



Mahu West Pest

AUGUST 2022



Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance, and Repeat to Protect Mahurangi West

Kia Ora Mahurangi West peninsula and Hungry Creek residents and land owners. Welcome to Mahu West Pest's eNews no. 19 updating you on our organisation.

We're a booming success thanks to all our wonderful community donors and volunteers!

Without YOU none of our achievements would happen. Such a diverse group of volunteers from trappers and trap builders, bird counters and bookkeepers, newsletter and social media writers, planters and weeders, grant writers and spenders, bat monitors and just us crazy bats. Thank you one and all.

In our December 2021 issue we asked you to match the \$15,000 grant from Foundation North for pest control tools and help us reach \$30,000 - and here's how we did, with a huge debt of gratitude to all donors big and small:

- Ian Hay of Manuka Trust \$2,500
- Allan and Lee MacDonald \$2,000
- \$1,000 from Puriri Downs
- Beth Harper and Stephanie Herron's generosity
- Men's Shed Warkworth - thanks for constructing our wooden mustelid traps, it's a big help
- Community Shop - thanks for your continued support
- Smaller donations amounted to \$1,823 - it all helps!

We just need a further \$5130.52 and we've not only reached our target but doubled our pest control fund.

Breaking news - You can now donate direct to our new ANZ bank account: 06-0483-0894183-00. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Forest & Bird's Warkworth branch for its financial services over the past year.

Fine-Tuning Pest Control

After taking a somewhat shotgun approach to laying traps across the peninsula, Mahu West Pest is now in a position to fine-tune its pest strategy by obtaining a more accurate measure of pest numbers. Manuka Trust's generous donation of \$2,500 means we can purchase AT220 resetting traps and trail cameras which will help us determine where the more difficult areas are for the deployment of 'smart' traps.

In the meantime we're grateful for two trail cameras on loan from Restore Rodney East. Let's hope we can share results soon.



Mike Neil, Area 4 Pest Control Coordinator, has been constructing ramps and posts for possum traps to improve their effectiveness. Well done Mike for going the extra distance.

We wish to advise all our readers that Mahu is an abbreviation for Mahurangi. According to the Mana Whenua, the name originates from the Mahurangi Pa once located on a small island off the coast at Waiwera. The name Mahurangi is now used in association with land from Te Arai Point to the Weiti (Wade) River. We thank Ngati Manuhiri and Ngati Maraeariki for their support.

A big thank you to ITM Warkworth for its ongoing support supplying timber for making our wooden traps and accessories, which are used for capturing rats and mustelids (ferrets, stoats & weasels).

Photo: Carl Pauling (left), ITM Warkworth, and Brian Bramell, Mahu West Pest.



Another donor we appreciate is PLYMAN, who are supplying us with plywood for our trap bases. Check out this supportive Henderson company at www.plyman.co.nz



TrapNZ Data for August

MWP's TrapNZ records for this month, the previous year, and since our project began are shown below. Our wonderful volunteers trapped, recorded and removed 65 pests from the environment (about half of those caught in July). This included a ferret - see photo below. Forty-four new traps and 13 bait stations were placed in the field.



Traps:	756		
Bait Stations:	291		
Monitoring Stations:	1		
	Total	365 Days	30 Days
Possum:	1186	1038	26
Rat:	676	478	24
Hedgehog:	100	63	2
Mustelid:	41	34	1
Other:	335	250	12
Total:	2338	1788	65

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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