

PREDATOR FREE NEW ZEALAND

THE FACEBOOK FRONTIER

The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook interface for the 'Polhill Restoration Project' group. The page is set to a public group and features a cover image of a tūī bird in a natural setting. The navigation bar at the top includes the Facebook logo, the group name, a search bar, and user profile information for 'Paul'. The left sidebar contains navigation options such as 'Edit Profile', 'News Feed', 'Messages', 'Events', 'Saved', and 'Groups'. The main content area displays a 'Discussion' tab with a 'Write Post' button and a 'Pinned Post' by Paul Stanley Ward dated 4 January. The pinned post discusses the group's role in the news and mentions a cartoon. On the right, there is a 'Description' section stating the group's focus on regenerating gullies and a 'Tags' section for adding keywords. The bottom right corner shows a 'More Content' section with a search bar.

Polhill Restoration Project

Paul Stanley Ward

Public group

405 members (5 new)

Paul Stanley Ward
4 January

POLLHILL IN THE NEWS: our pioneering tieke was the subject of the cartoon in today's Dominion Post and the editorial of Saturday's paper. "There's something truly poignant about any milestone like this in New Zealand, which of course was the world's true bird land before people settled it ... Now, at a time when the world's biodiversity is dwindling rapidly, some

In 70ha of scruffy regenerating gullies bordered by the suburbs ... [See more](#)

Add a few descriptive keywords. [Add Tags](#)

The Polhill kaupapa is to be “neighbourly with our natives”. Its digital platform is a Facebook group. Here are some examples of how the project has leveraged freely available social media for community conservation outcomes.

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DIGITAL STORY-TELLING

The 2014 story of the first saddleback/tieke to nest in the wild (outside of a fenced sanctuary or offshore island) on the mainland in a century captured national attention as people became engrossed in the rare-bird-in-the-city survival story. Last year more tieke nested successfully without midwifery.





GOING VIRAL

The stories posted on the Polhill page were widely shared on conservation networks, made national news (including the cartoon and New Year's Day editorial in Dominion Post) and inspired other community groups. We leveraged popular umbrella Facebook and Twitter pages for sites like Forest & Bird and Zealandia to share updates on the fledgling's progress to independence.

 **Forest & Bird**
30 December 2015 at 15:00 · 🌐

Juvenile tieke (saddleback) have been photographed in Polhill Valley in Wellington. They were first introduced to [Zealandia Ecosanctuary](#) in 2002 and this is only the second year time they have bred successfully outside of the sanctuary in living memory. It probably helps that the Polhill Restoration Project are doing extensive predator control in the area! Kimberley

Read more: <http://bit.ly/1MFGwVZ>
Photo by Paul Stanley Ward



👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

You, Lucy Kebbell, Wade Doak and 828 others like this. [Top Comments](#)

52 shares

In Praise Of ...

A comeback

Wellington's Aro Valley discovered something marvellous this week: the suburb better known for its students and bohemians had become home to one of the first saddleback (or tieke) born in the wild in 100 years. The tieke, named in English for the distinctive chestnut-brown patch on its back, is one of a trio of famous New Zealand wattlebirds; the extinct hula and the distinctively grey-and-blue kokako, which survives in patches of the North Island, are the others. Tieke were declared extinct on the mainland in 1910, but reintroduced to Wellington's Zealandia in 2002. One other nest has been spotted in Aro Valley's Polhill Reserve before – conservationists surrounded it with a “ring of steel” to ward off stoats and other predators. But the latest juvenile, spotted and photographed by Paul Ward, didn't come from that nest. It had made its way in Wellington on its own, in other words. There's something truly poignant about any milestone like this in New Zealand, which of course was the world's true birdland before people settled it. Captain Cook's sailors recorded hearing the deafening chorus from hundreds of metres off the coast of the country. Now, at a time when the world's biodiversity is dwindling rapidly – some scientists fear a “sixth mass extinction” of species has begun – a single bird can seem like a victory. Let's hope for many more to come.

