

Kia Ora Mahurangi West peninsula and Hungry Creek residents and landowners. Welcome to Mahurangi West Pest's eNews Issue no. 32 - updating you on our community volunteer organisation's work.

Breaking News From Foundation North ...

[Foundation North](#) provides funding and support to community initiatives and has just announced MWP as a recipient of \$11,439 for a part-time trapping advocate and trap tools, including the NZ designed auto-trap.

The Forest Bridge Trust Donates Traps

Thanks to The Forest Bridge Trust for their generous donation of 60 single wooden trap boxes this month.

MWP now has 130 new trap boxes constructed by the Men's Shed Warkworth. Mike Neil, trapping coordinator for Area 4, will adapt these to create 65 highly effective double-traps.



Trap.NZ Data For September

Jeff Marsh says, "It's important to keep checking and rebaiting your traps. And to remember that August, September and October is when possums mate again." Trapping during a breeding season stops the possum population from booming so that birds can thrive. Our total pests recorded in Trap.NZ have now topped 4,000.



Total Traps in Field:	1022		
Bait Stations:	342		
Monitoring Stations:	1		
	Total	365 Days	30 Days
Possum:	1830	607	25
Rat:	1352	645	45
Hedgehog:	208	107	4
Mustelid:	83	42	3
Other:	598	255	22
Total:	4071	1656	99

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

Look Out For Endangered Green Mistletoe

Geoff Reid, of ReWhenua Restoration, is involved in a mistletoe recovery group for the North. He says that Green Mistletoe *Ileostylus micranthus*, also known by its Maori name piritā, is facing local extinction in the upper north island.

If anyone finds a population on the peninsula please [email Geoff](#), as traps should be deployed immediately to help protect this species. Piritā's bright orange berries are 'like icecream to possums' and they are a staple food for many native birds for a large portion of the year. This mistletoe species grows mainly on totara trees (as pictured).



Photo:
Robyn Simcock

Rare Sighting Of The Matuku-Hurepo

Jared Anderson, Community Ranger for Mahurangi West and Te Muri regional parks reports that one of his colleagues recently saw an Australasian bittern (matuku-hūrepo) in Te Muri O Tararaki Stream, which was subsequently seen flying over Otarawao/Sullivans Bay.

Jared says, these cryptic birds are incredibly rare. They are ranked as nationally critical due to their plummeting numbers, with latest estimates around 300-500. A cryptic coloration is one that has the aim of camouflage and is often seen in ground-nesting birds.

Bitterns utilise the mosaic wetlands across Auckland, typically raupō, and although habitat loss and degradation is a big factor in their decline they are susceptible to mustelid and feral cat predation too.

This sighting is a motivation to keep up the trapping effort to help critically endangered wildlife survive in our backyard (even though we may not all get to see them).



Photo: Department
of Conservation

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