



Mahu West Pest

FEBRUARY 2021



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

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

Pest Control

ZONE 1: Hungry Creek Road, which runs from State Highway 1 up the hill for 2 kilometres to the farm entrance of Te Muri Regional Park, has started its pest control programme. Ian Cheesman is the facilitator for its residents and coordinating with Auckland City Council for setting up traplines. They now have all the traps needed and have started laying their traplines. This means trapping from the edge of the Puhoi River and Hungry Creek from the south and west and up to Te Muri's border on the east which joins with our other trapping areas to the north. "With luck these natural borders will facilitate our success," says Ian.

ZONE 2: Iwi with land in the Jamieson and Opahi bays area have supported this project from the outset and are actively involved in laying their traplines. Rosanna Whaanga has agreed to be on Mahu West Pest's Advisory Board, when it is set up. Also view Iwi involvement on Mahu West Pest's new web site: <https://mahuwestpest.wordpress.com/iwi/>

Mel and Rosanna Whaanga (front) and Mathew Hakaraia with stoat trap.



ZONE 3: The Bullock Track is the next area to get traplines rolled out. It has a high concentration of covenanted bush, which means that owners are required to undertake trapping on such designated land. Rather than duplicating pest control measures, Mahu West Pest would like to work in collaboration with owners of covenanted bush. Such as checking traplines and setting new traplines over covenanted and non-covenanted land in the most effective way. Rob Hill is the trapline facilitator for Zone 3.



Possum Damage?

This Puriri below the Mahurangi Community Hall has sustained significant damage from browsing possums. If you're concerned about similar damage elsewhere on the peninsula please let us know.

Donated Plants

Huge thanks to Higgins Contractors Ltd who had plants left over from the Enhanced Treatment Areas within the Dome Valley Improvements project, which were donated to Mahu West Pest. Sam Best from Higgins, says the plants, "will typically go in wetland areas as they are used to clean the water run-off from the highway." Over 1,300 plants were delivered early February by the Nga Uri o Hau Native Nursery, but will not be planted until the rains come mid year. In the meantime, they will be maintained with regular watering. Cathy Brehmer is preparing a planting plan for appropriate areas on the peninsula; and then a call out for volunteers to help plant them. The donated species include: Coryline australis, Carex virgata, C. lessoniana, C. secta; Cyperus ustulatus and Kanuka.



Cathy Brehmer will manage overall planting of the donated species.

Community Event

A joint neighbours' event is being organised by the Mahurangi West Community Response Group and Mahu West Pest Volunteers, to be held at the Mahurangi Hall on **Sunday, March 21**. Look out for a flyer being sent out soon to every household on the Peninsula, including Hungry Creek residents. Topics include: first responders, emergency evacuations, pest and weed control updates, and meeting our reps from relevant organisations. BBQ food, tea and coffee will be provided.



Council update

Council representative Hana Aickin says, "The Bullock Track trapline is currently with our Bio Info team getting drawn up and once that's complete I can put through an order for trapping resources." She anticipates that from February the new staff member for North Rodney will be able to support us with the next zone.

Design a Logo Competition - calling young and old

Design a Mahu West Pest Volunteers logo, which is more than just about pests. Send your design to Deb or Brian (see below) by Wed.15 March. The winner will be announced at our Community Event. Please contact us to donate a prize.

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