



Mahu West Pest

FEBRUARY 2022



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

Kia Ora Mahurangi West peninsula residents and land owners. Welcome to Mahu West Pest's eNews no.13 updating you on our volunteer organisation.

Year Two Of Trapping Results

Jeff Marsh reports that, "Trap numbers are a little low at present but there is heaps of food, fruit, nuts around at the moment," attracting possums and rodents.

"Autumn is the peak time for births, but a second offspring may be born in spring if food supplies are adequate. The variable is food: a good supply means lots of young. This ability to produce more than one offspring per year and enhanced survival of juvenile females when conditions are good, allows possum populations to increase rapidly in newly invaded areas or after populations have been reduced by control pressure."

Source: A pest of plague proportions, DOC booklet.

Remember, if you're having trouble checking your traps, please contact your area coordinator. If you're having trouble logging results on TrapNZ, please contact Jeff Marsh. We appreciate all the great work you do.

Traps: 572 (last month 560) Bait Stations: 268 (last month 266)

	ENTIRE PROJECT	*PREVIOUS YEAR	THIS MONTH
Mustelids:	8	8	1
Rats:	365	336	17
Possums:	559	550	30
Hedgehogs:	34	26	0
Other:	169	163	14
Totals:	1135	1083	62

*Note: A running total i.e. previous 12 months from current month.

Expert's BATS 101 A Hit!

Eight MWP volunteers recently put their hands up to learn about bats worldwide and how New Zealand's two bat species (there's a third extinct one) fit into the bat family tree. They recently took part in an interesting 2-hour Zoom Bats 101 session, led by world expert Ian Davidson-Watts and supported by Auckland's organisers Neil Henderson and Chris Burton. Having learned about our pekapeka or long and short-tailed bat species - their foraging and roosting habits, lifestyle, social cohesion and echolocation - the teams are now gearing up for another 'more technical' session on listening devices and data recording. For more information on pekapeka visit our [Website](#) blog or [Facebook](#) pages.



Above: Jared Anderson, Park Ranger at Te Muri Regional Park, showed us a few possible roosting sites on a Te Muri map - including a headland site that once attracted bat watchers in the 1970s.



Showing us a potential spot to place a bat logger by the Te Muri Stream, is Chris Burton, Environmental Team Leader for Community Waitakere.



Brian Bramell, MWP's Chair, positions a listening device attached to a bat logger - near the Te Muri Stream. Data will be downloaded weekly and recorded to DOC's Bat Database.

Contacts:

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Website: <https://mahuwestpest.wordpress.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mahuwestpest>

Trapline Area Coordinators:

- 2 Jeff Marsh (Jamieson): jeff.marsh@mccollams.co.nz 027 590 9245
- 2 Lyn Ladyman (Opahi): brianlyn@gmail.com Ph. 09 422 0797
- 1 Ian Cheesman (Hungry Creek) ian@graphics.co.nz 022 049 5434
- 3 John Hill (Bullock Track) john.hill@xtra.co.nz 027 426 6732
- 4 Mike Neil (North Mahu West) mikeneil1951@gmail.com 027 474 1160
- 7 Stephanie Herron (Pukapuka) stephanie.herron@mac.com 027 257 7763
- 5 Peter Johnston (South Mahu West) staceydo@yahoo.co.nz 0274767561
- 6 Area 6 Coordinator to be advised

Checking Pest Traps At Gemini Golf



Paul Jamieson (inset) and Mike Neil regularly check possum traps during their weekly round of golf.

Our volunteers checking and rebaiting traps and bait stations at Gemini Golf on Pukapuka Road say, "It's all in a day's round of golf."

Paul Jamieson reports that 92 possums have been caught since trapping began there six months ago, along with six rats. "Most of the rat baits have gone with each visit," he adds, and would therefore add significantly to the count.

It's a win-win for Gemini Golf owners Janet and Kevin Johnston, as eliminating these pests means the trees and wildlife are thriving too.

If you missed any of our invasive weeds of the month and methods for controlling - these can be found on our [Pest Plants Website](#) pages. Please let us know if you'd like us to feature a locally invasive weed we've not yet covered.



COTONEASTER

