

End of Year Dotterel Report – 2024

It's been a successful year for our Onemana Dotterels.



We finished the 2023/24 season with a record 7 fully fledged Dotterel chicks and 1 Variable Oyster Catcher (VOC) chick.

The success for our team, while over the rest of the Coromandel hatched and fledged numbers were down, can be put down to a number of factors.

- Hard work from our team monitoring nests and chicks, sandbagging when required and using covers to stop predation from Black Back Gulls, Harrier Hawks and Magpies.
- The large number of predators caught in our beach traps from the work of Les and the predator free team.
- The hugely helpful dredging/ opening up of the stream by the Waikato Regional Council which prevented inundation of many of our nests in the middle beach area as has frequently happened historically.
- Locals and visitors helping by generally adhering to the beach dog restrictions
- People mostly keeping their cats inside at night during the breeding season.

Many thanks to all of you who have helped us with assisting these endangered birds to nest successfully.

As this report goes to print, we currently have 4 Dotterel chicks and 7 nests pending. We also have 1 VOC chick and 1 nest pending. Keep an eye on our notice board for updates.

Some problems we have faced in recent months include:

- a harrier hawk which has taken the eggs from up to 7 nests. Thanks to Glenn for chasing it with his drone!
- people hitting golf balls onto the beach into the birds nesting area (5 balls found)
- human food like bread, avocado etc. being fed to the birds. We have lost a VOC chick to avocado poisoning and also lost a Dotterel nest due to seagull inundation after bread was thrown into the nesting area.
- Fireworks and sky rockets being set off from the car parks towards the beach (and towards the birds breeding)

Even given these problems we are hopeful this season is again tracking well.

Huge thanks to the Dotterel team for their tireless efforts. Also special mention and thanks to Alan for his clever design and manufacture of our new nest covers and to Ken and Derek for their on going work making Dotterel cut outs for the children to paint.

Finally thanks to ORCA for their continued support of our work.

Chris McDonald and the Dotterel Team.



ONEMANA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INC

Club Phone (07) 865 6826

✉ onemanaslsc@gmail.com

f [@onemanasurf](https://www.facebook.com/onemanasurf)

📷 [@onemanaslsc](https://www.instagram.com/onemanaslsc)

🌐 www.onemanaslsc.org.nz

Chairpersons Report for Season 2024 – ORCA

This season saw the Club have a great summer with plenty of sunny days and calm seas much to the disappointment of some of our Lifeguards going for their IRB drivers where big seas are the order of the day.

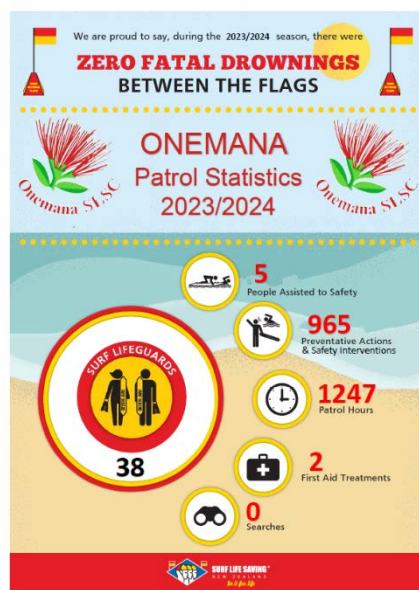
I would like to thank our volunteer lifeguards who put in over 1,200 hours of patrolling over the summer period and even more throughout the year training and upskilling so they can keep our community safe on the beach this coming summer. I would also like to acknowledge the paid Regional Lifeguards (they work during the week) who come and patrol at our beach over the summer period. The last few years many of our Regional Lifeguards have been our local volunteer lifeguards which has been really good to see and also makes a real difference on the beach as they know all of the hazards and local information. This coming year (2025) we will again have some local lifeguards and a number of lifeguards from Whiritoa patrolling our beach. So next time you see them standing between the flags go up and say hi!

The paid lifeguard service is funded by the Waikato Regional Council but this funding has not kept up with inflation or the increase in the minimum wage so the hours they patrol are getting less and as a Club we are topping up more of those paid hours so we have regional lifeguards patrol through to the end of January, otherwise our beach would not be patrolled from the middle of January. Most of our fundraising goes to paying for these hours.

We had great success in 2024 with the Junior Surf Carnivals held in and round the other Coromandel clubs and I would like to thank all our junior surf Instructors and coaches for the time and effort they put in.

I would like to thank the Onemana SLSC Committee for all the time they put in behind the scenes to make sure our lifeguards are current with training and have the resources they need to be ready to patrol come summer. Like all of us they are volunteers who give up their precious time to help out in this community to make it a better place to live or visit.

This is represented in the statistics for our beach this year and while they are down on the previous year this does not mean our lifeguards are doing less.



Proudly supported by



There have been a number of highlights throughout the past year starting with a successful Quiz Night held at the Onemana Café. This is a regular fixture on the Onemana calendar so make sure you support this years Quiz Night. These are great nights for our members and the community to get together and have some fun.

