



Mahu West Pest

MARCH 2022



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

Kia Ora Mahurangi West peninsula residents and land owners. Welcome to Mahu West Pest's eNews no.14 updating you on our volunteer organisation.

Past, Present And Future ...

Mahu West Pest was recently paid a great honour. Mook Hohneck, Chairman of Ngāti Manuhiri at Pakiri came to visit and learn about our program. We had the opportunity to show him all that the team has accomplished and outline our future plans for the project. And we had the privilege of learning about his vision and ideas for *te whenua*. Thank you for your visit Mook. *Ka noho mai koe ki konei hei whanau.*



Left to right:
Rosanna Whaanga,
(MWP Committee
Member), Lei & Brian
Bramell (Chair MWP),
Mook Hohneck (Chair
Ngāti Manuhiri).

Jamieson Bay Makeover

Please put Sunday, 3 July in your diary for MWP's massive community Planting Bee on Jamieson Bay's foreshore. Over 200 natives have been donated by Auckland Council's Parks, Sports and Recreation department. There's a slip to the left of the ramp and a heavily weed infested area to the right of the ramp that need our help!

Maria Radic (right) says, "I started trapping in December 2020 and this is my first possum." Keep checking those traps folk. It would seem that patience pays off.



The Pekapeka Report

Many thanks to our volunteers who attended two online sessions about bats, and then helped find sites to place our bat loggers or listening devices (on loan from the Community Waitakere team). After several weeks of recording, we only heard crickets (or perhaps the odd bird pecking a microphone!) Now that the wet weather has passed, we'll have another go. For more information on pekapeka visit our [Website](#) blog or [Facebook](#) pages.

Chevron-Patterned Forest Gecko



Photo:
New Zealand
forest gecko
Mokopirirakau
granulatus.

Rangi Road resident Ann McShane took this great photo of a native gecko on their deck. To give you an idea of its size, the decking boards are 150mm wide.

Granulatus refers to the granular texture of the skin. According to the Māori Dictionary, its name moko means 'pattern' and pirirākau 'lizard that clings to trees'.

A consultant herpetologist with the Ministry for Primary Industries had this to say, "This species is known from and appears to be relatively common in the bushland around Mahurangi. Really cool record and the notifier [Ann] can just leave the animal where it is, or move it a short distance (<20m) and place it in the bush (away from cats)."

Trapping Results And Rat Bait

Thanks to our pest control volunteers who caught nine mustelids this month. We usually only record one or even no mustelids. MWP volunteers also doubled the number of rats and possums trapped this month. Thank you for your concerted efforts to check and rebait those traps.

We've had a number of enquiries about the availability of rat bait. If you log your traps with a pest control coordinator (see contacts below) and join the Mahu West Pest project on TrapNZ where you can log the bait take, you will be supplied with bait.

	Traps: 640 (last month 572)	Bait Stations: 271 (last month 268)
	ENTIRE PROJECT	*PREVIOUS YEAR THIS MONTH
Mustelids:	23	22 9
Rats:	444	386 48
Possums:	743	680 69
Hedgehogs:	72	57 4
Other:	197	172 21
Totals:	1479	1317 151

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

PEST FACTS:

Mustelids were introduced to New Zealand in the 1870s and 1880s to control rabbits. However, all three have become pests in their own right. By far the worst, in terms of their predations on native species, are stoats, followed by ferrets. Weasels are thought to have been less successful in adapting to New Zealand conditions.

[Source: Te Ara, The Encyclopedia of New Zealand]

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Trapline Area Coordinators:

- 2 Jeff Marsh (Jamieson): jeff.marsh@mccollams.co.nz 027 590 9245
- 2 Lyn Ladyman (Opahi): brianlynemai@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

