

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.

Pic's Peanut Butter = 20Kg Of Bait!

Thanks to Pic's Peanut Butter World, Stoke, Nelson, we've just had another batch of peanut butter delivered to us free of charge to use as rat bait. Pic's even pay for the freight.

MWP trappers - don't forget to replace any old rusty rat traps with new ones as in the photo here. See your area coordinator for both traps and peanut butter which are supplied free.



Trap.NZ Data For May

In May, our volunteers increased the number of traps in the field by 51 - a great effort. In the year to date we have logged over 100 more animal pests on Trap.NZ than the previous year, which includes a total of 596 possums and 509 rats for the year. Our teams also increased the number of bait stations too.

We've now passed the 1,000 mark for rats caught and entered into Trap.NZ. Keep up the good work as rats are predators of our native bats, birds and lizards.



The long-tailed bat (above) has one pup a year, compared to rats which can have between 11 and 15 pups each year.

Total Traps in Field:	973		
Bait Stations:	346		
Monitoring Stations:	1		
	Total	365 Days	30 Days
Possum:	1564	596	48
Rat:	1110	561	107
Hedgehog:	184	94	10
Mustelid:	66	36	1
Other:	481	194	44
Total:	3405	1481	210

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Restore Rodney East
SUPPORTING LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

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

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

Hugh - Our Bullock Track Coordinator

Hugh Kininmonth (Right) replaces John Hill as the pest control coordinator for Hub 3 (Bullock Track). A huge thanks to John for his work on setting up and maintaining traplines in this area.

Hugh and his wife Boudine moved into their home on Mahurangi West Road three and a half years ago. Hugh says, "We have loved every moment since and relish the warm interactions with the most wonderful eclectic mix of interesting people in our community."



He tells us it is a pleasure to give back a little by being involved in pest control to help protect our country's birdlife. If anyone wants a hand to put out or maintain traps please let him know. Mob. 021 979 350.

Bats Prefer Old Trees With Cavities

Three-quarters of roost trees used by pekapeka (bats), identified in the South Island, were at least one hundred years old. Another reason to keep those beautiful old trees, unless they pose a risk to you.

Cabbage trees are important roosts too. DOC advises replanting natives to shelter old trees and ensure their long-term survival. Also protect old-age willow and poplar forest around ponds where bats like to feed on aquatic insects over water. Flies are also a significant



Above: Bat volunteer Sarah Mason checks out mature puriri as potential bat sites.

food source for the insect-eating long-tailed pekapeka, which can fly at 60 kilometres per hour and may cover a distance of 100 square kilometres, making it difficult to locate roosting or feeding sites.

Although a generous research grant from the Regional Environment and Natural Heritage fund has come to an end, we're confident of eventually recording bat echolocation calls here. Neil Henderson of the [Kaipatiki Project](#) recently said that they will continue to support our efforts to locate these tiny mammals.

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