

# NZAGA Newsletter

NZ Arapawa Goat Association - November 2017, Issue 12



## From the Editor

My goodness, 3 years on since these newsletters began and there is still so much to share. First, an update on the DNA project – the DNA has been extracted from the 40 samples collected around New Zealand. They are now offshore so that the DNA can be processed and SNP CHPs created. On their return to NZ the analysis and comparison with other goat breeds commences. Fingers crossed, I anticipate the results will be released in the next newsletter.

Over the years, following the efforts of Betty Rowe and a number of other caring people, together we have taken the Arapawa goats from a feral breed, hunted almost to the point of extinction, to being acknowledged as a heritage breed unique to New Zealand by New Zealand's Rare Breed Conservation Society (RBCSNZ). We are now taking them, along with other NZ heritage breeds, into a new phase of their journey towards survival. Believing that with numbers there is strength, I have accepted a position on the National Committee of the RBCSNZ and taken on the role of Registrar. This does not mean I am leaving the Arapawa Goat family that we have created together, rather it allows me to fill the void that occurred when I had to let my little farm and my beautiful goats go into the care of others.

There is so much passion for NZ's endangered heritage breeds. But passion and motivation can rarely be sustained in a vacuum. As we meet up with like-minded people, our sense of purpose and energy grow. I have seen this in the Canterbury Branch of the RBCSNZ and am in the process of establishing a Lower North Island Branch. A wonderful lady by the name of Mairi Jay, full of enthusiasm and positivity, has called for a meeting to form the Waikato Branch of the RBCSNZ. I planned to drive to Hamilton to support her, but personal circumstances mean I cannot go. If you are in that area, perhaps you can call in and make yourself known to her, and to others in the region who care about our rare breeds. Details for both the Lower North Island and the Waikato meetings are further on in this newsletter.

Alison

[alison@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alison@xtra.co.nz)  
021 2015 007

### Newsletter Contents:

1. From the Editor
2. Progress requires change
3. New certificates
4. Lower North Island members
5. Waikato members
6. Sooo cuddly  
My doe has triplets
7. The WOW factor
8. Fencing Discussion
- Stop Press
11. Broken leg
13. Q & A
15. DOC's Stance

### STOP PRESS ....

*Are you making secret plans to take feral goats off Arapawa Island? If the answer is yes, then read page 10 ....*

## Progress requires change

Being the co-ordinator of the NZAGA and a paid up member of the RBCSNZ, I can see the benefits and practicalities of bringing the two together, not as a merger but as an affiliation. When you register your Arapawa goat with me, unless you instruct me otherwise, I will add it to both the NZAGA and the RBCSNZ online registry. In this way we ensure that our heritage goats are recorded in history and will never be forgotten. While all the services provided for NZAGA members have been free (I have always considered it a privilege to give my time for the Arapawa goats), sadly this isn't realistic for a larger organisation that seeks to serve multiple rare breeds and raise their status to equal (if not surpass) established livestock breeds in NZ. The certificates created for our special goats have served their purpose; it is now time to put the Arapawa goats alongside other recognised heritage, rare and exotic breeds. I have taken the liberty of registering all the goats on the NZAGA Registry with the RBCSNZ at no cost to yourselves, and will do so until the end of 2017 (after this date there is a minimal charge of \$1 to register each animal).

You can access the online registry directly through the RBCSNZ website link: <http://www.rarebreeds.co.nz/registrylogin.php>. The **password** I send you provides free access until it is changed at the end of March 2018. After this date only members of the RBCSNZ will be given the password.

### Advantages of having RBCSNZ certification:

- ✓ The cost to register rare breeds with the RBCSNZ is minimal; in 2018 it's \$1 per animal for members and \$5 per animal for non-members.
- ✓ As a member of the RBCSNZ, you will be given access to the online registry, follow the genealogical line and print out pedigrees of your goats.
- ✓ While I will continue to maintain the NZAGA registry, the download will be removed from the website; this reduces access to your private details by the general public.

