

## Position Description - Intermediate Trapper

August 2024

### Job Opportunity: Intermediate Trapper at RLT (Russell Landcare Trust)

Are you passionate about the environment and predator control? Join our team at Russell Landcare Trust (RLT) as an **Intermediate Trapper** and make a real impact in preserving Russell's natural heritage.

**Position:** Intermediate Trapper

**Reports to:** Field Manager

**Location:** Russell, Northland

**Employment:** Contractor, up to 16 hrs per week, ongoing.

**Remuneration:** \$30-\$40/hr, depending on experience and qualifications

### About Us:

Russell Landcare Trust is a charity which aims to restore the ecosystems of Russell peninsula so indigenous biodiversity can thrive and additional reintroductions of endangered native birds can occur. The Trust was formed in 2002 and has been active for over twenty years.

The Trust's projects include:

**Predator Free Russell.** This is a joint initiative with Northland Regional Council and Predator Free New Zealand. The project aims to eliminate rats, possums and stoats from the 3,000 hectare Russell peninsula. It is one of the few Predator Free projects across the country that is targeting rats. Russell Landcare is using innovative ways to be efficient with delivery yet avoid affecting non-target species such as weka and kiwi which are found throughout the peninsula.

**Native habitat restoration.** Over its 20+ years RLT's keen local volunteers have planted thousands of native trees, shrubs and grasses in habitats ranging from salt marsh to wetland to forest, enhancing existing ecosystems and in some places re-establishing them. Weeding programmes target invasive species such as ginger, wattle, pampas grass, banana passionfruit, tobacco weed and japanese honeysuckle. Current projects include the ongoing restoration of the Pipiroa Te Wahapu catchment wetlands in partnership with Living Waters BOI and ginger removal in the Kororareka Reserve by local residents.

**Dune restoration.** The Trust has been working with local residents and pupils from Russell School and Northland Regional Council CoastCare to restore the dunes at Oneroa Long Beach. Spinifex, pingao, wiwi and other native plants have been planted around existing patches of spinifex and temporary fencing put in to protect the plants from people walking on and off the beach. Sand-ladders have also been put in to improve access down to the beach and reduce erosion by foot traffic.

### **The Opportunity**

The Intermediate Trapper will be responsible for installing, maintaining, and monitoring predator traps and bait stations, contributing to the Predator Free Russell program. This hands-on role will require independence and initiative in completing the work on time and to a very high standard. The Intermediate Trapper will hold key relationships with landowners and the public, and to many people in the community, will be the face of the organisation. As such, a very high level of professionalism and competence is required, as well as adherence to health and safety regulations. This position is ideal for someone passionate about conservation and eager to further develop their skills as a trapper and leader in the ever-expanding field of predator-control.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- **Trap Installation & Maintenance:** Plan, install, maintain, clean, and bait/lure predator traps, bait stations, and other related equipment as needed.
- **Best Practices & Improvements:** Stay up to date with the latest best practices in predator control, actively participating in discussions and recommending improvements to systems and processes.
- **Data Entry:** Accurately enter field data such as bait-take and predator-catch into our database to ensure effective monitoring and reporting. Recommend changes to processes as necessary.
- **Trap Line Installation:** Cut and install new trap lines to expand our predator control network.
- **Timely & Effective Work:** Ensure that all tasks are completed efficiently and within set timeframes.

- **Team Collaboration:** Work positively within a team environment, contributing to leading discussions, learning opportunities, and other RLT kaupapa.
- **Reporting:** Report any issues, challenges, or outcomes to the Field Manager, Technical Manager, or General Manager as needed. Report monthly on work completed.
- **Relationship Management:** Develop and maintain positive relationships with landowners, property managers, and the public, addressing any concerns or complaints in a professional manner and raising these with the Field Manager.
- **Health & Safety Compliance:** Adhere and contribute to all Russell Landcare Trust Health & Safety Policies and ensure industry standards are consistently met.
- **Native Bird Monitoring:** Record any native birds found trapped in predator traps using ArcGIS and recommend approaches to limit bycatch.
- **Additional Duties:** Be flexible and willing to assist with non-trapping tasks, such as public/landowner engagement, building trap boxes, or other work related to RLT programmes as required.

### **About You:**

You are practical, resourceful, professional and committed to New Zealand's conservation goals. You enjoy working outdoors and collaborating with a team. Previous experience in predator trapping or conservation work is required. A strong work ethic and a passion for wildlife preservation are absolutely essential.

### **Key Skills & Experience:**

- Hands-on experience in predator control
- Knowledge of predator control best practices
- Strong attention to detail for data entry and field reporting
- Ability to work effectively in a team environment
- The ability to work independently and efficiently
- Professionalism when engaging with the public, landowners, and property managers
- Physically fit and prepared for fieldwork in varied terrain and weather conditions
- A commitment to improvement and compliance with health & safety standards
- Familiarity with ArcGIS or similar systems

**Why Join Us?** Be part of a hands-on team protecting New Zealand's unique wildlife. In this role, you'll directly contribute to conservation efforts in Russell and gain valuable experience in the field.

**How to Apply:**

If you're ready to take on a rewarding role in conservation and fieldwork, send your CV and a cover letter to [contact@russelllandcare.org.nz](mailto:contact@russelllandcare.org.nz) by 5pm, 13 September, 2024.