

**“RUNNING THE GAUNTLET – PROMOTING THE
ERADICATION OF RATS AND FERAL CATS
ON AN INHABITED ISLAND”**

John Ogden & Judy Gilbert

**GREAT BARRIER ISLAND CHARITABLE TRUST
WINDY HILL ROSALIE BAY TRUST**

INTRODUCING GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

AREA : 274 km² or 28,000HA

ALTITUDE: 621 m

TOPOGRAPHY: Rugged

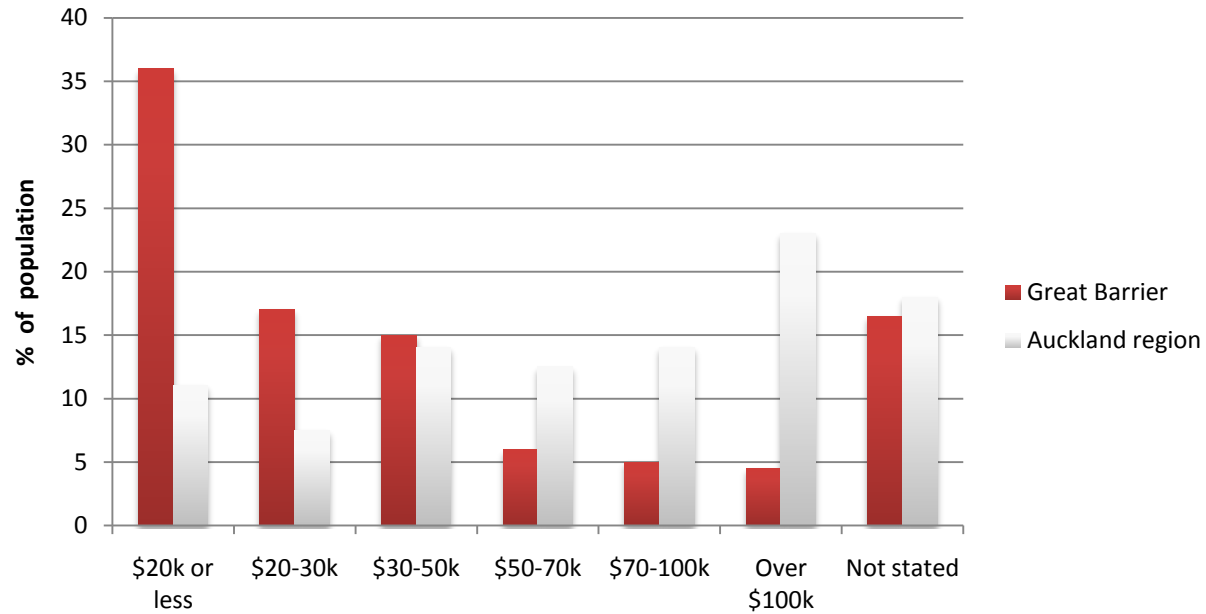
COVER: Mainly scrub/forest

ACCESS: Car ferry, light planes

RESIDENT POPULATION: 800-1000

ATTITUDE: Yes!

Average income GBI and AKL



DOWNTOWN CLARIS



What the GBICT's aims are: Mission statement:

- °To protect native species through the eradication of rats and feral cats;
- ° To re-introduce species lost from Great Barrier (during historical time);
- °To work towards building an ecology based economic framework for Great Barrier.



Who is on the Trust?

° Trustees

John Ogden (Chair)

Fenella Christian (Secretary)

Judy Gilbert, Tony Bouzaid, Liz Westbrooke.

David Speir – Newsletter Editor

° DOC representative (Des Casey)

° Community Board (CB) representative (Izzie Fordham)

° Iwi representative (currently not filled)

° Trust members (c. 141). Subscriptions

THE GBICT IS AN UMBRELLA ORGANISATION

- ° OTHER Conservation Trusts on GBI
- ° Networking
- ° OFF - ISLANDERS

**WINDY HILL
TRUST : RESEARCH**



- Rat population dynamics

- Annual cycle
- Habitat preferences
- Numbers: ship rat > kiore > mice
- Hierarchy

- Predation effects

- Bird numbers / diversity
- Reptiles
- Invertebrates

- Effects on vegetation / succession to mature forest.

BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS(2009) 11. 1705-1717



GBICT ACTIVITIES

INFORMING PEOPLE: CREATING COMMON GROUND

BIRD COUNTS (2006 – 08) – Quarterly – involved 76 people to some degree. Reports ‘published’.

NEWSLETTER – Quarterly – well received, but on-going funding an issue. Gets to c. 1000 people.

OPEN DAYS– e.g. at Windy Hill / Glenfern / Palmer’s Beach /Kaitoke swamp. Themes with speakers at these ‘full day’ events.



COMMON GROUND

Workshops on rat control, supported by ARC. Not well attended (12 – 20 people)

Evening lectures (c. 12 – 20 people)

Trips to Tiritiri Matangi Island (20 x 3) – selected ‘opinion makers’

School groups doing control

Local group started up in Tryphena facilitated by Trust

A FEW KEY CONVERTS!



STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT (SOE)

2 years of research on all aspects of GBI environment – Human, Physical and Biotic. Substantial well illustrated document of c. 180 pages. Snapshot of base-line data. Presented to the Auckland Conservation Board, Ngati Rehua, Community Board, DoC, ARC, Hauraki Gulf Forum. A shortened version sent to every resident and ratepayer that we had addresses for.

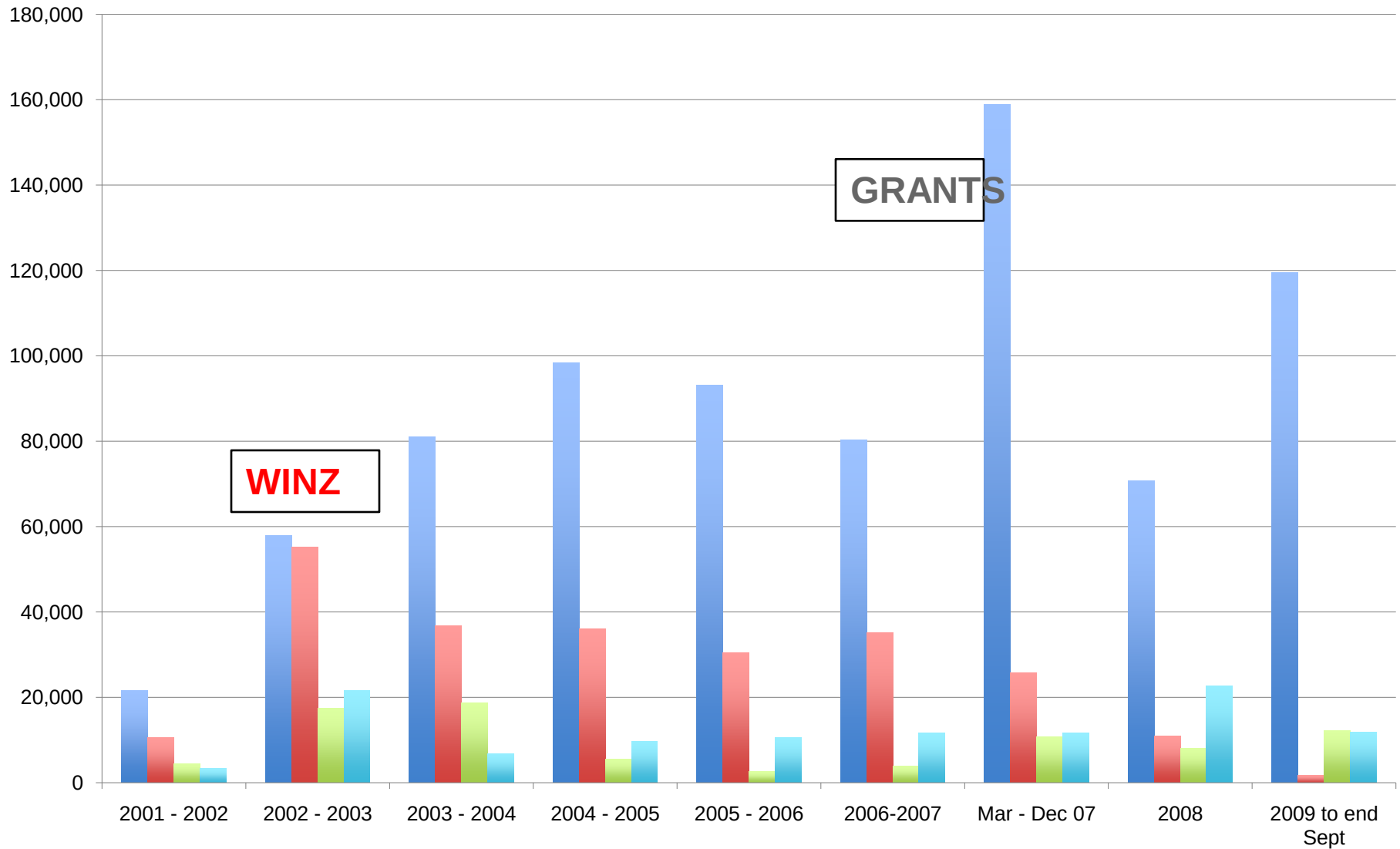
Contribution to an eradication 'Feasibility' Study – and wider aim of bringing GBI environmental Issues to the fore. This study has the backing of the Hauraki Gulf Forum who have committed to a \$10,000 grant.