Press Council

The Dominion Post is subject to the

Letters

Email: letters@dompost.co.nz



Zealandia Ecosanctuary

30 December 2015 at 13:23 · 🌐

More great news as the 2nd TTeke or Saddleback, as they are also known, is born in the wild for the second time in over a century just down the road from us in Polhill Reserve <http://www.stuff.co.nz/.../saddleback-youngster-spotted-outsi...>



Saddleback born in wild

For only the second time, a young saddleback born outside Zealandia has been spotted.

STUFF.CO.NZ

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

You, Ali Whitton, Nicholas Booth, Tahu Mackenzie and 347 others like this. Top Comments ▾

44 shares



Salute to the saddleback

Like many New Zealanders, my parents had a keen interest and affection for our native birds. In particular, they loved the saddleback or tēke (Wāiwi saddleback spotted in city, December 29). So great was their interest in this

native bird that they called one of their racehorses after tēke (and "saddleback"). She was a very good racehorse - had she not been injured, she would have run in the 1984 Melbourne Cup. Such was her lead-up form she

could have been placed in that premier and prestigious event. Saddleback were declared extinct in 1910, so to see the photo of a fledgling outside Zealandia is great.

BRIAN COLLINS
Aro Valley

promoting a one-way flyover which made Victoria St "Ems"

Refugees' choices

Or why not go to other nearby offshore islands?



Letters

Let's get to the point

three brief points. [View 1 more comment on this post](#)



Drive out idiocy

Two young men were fined \$150 each for driving outside the

CORTINA THE GARAGE PROJECT KAKA

The colorful kaka parrots are one of the attention grabbing success stories of the Zealandia spillover into Wellington city adding a Jurassic touch to Aro Valley backyards.

A cheeky sugar water bottle attracted attention online and attracted the notice of another local success story, Garage Project brewery who shared it with their network.



When a kaka family nested behind the brewery (Polhill's local) we partnered up and ran an online naming contest for the Mum. The winner of the poll was 'Cortina' – for the bush bogan returning to the city! Illustrator Toby Morris (who grew up in Aro Valley) drew a portrait of Cortina that was widely shared online. A successful local business got to feel good about being good citizens, and we got to celebrate Polhill and Wellington wildlife in a fun way.



CORTINA



LIKING YOUR WILD BACKYARD

Social media is a fantastic way of encouraging conservation work. Facebook posts of trapped rats win likes, and kaka photos provide tautoko (endorsement) in response. Trappers get immediate feedback and feel good about their contribution to community.

A teacher only day meant these two intrepid trappers had plenty of time to clear and rebait traps on Transient. 1-20 Rebaited, 21-40 checked and two rats cleared from #21 and #30. Successful mission with several kaka giving thanks by way of a ceremonial fly-by. #kiakaka #predatorfreenz



Love Comment Share
 You, [name] and 20 others
 2 shares

Paul Stanley Ward
 21 January

POLHILL KAKA NEST SUCCESS: a kaka chick has been spotted off its nest; adding another manu taogna nest success to the Polhill resurgence (and another spur for our trapping mahi). This is great news, but we were chastened by a cat encounter in the drop-zone this morning (a white and black moggie scampered underneath the pine bough this chick was sitting on): PLEASE keep dogs leashed in Polhill and cats indoors at night if you live nearby. The kaka chick will be on and off the ground for a week or more until it 'earns its wings', and during this time it's especially vulnerable to roaming cats and dogs. Please spread the word among your Polhill, Highbury, Aro and Brooklyn networks.

Like Comment Share
 You, [name] and 62 others
 63 shares
 [name] can you write something for the e-highbury news?

Facebook enables us to give profile to buddies, like Brooklyn Trail Builders, who we planted 2000 natives trees with this winter.

