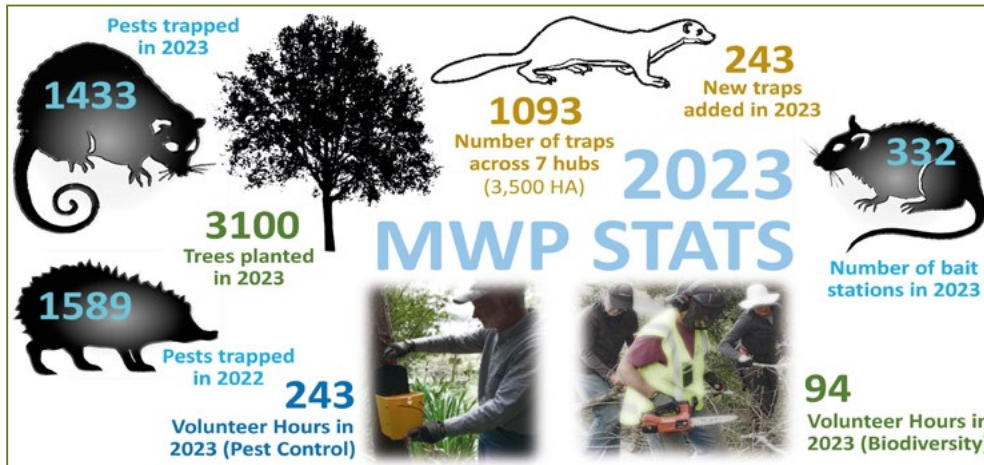


Control, Monitor, Adapt, Enhance and Repeat to Protect Mahurangi West

Kia Ora Mahurangi West and Hungry Creek residents and landowners. Welcome to MWP's eNews Issue no. 36 - updating you on our volunteer organisation.



On **March 16** we'll be joining Restore Rodney East at the A&P Lifestyle Show at the Warkworth Showgrounds. Look out for a reminder in our next issue.

Damaging Invasive Predators

Cats are among the most damaging invasive predators in the world, according to the [New Zealand Journal of Ecology](#). It suggests research priorities to include: improved methods for monitoring cats and their impacts; development of humane, effective, and socially acceptable control methods; and engagement with cat owners to improve outcomes for cats, people, and the environment.



In 2022, the SPCA published [Implications of Policies on the Welfare of Free-Roaming Cats in New Zealand](#), which looks at Laws and Regulations for Controlling Feral Cats. "People with cats enjoy the benefits of companionship, but do not pay the true cost for letting their cat roam, especially if they are not desexed," the writers suggest. Another argument is that there is a failure of government to protect both cat welfare and native wildlife, citing the need to reduce the transmission of toxoplasmosis to native marine mammals and pastoral animals.

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 over the past year - it is much appreciated and put to good use!

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

Trap.NZ Workshops



Join data expert Charlie (from The Forest Bridge Trust) for an online tutorial on how to record your data to Trap.NZ from your regular trap checks, along with tips on how to simplify the process. Save these dates: **Thurs Feb 15th 9.30am / Wed Feb 21st 7.00pm**. Details have been sent by email to all our wonderful volunteer trappers, making a difference!

Trap.NZ Data

Start the year off right, with a trap check day. Get into a fortnightly rhythm for checking and getting your trap service data onto Trap.NZ, says Claire Mitchell of The Forest

Bridge Trust. For MWP's January data recorded on Trap.NZ see our figures below (down on last months tally):

Total Traps in Field:	1109		
Bait Stations:	332		
Monitoring Stations:	1		
	Total	365 Days	30 Days
Possum:	2027	621	33
Rat:	1531	689	42
Hedgehog:	256	114	14
Mustelid:	96	37	2
Other:	633	252	6
Total:	4543	1713	97

Bird Count Update

The percentage of native/endemic birds remains at about 57% of all birds counted - no change from 2022 - and the number of native/endemic species recorded also remains the same, says organiser Fran Ashton. She says, "Tuis remain the most numerous bird overall by a large margin. However, mynas are no longer the most numerous introduced bird, having lost their place this year to swallows and blackbirds. There are encouraging signs that kaka are beginning to colonise the area, especially in the Bullock Track, where some kaka have remained throughout the breeding season and not returned to offshore breeding grounds."



Image of Tui: Stewart Baird

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