



# Mahu West Pest

JULY 2021



## Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

**K**ia Ora Mahurangi West and Hungry Creek residents and land owners. Welcome to eNews no.6, updating you on targeted pest control, bird monitoring, weed infestations, planting initiatives and upcoming events. We welcome contributions.

### More Traps Laid Across the Peninsula



|                |      |                  |
|----------------|------|------------------|
| Traps:         | 257  | (last month 176) |
| Bait Stations: | 134  | (last month 76)  |
|                | YEAR | MONTH            |
| Mustelids:     | 3    | 1                |
| Rats:          | 188  | 26               |
| Possums:       | 64   | 3                |
| Hedgehogs:     | 17   | 2                |
| Other:         | 81   | 9                |
| Total:         | 353  | 41               |

Above: Volunteer logs trapline counts into TrapNZ.

### Trapping and Bait Stations

Whilst we cannot see or count the pests we get from bait stations we can assume it's reasonably significant as we can measure and record the bait that is being consumed by the rats and mice. The larger area hubs 4 and 5, as well as Hungry Creek, have a significant percentage of rat traps as bait stations. We can't underestimate the significant work these bait stations are doing even though they can't be added to the tallies.

### Did You Know?

Possums compete with stock for grazing. According to Predator Free NZ, the damage done by possums costs NZ farmers about \$35 million every year. They also eat native birds' eggs and chicks as well as native land snails, insects and invertebrates.



Six or seven possums can eat as much pasture as one sheep.

Source: Hawkes Bay Regional Council.

### Volunteers Staying Safe

1. Tell someone when going out to check traps, as there's a risk of something happening and often no cellphone coverage.
2. Baits contain poisons that are also harmful to humans! Keep in a labelled, sealed container - out of reach of children and pets. If you want any info on baits contact Jeff Marsh.
3. Always wear gloves when handling dead pests and traps. Pests carry diseases.
4. Always wear gloves when handling baits.



### Fight for the wild

Peter Young, who lives at Point Wells, is an award winning film director. If you have not seen his four part documentary *Fight for the Wild* you can still catch it on [TVNZ OnDemand](#). The series takes viewers into the wild heart of Aotearoa and shows the desperate battle to protect it. Exploring New Zealand's Predator Free 2050 status, it asks whether this bold initiative is achievable and if so, how? Mahu West Pest is proud to be part of the solution - motivating and supporting animal pest eradication and biodiversity initiatives such as weeding, planting and long-term habitat enhancement.



### This Month's Pest Plant - Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster are small-leaved evergreen shrubs growing up to 4m tall (*Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*, *C. franchetii* and *C. simonsii*). Small white/pink flowers appear in early summer, and these are followed by orange-red berries which can last until mid-winter. The shrubs grow rapidly to form dense stands, crowding out native plants and stopping native seedlings from establishing. Birds love the berries and will disperse the seeds over wide areas, where they can germinate readily to invade new sites. For spray options see our [Mahu West Pest](#) website.



### Sedges for Wetlands

If you have a wetland area that needs planting and would like some *Cyperus ustulatus* plants, Mahu West Pest has approximately 200 available. This Giant Umbrella Sedge is a native swamp grass with long olive-green strappy leaves with sharp edges. Small green flowers, turning brown, are present July to December. Its preferred habitats are wetland margins, seepage areas, stream sides, and lagoon and estuary margins. It can tolerate exposed areas and salt winds, but does best in full sun. It's useful for slope stabilisation, filters water runoff, provides shade and habitat for fish, and reduces silt from getting into the waterways. Contact Cathy on 021 893 045 or email: [cathy.roslyn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cathy.roslyn@xtra.co.nz)



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