



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

Kia Ora Mahurangi West and Hungry Creek residents and land owners. Welcome to eNews no.7, updating you on targeted pest control, bird monitoring, weed infestations, planting initiatives and upcoming events. We welcome contributions.

Cleared Culvert in Opahi Bay

Work was carried out recently by Auckland Council's contractor Downer Construction, to clear a blocked culvert in Rangi Road, Opahi Bay. It had been clogged with weeds, preventing stormwater from running out



Tysxun Skeen, Downer Construction, discusses the work with MWP's Cathy Brehmer.

to sea. Instead, during heavy rain events, the water backed up and overflowed - leading to flooding on surrounding properties.

Thanks to this MWP initiative spearheaded by Cathy Brehmer and

a great council team, the culvert now flows freely and copes with large volumes of rain without overflowing. Weed mat has been laid to suppress the growth of weeds and planting has begun, with carex grasses already in the ground, and cabbage trees and flaxes going in as the current situation (Level 4) allows. Report potential blockages or flooding 24/7 to the Auckland Council on 09 301 0101.

This Month's Pest Plant - Monkey Apple

This Australian import has glossy oval leaves and can grow up to 15-metres tall. White to cream flowers appear from October to January, followed by small white to pinkish/mauve berries. Favoured by birds, seeds are dispersed widely. Its shade tolerant seedlings grow more rapidly than native seedlings and can form dense stands, altering the forest structure and replacing natives in the canopy. Small seedlings can be dug out and left to rot, but fell large trees and paint the fresh stumps with Metsulfuron gel. Remove any fruit present and send to landfill. Inspect the treated area regularly to check for new seedlings. Replant densely with natives such as Titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*) to inhibit any new growth. For more info visit Plant Pests on our [Mahu West Pest](https://mahuwestpest.wordpress.com) website.

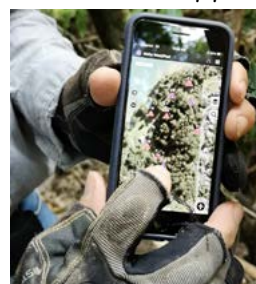


Photo: Trevor James, Weedbusters



Cameron Davey MWP's youngest volunteer (above), is doing a great job. Whilst helping out with the arrival of new traps supplied by Auckland Council last month, MWP deployed an additional 85 traps across the peninsula. We are appealing for any other young adults to get involved - if you're interested call Jeff Marsh (see contacts below). Full training will be provided.

MWP's Trapping update



Traps:	342 (last month 257)	
Bait Stations:	207 (last month 134)	
	YEAR	MONTH
Mustelids:	4	1
Rats:	213	25
Possums:	113	49
Hedgehogs:	23	5
Other:	90	10
Total:	444	90

We have got a much greater number of traps and also bait stations out across the peninsula. The baits will be getting the rat population under control in greater numbers than we can imagine. Remember volunteers, it's important to log your trapline counts into TrapNZ.

Kaka Flying In ...

Bird counts in June, by our monitoring team, revealed that tui are still our most frequent visitors and that kereru have gone off to better food sources - for now. We are thrilled that kaka have now appeared in our monitoring stats, showing that they are visiting our area with more frequency. Our next count will be in September. We would love to have more bird counters anywhere in Mahu West. Counts are held each December, March, June and September and take no more than half an hour each time. In most cases counting can be done in your own back yard. Want to join our bird counters? Call Fran on 021 260 2793.



Kaka - Tomas Sobock, Unsplash

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