

Takatu LandCare Group Inc and The Forest Bridge Trust

LETTER OF INTENT

Guiding Principles of Engagement and Cooperation

This letter of Intent defines the relationship, purpose, and extent of the cooperation between the two parties, Takatu LandCare Group Inc (TLC) and The Forest Bridge Trust (TFBT). This is not a binding document, nor it is legally binding, but simply an agreed outline of the mutual areas of engagement and cooperation between the two parties and their respective operations. This cooperation is not an exclusive arrangement and in no way limits either organisation to enter similar arrangements with other parties.

Overview

TLC and TFBT have common areas of interest and have developed conservation delivery and funding performance objectives and deliverables, for the benefit of all the communities in our shared rohe of Tāwharanui Peninsula and its environs.

TLC was established in 2012 and formed as an Incorporated Society in 2014. Its Constitution states - 'The principal purpose of the Society is to promote and facilitate the preservation and conservation of the natural environment in the Geographical Area of Interest and its surrounds and to support and enhance the activities and conservation efforts of like-minded organisations and individuals including the Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc, in relation to the Geographical Area of Interest'.

TFBT was established in 2014 by Kevin & Gill Adshead from their family farm at Glorit, Kaipara Harbour. The vision of TFBT is connected people and landscapes with healthy forest and flourishing indigenous wildlife from the Kaipara Harbour to the Pacific Coast. The aim of TFBT is to inspire, support and resource people who own, occupy or manage land, to protect and enhance ecosystems and native species through fencing native forest, controlling invasive species, revegetating for connection and restoring waterways. They enable this work to grow to a landscape scale through our connection with local people, existing community conservation groups and networks which all have a critical role. By inspiring and supporting a socio-ecological change movement they aim to encourage a voluntary and sustainable workforce committed to protecting and enhancing our surrounding ecosystems.

Shared Geographical Area of Interest

Within the shared area of the parties' operations, TLC's defined area of interest by its Constitution is – *'all those persons who own or occupy land on Takatu Peninsula in between the Matakana River and Whangateau estuary. Bordered to the east by Tongue Farm Road, Leigh Road, Omaha Flats Road and Broadlands Drive to where it meets the Whangateau Harbour, and west by the Tāwharanui Regional Park boundary'*.

Shared Aspirations & Purpose

The overall goal is to establish a mutually beneficial working arrangement where both parties enable each other to achieve their strategic goals and to maximise the value of the cooperation.

Our shared goal and purpose are:

- to strengthen natural habitats and ecology in a connected landscape through comprehensive pest management, engagement with landowners and community education;
- to maximise the value of our cooperation by leveraging off each other's networks, strengths, and resources;
- to enable fulfilment of both organisation's aims and objectives, and in support of community conservation activities.

Both parties agree to act in the best interests of the public good and acknowledge the value of cooperation to achieve their respective goals.

Roles & Responsibilities

Both parties acknowledge their respective operational activities are dependent on securing funding from a limited and defined pool of conservation/environmental grants. For transparency, it is understood at times there may competing funding applications by both parties to the same grant fund for activities in the shared area of geographical interest.

TLC acknowledges TFBT has key outcomes it needs to satisfy its commitments and funding metrics. These objectives include, new properties committed to being part of pest control programme and additional hectares under mustelid control (target 54,000ha by June 2025), increased number of free DOC 200 & DOC 250 traps deployed, engagement with landowners to install traps lines, number of pest catches recorded (in TrapNZ or elsewhere), community engagement and implementing additional kilometres of fencing.

TFBT acknowledges TLC has key outcomes it needs to satisfy its commitments and funding metrics. These include, Community Coordinator services and outputs covering community engagement and education pest & weed seminars, filling gaps in the Tāwharanui Peninsula trapping network, mapping of invasive weed species, control of invasive weeds (through community volunteers, and commercially as funds permit), empowerment of property owners to become self-sufficient trappers, provision of advice on best practice trapping methodology and weed control, assistance with installation and operation of trap lines, increasing catch data numbers as recorded through CatchIT, and successful implementation of eco restoration projects.

