



# Mahu West / Pest

JANUARY 2021



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

**G**reetings all Mahurangi West residents and land owners. This eNews is to let you know what's happening with local pest control, bird monitoring, and vegetation damage, from unwanted pests.

A big shout out to Brian Bramell, who's worked tirelessly for the past year with the Auckland Council to benefit the entire peninsula with an acknowledged plan to cover the 2,100 hectares (over 5,000 acres) from the bays at the top all the way back to the State Highway and for accessing resources.

Thus Mahu West/Pest, a group of volunteers, was formed. We follow the Auckland Council's Biodiversity Plan with the aim of eradicating, in a humane way, mustelids, rats and possums from the entire peninsula. We are already laying and maintaining traplines, training a dedicated bird counting group and, in time, rallying support for targeted bush regeneration and tree planting events. Zone one (see map opposite) has been implemented, with five more zones to be rolled out over the coming year.

We're keen for new volunteers to join us, including children, to help with these goals. Some jobs are physically harder than others but there are a number of important tasks that provide scope for everyone to be involved e.g. reporting weed invasion or possum damage to vegetation. Monetary donations are also welcome (some residents, like Catherine Carter, have already been very generous) with 100% of those donations being spent on specific pest control tools to advance our community goals.

We're operating on the principle of "many hands make light work" to avoid anyone feeling burdened by their involvement. We believe small but sustained contributions of your time will ensure the success and continuity of this project. Please make contact with us if you feel you can help or want further information.

*Kia Ora*



Brian Bramell shows Jamieson Bay volunteers where new trap lines will be set.



Jeff Marsh (left) assembling traps with Paul Jamieson.



Deb Farquhar sets a possum trap. Pic right: The entrance to a trapping box is tiny to avoid capturing domestic animals, such as cats.



Map showing trap lines for the Jamieson and Opahi Bay Hub, one of six zones across the peninsula.



Allison Milne, Ngaire (Takatu Landcare Bird Monitoring Coordinator), Fran Ashton & Barbara Forbes enjoy a lesson in identifying and counting bird species.

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