



Mahu West Pest

JANUARY 2022



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

Kia Ora Mahurangi West peninsula residents and land owners. Welcome to Mahu West Pest's eNews no.12 updating you on our volunteer organisation.

Keep Checking Those Traps!

To all of our amazing trappers! It's so important that we check, clear, bait and record trap data regularly. Pest Control Coordinator Jeff Marsh says he's baited one particular Timms trap about 15 times with no results. Just as we were thinking that we'd been successful in ridding Jamieson Bay of possums he caught this large possum (pictured).

Over the last four months we have seen a few more lines not being checked/logged. Most of the pests we are targeting have reasonably short breeding cycles. Pest numbers can balloon incredibly quickly if we let up. Therefore it's really important that we maintain regular trap checks.



Large possum caught in a Timms trap, Area 2.
[Photo: Jeff Marsh]

If for any reason you're having trouble checking your traps, please contact your area coordinator. If you are having trouble logging results on TrapNZ, please contact Jeff Marsh. Thanks for the amazing work you do with Mahu West Pest.

Traps:	560	(last month 560)
Bait Stations:	266	(last month 266)
Note: No new traps laid in January.		
	YEAR	MONTH
Mustelids:	7	1
Rats:	325	21
Possums:	530	62
Hedgehogs:	27	1
Other:	153	11
Total:	1042	96

Bats In Your Belfry?

We were recently successful with getting a regional environment grant for pekapeka (bat) research from the Auckland Council. The long-tailed bat is considered nationally vulnerable. Their habitats have been located along parts of the new Puhoi to Wellsford highway. However, we don't know if long-tailed bats are still in existence here on the peninsula or could be if the conditions were right. We're interested in hearing of any historic or more recent sightings in the area. Please contact Community Coordinator, Nada Cottrell (see below). For information on protecting pekapeka, visit our [Website](#) blog or [Facebook](#) pages.



Protect cabbage trees and other lone native trees on farmland as important roosts for pekapeka.

Joining Forces For Nature Conservation

The Forest Bridge Trust (TFBT) and Mahu West Pest Incorporated (MWP) are delighted to announce their collaboration to create a new area of focus around Pukapuka and Cowan Bay roads.



TFBT has the vision of "a connected landscape with healthy forest and flourishing indigenous wildlife from the Kaipara Harbour to the Pacific Coast". As part of this, TFBT has committed to support Mahu West Pest with the planned expansion into Hub 7, growing the area under predator control.

TFBT chair, Tracy Tristram, commented, "By combining our efforts and resources in the area, the two organisations will be able to better support the local community to achieve their pest-free goals. This will benefit native flora and fauna so they can flourish once more, and we are thrilled to be able to support and work collaboratively with other conservation groups in our area in this way."

MWP, created by local resident Brian Bramell, has grown quickly as more residents join in the possum and mustelid trapping efforts. The combined trapping work in the area along with TFBT volunteers are starting to show results, with kereru and other natives starting to return, and trees previously decimated by possum recovering. More volunteers are learning of the initiative and joining all the time. They will be led by the MWP team with TFBT providing traps, advice, and training support to help the protected land area expand.

Brian says, "The future is all about networking. We started as a small group of neighbours trapping our properties to protect one another. From one person trapping in their own backyard, to a whole network of people working together to control invasive pests and the damage they do. From one property to 3500 hectares. And now collaboration with TFBT greatly builds on the combined benefits of both groups' expertise. A network working together really can make a difference!"

Help us make a REAL difference. To learn more about pest and predator control for your property contact admin@theforestbridgetrust.org.nz or Mahu West Pest Inc - BLBCIMS@gmail.com



Above: Stephanie Herron, our Area 7 Trapline Coordinator, discusses trapping strategies for 2022 with Jeff Marsh (on Zoom) and Athol Keeling, Mick Cleland and Tris Bondsfield of The Forest Bridge Trust.

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Trapline Area Coordinators:

- 2 Jeff Marsh (Jamieson): jeff_marshall@mccollams.co.nz 027 590 9245
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- 1 Ian Cheesman (Hungry Creek) ian@graphics.co.nz 022 049 5434
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- 6 Area 6 Coordinator to be advised

