



Tāhuna  
**GLENORCHY**  
**DARK SKIES**

## 2025 Bat Report

Dear GY Dark Skies and Bat Fans,

The wait is over and the numbers are in! Thanks to the fantastic work of our Dark Skies volunteers and the wonderful Sam Purdie from the Southern Lakes Sanctuary, we're here to share the outcomes from our 2025 Glenorchy Village Bat Survey.

### We Have Chatty Bats and Lots of 'Em

The bat survey took place over 29 nights from 15<sup>th</sup> October to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 with 20 acoustic recorders placed in a grid over the township. Happy to report though it picked up over 64,000 recordings, from them we could identify **6701 recordings that were from long tailed bats!**

That doesn't mean we had 6701 bats...just that we had that many passes by from the bats during the month. (For those who love a bit of maths, the mean number of bat detections per detector night was 13.53 (+/- 32.66SD). The total bat detections for each recorder ranged from 121 by Mrs Woolly's to a whopping 810 by the Golf Course pines.

As you can see from the map below, the recorders picked up different numbers of bat passes over the month that the recorders were out. Have a look at your neighbourhood and let us know what factors you think might have contributed to high or low bat passes nearby. **Do you see them? Is there a light that might be attracting a lot of moths? Or do you think there's a pattern and you're on a flyway route between two bat locales?** Please send a note to us as [Leslie.vangelder@gmail.com](mailto:Leslie.vangelder@gmail.com) and let us know what you've been observing!



Thanks to the kind folks at LoveQT who've funded the project for 2 years, and our collaboration with the Southern Lakes Sanctuary we'll be able to continue doing this study every spring so we can see over time how the health and behaviour of

our bat population are doing in response to changing environment and hopefully us becoming more and more dark skies and bat friendly in our own home lighting. Remember, you don't need to light up the whole neighbourhood just to find your front step, so try to think about our batty friends and give them as much darkness as you can.

The bat study took place up the Rees this year over a 20km area and bats were detected on every recorder, too. While we haven't spotted any short-tailed bats yet, we're ever hopeful that as we continue to make the habitat full of fewer predators and more chances for species to recover, we'll see some returns of our biodiversity across the board. The who spotted this autumn give us real hope!

Thanks to everyone who've helped out with the bat survey and to the DOC team and volunteers who've been leading bat surveys across the area for decades. Our chatty bats seem to be appreciating that we notice them and are supporting their thriving for the future.

Don't forget to mark your calendars, too, for our annual Mid-Winter Matariki dinner (with the Rural Women crew) on 11 July. For those who like a bit of dress up, our biodiversity focus for the coming year is Mokomoko ...so get your skink on and let's lizard up for 2026 Matariki! Tickets will be on sale soon at GY Motors.

In the meantime, enjoy our starry winter skies and that big arc of Milky Way we're getting to see at the moment.

Keep it starry (and batty)!  
The Tāhuna GY Dark Skies Crew