***Please contact me directly if you want your Arapawa goat removed from the RBCSNZ Registry.***

***If members feel strongly that they prefer to continue with the NZAGA certificates, I invite someone to take over this responsibility and would be delighted to send him/her the template.***

***Because this newsletter is published on the arapawagoat.com website and therefore accessible to the general public, I will send the **password** to all NZAGA members separately.***

- ✓ With the Arapawa goats now recognised by the RBCSNZ as a heritage breed and supported by a RBCSNZ registration number, they are eligible to enter shows that require Rare Breed certification.
- ✓ The RBCSNZ registration certificate will carry much more credibility. I trialled this with one of our members and he gave me permission to share his response:

*"I really like that certificate and the Layout. I think it provides a good authenticity and adds value to the breeding title. When members exchange or swap stock they can pass these on so they have verification of the animal. With regards to the registration, a nominal cost would be expected, I would think. Something that takes into acct the time and effort to do."*

**Sample of a RBCSNZ certificate (with watermark and photos)**


**Pedigree of: *Rakahuri Ash***



Date of Birth: 30-05-2017  
 Colour/Marks: Fawn & white  
 Owned By: Strang, H

Sex: M

Breed: **Arapawa Goat**  
 Reg No.: AIGO290  
 Bred By: Lynne Julian

NZAGA: 300



PARENTS	GRANDPARENTS	GREAT GRANDPARENTS	GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS
<b>SIRE:</b> Millard Farm Mitch  Reg No.: AIGO252	Millard Farm Sultan Reg No.: AIGO259 Millard Farm Meadow Reg No.: AIGO249	Tutukinoa Dobby Island Girl of Arapawa Island Tutukinoa Dobby Tutukinoa Maana	#DH farm herd Tutukinoa Holly #feral herd #feral herd #DH farm herd Tutukinoa Holly #DH farm herd Tutukinoa Siobhan
<b>DAM:</b> Animal Farm Portia  Reg No.: AIGO148	Tutukinoa Hercules Morse Reg No.: AIGO079 Animal Farm Rata Reg No.: AIGO149	#DH farm herd #DH farm herd Home Farm Apollo Jr Tutukinoa Houdini	#DH farm herd #DH farm herd Apollo of Arapawa Island Home Farm Dottie #DH farm herd #DH farm herd

I, the undersigned do hereby certify that the foregoing particulars are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Only as a member of Rare Breeds NZ (RBCSNZ) are you are entitled to purchase RBCSNZ certificates for your animals (see fee structure below). Unlike the NZAGA, you cannot register any animal until they are **at least 6 months** old. This enables breeders' time to determine if the animal is suitable for breeding purposes and ensures photographs on the certificates more closely match the registered animal (a little kid is cute but doesn't necessarily look the same at 6 months of age).

***The following are optional extras only – as a member you can view and print out your own pedigree charts for free:***

---

Rare Breeds Conservation Society of New Zealand (RBCSNZ)



**Services & Fees for Members:**

- ~ Stud/Herd name – one off cost of \$25 to register a stud name with the RBCSNZ
- ~ Stud/Herd name certificate - \$15 for A4 printed copy (plus postage). ... Larger by negotiation.
- ~ Animal Registration – free until the end of 2017, then \$1 per animal (or \$5 for non-members)
- ~ Pedigree certificates with logo/watermark –\$5 for emailed pdf; \$15 for A4 printed copy (plus postage). ... Larger by negotiation.
- ~ Transfer/change of ownership - \$5 per animal transferred on Registry; \$10 for transfer plus replacement (pdf) certificate

***All printed certificates will be on RBCSNZ Registry certification paper***

Payment to be made to: **RBCSNZ Registry - 031355 0685162 01**

**Do you live in the Lower North Island?**

Want to share your passion for conserving NZ's rare breeds?