 18 August

DIG THIS. This Saturday is the last planting session of the winter season (we know... what winter?!) as part of the restoration partnership between the Polhill Project and Brooklyn Trail Builders. Help get some examples of the original forest cover back into the whenua, like miro and mataī*. Meet 1pm Saturday at the steps beneath the Ashton Fitchett entrance to Polhill (where Transient and Highbury Fling meet). We'll be at it until 4pm. BYO gloves and energy. Cheers to Wellington City Council, Project Crimson Trust and Forest & Bird Wellington nurseries. The forecast is good (but we can't promise it will be like in the picture 😊) *Miro and mataī are favourite foods of kererū, kākā and kōkako – we hope that by the time these trees have grown up there'll be kōkako there to gorge on their fruit!

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/conifers/page-5>



 Like  Comment  Share

 You,  and 20 others

And supporters, like local innovators Goodnature (who supply traps and bait). As a result, everyone gets to feel good about being kaitiaki of our manu taonga and other native wildlife.

4 August

YIN AND YANG: A Terrace (Aro st end) resident was clearing a rat from her Goodnature A24 when a kākā popped in for a sup of sugar water in the feeder directly above her. The tautoko from the bird made a sweet connection between suppressing pests and the resurgent presence of native taonga in the city. The kākā was most likely local celebrity 'Cortina' (who recently raised a clutch in the bush behind [Garage Project](#)). N.b. there is plenty of natural food about for kākā in Aro v... [See more](#)



Like Comment Share

You, [Marian Wood](#), [Tara Hogg](#) and 37 others



ORANGE AND BLACK FOR SADDLEBACK: Department of Conservation trapping guru Darren Peters preached the Goodnature gospel at the Polhill field day on Saturday and demonstrated their new self-dispensing bait canister. Going around the traps today installing the canisters we found a double whammy rat-catch under the first A24, and to make the loop complete, the new technology got a tautoko from a trifecta of tieke. Power on Polhill! [Robert van Dam](#), [Stu Barr](#), [Sean Goodnature](#) [Nicola Toki](#) [Lisa Whittle](#)



It's an invitation to join in something energizing and positive.

 28 June

Some Polhill manu inspiration for Saturday's field day: 10am George Denton Park. Sign up on the event page below.



Paul Stanley Ward ▶ **Polhill Field Day**

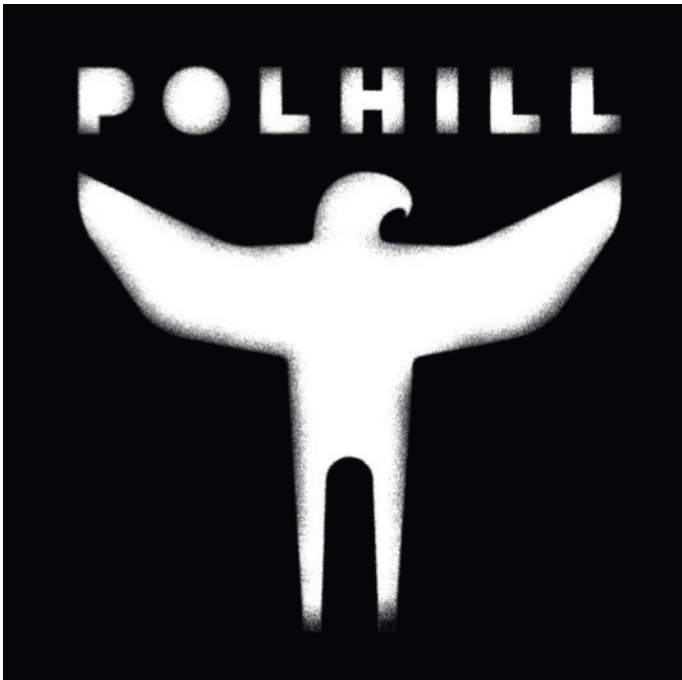
28 June

Here's a gallery of Aotearoa originals that we're laying the welcome mat out for in Polhill. On Saturday we'll be looking at some of the pest control methods* t...

