



Mahu West Pest

APRIL 2022



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

Kia Ora Mahurangi West peninsula residents and land owners. Welcome to Mahu West Pest's eNews no.15 updating you on our volunteer organisation.

A Gift from Restore Rodney East

Restore Rodney East supports locally based environmental projects to realise their full potential, collaborating with community groups, land owners and organisations to strengthen the bio-diversity of the region. They have recently given MWP 22 pest control traps, and our volunteers have been working hard to get these trapping tools out in the field, to target the three main pest groups. Possums and other pests are particularly active at this time of the year, so this gift is well timed.



Above: Sarah Churchouse, Facilitator for Restore Rodney East, delivering pest control traps for possums, rats and stoats to Mahu West Pest earlier this month.

Large-Scale Possum Control at Te Muri

Community Ranger Jared Anderson has organised a contract for large-scale possum control for Te Muri Regional Park. He's hoping to get this underway for three or so weeks towards the end of April, but this is dependent on when the contractor is available.

Autumn can be a really good time to target possums, with a decreasing abundance of new foliage and fruit, so he's keen for neighbours of the park who are part of MWP to have a good crack at possums over the next six weeks. Shoots, baiting, traps, whatever works!

Jared is also following up directly with Environmental Services to see if there can be any additional possum bait support for neighbours as well. He will also keep us updated with how the trapping goes within the park.

On another note, there have been three sightings of red-crowned kākāriki, says Jared, "Two were spotted at the Te Muri woolshed and one in Sullivan's Bay." Speaking to Tim Lovegrove (also known as Auckland Council's fauna advisor and bird whisperer) it was agreed that they probably blew over from Motuora Island with the strong easterlies last month. It'll be interesting to keep our eyes peeled to see if they hang around or not!



Photo: Wikipedia

A Kereru Chick Thanks To Our Volunteers



A screen shot from Mike Jenkin's video of a Kereru fledgling (in the background) with much wing flapping to get more food from its parent.

[View online](#)

"Thank you fellow trappers," says Mike Jenkin. "If anyone doubted the value of your work see the video online I took of a mum feeding its baby. This is the first Kereru fledgling I have seen from my deck in 19 years in the Bay."

Trapping Results for April

After a record 69 possums logged last month, we only got 32 in April. Mustelids didn't register this time, perhaps none were caught. Thanks to our volunteers a new trap line has been laid at Puriri Downs. Remember, this coming month is the **great push** to capture possums on the move for new food sources, as we move well into autumn!

You will see from April's TrapNZ data (below) there are two new categories - mice and rabbits.

	Traps: 640 (last month 572)	Bait Stations: 271 (last month 268)
	ENTIRE PROJECT	*PREVIOUS YEAR THIS MONTH
Mustelids:	23	22 N/R*
Mouse:	195	159 45
Possum:	773	693 32
Rabbit:	29	26 4
Rat:	474	397 38
Hedgehog:	79	58 9
Other:	50	46 3

Totals: 1600 1379 131

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

*Not recorded

EVENTS DIARY

FINE-TUNING PREDATOR CONTROL WITH CAM SPEEDY

Tips and tricks on how to increase the effectiveness of predator control for community groups and interested individuals (book below). Cam a wildlife biologist, has over 40 years' experience in predator control and ecosystem management.

Monday 9 May 2022, 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Puhoi Centennial Hall, 88 Puhoi Road, Puhoi.

A free event co-hosted by the Predator Free NZ Trust, Restore Rodney East and The Forest Bridge Trust. Book to attend this event: <https://predatorfree.nz/about-us/our-events>

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@extra.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

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