

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.

Should cats be kept indoors?



Did you know we have the highest rate of cat ownership in the world - totalling over a million? Estimates for feral cats suggest twice that many! Contact [Mike Neil](#) if you are concerned about feral cats in your area.

Feral cats are implicated in the eradication of many species, including the Stephen Islands Wren and the extinction of the Little Barrier Snipe (on Little Barrier Island). Check out Stephen Dowling's article (for the BBC) [Should New Zealand cats be kept indoors?](#) He suggests we may have to change the way we keep cats.

Asparagus control work continues ...

Eligible landowners in the buffer zone around the Mahurangi Regional Park are being contacted as part of Auckland Council's ongoing Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) Buffer Programme. This weed control work is free of charge to landowners. Your prompt response when you receive a letter is appreciated. The programme is now in its second year, and the Auckland Council says it appreciates the great support from the community so far.

The programme, guided by Auckland's RPMP for managing priority pests, is targeting climbing asparagus and bushy asparagus, as well as moth plant, wild ginger, woolly nightshade and Rhamnus for all properties within 500m of the park's boundary. For more information on what this means for you and how to control these weeds please visit: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/buffers

In the coming months Nada Cottrell, Community Coordinator and Gay Miers, volunteer Weed Control and Planting Programme Coordinator, of Mahurangi West Pest will be liaising with buffer zone landowners to assess weed infestations and provide further support.



Climbing asparagus, one of the species being controlled through the Buffer Zone programme.

Event reminder - Saturday 4 March

We've joined forces with Mahurangi West Community Response Group for our annual BBQ at the Mahurangi West Community Hall. See you there!



Donations to MWP are always gratefully received. If you wish, tag them e.g. pest control tools, weed control and/or native plants. Thank you for your generosity!

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

Trap.NZ data for February

"Double DOC and Tuna oil strikes again!" says Mike Neil, Area 4 pest control coordinator, of his latest success capturing stoats.

This month, MWP's volunteers chalked up a total of 63 strikes on Trap.NZ, despite further



Mike Neil's secret weapon for attracting stoats is a small piece of sponge dipped in tuna oil, nailed inside traps.

weather events. They recorded 2 mustelids, 14 possums and 28 rats on Trap.NZ. Overall, the numbers are about half that of the month before.

Rodent populations start to increase exponentially from March so it's a good time to pulse bait (i.e. non toxic bait to attract rats is switched out for active bait). March is also a major possum mating period. Juveniles will be dispersing. Please rebait and set those traps!

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

	Total	365 Days	30 Days
Possum:	1427	762	14
Rat:	870	478	28
Hedgehog:	152	88	10
Mustelid:	60	45	2
Other:	390	212	9
Total:	2899	1585	63



Possum rebait kit: apples, aniseed drops and cinnamon.

CONTACTS

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- 6 Area 6 Coordinator to be advised