



Mahu West Pest

JUNE 2022



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, Repeat

Kia Ora Mahurangi West peninsula residents and land owners. Welcome to Mahu West Pest's eNews no.17 updating you on our volunteer organisation.

MORE Volunteers Needed ...

Mahu West Pest has 73 signed up pest control volunteers with 65 actively checking traplines, according to coordinator Jeff Marsh. However, we're still looking for fit keen people to check traplines in all areas across our peninsula.

We also have 20 volunteers recording bird counts thanks to the efforts of Fran Ashton, as well as dozens of extras who can be called on for weeding and planting natives to improve biodiversity.

Thank you to all our volunteers for the marvellous work you do for our little corner of the planet.



Special thanks to volunteers Paul Jamieson, Barb Forbes (left), Fran Ashton (above) and Deb Farquhar who came out on a wet weekend to fill our waste skip with pest weeds from the Jamieson Bay Esplanade and tidy the site.



Pest Bird Myna On The Increase

Mynas are aggressive birds with a shrill, raucous call. Because they damage fruit crops and threaten native birds, they are considered a pest in areas such as Northland [Encyclopedia Te Ara]. Introduced in the 1870s from Central Asia to control insect pests, they also eat lizards, eggs and chicks, sometimes removing other birds in order to use their nest holes. There is also some evidence in Fiji of mynas having exterminated a species of bat. For methods of controlling mynas view MWP's Website or Facebook pages. Photo source: nzbirdsonline.org.nz



POSTPHONED - Sunday 3 July

Foreshore Planting Event at the Jamieson Bay Esplanade is on hold until further notice.

Keeping up-to-date With Bat Tech Info

Meet Loretta Steele, who is currently completing a BSc in Biology at Auckland University. She's been monitoring pekapeka (bats) with Chris Burton on the Kaipatiki Project over the past few months using two types of monitors.

Loretta kindly visited us earlier this month to reset one of our on-loan devices, and to talk about identifying bat vocalisations, processing audio data and general bat ecology. We're hoping she can come back to teach our bat volunteer group about the latest listening devices in spring when bats will be active again post hibernation. If you think you may have bats on your property and would like to request the loan of a handheld bat detector microphone for a week or so, email MWP's community coordinator at: nada.mahuwestpest@gmail.com



Loretta Steele recently showed MWP the latest Song Meter Mini Bat acoustic listening 30-day recorder.

Trapping Results for June

View MWP's TrapNZ records (below) for June, the previous year, and since our project began. This month volunteers trapped, recorded and removed 224 pests from our environment and many more that we can not quantify through bait stations.

June saw a new milestone of over 2,000 records (and many more that we cannot quantify through bait stations) since our MWP programme began in January 2021. This is significant and will be making a huge difference in our environment. Well done folk!!!

Traps:	705		
Bait stations:	281		
Monitoring stations:	1		
	Total	365 days	30 days
Possum:	1100	963	133
Rat:	614	445	65
Hedgehog:	96	63	6
Mustelid:	37	30	7
Other:	300	224	13
Total:	2147	1725	224

Contacts:

Brian Bramell: Chair BLBCIMS@gmail.com 021 0257 5957
Nada Cottrell: nada.mahuwestpest@gmail.com 021 137 4132
Stephanie Herron: Secretary stephanie.herron@mac.com
Fran Ashton: eBirds ashton.sager@gmail.com 021 260 2793

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): brianlynemil@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

