

Kia Ora Mahurangi West peninsula and Hungry Creek residents and landowners. Welcome to Mahurangi West Pest's eNews Issue no. 29 - updating you on our community volunteer organisation's work.

Our Environmental Project Matters

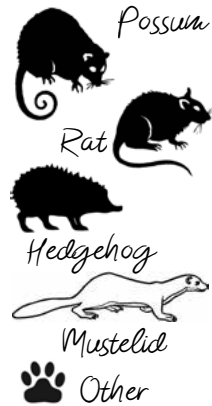
Our thanks to Restore Rodney East and its facilitator Sarah Churchouse (right), who were instrumental in organising free publicity for us in the June 19 issue of Mahurangi Matters (p.13). Its publication also coincided with this year's National Volunteer Week which ran from the 18-24 June, with the theme: *He wā pīataata – Time to shine.*



Trap.NZ Data For June

The increased number of traps in the field must be paying off, as our volunteers recorded almost three times the number of possums this month. A tremendous effort. We also caught five mustelids compared with one in May, with Mike Neil bagging three of them.

We've now passed the 1,500 mark for possums since our records were first entered into Trap.NZ. Remember, we're working towards a pest free Mahurangi West.



Total Traps in Field:	977		
Bait Stations:	346		
Monitoring Stations:	1		
	Total	365 Days	30 Days
Possum:	1707	603	139
Rat:	1178	564	58
Hedgehog:	195	98	10
Mustelid:	71	34	5
Other:	520	203	27
Total:	3661	1502	239



CONTACTS

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TRAPLINE AREA COORDINATORS

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- 6 Area 6 Coordinator to be advised

Please consider making a donation to MWP. If you wish, tag your donation, 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

On The Hunt For A Good Lure ...



Mike Neil (left), Pest Control Coordinator for Hub 4, has been experimenting with the use of tuna oil in traps to catch both stoats and rats with considerable success. "The big benefit," he says, "is being able to

catch more stoats which are not attracted to the common rat lure of peanut butter." Additionally the oil lasts longer than traditional lures as it is not subject to being eaten by slugs, ants and maggots. "The good oil is really working," Mike added, "as I had my third stoat this month."

He would now like to move on from the experimental stage to a full blown trial by getting our trappers to use tuna oil in at least 50% of their rat and stoat traps. And of course when we prove its success we will adopt it permanently.

Thinking Of Volunteering?

We know you're thinking about it and now's the time, as animal pests are at the height of their predation at this time of the year! We're intending to put 1,000 traps in the field this year and you can play a big part in helping us reach this goal. Please contact either Jeff Marsh or Mike Neil, listed in the panel below.

Preying On Our Forest Birds

Possums will raid birds' nests and eat eggs and chicks, although they are mainly plant eaters, according to the Department of Conservation. In particular, they prey on forest birds such as kiwi, korerū and kōkako. Few chicks manage to fledge in forests where possums are prevalent.

Lex Marshall, who manages our eNews distribution, recently captured this big bruiser on the peninsula.