You are invited to a meeting to create a **Lower North Island branch** of the **RBCSNZ**, to be held on:

**9<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**4 pm – 6 pm**

**The Wool Shed**

**12 Dixon Street, Masterton**

Contact: **Alison Sutherland** , email: [registry@rarebreeds.co.nz](mailto:registry@rarebreeds.co.nz),

Phone **06 3786686** or mobile **021 2015 007**

**New members welcome**

(RSVP would be great (but don't let it stop you coming))



## **Notice of an inaugural meeting for a Waikato branch**

There will be a meeting to create a Waikato Branch of the RBCSNZ  
to be held on:

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November,  
From 2pm to 4.30pm**

At the Go Eco Environment Centre  
188-200 Commerce Street, Frankton, Hamilton

For more information contact

**Mairi Jay**

Phone: 07974-3730; email: [mairimacintyre@gmail.com](mailto:mairimacintyre@gmail.com)

All Welcome

Networking keeps us motivated



## ***Sooo cuddly***



***Two little gorgeous kids.*** Photograph sent in by Emily Mallard of Canterbury.

“The photo is of Scarlett, aged 4. She adores our lovely goats and they adore her too! The bucklings especially. They would go to sleep in her arms while she cuddles them. Now that they are a little older they come up to her and stand for their snuggles. She is adamant that we are keeping all three! 😊”

*[One of the hazards when you have kids of the human and goat species; they fall in love with each other. Alison]*

## **Help. My doe had triplets**

Fortunately your doe is an experienced mother with a lovely nature. She'll take care of them. Just keep an eye that one isn't being left out, especially in the first 4 days when they need the colostrum. If this happens, just put the doe and the little one together in a private place for an hour - feed the doe and the kid, if not too weak, will grab the moment. Then put them all back together again. If it is too weak in those first important days, strip some colostrum from mum and give to kid (I use a small syringe and gently squirt milk onto its tongue). After the 4 days, supplement with a few mls of warm full-cream cow's milk with a few drops of Bio Brew in it until it is strong enough to hold its own. If in doubt, hand raise. Each is so precious.





## The WOW factor

Shane Docherty, from Auckland way, is looking to purchase some does for his superb stud, Tennax. I shared this on Facebook and there was considerable interest in him as a stud (Tennax, not Shane), but I think the idea was to make this a permanent arrangement with the doe coming to Tennax for keeps. But by joves, Tennax is certainly stunning. He is the perfect match for almost all the North Island girls who come from Stagland's or Millard Farm. And so handsome. Coming from a red & black sire and cream and white dam, he should throw some interesting colour combinations. A bit like a box of chocolates - you won't know quite what to expect. Anyway, here's Shane's notice:

"Hey all, looking for a couple of girls for this guy, Tennax. He is 4 years old and thought it was about time he could pass on his good looks as he has only been kept with other billies. He is registered on the NZAGA registry as AG238. Will look at any options and I am willing to do a fair bit of driving to collect. Prefer North Island but if no luck I will look south."

[You can contact Shane directly on 027 3477 205 \(or email me and I will forward it on\)](#)



Mitch (AG244) is also ready to share the love. In this case, he needs to be rehomed as he has done his job and needs distance between himself and his daughters. Mitch is out of Millard Farm Meadow and Millard Farm Sultan. He is currently in Canterbury. If interested, please contact Lynne directly on [Ph: 021 311716 \(or email me and I will forward it on\)](#)



## Facebook Fencing Discussion

*One of our members (Rogue Wyatt is his Facebook handle) has given me permission to share the following discussion about fences for our goats. One of the biggest concerns for new members is how to keep the goats in.*

Hi folks, just been reading through all the old newsletters on the Arapawa Website, a lot of very useful and specific information on there. A great tool to visit and read through, also love the sharing and caring on here. Upgraded my fences tonight quickly and easily for little cost thanks to some great ideas.

I raised my fence height by buying 2 packets of fiberglass posts 400mm long, I drilled holes into my posts on a 45 degree angle about 2 inches deep and tapped the fiberglass posts in. Then strung some electric fence wire around the whole paddock and put onto the hot link. I walked away from the paddock to put the tools away and 2 of the goats got up and licked the wire, ZAP, then Nibbles and Cuddles seemed to laugh at them and dance around because they already knew what i was up to..... they are now contained and I am confident the idea will work. My paddock is 24m wide by 40m long. I used a single packet of 10 rods which came as a pack with the conductor rings. Only \$24, and probably need another packet to do every post. I will run 2.5mm wire I think to make it a bit more robust.

The only diff is I put my post on a 45 degree angle upwards facing into the paddock.

Got the fiberglass 400 stays and wire conductors as a set of ten from our local Warkworth Lifestyle and Farm Center for \$24, they are available on trademe a little cheaper as well. I only posted every second post but will get more posts I think and use 2.5mm fence wire for more permanent fixture perhaps.





