

1st Annual Report of the Wētā Conservation Charitable Trust

For the year ending 30 June 2024

The Wētā Conservation Charitable Trust was incorporated on 21 November 2023 (NZBN 9429051740870) with three Trustees: Danilo Hegg from Dunedin (Donor), Madeline Pye from Auckland, and Saskia Wagner from Coromandel.

Parry Field Lawyers Ltd of Christchurch provided their professional services and expertise in setting up the Trust and in finalising the Trust deed.

The Trust was registered with New Zealand Charity Services on 22 November 2023 (Registration Number CC61841).

Balance date and annual reporting date for the Trust's activities is set on 30 June each year.

The Trust isn't fully operational yet. All efforts thus far have gone into setting up the Trust. The first Trust meeting is scheduled online on 18 July 2024, 7pm

Setting up the Trust

The following milestones have been achieved thus far:

- Incorporation of the Trust
- Registration with NZ Charity Services
- Registration with IRD
- Set-up of email server and web storage services with Google for Charities
- Set-up of a bank account with Bank of New Zealand
- Set-up of accounting services with Xero
- Set-up of donation services with Stripe, and via direct debit payments
- Registration of web domain with New Zealand 1st Domains:
<https://wetaconservation.org.nz/>
- Registration of PO BOX:
PO BOX 8145, Gardens, Dunedin 9041
- Design and purchase of common seal
(pictured on right)



Branding and web design

Branding and web design are the next steps in setting up the Trust, before we focus our efforts on becoming operational.

Branding is currently being worked on by students in the ADT3 Branding Course at Otago Polytechnic / Te Kura Matatini ki Otago. We expect to have a logo and branding for our documents by the end of August 2024.

Web design is also in the pipeline with students at Otago Polytechnic / Te Kura Matatini ki Otago during the second half of 2024.

Science

Two scientific papers on New Zealand Orthoptera have been formally accepted for publication, and are expected to be published during the second half of 2024:

- A monograph on small crickets in New Zealand
- A revision of the NZ endemic genus *Isoplectron* (Family Rhaphidophoridae, aka cave wētā)

All work was done by trustee Danilo Hegg for no reward.

Donations

Since the Trust is not yet fully operational, the only donations received thus far are from the Trust donor. The Trust is however fully set-up to receive donations, and to issue receipts.

Operations

The Trust covered part of the travel expenses for an expedition to Pitt Island (Chathams) in February 2024. Danilo Hegg and Samuel Purdie spent ten days on the island studying local Orthoptera, under DOC Research Permit 101820-RES.

The expedition produced the first ground cricket (*Bobilla* sp.) specimens from the Chathams, and found the Chatham endemic tokoriro *Talitropsis megatibia* in good numbers. A second endemic species of tokoriro, *Novoplectron serratum*, sadly appears to be no longer present on Pitt Island.