July 2026

Kawau Island multi-species eradication project

Working towards a pest-free Kawau Island

Community events

Recording available for online event

Thank you to everyone that attended the recent online event: 'Seabird monitoring, research and introduction to eDNA coastal monitoring of island ecosystems'. The presentation was held from 7pm on Tuesday 14 July.

We recorded the meeting for those who were unable to attend on the night, which is available here: https://youtu.be/eVdAxwodtNk

The presenters have also made their presentation slides available – see attached.

Reminder of upcoming in-person event – Shoreline Sampling, Soup and Scones

If you missed this opportunity in our last newsletter, there is an invitation to learn how to use eDNA coastal monitoring kits in the field and contribute to the understanding of nearshore biodiversity and land-sea connectivity. Grace Klinges will demonstrate the use of the kits and invite community members to assist with the sampling efforts. This event will take place at Mansion House Bay on Sunday 26 July, from 11.15am–1.30pm.

This will be followed by hot refreshments, soup and scones at the Mansion House Cafe where Grace will explain what we might expect to find and how the findings will be shared back with the community. Further monitoring efforts will be required on a seasonal basis, so don't hesitate to let us know if you can continue to help!

If you would like to attend, please email kawauislandproject@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz with the number of people attending for catering purposes.

Please note: Numbers are limited, and transport costs (including ferry fares and bay hops) are not covered.

Bird flu confirmed in New Zealand

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI or bird flu) is a viral disease found in birds across the world. The most worrying strain, H5N1 has now been confirmed in Aotearoa – first detected in a single ocean-going seabird in Wellington.

This means that even though we're doing our best to keep it at bay, it's likely it will arrive in Auckland via these seabirds. Although it's impossible to predict when (or if) it might arrive, councils and government agencies across New Zealand remain vigilant.

The public are incredibly important to surveillance to report spread into wild birds. **If you see three or more sick or dead wild birds in a group, report it immediately to the exotic pest and disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66 or online at https://report.mpi.govt.nz/pest/**

More information about H5 bird flu and the work New Zealand is doing to prepare is available at mpi.govt.nz/hpai, and more information on Auckland Council's approach can be found on OurAuckland.

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