



Mahu West Pest

MAY 2022



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

Kia Ora Mahurangi West peninsula residents and land owners. Welcome to Mahu West Pest's eNews no.16 updating you on our volunteer organisation.

New Birds Counted This Quarter

"Our bird monitoring team continues to record bird numbers each quarter so that we can measure the effect of trapping predators in our community. We are especially pleased to have monitors now for Te Muri and Mita Bay," says coordinator Fran Ashton. "New birds added to our list are spur-winged plovers and Caspian terns, both recorded at Te Muri in March." Thanks to Fran's efforts, the team is growing in number and location, but we are particularly keen to recruit new people in the Pukapuka area where trapping is now well underway.



Spur-winged plovers are bold and territorial birds notable for arriving in New Zealand more than 80 years ago from northern Australia.

Photo: Matt Winter, Wilderness

Jamieson Bay to Encourage Biodiversity



Invasive plants (above) make way for native plants that will attract bees, native birds and other wildlife.



Clearing invasive weed species from Jamieson Bay has begun. Brian Bramell volunteered his time and hire digger to haul out clumps of agapanthus, agaves, ivy, Mauritius hemp, pampas, and ladder fern, with his assistant Simon's help. The Auckland Council twice sent out a team to poison the hemp but 2/3rds survived. Growing to over 4m high, with even longer stems packed with tiny bulbils (each with its own viable root system), hemp has almost no value to our native birds and other wildlife. Thanks also to many others who worked on the preparations.

Check out Rachel Ellis' colourful appeal on [MWP's Facebook](#), "There's a plague of horse-sized, fat rats who are too lazy to ...



Trapping Tips From Cam Speedy

Thanks to all those who attended the talk with Cam Speedy on May 9, at the Puhoi Hall. Speedy is wildlife biologist with over 40 years' experience in predator control and ecosystem management. It was a great night with him sharing really excellent tips and advice - which our coordinators look forward to passing onto our volunteers. This free event was co-hosted by the Predator Free NZ Trust, Restore Rodney East and The Forest Bridge Trust.

Attention-to-detail is Cam Speedy's number one tip for predator control. He says, "Having kit sitting out there



that pests encounter but don't interact with is an increasing issue we can't afford if we want to achieve a predator free NZ by 2050."

Mike Neil represented Mahu West Pest at the field trip the following day, along with other trapping leaders from local pest control groups.

Mike Neil, Area 4 Coordinator, was MWP's rep on the field trip with Cam Speedy to Dunn's Bush.

Trapping Results for May

This month our volunteers caught 60 more pests than last month, bringing our total for the year to 1,589 pests. Well done everyone! We're getting very close to 2,000 pests in total since Mahu West Pest's trapping programme began on the peninsula in January 2021.

For more info on TrapNZ see Michelle Spooner's excellent blog on our [Website](#) or [Facebook](#) pages.

TrapNZ records (on right) for this month, the previous year, and since our records began.

Traps:	699		
Bait stations:	281		
Monitoring stations:	1		
	Total	365 days	30 days
Possum:	967	859	189
Rat:	544	416	58
Hedgehog:	90	62	10
Mustelid:	30	25	2
Other:	287	227	32
Total:	1918	1589	291

EVENTS DIARY

Keep **Sunday 3 July** free for our **Planting Bee** on the Jamieson Bay foreshore. Bring gloves, trowels and spades to help transform this neglected area. The Auckland Council has generously donated 200 native shrubs and flaxes for us to plant.



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