Outrigger top wire installed, girls still in the paddock.... took me an hour to install, pretty easy, even for a muddler like me.

To install I just drilled the holes on 45 degree angles into the fence posts pointing inwards into the paddock. On the corners in the middle of the post so you can go around the corner easier. I threaded through the clips and just doubled back to my energized in another paddock. Cost, very cost effective, if you get a spool of fence wire as well still under \$150.





Heather Strang shared a photo of Blossom with her head through the fence.



#### **Another brilliant find from a Facebook member**

It may not be an Arapawa goat, but the rationale is definitely worth considering. Radiator hose is flexi and soft, easy to fit and you can use cable ties to fasten up. An excellent idea for the goat with horns that pops its head through ringlock fencing and constantly gets stuck.

## **STOP PRESS ....**

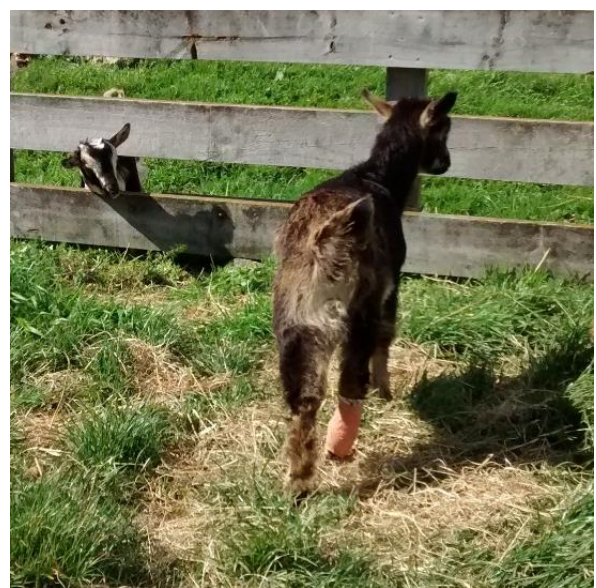
**I have checked in with DOC in Marlborough and been advised that DOC is supportive of goats being removed off Arapawa Island.**

Providing you don't plan to go onto DOC Reserve land without a permit, there is no need for members of the NZAGA to gain further approval or permission to remove feral goats from Arapawa Island. I understand that goat numbers have increased on the Island, but that DOC hunters are not scheduled to control their numbers until March 2018. So if you have the resources and the motivation – **what an adventure is to be had!** And please, **take your camera!!**



## Broken leg

I have learnt ... that when the dam is at the bottom of the pecking order, her kids are at risk from bullying if left to run with other does that also have kids. Such was the case with my beautiful little Shady Lady. While she loved to romp and play with the other kids, when I brought tasty morsels (nuts, willow, anything goats love) into the communal paddock, greedy does would just flick the vulnerable kids away. This had happened once before when the vet insisted the kid be put out of her misery. To my regret, I agreed. This time I decided to fight for her. Surely life was a better option than death? And so I put splints on her leg (wrapped in cotton wool so the plaster doesn't stick to the hair) and isolated her and her mother from the others.



After a few days, seeing Shady hobble around painfully and knowing I was soon to be off the farm, I made an urgent plea to one of our members who happens to be a vet. Christine



had earlier taken on an older, pregnant doe whose leg was broken in several places. The doe and her kids not only survived, but flourished.

