



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

Kia Ora Mahurangi West and Hungry Creek residents and land owners. Welcome to our eNews no.8, updating you on on targeted pest control, bird monitoring, weed infestations, planting initiatives and upcoming events.



Inset right: Beth Harper, Area 4, shows Mike Neil's clever trapsetting invention.

Above: Beth shows how to use the hook-tool for safely setting traps.

Above right: An Auckland Council Map of Area 4 - depicting proposed traps and traplines. Total area is 425 hectares.



Area 4 : North of Mahurangi West Road

Mike Neil is MWP's trapping co-ordinator for Area 4 - outlined in orange above. It's the largest of the current six MWP hubs. The map's key top left shows icons for trap lines and the different types of traps. Around 75% of the traplines have been completed. Mike is also the inventor of the handy tool to make it safer and easier to set traps.

This Month's Pest Plant - Climbing Asparagus (*Asparagus scandens*)

This South Africa vine, with its feathery leaves and long wiry stems, is also on the Auckland Council's 'most wanted' list of six invasive weeds threatening Mahurangi Regional Park. Its fleshy tubers can survive for a long time and will re-sprout easily. Tiny white flowers appear in spring, which are followed by orange-red berries - dispersed by birds over a wide area, thus forming new areas of invasion. The vine grows in a wide range of conditions and soil types, meaning it can invade and grow in most locations. It forms dense areas of growth on the ground, rapidly climbing up plants, smothering the understorey to a height of 4 metres. It also ringbarks trees with soft bark, killing them. For more information and eradication methods visit Mahu West Pest website: [Plant Pests](http://PlantPests).

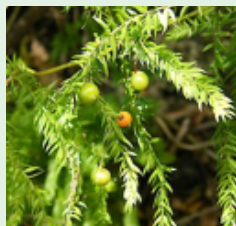


Photo: Carolyn Lewis, Weedbusters

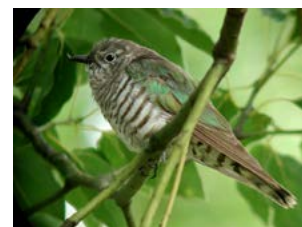
Trapping update

Covid-19 level 4 & now level 3 lock-downs have temporarily halted rollout of traplines, however safe and socially distanced checking of lines and recording on TrapNZ has continued. Thanks to everyone's continued efforts we have recorded strong results with pest trap kills.

Traps:	373	(last month 342)
Bait Stations:	216	(last month 207)
	YEAR	MONTH
Mustelids:	4	0
Rats:	263	37
Possums:	165	52
Hedgehogs:	25	2
Other:	104	12
Total:	561	103

Cuckoos fly in ...

Bird counts for Spring are not yet all in. However, it's great to note that a Shining Cuckoo or *pīpīwharau* was spotted by Bullock Track resident Nick Waterson, showing that they're once again visiting our area. Fran Ashton says, we gained a new bird volunteer this month.



Shining Cuckoo - *pīpīwharau*
Source: Wikipedia Commons

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