost and time in order to allow birdlife to thrive. To achieve this we will need considerably more AT520's for coverage that will keep on top of rats and possums, but a lot of the infrastructure (specially tracks and bait stations) is now in place.

Want to be involved?

We need help with hunting, purchasing more traps, volunteer time, or advice on possible funding streams—we would love to hear from you!