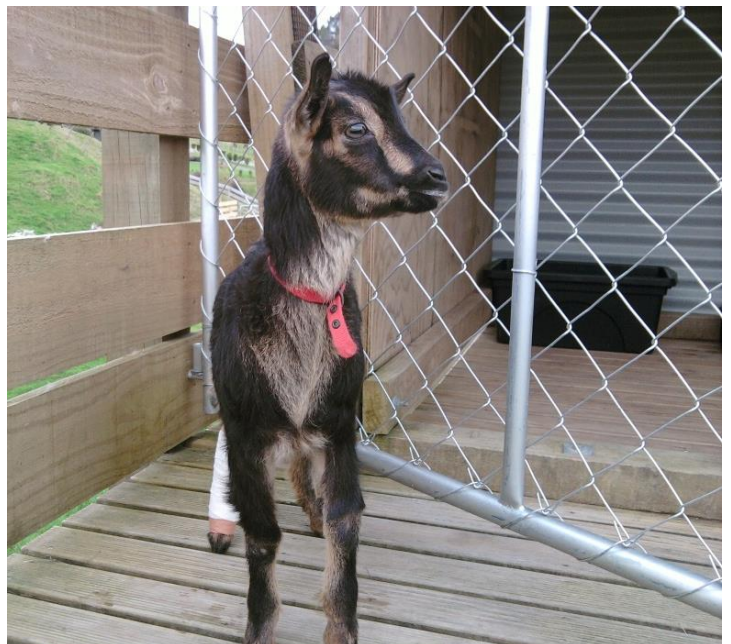
Christine rushed to the rescue, giving little Shady painkillers for the journey, x-rayed and reset her leg (the images below show the damage) and is now in the process of nurturing her to health. Such are the beautiful people who care for our Arapawa goats.



My amateurish job on the left; Christine's professional expertise on the right.

Christine sent me the photograph of Shady Lady. She is currently healing in quarantine under Christine's loving, watchful eye. But will Shady survive? If the leg doesn't heal, then we will have to let her go. It is unfair to keep an animal if its quality of life is poor.

*Watch this space for an update of Shady in the next newsletter.*



### Q. Future

I'm just wondering what's the guts regarding taking goats off Arapawa Island? Do you have to have permission from DoC / MPI etc? Hypothetically speaking, if someone on the island caught a kid or 2 and then gave them to someone else who wasn't on the island, does anyone have to know or be involved? If they could advise exactly where the kids were caught etc would that be acceptable to have them put on the register?

Lol, sounds like a cunning plan. I love it. If you can get them and let me know the date and place, I will trust your integrity and register them. Sounds like a wonderful adventure and a story worth writing up. In the meantime, I will contact the DOC manager of the Sounds to find out the legality of removing some of the goats from the Island. **READ THE STOP PRESS ON PAGE 10.**

### Q. Names

When naming the goats, I read in the book that there is a methodology to name with the first letter of the mum?

Different people use different methodologies to name the kids. Betty Rowe did it by alphabetical connection; I tend to do it with what suits the kid or for my own reasons (e.g. Sultan because he was to be my stud; Lace after my niece and because it is such a pretty, feminine name that matches the little kid). One member draws names from the Cosmos, others from plants, etc. Whatever takes your fancy and works for you.

### Q. Age to leave home

What age is best to release young new goats to new home, safely

I keep mine with the does until they are 12 weeks old (sometimes releasing them at 11 weeks). If there are older goats waiting at the new home, don't put the kid straight in with them. Provide a safe place nearby so they can gradually become acquainted.

### Q. What to look for when buying a goat

Is there anything we need to be aware of with acquiring new animals from folk, don't want to get burnt.

One could write a book on this! But to keep it simple: First – make sure it is healthy. If it doesn't look well, it isn't well. Ask lots of questions about the animal's background. Check that it is registered with the NZAGA and/or RBCSNZ. If not, it probably isn't Arapawa. Find out when it was last drenched and if it has been vaccinated (5+1).

### Q. Unregistered Arapawa goat

If an animal isn't on register, what do we do? One would assume they may not be legitimate.

If an Arapawa goat isn't registered, but its parentage is known, I will register the new kids/goat, but will ask for 'provenance', i.e. proof. If it is taken directly off Arapawa Island, we will discuss the possibility of registering it based on the story (i.e. place, time, how), physical characteristics and again, provenance.

### Q. Seaweed

Is there any particular kind of seaweed Arapawa Goats like to eat, was thinking of collecting some and drying it out for snacks. Any thoughts?

After rescuing the goats off Arapawa Island, I went to the beach one day during a howling southerly. Gathered lots of different types of seaweed and then scattered it around their paddocks. They never touched it. In the end I bought some kelp powder and sprinkled it on their multi-nuts. Now that I give them Stock Brew, no need for any such additives.

### Q. Bottles for bottle feeding

With bottle feeding, we will get some teats from the farm shop, but what sort of bottles should we use, and does it matter? I also read that we shouldn't use plastic water type bottles, but it didn't say why.