TAGGING: FOR THE BIRDS

We engaged a designer Phil Kelly to make a bespoke stencil for Polhill: using the trap boxes as a visual storytelling platform. Tagging the trap boxes was huge fun for Polhill juniors (apologies to parents for encouraging tagging... at least they're off a screen and outside!), has given the project a presence in the reserve, and has gained converts to the cause as they searched for what the mysterious sign meant online...





BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

Online korero has shifted the middle ground on tricky topics e.g. roaming pets. Polhill pro tip: because a follower has to request access to join a Facebook group (rather than a page) it means they're already more invested in the project, and the conversations that result are respectful and progressive.



Tatts for cats?

Wellington set to insist on ID for pets, which could include tags, microchips or even tattoos.

STUFF.CO.NZ

Like Comment Share

You, Lisa White, Sarah Baker and 18 others

Michelle Rosemary Collins I actually think the council has done a very good job of reaching a reasonable solution that will help protect wildlife but also recognise the concerns of Wellington cat owners. As a cat owner I'd never live near the Sanctuary fence line, and I probably won't replace mine when they go. They are already micro-chipped and I'd be ok with a curfew if that eventually came into effect.

Unlike · Reply · 7 · 19 March at 13:51

Write a comment...

Paul Stanley Ward



Amanda Rogers

26 January · Wellington, New Zealand

No rats on highbury/Top traps between Polhill and Zealandia, but one uncollared, rather curious cat. Not ideal..



Like Comment Share

and 9 others

Seen by 153

View 18 more comments



Michelle Rosemary Collins Cats most certainly can be locked in. It happens elsewhere in world, only nz seems to have the mind set that cats are special and deserve to roam.

