

Kia Ora Mahurangi West peninsula and Hungry Creek residents and landowners. Welcome to Mahurangi West Pest's eNews Issue no. 31 - updating you on our community volunteer organisation's work.

Trap.NZ Data For August

We are still capturing good numbers of the wily mustelids, with five this month. Since first recording possums on Trap.NZ, we've reached 1,800. According to [Predator Free NZ](#) use a lure for possums with a smell that stands out, like cinnamon, peppermint (oil) or aniseed to pique the possums' interest.



Total Traps in Field:	1009		
Bait Stations:	341		
Monitoring Stations:	1		
	Total	365 Days	30 Days
Possum:	1806	625	37
Rat:	1303	628	47
Hedgehog:	204	104	5
Mustelid:	81	40	5
Other:	579	241	40
Total:	3973	1638	134



Rodney Community Board Assistance

Thanks to Rose Crooks, Community Park Ranger for Rodney and Hibiscus and Bays, for her assistance with planting plans, sourcing plants for our native gardens and for organising a WolfGarten pruning saw for us, which we trialled at our Planting Bee this month.

Regional Park Buffer Zone Update

Wet weather has hampered the Auckland Council's Regional Park Buffer Zone climbing and bushy asparagus spray campaign. Our local liaison team of Gay Miers



(pictured) and Nada Cottrell made progress in August after months of rain. With help from volunteer Allison Milne, they took out a large amount of asparagus from the bush at corner of Opahi Bay and Mahurangi West roads. And special thanks to Mike Hopkins for dealing with the many bags of weeds generated over the past few weeks.

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

Ferrets And Other Mustelids A Threat



Mike Neil, trap co-ordinator for Hub 4 (North Mahurangi West), caught this ferret earlier in the month in one of his modified double traps.

Ferrets, along with stoats and weasels, were introduced to

New Zealand from Europe in the 1880s, to help control rabbits that were breeding out of control. By 1900, ferrets were well established in the wild and according to the Department of Conservation, 'definitely played a role in the decline of native birds like the kiwi, weka and blue duck, and the extinction of kakapo on the mainland.' The latter, now only found on mustelid-free islands.



Roadside Planting Bee

For more info and images from our Planting Bee on Sunday August 20, please follow us on [Facebook](#).

The Forest Bridge Trust Lends A Hand

Our thanks to Tris Bondsfield, Community Liaison Team Lead, TFBT, for organising native grasses (carex) and an array of native seedlings from her contacts within local plant nurseries, for this month's Planting Bee.

Of note is *Entelea arborescens*, or whau, but also known as ever-green lime, due to the shape of its leaves. This plant is endemic to New Zealand. The wood, similar to balsa, was used by Māori for the floats of fishing nets.



Tris Bondsfield with donated native seedlings.

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