

Kia Ora Mahurangi West peninsula and Hungry Creek residents and landowners. Welcome to the latest Mahurangi West Pest eNews - updating you on our community volunteer organisation's work.

2022 Facts & Figures

Total Number Of Mahurangi West Pest Volunteers **120**
 Number Of Trapping Volunteers **68**
 Volunteers - Weeds/Planting/Bird Counts/Research **44**
 Possum Tally For The Year **809**
 Total Number of Animal Pests Caught **1567**
 Mustelids (Stoats, Weasels) Recorded **43**
 Number Of Rats Recorded **444**
 Amount Donated For MWP Projects **\$5,212**

We could not have carried out any of our many projects - making Mahurangi West a more biologically diverse and protected environment for native flora and fauna - if it was not for your contributions and generosity.

DONATIONS TO MWP: BANK A/C 06-0483-0894183-00

Thank you all for making 2022 the best year yet!

TrapNZ Data for December



Despite having more traps in the field, overall far fewer animal pests were recorded this month - with half the number of possums compared to November. "It's disappointing," says our lead trap coordinator Jeff Marsh, "at the very least we need to commit to regularly checking and logging our traplines." More on new strategies in the New Year.

Total Traps in Field:	841		
Bait Stations:	314		
Monitoring Stations:	2		
	Total	365 Days	31 Days
Possum:	1373	809	34
Rat:	782	444	17
Hedgehog:	118	60	1
Mustelid:	54	43	1
Other:	<u>361</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>7</u>
Total:	2688	1567	60

New Trail Cameras Calibrated

Facilitator Sarah Churchouse from Restore Rodney East, travelled to the peninsula mid-December to assist us with calibrating our new trail cameras - purchased with money from a generous local donor.

As a stoat had been seen earlier in Jamieson Bay, a trail camera was set up there opposite two back-to-back stoat traps in order to see if it was still frequenting the area. The traps were prepped with lamb fat smeared on the outside and the trail with droplets of raw egg and fat. On reviewing the camera footage a few days later a blackbird had been 'captured' stuffing its bill with the lamb fat. Cameras and traps will be relocated to optimise their use in the capture of animal pests.



(Left) Sarah configures a new trail camera to help us detect pest species such as stoats and rats. (Right) Trail camera captures a blackbird helping itself to lamb fat beside a stoat trap.

Bat Research Team Update

In mid-December bat team members, Fran Ashton, Jackie Liggins, Sarah Mason and Nada Cottrell, got together with BSC student Loretta Steele to familiarise themselves with the new bat listening devices, and how to download the SD cards etc.

The session also involved looking at the distinctive 'hockey stick' shapes of long-tailed bat (pekapeka) call recordings and which GPS apps to use for determining the location of devices as they are placed in the field.



A new Song Meter Mini Bat recording device is placed in the Mahurangi Regional Park. Another is being trialled in mature puriri in Opahi Bay, by Jackie Liggins.

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
 Gay Miers: Weed Control gay.miers@gmail.com 021 0468 352
Website: <https://mahurangiwestpest.wordpress.com>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mahurangiwestpest>

TRAPLINE AREA COORDINATORS

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