



Mahu West Pest

APRIL 2021



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

Kia Ora Mahurangi West and Hungry Creek residents and land owners. Welcome to our third eNews, updating you on targeted pest control, bird monitoring, vegetation damage, planting initiatives and upcoming events.

eBirders Update

In March, a great turnout of bird counters listened to a talk from Jared Anderson, an Auckland Council Regional Park Ranger. The group walked to several sites within the Mahurangi Regional Park and along the road towards Sullivans Bay. Jared imparted a wealth of knowledge on bird calls and distinguishing factors for easier identification. Our eBirders preparing for their second-quarter Autumn counts said, 'we learnt heaps'.



Community Event

We are very grateful to representatives from Forest & Bird Warkworth – Sally Richardson, Russell Cullen and Elizabeth Clark – who put together such an eye-catching and informative display table at our recent community event at the Hall. Forest & Bird have been generous in supporting our initiatives and their ongoing assistance is much appreciated.



The combined Forest & Bird and Mahu West Pest displays, at the Hall on Sunday 21 March, generated a lot of interest.

Planting Co-ordinator

We are fortunate to have Cathy Brehmer step into the role of planting co-ordinator. Planting is the next phase of the MWP project to restore our natural biodiversity. With a reduction in browsing animals through the trapping programme, the right conditions are created for native plants to take root and thrive. First, however, suitable planting sites need to be identified on private or public land and then invasive weeds must be cleared so that new plants have a good chance of survival. Again this will require a concerted community effort and Cathy will be calling for volunteers for weed clearance working bees as well as planting days – stay tuned for dates (possibly the second half of May). If you are a private landowner who may have a suitable site or if you know of a site that would benefit from revegetation, especially along waterways, please let Cathy know: M 021 893 045; cathy.roslyn@xtra.co.nz



Planting Co-ordinator
Cathy Brehmer.

Pest Plant - Old Man's Beard

In March, an Auckland Council contractor was scheduled to eradicate the invasive weed *Clematis vitalba*, commonly known as Old Man's Beard, from Puhoi and Hungry Creek areas where it's been



located. People should check their properties, or keep an eye out for it, but if they do identify the plant, not to remove it themselves, but to contact the council. To help with identification check the Council's pest plant details and photos at: <http://pestplants.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plant-search/Clevit>

Stoats

Stoats (*Mustela erminea*) are members of the mustelid family. Weasels and ferrets are also mustelids. All three species were introduced to New Zealand as early as 1879 to control rabbits that were destroying sheep pasture. From



very early on, stoats have had a devastating effect on New Zealand's unique birdlife.

[Department of Conservation]

"First for awhile, but a big bugger!" Mike Neil, Zone 4

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