The best bottles are the small glass coke bottles with a screw on cap. Lamb teats screw onto these and they can be sterilized with boiling water. Plastic bottles soon get a film inside them, become tainted and are costly to sterilise.



### Handy hint:

Hand-raised kids don't need expensive lambs' milk – they are not sheep! I bought 2L bottles of full cream milk at a time (on special at Gull) and all the kids thrived. **NOT trim, homogenised or lite** – Give them **FULL CREAM MILK**. Now I would also add a few drops of Stock Brew.

You can also make your own Electrolyte (see February 2016 newsletter): ½ L warm water, 1 tablespoon glucose (or dextrose), 1 teaspoon baking soda and a pinch of salt.





## DoCs Stance

*It would appear that DoC are keeping a close eye on the work of the NZAGA, as they have updated the comments on their website in regards to the Arapawa goats. Several years ago they talked about removing these 'pests' off Arapawa Island. Their current stance is printed below; I have highlighted several comments to bring them to your attention. The link to their stance is: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/goat-control-on-arapawa-island-scenic-reserve/>*

### Goat control programme

DOC's goat control programme on Arapawa Island is focussed on the scenic reserve and some adjoining private land with the agreement of the landowner. Control of goats on the scenic reserve to protect its distinctive native vegetation has been ongoing since 1978. The area in which goat control takes place comprises about one-third of the goats' range on the island which is mostly on private land.

In part of the reserve that is fenced and protected from goats and pigs there is impressive re-growth of understory shrubs and trees transforming it into more natural, healthy forest. Seedlings are now abundant whereas before the forest floor was almost bare of new growth due to grazing by goats and pig rooting. (There is little fencing between private land and most of the reserve, goats and pigs regularly spill over into the reserve from the private land. Consequently in these parts of the reserve goat and pig damage to the native vegetation is still occurring and control is needed to reduce their numbers to low levels.

### Why goats are controlled

DOC's goat control programme on Arapawa Island is focussed on the scenic reserve and some adjoining private land with the agreement of the landowner. It is needed to protect the reserve's important remnant Cook Strait forest communities and plant species which today only survive in a few places. Goats, and also pigs, have a significant impact on this native vegetation if left unchecked.

The native vegetation in the Arapawa Island Scenic Reserve is representative remnants of forest that was once more widespread in the Cook Strait area. It is shaped by the distinctive climate of the Cook Strait narrows - wind, humidity and salt spray - combined with rugged and spectacular topography. The composition of the native bush is an unusual mix of subtropical kohekohe, warm temperate tawa and montane beech-podocarp-broadleaved forests, in distinct altitudinal zones. It is rare in New Zealand to have possum-free kohekohe forest on such a scale.

In part of the reserve that is fenced and protected from goats and pigs there is impressive regrowth of understory shrubs and trees transforming it into more natural, healthy forest. Seedlings are now abundant whereas before the forest floor was almost bare of new growth due to grazing by goats and pig rooting.

There is little fencing between private land and most of the reserve, goats and pigs regularly spill over into the reserve from the private land. Consequently in these parts of the reserve goat and pig damage to the native vegetation is still occurring and control is needed to reduce their numbers to low levels.

### Goats are reduced not exterminated

**DOC's goat control programme on Arapawa Island is focussed only on the scenic reserve, to protect its important and distinctive Cook Strait vegetation, and periodically an adjoining area of private land with the agreement of the landowner. The goat control aims to reduce goat numbers to low levels in the reserve.**

The area of ongoing goat control, 1100 hectares, comprises around just one third of the goats' range on the island which covers approximately 3350 hectares.

**DOC does not consider its goat control programme would lead to the extinction of the Arapawa goats on the island.**

#### Number of goats

The number of goats on Arapawa Island and on the Arapawa Island Scenic Reserve is not exactly known. We have been advised that it wouldn't be easy to get an accurate or even reliable count because of the island's difficult terrain and now extensive vegetation cover. Also, goats move around and wouldn't be visible from the air during the day as they are usually resting then under trees or bushes. A ground survey wouldn't be practical and it would need to be done from the air.

