

Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance and Repeat to Protect Mahurangi West

Kia Ora Mahurangi West and Hungry Creek residents and landowners. Welcome to MWP's eNews Issue no. 35 - updating you on our volunteer organisation.

Mustelid Adolescence!

"Now is the time to check your traps as many times in a month as you possibly can," says Helen Jamieson from The Forest Bridge Trust (TFBT). "Keep the bait fresh and the front and back free of weeds. Juvenile mustelids are dispersing throughout the countryside - and for a brief period they have higher levels of curiosity and risk-taking behaviour - mustelid adolescence! Right now they are more likely to go into traps - which will only catch a juvenile mustelid if the trap is open and tempting (not shut tight on a rat from yesterday or last week)." [Join TFBT's Community Discussion on Facebook]



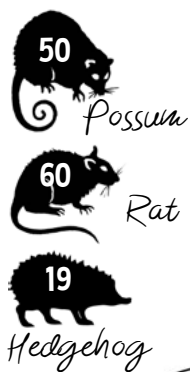
Replace Your Old Traps

Are your Victor traps getting a bit old and need replacing? If so, contact Jeff Marsh or Mike Neil who can provide you with new ones which have kindly been supplied by Restore Rodney East.



Trap.NZ Data For December

Please keep checking and baiting those traplines over the summer, says trapline coordinator Jeff Marsh.



Total Traps in Field:	1109		
Bait Stations:	332		
Monitoring Stations:	1		
	Total	365 Days	30 Days
Possum:	2004	632	50
Rat:	1493	698	60
Hedgehog:	242	121	19
Mustelid:	95	41	6
Other:	628	261	14
Total:	4462	1753	149



Please consider making a donation to MWP. If you wish, tag your donation, e.g. pest control tools, weed control, native plants or a Tāwhiti. Thank you for your generosity over the past year - it is much appreciated!

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

First Kiwi Chicks In 50 Years

Following the release of 10 adult kiwi onto Mt Tamahunga near Omaha in March this year, Ngāti Manuhiri and Tamahunga Trappers recently announced that the first kiwi chicks in 50 years have hatched there. Keep up the trapping Mahurangi West!



Foundation North Opportunity

In September this year we received a generous grant of \$11,439, from Foundation North Trustees. This recognises the valuable contribution Mahurangi West Pest makes in our community. \$5,000 is for the purchase of pest control tools, including the latest self-loading AT220s; with the balance for engaging a part-time pest control operator. Therefore, MWP is seeking an active young person with some trapping experience, to contract for one day a week.

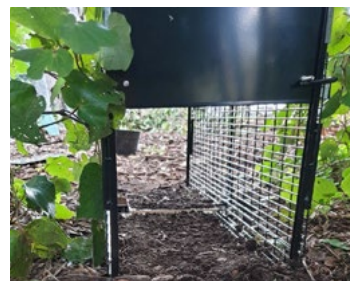


Live Captures with Tāwhiti

We are looking for donations of \$395 for the purchase of Tāwhiti - smart cages for live catches, designed by Predator Free Franklin. A plus is that non pest species are easily released unharmed.

The double-ended trap has a sensor that sends a notification via the Trap.NZ app when something has been caught. It uses an automatic lure dispenser that tempts predators with an enticing bait - mayonnaise.

Once triggered notifications help ensure any trap is checked within 24 hours. Our trappers have clear obligations including guidelines from Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research to dispatch an animal humanely.



Left: A Tāwhiti set with ends open. Right: A ferret caught in a Tāwhiti.

Our thanks to the Warkworth Butchery for donating lamb fat for our traplines.



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