

# A PEST FREE CITY: THE POTENTIAL OF A BOTTOM UP APPROACH TO PREDATOR CONTROL.

Rosi Merz<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Society Of Conservation Biology*, <sup>2</sup>*Victoria University of Wellington*, <sup>3</sup>*Backyard Sanctuaries*

New Zealand's unique and largely endemic biodiversity has suffered excessively from introduced mammalian predators.

Funding and resources for predator control are limited and insufficient to protect New Zealand's battered biodiversity.

We have set up a project that uses a bottom up approach, and encourages and educates the people of Wellington to take care of predator control. Creating sanctuaries in people's backyards will create corridors for birds and other natives to spread from the reserves throughout the city. By building a strong sense of community amongst the people and actively supporting them with equipment and knowledge, we would like the city to become the first mammalian predator free capital.