**We understand it is estimated 307 of these goats are held by registered breeders off the island, including at sites in New Zealand, the United States and Great Britain.**

#### A viable breeding population

The number of goats on the island isn't known but the fact ongoing goat control has been required on the reserve since 1978 suggests a viable breeding population of the goats remains on the island.

DOC's goat control programme on Arapawa Island is focussed on the scenic reserve and protecting its important and distinctive Cook Strait vegetation. Periodically it includes an adjoining area of private land with the agreement of the landowner.

**DOC does not consider its goat control programme would lead to the extinction of goats on Arapawa Island. Our goat control is not aimed at eradicating the goats on the island, just reducing their numbers to low levels on the reserve.**

The area of ongoing goat control only represents approximately a third of the goats' home range and goats are still regularly moving into the reserve from private land.

**There are numerous goat breeders here and overseas breeding Arapawa goats.**

#### Goat protection

**Goat advocates say the goats are a unique and rare species and may ask why DOC isn't involved in protecting them in accordance with the Rio Convention 1992 which New Zealand is a signatory to.**

But the reserve is not an appropriate place for the goats given the destructive impact the goats have on the reserve's native vegetation. **Protection of the goats is best achieved by people who value them holding and managing them on fenced private land.**

The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy identified the need to ensure that protection was made available for those species introduced to New Zealand but regarded as important because of their international status, the importance of their genes or their role in New Zealand's development. The Biodiversity Strategy specifies that this should be done provided it does not pose a threat to indigenous species.

It is not a role of DOC to provide for the protection of introduced species; our responsibility is the preservation of New Zealand's native plants and animals for the people of New Zealand. This includes a

responsibility to preserve the important remnant Cook Strait forest and plants and other native species on Arapawa Island scenic reserve, including the unique Marlborough green gecko, also found in its yellow form on the island, and giant Powelliphanta snails, all of which are part of our country's unique natural heritage.

We are aware it is believed that the goats on Arapawa Island are descended from goats liberated by Captain Cook on Arapawa Island in 1773 but it is not clear whether the goats on the island today are remnants of the Cook goats. The NZ Rare Breeds Conservation Society's website states, "Cook actually recorded that the goats he released in East Bay on Arapawa Island – and which he had taken aboard at the Cape Verde islands on the voyage out – were killed before he left the country".

The earliest known record of goats being seen on Arapawa Island since Cook's time was in 1839. Whalers established on Arapawa Island in 1827 at Te Awaiti and it is highly likely they brought goats with them for food.

It has not been definitively established that the Arapawa goat is a unique and rare species. The 2007 genetic analysis that was undertaken in Spain concluded the Arapawa goat is "a unique genetic resource when compared to other goat breeds". It was not tested against the Old English Goat as none exist to enable this and it was also not tested against other New Zealand mainland goat populations. There is a view held that even if the earlier Cook's goats survived they would now likely be of mixed ancestry as islanders say over the years mainland goats have been released onto the island and interbred with the island goats.

Fencing more of the reserve to keep out goats and pigs

It would be extremely expensive and difficult to erect and maintain a fence over other parts of the boundary between the reserve and private land which stretches for several kilometres along a rocky ridge. There would be difficulties in getting fence posts into the rock surface and the salt laden air would mean high maintenance costs. A number of landowners have indicated they could not afford to install a boundary fence or share the cost of that with DOC.

DOC reached an agreement with the majority of a group of neighbours to the reserve with a close interest in the goat control on the use of a range of techniques for its goat and pig control. These were seen as a more practical option than fencing which would be extremely costly and difficult to erect. The measures include ground hunting, using indicator dogs to locate goats and pigs, and helicopter control at times on reserve land.

Fencing on private land

DOC has no objection to goat supporters creating a fenced area on private land for goats on Arapawa Island. We see this as a good way in which to achieve their aim of protecting the goats on the island. It is not in line with DOC's role and responsibilities to provide this fenced area as our role is focussed on preserving New Zealand's native species and managing areas of public conservation land.

*I really must get around to updating the timeline on the website, but am waiting on the outcome of the DNA tests. The next NZAGA newsletter is due out in February 2018; articles, photos and questions welcome. **Alison:** [alison@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alison@xtra.co.nz)*