

Maungatautari - Ten Years in the Making

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Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust is responsible for a large scale community driven, co-governed ecological restoration project based upon a 3,400 hectare pest proof fenced sanctuary.

It has been operating for 10 years, and has gone through a series of developmental challenges, due to complexities and scale of the project, financial stressors, and governance changes.

While the primary focus has been on achieving and maintaining a pest free status, translocations of some twelve species has been possible. The development of visitor experiences in order to generate revenue is currently a key objective in a co-governance environment with mana whenua.

This paper relates how the journey so far has strengthened the community cohesion and support for a world class ecological restoration project. MEIT forms a useful case study for how an ambitious community vision can develop into a realisable and valuable community asset.