

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

Kia Ora Mahurangi West and Hungry Creek residents and landowners. This is MWP's 48th update on our project to eradicate pests and improve our natural environment through greater biodiversity.

300th Possum At Gemini Golf Course



Paul's grandsons Thomas and George Lees pictured with the 'winner'.

Paul Jamieson, who regularly checks and baits the traps at the golf course on Pukapuka Road, reports that the 300th possum was caught there this month.

We hit the 200-possum mark in February 2024, so a 100 more possums have been removed from the course in less than a year!

Bird Counts Continue To Rise

In 2024, the two most common native/endemic birds were the tui, then the warou (swallow), and the most common introduced bird the Myna. The total number of birds (including unknown species) for 2024 was 514, compared with 482 in 2023. The percentage of native/endemic birds is 64% c.f. 56% in 2023. The number of native/endemic species at year's end is 14 both years; however, we did reach 17 species earlier in 2024.

Myna numbers steadily dropped, from 44 in March 2024 to 29 in December, most probably due to the increased trapping of this destructive introduced species.

Thanks to Phil Yates' new spreadsheet, Fran Ashton can now track individual species more easily as part of her reporting. Our thanks to everyone contributing their time to this project, providing invaluable bird statistics.

Possum Control Programme

In mid-January, we sent out an email response from MWP to all property owners on the peninsula regarding our support for the Auckland Council's short-term possum programme (which also includes trapping other pests such as rats and mustelids) to gauge the numbers of pests in our area and the most efficient traps and trapping methods.

Please remember, to send your **signed consent form** back to the Auckland Council's biosecurity contractor, Josh Christensen, if you haven't already done so.

Paid Part-Time Trapper For Hub 9

Thanks to our advertisement for a paid part-time trapper to cover 2kms+ of new tracks in Hub 9 Pohuehue, Anton Tierney (opposite) has taken up the role. Mike Neil undertook Anton's training and on their joint checking of the Ridge Track traps in early January, they logged 7 possums and 11 rats on Trap.NZ - not bad for day one!

We're very grateful to our two new *regular* funders. However, we still have a shortfall to cover Anton - if you're considering making a monthly donation now is a good time - see our bank details below.



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

Thank you for your continued support - we're putting your donations to good use. Please tag your donations as 'pest tools', 'weed control', or 'native plants' etc.

You can set up a regular payment to go towards a fulltime trapper, as your way of helping us. Use the tag 'trapper'.

One-Hour Weed Cafés

On any Sunday between 8.30 and 10am - please give us just ONE HOUR of your time to help weed or mulch one of the three Jamieson Bay foreshore sites or the corner site at the top of Opahi Bay Road. Refreshments, including a hot savoury, provided.



Trap.NZ Data For January 2025

Thanks to our volunteers who put an extra 33 traps in the field this month and 10 more bait stations (for rats). Recorded catches were similar to last month, but 3x the number of myna! Please check and re-bait all traplines.

Total Traps in Field:	1465		
Bait Stations:	473		
Monitoring Stations:	1		
	Total	365 Days	30 Days
Possum:	2,881	836	63
Rat:	2,485	947	48
Myna:	895	481	180
Hedgehog:	334	76	9
Mustelid:	154	57	6
Other:	1,929	867	7
Total:	7,963	3,264	313



Mustelid



Other

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