Unlike · Reply · 4 · 8 February at 21:05 · Edited

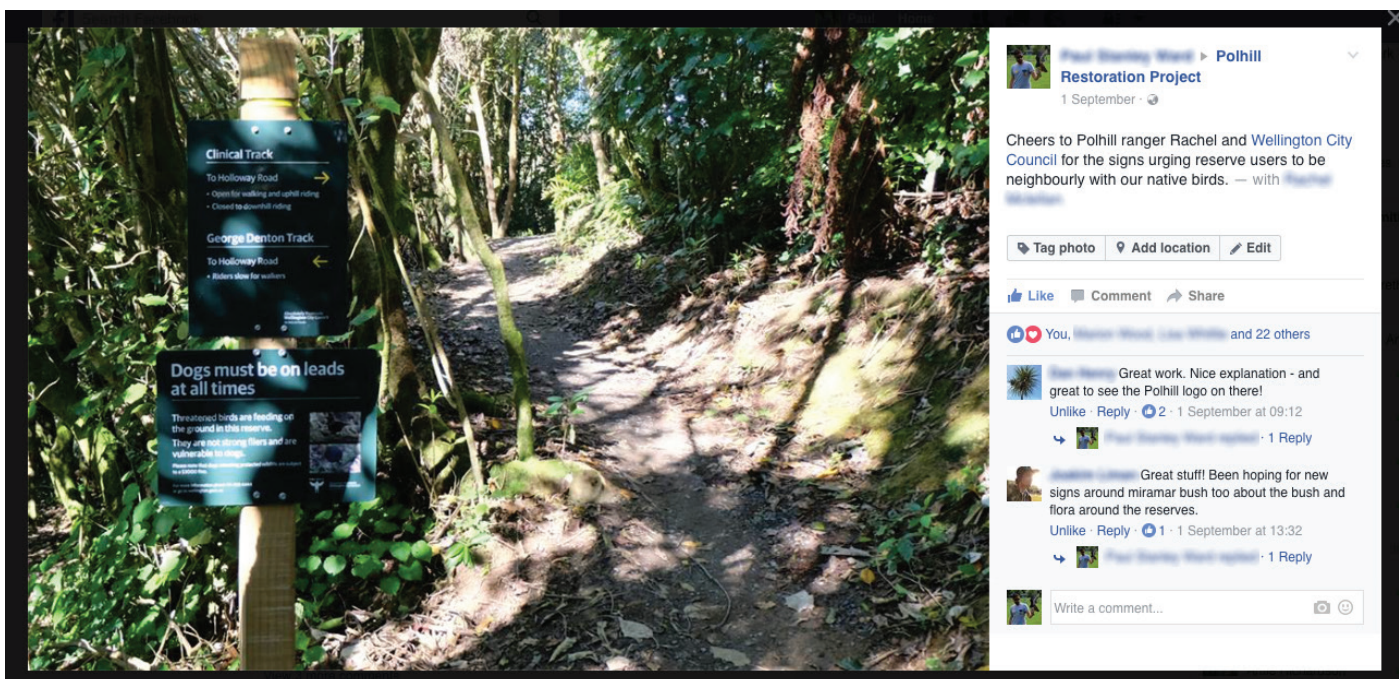


Michelle Rosemary Collins I control my dog, if she was to harm a native bird/lizard in polhill etc I'd be mortified. When dogs kill seal and kiwi people get up in arms. Yet a cat can go on a killing spree of tui in mirimar, eat lizards and geckos and kill rare saddle back in br... See more

Unlike · Reply · 4 · 8 February at 21:31 · Edited



Lisa White Yeah I've been trying to lock Gypsy in after his dinner at about five pm. But I go outside to put the rubbish out our something and he slips through my legs like an eel. And then if he's locked in he rattles the window catch until I yell at him a couple of times. Then I seriously throw a pillow at him He's usually ok about it after that.



One of the Polhill tenets is the people, pets and native wildlife can get on more peaceably, and on Facebook we can reinforce WCC signs and by-laws (e.g. dogs on leads) and re-enforce those bird-friendly messages positively ourselves e.g. we're not anti-pet, but pro-responsible pet ownership.

Online dialogue has also generated innovation in the field e.g. biking and running-friendly trap lines: an online discussion about the hassle of getting off your bike every 50m to check traps provoked the innovative use of pink tape on the traps: when the trap is sprung it draws the pink tag inside = a mountain biker only has to get off if there's no pink tag showing.



POLHILL JUNIORS

Polhill's youngest trappers have gamified line checks using the trap's ID numbers, and these digital natives love being able to see their efforts celebrated online.

ation Project

DOC Threatened Species Ambassador
16 August

I was so chuffed to join the awesome Polhill community from Wellington to look at their trapping network. I especially loved hanging out with Estella and Lucy ...

See more

Pest hunters: The girls helping save native wildlife

In Polhill, there's a pesticide squad of Lucy and Estella who are out hunting the pests that prowl the area.

NEWSHUB.CO.NZ

Like Comment Share

You, Ali Whitton, Lisa Whittle and 19 others

View 4 more comments

Heather Peacocke Awesome work team!
Unlike · Reply · 2 · 17 August at 21:20

Lisa Whittle Great mahi, from the youngest Polhill trappers 😊

Polhill juniors were used as exemplars of community conservation in a piece by reporter Lachlan Forsyth for TV3's Story for the launch of Predator Free New Zealand 2050.

Watch the video [here](#).

CHEEP AS

The comms tools for digital conservation comms: a Facebook group, and widely available digital cameras and smartphones

It's fast and it's free!



Ref. this is a Facebook banner mocked up for a trapping meeting.

POLHILL GO!

Oh and we've caught some interesting critters in our tracking tunnel surveys



HEY PARTNER!

Polhill's supporters include Wellington City Council, Zealandia Ecosanctuary, Department of Conservation, Victoria and Massey Universities, Brooklyn Trail Builders, Goodnature and Garage Project, and ... Predator Free New Zealand.

Predator Free New Zealand will be the distribution partner for the digital tool-kit.
Kia kaka!





GO NATIVE IN ARO VALLEY

www.polhill.org.nz