

Kia Ora Mahurangi West and Hungry Creek residents and landowners. Welcome to MWP's eNews 43rd Issue - updating you on our volunteer organisation.

Bittern Monitoring Event At Hall



Sunday 8 September at 11am, Alex Flavell-Johnson, from the Matuku Trust, will give us advice on a special muster over three evenings, September 14, October 19 and November 16 - to help gauge the number of bitterns *Matuku hūrepo* in the area. We hope that many of you will join in this very important bird-counting activity.

At a recent online *Bittern for Beginners* event, 70 Rodney people logged in to hear about this highly endangered bird in the heron family, which has been seen in the Te Muri wetland. Only 500 to 1000 exist in New Zealand. Please **VOTE** the bittern for [NZ Bird of the Year](#) here.

Myna Meet And Greet At Hall



Thanks to everyone who made our myna event and BBQ such a success. Special thanks to Rachel Lampen and Mike Neil who stepped in at the last minute to guide us through some *not so myna* issues and what to do about the 1000s of mynas reported across the peninsula.

We appreciate the fine work that Darryl Bigham's team put into making 4 live-cage traps, and for the purchase of these at the end of the evening, along with a Pestoff paste (an alternative method of despatching mynas using a poison bait). Our thanks to the Owston-Doyles who generously purchased a spare cage we can lend out to anyone interested in catching these destructive birds threatening our native birds.

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

Thanks for your generosity over the past year - we're putting it to good use. Please tag new donations to MWP as pest tools, weed control, or native plants etc.

Aerial To Keep Track Of Cage Traps

We are indebted to Nicholas (Nic) Mulock-Houwer, Centive Technologies, Warkworth, for donating his services to set up a new WheroNet system for monitoring our live-capture cages in the field. Our thanks also to James Frost, Puhoi Net (wireless services) who installed the gateway antenna for the system. And to Mike Hopkins, for allowing us to place the gateway on his property.



Possum Control Programme

Our pest control coordinators heard about Auckland Council's Regional Possum Control Programme at an online hui this month. Megan Young, Senior Conservation Advisor for the council, said it was an opportunity to learn about the programme from the project managers and raise any questions or concerns directly.

With our local knowledge and the work we do, it was also a chance to give input to the council and its registered contractors, who will start engaging with individual landowners in the next month or two.

The programme's focus is to reduce possum numbers to below 3%, which would allow us a 3-6 month pause in baiting and trapping for possums while trapping as usual for rats, feral cats, stoats and other mustelids. More details on the timeline to come. Email [Nada Cottrell](#) if you'd like a copy of the council's possum programme.

Trap.NZ Data For August

This month we have an additional reporting line and image for our 'myna' captures, that used to be included in 'Other'. Thanks to those trappers who put out 37 more traps this month and 10 more bait stations.

Total Traps in Field:	1252		
Bait Stations:	385		
Monitoring Stations:	1		
	Total	365 Days	30 Days
Possum:	2400	593	34
Rat:	2147	848	64
Myna:	-	-	53
Hedgehog:	299	96	1
Mustelid:	135	56	2
Other:	963	391	13
Total:	5944	1984	167



CONTACTS

Brian Bramell: Chair BLBCIMS@gmail.com 021 0257 5957
 Nada Cottrell: Comms nada.mahuwestpest@gmail.com 021 137 4132
 Stephanie Herron: Secretary stephanie.herron@mac.com
 Fran Ashton: eBirds ashton.sager@gmail.com 021 260 2793
Website: <https://mahurangiwestpest.wordpress.com>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mahurangiwestpest>

TRAPLINE AREA COORDINATORS

2 Jeff Marsh (Jamieson): jeff.marsh@mccollams.co.nz 027 590 9245
 2 Lyn Ladyman (Opahi): brianlynemail@gmail.com Ph. 09 422 0797
 1 Ian Cheesman (Hungry Creek) ian@graphics.co.nz 022 049 5434
 3 Hugh Kininmonth (Bullock Track) hughkininmonth@gmail.com 021 979 350
 4 Mike Neil (North Mahu West) mikeneil1951@gmail.com 027 474 1160
 7 Stephanie Herron (Pukapuka) stephanie.herron@mac.com 027 257 7763
 5 Peter Johnston (South Mahu West) staceydo@yahoo.co.nz 0274767561
 6 Hugh Kininmonth (West Mahu) hughkininmonth@gmail.com 021 979 350