



Mahu West Pest

MAY 2021



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

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

Trapping update

AREA 2 - Jamieson/Opahi Bays

Twelve lines have now been set, with trapping and logging results on TrapNZ. One line still to go, then Area 2 is complete.

The results on the chart, whilst not large are actually significant and have come from lines that have only progressively been set from October last year. Now that just about all of the trap lines in Area 2 are set we would expect to see greater numbers caught and reported.

Thanks to our amazing group of volunteers, most of whom have had to learn to handle traps safely, learn to handle unpleasant sights and odours and also learn to log results on TrapNZ website. You are all doing an amazing job.

AREA 3 - We laid the first two of nine lines on the Bullock Track on Saturday 15 May.



Traps:	176		
Bait Stations:	76		
		YEAR	MONTH
Mustelids:		1	0
Rats:		94	28
Possums:		38	15
Hedgehogs:		12	2
Other:		49	21
Total:	194	66	

Trapline coordinator Jeff Marsh (above) provided the trap content for Area 2.

eBirders update

We counted birds in December 2020 and March 2021 and in both quarters Tui were the most numerous bird; however March saw a huge increase in the number of Silvereyes counted, whole flocks congregating in fruiting trees - olives, macadamias, figs etc. Kaka are also starting to arrive in the Bullock Track. We are keen to find more bird counters in the Bullock Track and elsewhere in Mahu West. Counts will also be held in June and September each year and take no more than half an hour each time and in most cases counting can be done in your own backyard. Anyone interested should call Fran on 021 260 2793 to arrange a short training session.



Photo: Silvereye by JJ Harrison

Pest Plant - South American Pampas

A large clump forming grass (*Cortaderia selloana* and *C. jubata*) up to 4 metres tall. It grows rapidly, quickly colonising cleared land to form a dense ground cover that suppresses native plants and stops their regeneration. Pampas grass can become a fire hazard and provides a habitat for rats and other vermin. The plant spreads easily with seeds being blown long distances by winds. Seeds can also be dispersed by water, contaminated machinery or by animals.

South American pampas grass can appear similar to native toetoe, so it is important to differentiate the two before removing the plant. Pampas flowers late January to June with dense, erect flower heads. Toetoe flowers September to January and has drooping flower heads. The dead leaves of pampas forms spirals like wood shavings around the base of the plant, while toetoe does not form these spirals. The leaf base of toetoe is white and waxy whereas the leaf base of pampas is not waxy.

To Control Pampas: If small enough, dig out the entire plant including roots and dispose of seed heads and roots to landfill.

Or Fell plant and paint cut area with glyphosate gel.

Or Spray entire plant with glyphosate foliage spray.

Check the treated area regularly for regrowth or reinfestation.

Once eradicated replant the area with plants such as native toetoe or *Chionochloa* species. This will help shade out pampas grass and stop it regrowing.



For photos and further information click on link: <https://pestsearch.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/pest-search/Corjub>

Weed Eradication

Mahu West Pest volunteers Deb Farquhar (left) and Cathy Brehmer (centre) met with Hana Aicken, Senior Conservation Advisor (North), from the Auckland Council's Environmental Services Unit in early May, to help identify target areas in Area 2 for active weed control and replanting.



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