In early January we helped out Whangamata Real Estate with their sandcastle competition which is another event that is now a fixture on the calendar. Whangamata Real Estate and Julian West have been long time supporters of the Club and of our Junior Surf programme and I would like to thank them for their continued support with the 2025 sandcastle competition set to be even bigger this year.

We held our AGM on the 10th January 2024 and this was well attended. Holding it after patrol on a week day and having a social gathering afterwards seemed to encourage members to attend. This is a formula we intend to carry on with.

The Club held its end of year prizegiving in the evening again this year and it was a great success. This success flowed on to the SLSNZ Eastern Region Awards where Louis Batten was awarded Coromandel Under 19 Lifeguard of the Year, Connor McLeay was awarded Coromandel Area Bp Powercraft Contribution of the Year and Coromandel Area Beach Ed Instructor of the Year, and Jack Sewell and Phoebe Havill also received Eastern Region Distinguished Service Award. So once again we did very well for a small club.

March saw Beach Hop come to Onemana, and the Club and ORCA combined to run a BBQ and bucket collection which was very successful. I would like to thank ORCA for their ongoing support with the BBQ, it is much appreciated. Beach Hop is our main fundraiser along with our Quiz night and Market Day and this money goes towards paying for the extra two weeks of Regional Lifeguard Service at the beach and towards our Junior Surf programme which is sponsored by Whangamata Real Estate and Trust Waikato.

The Club has again supported the Dunes Restoration Team and helped with replacing stakes lost in the storms over the year and bait for pest control.

The Clubhouse has been well used over the year with over 30 bookings from the likes of ORCA, SLSNZ, Onemana Book Club, LandSar and the Onemana Dunes Restoration Team to name a few. It is good to see the building being used by the community who supported and helped the Surf Club get this fantastic facility.

SLSNZ is in its fourth year where it receives Government funding and as explained previously this funding goes towards volunteer Surf Life Saving activities and the equipment, we need to keep the beach safe.

We look forward to seeing you all on the beach this summer and would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Chairperson, Onemana SLSC
Nick McLeay

Onemana Coast Care

Report 2024

8 bags of Spinifex seeds collected, 17 bags of weeds removed and 2,261 plantings.



North Reserve dunes after Gabriel

newly planted dune restoration area

Three major storms last year washed away 6-7 metres of middle beach dunes, as can be seen in the picture above. The south beach dunes did their job and held their ground, despite some large waves washing up the dune walkways to reach the south reserve lawn.

To help repair and re-establish the middle beach dunes TCDC have again re-channelled the stream to go directly out to sea. By stopping the stream travelling north along the middle beach dunes the beach will be able to build its sand levels back up and help restore the middle beach dunes and protect the north reserve. This is already working with 3-4 more metres of sand on that part of the beach already.

The Coast Care team have spent considerable hours weeding in the dunes to get rid of any flat weeds. 17 bags of weeds were taken away for us by TCDC.

Over last Xmas and in the new year we also collected 8 bags of Spinifex seeds and 1.5 bags of Knobby Club Rush seeds. These were given to TCDC/Coastcare to deliver to their nurseries who is contracted to grow the plants.

This year we were provided 2,261 plants by TCDC/Coastcare which, through consultation, was planted in three areas. Most plants were planted in the middle beach dunes at the north end of the north reserve, see picture above. This was needed to help protect and restore the dune infrastructure at that end of the beach. Other plants were planted in the south beach dunes opposite the tennis courts and by the first walkway by the stream.

We have Salt Paspalum grass weed in the dunes that damages coastal habitat and flora. This area has been sprayed and is being monitored by TCDC/Coastcare.

Our thanks to the TCDC and Coastcare staff for all their support and expertise, to ORCA and the Onemana Surf Club for funding, and of course to our many Onemana Coast Care volunteers. Anyone wishing to be involved or included in our communications let me know (les@lesfleming.com).

Les Fleming for the Onemana Coastcare team

Onemana Predator Free

Report 2024

We have a record number of predator kills this year, thanks everyone.



Predator Free 2050 are focused on the complete removal of five most damaging predators: rats, stoats, ferrets, weasels and possums, and other introduced predators such as hedgehogs and feral cats, and to keep our native species safe and working towards eradication of our most damaging predators.

At Onemana we have 38 monitored traps situated in the streams/walkways, reserves and in the dunes, plus several traps at people's homes. This calendar year to date (to October) our traps in Onemana recorded a record number of predator kills: with 214 kills of mice, rats, hedgehogs, possums and the odd rabbit. For the last full calendar year (2023) we had 149 kills.

Since the introduction of the new Goodnature traps in April 2022 we have had a major increase in rat kills. Goodnature A24 traps now account for about 60% of our total kills at Onemana.

Other community groups are also catching lots of predators. For example, Whangamata Harbour Care Predator Free has over 140 bait stations and over 400 traps, and each year records about 1,000 kills. Each community group provides their kill numbers to New Zealand Predator Free. In 2023 their total number of kills was over 100,000 predators.