DOC support.

Not supported \$\$ by CB.



\$ INCOME – Windy Hill \$



AT WINDY HILL

EMPLOYMENT – supports households / local businesses

15 Full-time, 2 part-time employees since 2001 (4/year)

ADMINISTRATOR – Part time – accounts/gst/wages etc.

CONTRACTED WORK:

ARC Weed monitoring

ARC Wharf monitoring

Bird / weta / lizard monitoring

TRAINING

TEAM WORK

WORK ETHICS

UPSKILLING – Meeting Scientists etc.

LEADERSHIP

RESOURCE FOR COMMUNITY

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CONSERVATION ON GBI





In 2006 we promoted a dream..

Gt Barrier Island as Auckland's own World Heritage site.....

70% of the land is publicly owned

Island becomes formalised as wilderness resource for all New Zealanders

Make it rat and feral cat free

Re-introduce lost birds such as kokako

Improve economic life for community and region

Auckland City shares costs with DoC and ARC

Great Barrier World Heritage site

- haven for nationally endangered species (status 2)
  - brown teal, chevron skink and kaka



Brown teal

- Fern bird
- NZ dotterel
- Banded rail
- Red crowned kakariki



Kaka

- Black petrel
- Kereru
- Marsh crake



Chevron Skink

- Spotless crake
- Prostrate kanuka
- NZ Mistletoe
- Cooks scurvey grass

Great Barrier World Heritage site

- a large island park of 190 sq km with the future possibly of many levels of marine protection – taiapure, marine reserves



Great Barrier - World Heritage site

- unspoiled set of island eco-systems from marine environment to 680m 'sub-alpine' areas



Great Barrier World Heritage site

- Maori and colonial heritage sites



Great Barrier World Heritage site

- **good access for visitors**
- **a small resident population**
- **accommodation & transport**
- **guiding**



Great Barrier World Heritage site

- showcase for alternate systems e.g. wind, solar, water



Great Barrier World Heritage site

- potentially a superb example of regeneration and restoration processes



But it ended disastrously...

- Trust became a political football using the community resistance to Auckland City's imposed 'heritage' sites on private land – a convenient confusion
- Despite following the proper process the Trust was publically lambasted for not talking to community first - The outcome may have been +ve with a different Community Board
- And then there is the local newspaper....



BB 18 July 2006 #457

The GBI Charitable Trust. Are they Charitable and can they be Trusted?

Kevin Burke

I lost my cub reporter's badge because I failed to turn in

BB 4 Oct 2006 #462

Good morning Vietnam! Aerial spread is coming?

With the help of a free propaganda news issue, I find that w

BB 4 Nov 2006 #464

The Great Rat and Cat Debate

Dear Editor,

Paul Dornie

I thought I would add another perspective to "The great rat &
debate." I don't believe at all the GBI Charitable Trust's recent referen

