



Mahu West Pest

JUNE 2021



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

Kia Ora Mahurangi West and Hungry Creek residents and land owners. This is our fifth eNews about targeted pest control, planting initiatives and upcoming events. We welcome contributions.

Every donation helps the cause ...

A huge thank you to the Mahu Community Trading Post which has generously given donations totalling \$5500 and to the Warkworth Community Shop, which recently donated \$2000. Our biggest contribution to date has been an Auckland Council grant of \$10,056. Thanks also to the sustained efforts of Mike Neil spreading the word to rural landowners nearby and coordinating their big-hearted donations of \$2411. These together with a generous donation of \$1104 from the Opai whānau, coordinated by Mel and Rosanna Whaanga, will be used for a weed clearance initiative. We continue to be grateful for Forest & Bird Warkworth, especially Elizabeth Clark, for providing us with financial services. The Men's Shed kindly donated their labour, constructing some 200 rat and 50 stoat traps.

What a difference a month makes ...



Traps: 200	Bait Stations: 92		
	YEARLY TOTAL	LAST MONTH	THIS MONTH
Mustelids:	2	0	1
Rats:	159	28	35
Possums:	59	15	17
Hedgehogs:	15	2	2
Other:	72	21	14
Totals:	307	66	69

Left: Logging trapline counts into TrapNZ. Right: Totals are for Area 2 only.

Coordinator Jeff Marsh says we need more volunteers for traplines across the peninsula, as we roll out traps in more areas. Please contact him (see below) if you can assist with this critical work. This involves walking traplines, rebaiting if necessary, and logging results on TrapNZ. There will be full training given.

Thanks to our great group of volunteers who are helping make the peninsula even more beautiful as native trees recover and birds return.



New Community Position

Mahu West Pest recently secured funding from the Auckland Council for a part-time Community Coordinator and Facilitator position. Nada Cottrell (left) was the successful candidate and is now tasked with making funding submissions to further our volunteer work, for providing team support,

and collaborating with other organisations, governing bodies and the private sector to help achieve NZ's pest free goals for our region.

Previously Nada worked with the Nature Conservation Council on Conservation Week campaigns, joined the Department of Conservation at its inception as a journalist, was part of the Auckland Regional Council's Water Conservation Campaign team; and worked at Waitakere City Council in various roles for over 10 years.

Planting at Te Muri - Saturday 10 July

With a low tide on the 10th, it will be easy for people to cross from Mahurangi West to the far side of the Te Muri Estuary to help restore its banks. **Time: 10 am to 4pm.** Children are welcome. There will be plenty of planting jobs and other tasks for those wanting to join in. Park rangers and *Friends of Regional Parks (FOR)* are providing a BBQ lunch for volunteers. For catering, please book your free ticket(s) to this event: <https://www.trybooking.co.nz/HLJ>



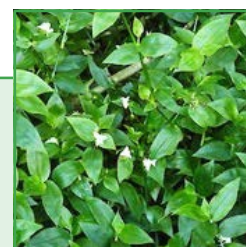
Photo: Carolyn Lewis. Source: [Weedbusters](#)

This Month's Pest Plant -

Tradescantia fluminensis (Wandering Willie)

A creeping dark green ground cover that grows happily in light to deep shade. It forms dense mats, smothering native plants and preventing growth of native seedlings. Small white flowers are present in December to January. The plant is shallow rooted so can easily be pulled out or raked up however, it can regrow from any small piece of stem that is left behind. Parts removed can be disposed

of to landfill, burnt, or placed in a weed composting bag for 12 months. For spray options see our [Mahu West Pest](#) website. The Auckland Council website also lists some biological controls that are available for this weed. Once eradicated, replant the area with dense ground cover plants (e.g. *Nertera depressa* or *Adiantum aethiopicum*) to prevent reinvasion.



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