Specific Areas of Mutual Cooperation & Scope

TLC and TFBT are well placed to benefit from each other's strengths in particular areas. There are various aspects of our respective operations where we are strategically positioned to assist each other with enhanced outcomes through working closer together and leveraging each other's strength and community networks.

Area of Mutual Interest	Scope of Cooperation
<p>Conduit of Leads and Promotions</p>	<p>Both parties are operating in the geographical area of interest where relevant operational information on properties can be communicated to increase the prospect of improved trapping and ecological operational management outcomes.</p> <p>TFBT will communicate with TLC when an operational capability assessment has determined that a property owner is confident with maintaining their own traps, and if so, would be better placed being included in TLC trapping programme managed by TLC.</p> <p>TLC will inform TFBT where an extended trapping capability beyond TLC resources to manage is required in areas within TFBT's key area of interest.</p>
<p>Community networks and provision of, or loan of, resources</p>	<p>Both parties will cooperate in terms of engagement with community networks to manage trapping needs and the wider control of feral cats. TFBT have resources that can be loaned or provided, such as trail cameras, DOC 250 traps, and cat traps, and extend this facility to assist TLC's operation on a request and availability basis. TLC and TFBT will ensure that landowners are</p>


	supported and resourced to undertake live capture trapping legally, with animal welfare the priority.
Sharing of Environmental Assessments, Catch and Monitoring data	<p>Where TFBT operations overlap with TLC, and within private arrangements made with landowners, catch data will be shared between the parties for the sole purpose of oversight of total catch data within the Tāwharanui Peninsula catchment area.</p> <p>In our interactions with property owners, we will share data and highlight issues related to environmental/ecological assessments and share monitoring data eg. for Kiwi and native birds, and tracking card data.</p> <p>Sharing of personal information between parties will be subject to permission from the property owners concerned, in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020.</p>
Grant Funding	<p>It is acknowledged that the sustainability of both parties' operation and activities is reliant on securing funding and at times collaboration on applications or projects could create more favourable outcomes. Both parties agree to discuss applications prior to submission for projects that have cross over between parties in either the geographical area or workstream. For example, TFBT will discuss with TLC funding applications which are relevant to TLC's Geographical Area of Interest, and likewise TLC will advise TFBT of any applications being made that could overlap with TFBT operational activities within TLC's Geographical Area of Interest.</p>
TLC/TFBT Operational meetings	<p>Quarterly meetings with TLC Community Coordinator and TFBT Operations personnel, (which may include Ops Mgr, Field Team Lead, Predator Control Lead, Ecology & Biodiversity Advisor and Community Liaison personnel, as appropriate to the agenda), covering areas of mutual interest/working together, kiwi monitoring, networking and contact sharing, community events, upcoming seminars etc.</p>
Educational Workshops	<p>Both parties have goals to raising the level of knowledge of trappers within the community at large. To maximise the use of knowledge base and educator skill sets, the parties agree to work and support each other to achieve best educational and facilitated workshop outcomes.</p>

PR/Communication	To raise the awareness of conservation activities within the community, both parties will share informative and interesting articles/stories for use in newsletters and social media posts. Where applicable, both parties will always identify and acknowledge the efforts of all community groups contributing to conservation endeavours in the shared geographical area of interest.
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Additional defined operational processes may be developed and agreed by the parties, as and when required.

Maintaining our Cooperation

It is important to assess how we are fulfilling the spirit of our cooperation arrangement. We will meet from time to time, at least twice yearly, at a leadership level, formally or informally, to review the status and value of our mutual arrangement.

Represented by:	Takatu LandCare	The Forest Bridge Trust
Name & Role	John McIntyre, Chairperson	Ana Christmas, CEO
Signature		
Date		9th July 2024