BB 18 Nov 2006 #465

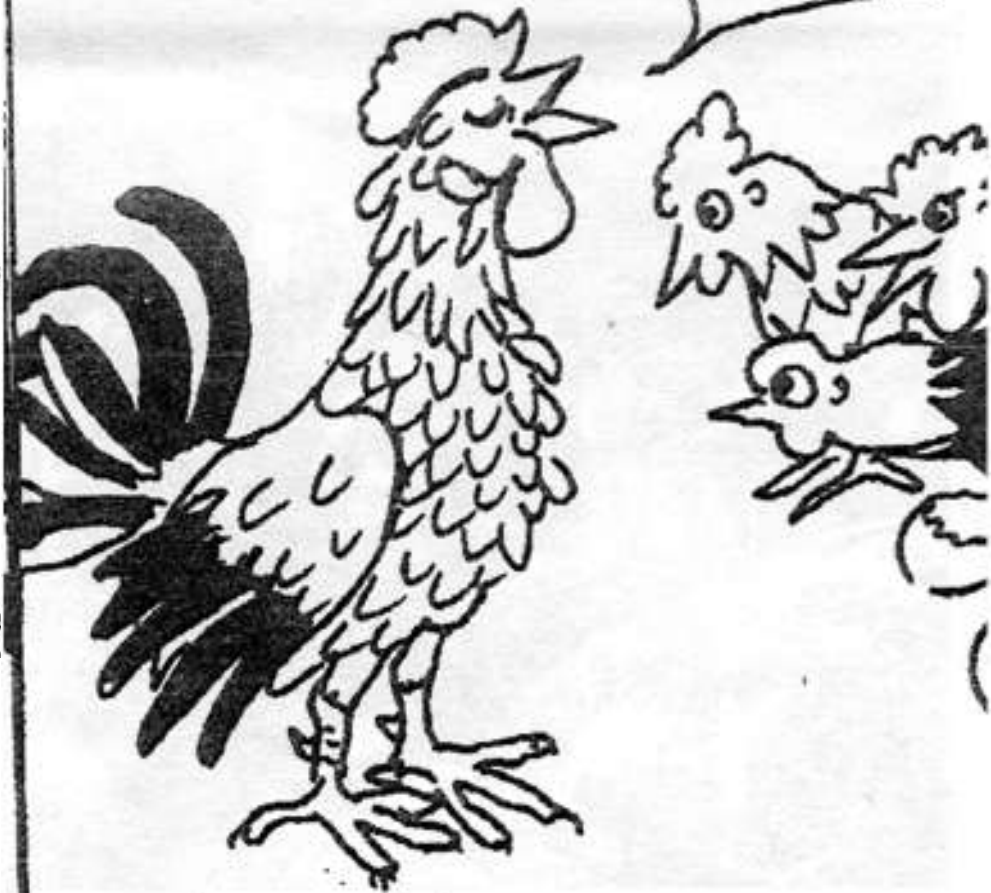
How much Heritage is Enough?

RB & R (CB)

I hope some residents have been more successful than I have in getting

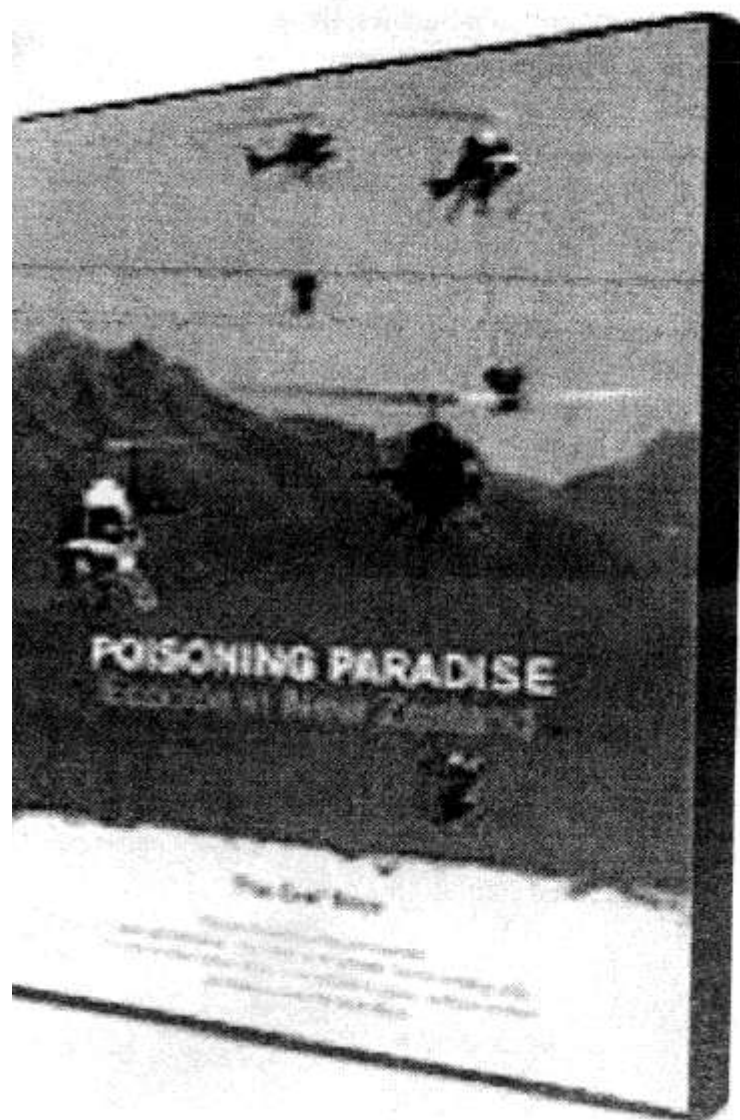
Chaos, Discontent, Confusion,
Mistrust.....

