



Happy New Year. Welcome to the January 2026 edition of Wildlands Auckland news.
Our Auckland team is highly experienced and able to provide cost-effective and innovative ecological solutions for your projects.

Summer is heating up and the field season is in full swing. After a nice break, our Auckland-based ecologists are ready to get stuck into ecological assessments, biodiversity surveys, and fauna salvage operations across the region.

Drone surveys

Our Senior Principal Ecologist, Nick Goldwater, is a qualified drone pilot. Having used high-resolution drone imagery for a range of projects (including subdivisions, windfarms, and baseline monitoring for a restoration planting job). Wildlands uses a DJI Matrice 4E drone, which is designed specifically for high-precision surveying, mapping, and inspection applications. We are confident that this technology can save our clients substantial time and money, particularly for larger scale vegetation surveys. If you are planning a development on a large site, give us a call to discuss how this technology can work for you.

Ecological surveys on Ngā Tūpuna Maunga

As part of an initiative to understand the biodiversity across Ngā Tūpuna Maunga, the Tūpuna Maunga Authority has engaged our highly experienced avifauna specialists to carry out bird monitoring across 14 of Tamaki Makaurau's unique ancestral volcanic cones. We are honoured to be entrusted with this important work, which will contribute to a larger body of ecological monitoring and management activities that Wildlands has been involved with on these ecologically and culturally important land marks.

Rural Subdivisions

Applying for a subdivision based on the protection of Significant Ecological Area (SEA) quality forest or wetland habitats sounds simple enough, but it's not always straightforward. We have a comprehensive understanding of the consenting requirements for these developments, as we also regularly review rural subdivision applications on behalf of Auckland Council. If you think you might have a site that would qualify for an in situ or Transferable Rural Site (TRS) subdivision, give us a call. We'd be happy to take a look and help guide you through the process, allowing you to avoid many of the pitfalls and obstacles that could otherwise catch you out. We can provide high-level initial advice, prepare ecological reports to be submitted with a consent application, or even offer advice and on-the-ground restoration services to help you restore an area to SEA quality.

Restoration action

If you need assistance with your restoration project, our team is here to help. We can provide project management, site preparation, pest plant control, planting, planting maintenance, and pest animal control services over multiple years to satisfy your ecological restoration consent conditions. Wildlands has several ecological restoration physical works implementation teams. Our projects and clients are varied and include Council, developers and government land.

Our large and experienced team of field staff and contract managers understand the complexities of implementing ecological restoration projects. Our team has planted hundreds of thousands of plants, and controlled pest plants and pest animals across a wide variety of sites. We will also engage specialised sub-contractors if required, such as arborists for large pest tree removal and mulching, or height access (e.g. abseiling to control pest plants on inaccessible cliff faces). No job is too big or too small.



Who needs a selfie stick? Nick Goldwater and Brent Henry hard at work taking aerial images.



A beautiful image of Maungakiekie (One Tree Hill), taken during vegetation monitoring in 2025.



A great view from the office window. Brush wattle being controlled at Chelsea Estate Heritage Park





Our Services

Freshwater, terrestrial and marine ecological surveys and assessments
 Wetland delineation and assessment
 Assessments of ecological effects and solutions for large and small scale projects
 Ecological restoration and implementation plans.
 Identification of mitigation options.
 Geospatial representation and analysis.
 Plant, bird, lizard, bat, and terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates surveys, assessment, monitoring and salvage.
 Pest animal surveys, and weed impact assessments and management plans.
 UAV surveys for quality ecological data.
 Threatened plant and fauna management.

Nick Goldwater – Senior Principal Ecologist

nick.goldwater@wildlands.co.nz



Nick is an experienced ecologist who has been with Wildlands for 17 years. Nick is a qualified drone pilot and works across a broad range of areas within terrestrial and aquatic ecology. He has extensive experience carrying out ecological impact assessments and developing effects management packages for large-scale projects, including motorways, windfarms, and quarries. He is experienced in the development of Biodiversity Offset Accounting Models (BOAMs) to ensure effects can be managed to achieve a 'no-net-loss' of ecological values. Nick's range of expertise extends to fauna surveys (fish, lizards, birds), wetland ecology, stream ecological valuations, and vegetation monitoring.

Sarah Budd – Principal Ecologist, Auckland Regional Manager

sarah.budd@wildlands.co.nz

Sarah has worked as an ecological consultant on a diverse range of projects for over 14 years, including undertaking Ecological Impact Assessments for a range of developments such as public pathways, tourist attractions, wastewater treatment plants, quarries, stop bank upgrades, subdivisions, and dwellings, and has experience with ecological monitoring and restoration. Sarah oversees and coordinates the projects undertaken by the Auckland office and is dedicated to ensuring we continue to provide excellent ecological advice to our clients, on time, and on budget.



Brent Henry – Associate Principal Ecologist, Bat Specialist

brent.henry@wildlands.co.nz



Brent has managed and led several bat surveys throughout New Zealand. During this work he has applied several survey methods and techniques while working in New Zealand, including ABM deployment and analysis, placement of harp traps (free standing and at roost entrances), handling, banding, radio tracking to locate roost trees, and emergence counts. Brent is a Department of Conservation-certified bat ecologist and is certified for 'High-risk activities – roost felling' and Bat handling competencies. Recently he has provided advice regarding potential effects on bats for a range of large renewable energy projects.

Blair Balsom – Senior Herpetologist

blair.balsom@wildlands.co.nz

Blair has a wealth of experience in herpetofauna survey, salvage, and management. Blair leads the Auckland based herpetology team and has oversight of all lizard salvage work throughout the North Island. This experience includes numerous surveys, salvage, and translocation operations throughout Auckland (including islands in the Hauraki Gulf), Northland, Waikato, Canterbury, and Otago. Blair has led the survey, identification, and translocation of hundreds of indigenous lizards, including copper skink, ornate skink, moko skink, pacific gecko, elegant gecko and forest gecko within the Auckland region.



Nick Ranger – Principal Restoration Ecologist, COO

nick.ranger@wildlands.co.nz



Nick has more than 25 years experience. His key areas of expertise are project management and client liaison; ecological management and preparation restoration plans; indigenous planting and revegetation, pest plant and pest animal management, and ensuring practical solutions. Nick has a key role in peer reviewing management plans for Wildlands and external clients to ensure they are both ecologically appropriate and practical to implement. Nick led the establishment of the company's Toitū enviromark diamond certified Environmental Management System.