

# Let's get rid of these pesky pests

Join the next steps of the Te Korowai o Waiheke project and hear from some of New Zealand's leaders in predator eradication and biodiversity.

An event this Sunday, September 15 from 2pm to 4pm at the Waiheke Sustainability Centre will feature three speakers on different topics.

First up is Predator Free 2050 CEO Ed Chignell. Ed will discuss how New Zealand is leading the world in predator eradication action, ambition and achievement. To date, Predator Free 2050



A good sign of effective predator control is the sound of tui warbling in surrounding shrubs. Pete Rees Photography



Te Korowai o Waiheke's battle against pests and predators on Waiheke is designed to help native species such as the little blue penguin.

has committed more than \$25 million to enable the launch of five large landscape projects, including Waiheke Island, and is continuing to invest in research and development to improve predator eradication tools and capability.

Ed is no stranger to bringing people together around significant and complex operational challenges. Before taking on this role, he co-founded and was CEO of Treescape, New Zealand's largest arboriculture company.

Next up, Cacophony Project Founder Grant Ryan will speak about new technology and how using sound and light lures, thermal cameras and artificial intelligence can support predator management.

The Cacophony Project aims to use

the latest technology to dramatically improve the ability to identify and eliminate predators, as well as to monitor birds. The use of thermal cameras, artificial intelligence and sound lures are used to allow rapid testing of new lures and traps.

Kerry Lukies, the Northern New Zealand Seabird Trust Restoration coordinator, will talk about the impact of seabirds on Waiheke. The island is an important fuelling stop for seabirds, many of which visit prospecting for future homes. Predator eradication helps create environments that support seabirds nesting here.

The Te Korowai o Waiheke team, including new field team staff, will also be on hand to answer any questions about the eradication program. Light refreshments will be provided. •

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