My work is done here



The consequences of biased reporting by the BB were:

- Jan 2007: 32 GBI landowners ban access to trustees “and their associates” to their land “for the purposes of surveys and research of any description” Public asked to “report sightings”.
- CB notified Akl City Council that it did not support “GBICT’s proposal for total rat and feral cat eradication by the use of extraordinary measures such as aerial poison drops and quarantine of sea-going vessels both commercial and private”
- CB notified Akl City Council that it did not support “GBICT’s vision that GBI become a World Heritage Site”.



Poisoning Paradise

Ecocide in New Zealand

and the makers of this
controversial Documentary—The Graf
Boys— appearing in person!

Claris Conference Centre
Saturday 23 rd January

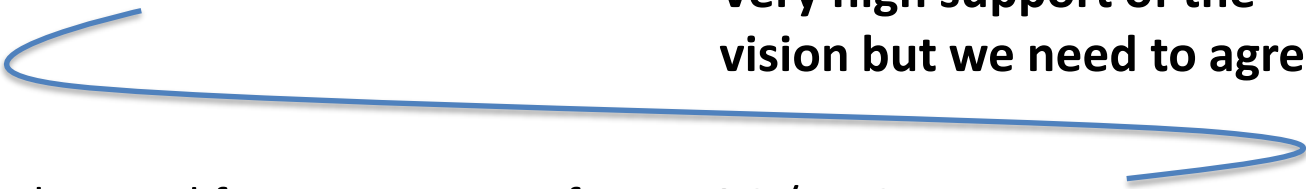
2 pm Documentary screening
followed by a Q&A /Discussion

SO WHAT DO WE NEED TO GO AHEAD WITH RAT ERADICATION ON GBI?

- ° The need to *demonstrate* FULL community support (e.g. CB; Iwi)

“REFERENDUM” 2006

**Very high support of the
vision but we need to agree on the “How”**



- ° The need for FULL support from DOC / ARC
- ° The need for a **comprehensive feasibility survey** taking into account the fact that there are houses, dogs, cattle, water-supplies etc to be safe-guarded. Threatened spp. need safe-guarding. (A new ‘zoning’ approach will be required).
- ° The need to assess the costs and raise the money – especially for on-going Biosecurity.
- ° **The need to overcome Community opposition to toxins or find another publically acceptable means**
- **The need for private landowners to believe they will retain high measures of control of their own activities**

The Challenge for the future



- Need to involve the inhabitants & landowners
- Need to find an acceptable method
- How to communicate?
  - Newsletters
  - Field days, workshops, lectures
  - One to one – activities e.g. Bird counts
  - Need surveys
  - Off-island support
  - Key agency support

Need a long-term perspective!

1984 at Whirinaki

2

Forest & Bird: 2010: NgatiWhare:

“We now realise that for a period our economic survival instincts caused us to loose touch with our traditional values”

“We thank those dedicated ‘greenies’ who fought so hard to protect the remaining forest from milling”.

“A painful lesson for us all is being healed by knowing that together we can safeguard this treasure for the future.”



- Need for GBI eradication is a shift in research emphasis from eradication on uninhabited islands to inhabited areas.
- This will involve new toxins or (better) other approaches.
- Communities must want it (bottom–up) – so communication and education are key!
- Finally the top-down component will also be required





THANKS

- ° To all Trustees
- ° DOC for support and funding
- ° ASB for funding
- ° Other granting agencies, donors and GBIC Trust members.