

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.

Keep fit as a trapline volunteer

Our neighbour, The Forest Bridge Trust, did a letterbox drop in the Pukupuka area a few weeks ago to drum up some more interest in trapping. Tris Bondsfield, their community liaison says, 'We've had great success - with at least six property owners showing a keen interest or reporting on their trapline setups.'

As new landowners get set up, these will soon show results on Trap NZ. However, we **URGENTLY NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS** to help property owners who have not yet been set up and those that might have one boundary covered and can only keep up with that when there's another boundary unprotected. Please contact MWP's Hub 7 trapline coordinator Stephanie Herron, if you'd like to know more.

The Trust is providing additional support to MWP over the next few months, to help new people join the conservation effort and get up and running, with the tools and training necessary for their property. The more neighbours that we can invite to join the effort, the greater the biodiversity. "This is very much a project by the community, for the community", says Trish.



On loan from The Forest Bridge Trust, Athol Keeling and Mick Cleland (above) discuss strategy. They are doing a great job assisting with our Pukapuka Hub 7 traplines.

Buffer Zone around the Regional Park

Remember to get in touch with the Auckland Council if you have received a letter about its spray control programme for climbing or bushy asparagus fern on your property: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/buffers

For individual weed assessments within the buffer zone please contact Gay Miers (below), volunteer Weed Control and Planting Programme Coordinator for Mahurangi West Pest, as she and Nada Cottrell will be liaising with landowners to assess weed infestations and provide further support.

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 March

On a rainy day, Mike Neil put his mind to making double rat traps after the success of his double DOC 200s. He says, "It takes a bit of time to modify and we can only work on the boxes that are screwed not nailed but in the long run better value for money. And hopefully higher catch rate." If successful we can get future boxes made like this.

If you haven't seen our Facebook [trail camera clip of rats](#) in a coastal village check it out.

We have now logged over 3,000 pests on TrapNZ. This month we added 45 traps and 10 bait stations in the field. We caught almost 3 times the number of possums and rats! Great work thanks to all our volunteers.



Mike Neil's latest trap adaptation - this time double rat traps.

Total Traps in Field: 895
Bait Stations: 329
Monitoring Stations: 1

	Total	365 Days	30 Days
Possum:	1427	728	45
Rat:	941	494	71
Hedgehog:	162	92	10
Mustelid:	63	37	3
Other:	402	201	12
Total:	3040	1552	141

Not a 'myna' pest plague

Myna were introduced to New Zealand 150 years ago and now congregate in massive flocks, threatening agricultural crops and pasture. Myna destroy eggs and nestlings of any other species within their territory and also eat native skinks, geckos and insects such as wētā.



Traps can be purchased in New Zealand or you can [make your own](#) out of netting, by following a template on our website.

CONTACTS

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TRAPLINE AREA

COORDINATORS

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- 6 Area 6 Coordinator to be advised