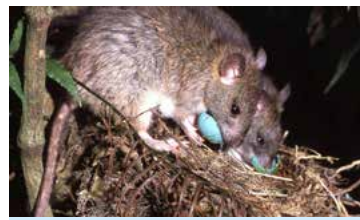


Kia Ora Mahurangi West peninsula and Hungry Creek residents and landowners. Welcome to the latest Mahurangi West Pest eNews - updating you on our community volunteer organisation's work.

Predators Kill 25 Million Birds a Year

Yikes this is our children's heritage! How do we get the next generation involved? It is one thing to promote childhood environmental understanding in the classroom and by reading them wildlife and ecology books. Why not take it to a whole new level by providing hands-on outdoor educational opportunities. Make trapping a family activity. Checking a trapline is an easy thing to do. Encourage your children to talk about their observations and interactions with New Zealand's flora and fauna and how pests destroy that. Even a young child can understand what it means when predators kill 25 million birds a year. (See [Michael Daly's article](#), *How do we know predators kill 25 million birds, chicks and eggs each year?*) They can learn that these pests were never intended to be here and why it's important to remove introduced pests, such as possums, rats and stoats (mustelids) from New Zealand.

And here in Mahurangi West we're doing it. For example, local resident Stephan (opposite) is certainly making pest control a family adventure. He is taking on a new trapline in the Hungry Creek hub (Area 6) with his daughter Estella, who says she enjoys learning about nature and is keen to be able to identify native trees.



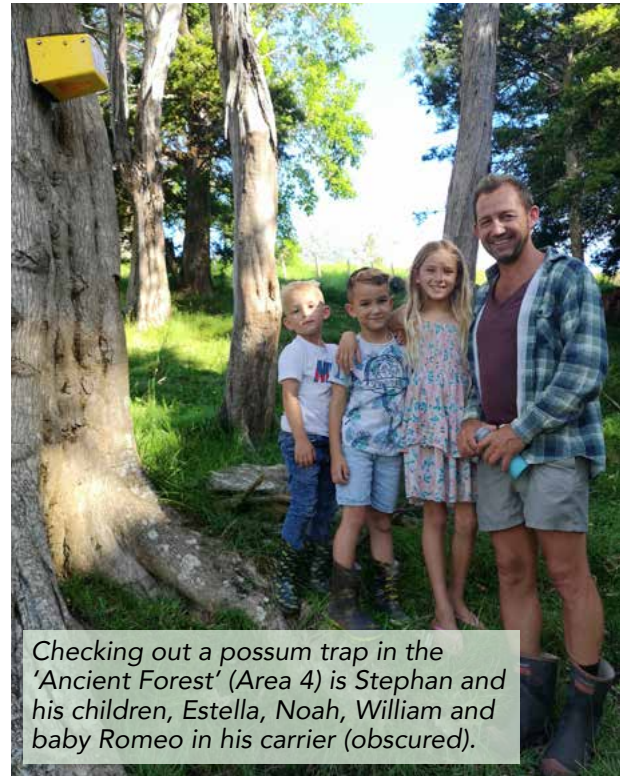
Above: Rats eating fantail eggs. Photo: David Mudge.

The family was excited to see kiwi on a recent camping trip to Moturoa Island and they are quick to understand how devastating possums, rats and stoats are to birds and other fauna, such as native lizards. A local lad Hazy Berry and his dad are working a trapline in Area 7.

It's easy to get your family involved. We'll provide all the tools and training to get you started. The Trap.NZ app allows your kids to log their results onto a nationwide database. They can then follow their successes and the results of our whole community that is trapping 3,500 hectares. Our goal is to get 1,000 additional pest control tools working this year. We have the tools. Your family team can help us accomplish this goal. Please call Jeff Marsh to get started (Mob. 027 590 9245).

Community Event Saturday 4 March

We're joining forces again with Mahurangi West Community Response Group for our annual BBQ at the Mahurangi West Community Hall in March. A flyer on activities is available. Save the date!



Checking out a possum trap in the 'Ancient Forest' (Area 4) is Stephan and his children, Estella, Noah, William and baby Romeo in his carrier (obscured).

Trap.NZ Data for January

This month our dedicated volunteers recorded 5 mustelids, 38 possums and 48 rats on Trap.NZ. Overall, 128 pests were removed from the peninsula in January, that's 68 more than last month. A great team effort despite the appalling weather!

Total Traps in Field: 850
Bait Stations: 319
Monitoring Stations: 2

	Total	365 Days	30 Days
Possum:	1413	778	38
Rat:	842	475	48
Hedgehog:	142	82	23
Mustelid:	59	47	5
Other:	381	220	14
Total:	2837	1602	128



First Dotterel Chick In Decades

Breaking news is Mahurangi Regional Park's story of the recent fledging of an endangered dotterel chick. See MWP's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mahurangiwestpest>. Thanks to Jared Anderson, Community Park Ranger, for relaying this exciting news, showing how trapping is making a difference.

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- 4 Mike Neil (North Mahu West) mikeneil1951@gmail.com 027 474 1160
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- 6 Area 6 Coordinator to be advised