At Onemana we have at least 25 homes using rat bait. We don't know these kill numbers; however, the number is expected to be considerable.

Onemana Predator Free has been successful in obtaining some funding for residential backyard traps and tunnel boxes. These T-Rex traps and boxes will be distributed in the next few months. Residents wanting a trap and tunnel can contact Les Fleming at les@lesfleming.com

With the combination of beach and reserve traps, home poisoning and the introduction of the backyard traps we expect to be able to eradicate most Onemana pests over time.

Our thanks for the Onemana Predator Free team for their monitoring of the traps, and to the Onemana Surf Club and to ORCA and the Onemana Surf Club for funding of trap consumables. This is always much appreciated.

Thanks again everyone

Les Fleming for the Onemana Predator Free

Weedbusters and Reserve Care Team August 2023 to Sept 2024.

It is with great pleasure we present this report for the end of our planting year.

We have had a very busy year.

Our team of people are totally committed to improving our native reserves, streams, lakes, hillside tracks, beach and beach reserves.

The main areas we concentrate on in Onemana are:

- The Lakes and native reserves surrounding the Lakes, including the new Matariki planting area
- Tuna Creek Reserve, and native plantings all both sides of the stream
- Arthurs Pass, both sides of the stream

Plus there are some very committed people planting and mowing at the SH25 corner of Whitiporuroa Rd and people cutting and minding the tracks to Octopus Bay, and Pokohino Beach.

We thank you for the extra work that you all do. At least 90% of what happens in our community of Onemana is done voluntarily.

We endeavour to have the tracks and reserves in Onemana all tidied up and pruned back ready for the summer for the bach owners and the public to enjoy.

We try very hard not to do work while all the holiday makers are in residence over the Christmas summer break. This means a lot of weeding happens during spring, late summer and autumn. Then in winter we return to a big planting programme of small native plants. These are planted all over the community in reserves and headlands.

This year we had a group of 5 or so men removing large timbers from the Tuna Creek Stream. This helps the clean flow of water down the stream, without water building up due to logs and dams and hopefully avoid damage from big floods again in this area. This was a huge task from Tuna Place Road right up to the Forestry fence line. It took them days of pure physical workouts! Thank you, guys.

We have also been pretty intensively working on making it easier to improve the tracks so that you are able to walk up one side of Tuna Creek Reserve stream and loop back down the other side.

This reserve had a walking track just like this in place 30 - 40 years ago. It's great to see it being restored again.

Also be aware that the big pines that council contractors cut down in 2017 are now smaller, and tidier, but we need to wait for the really big logs to rot.

Please go and have a look at this track, it is a work in progress but is coming along really well. Also take a walk around the Lakes and Reserves track, it is all looking really great.

So, we have a tidy up plan: remove weeds around them and then plant some big outcome natives like Kauri and Totara and Puriri around them. Please watch out for all the new native plantings as they all have a bamboo stake, and a red tag on them. (Last year's tag was yellow, and they are very obvious).

We are watching out all the time for the dreaded Acmenia, Privet, Tobacco Weed, Wildling Cherries, Queen of the night, Gorse, Wild Ginger, and Pampas and all other common garden weeds which are regularly appearing.

You could help us some more by removing these above weeds from your own section, then come and help us remove them from the reserves as well.

We sent out an email this year asking residents to stop dumping their own personal weeds in the Onemana Reserves, and so far, we haven't had any more dumping, which we appreciate immensely. But please be aware we are in the reserves often and will notice straight away if it happens again.

We had a terrific response to our request for native plants and donations to buy native plants. We spent approx \$800 on natives and fertilisers and stakes so we planted approx 500 natives this last winter season.

Thank you to all the people who responded to this appeal.

Thankyou also to all the people who helped plant the many trees in winter.

If anyone has any more tree mulch, we are always open to receiving it as we spread it around our new plantings. Please take a walk-up Arthurs Pass and see how much it helps us to maintain the natives and reduce the weeds. Arthurs Pass is looking pretty amazing at the moment. A big thankyou to those who helped with the big working bee shifting mulch.

I recently took 4 grandchildren up Tuna Creek Reserve and watched the delight in the discovery of "Neil the Eel". He put on a wonderful display, and they all wanted to return to feed him again.

Kids are getting so much enjoyment out of all these improvements..... helping to pull some weeds, plant some trees, and general help make it a very special project. We are really doing these big tasks for future generations to enjoy.

We love what we do, the tasks, the companionship, jokes and fun. Sometimes we stretch to refreshments! (Thankyou to all the people who help us with morning teas when we have big working bees.)

We do all this voluntary work to leave Onemana better than we found it.

If you would like to come and give us a hand, please phone Kathryn 021 2435763,

Bruce, 021 438 063, or Rob 021 177 1804.

If anyone has suggestions for improvement ideas for these reserves, please email us your ideas.

We hope to organise some more Weedbuster working Bees as soon as we can, and we will be in touch once again for your help by email.

Thankyou from Bruce, Rob and Kathryn, plus many, many more who come when they get a phone call to come and help.