

We reached our goal this month! What did it take to get 2,000 pest control tools into the field...?

Manufacturing Trap Boxes

Carl Pauling of **ITM Warkworth** has been supplying MWP with timber for its trapboxes for some years. We use timber not only for trapboxes, but also for ramps (super highways for possums) and posts to secure traps at the correct height above ground. Carl (below), with MWP founder Brian Bramell.



Since 2022, the **Men's Shed Warkworth** has been constructing our wooden mustelid and rat trap boxes, which is a huge help (see below).



The Innovative Side To Trapping



Mike Neil (left), MWP's Hub 4 coordinator, has contributed to our pest control efforts since day one. Instrumental in turning our wooden traps into doubles, with more than twice the capture rate, he's also built ramps and posts for Flipping Timmies and the more recent NZ Autotraps, which helps their effectiveness. Back in 2022, he created a tool to help reset traps (below).



Beth Harper (left), with the resetting safety tool, and right, she demonstrates its use. Beth and husband Roger also trap pests on their Mahurangi West farm.



Darryl Brigham (right), has a niche 'B2B' business in a commercial and industrial setting. We are lucky that his skills translate to our rural setting as he's created the ultimate myna cage trap and organised his team to manufacture these for us. The team also modify many of our rodent traps. Darryl sees himself as an 'arms dealer' manufacturing the ammunition for others to take out the 'little blighters'.



Traps Gifted Through Grants



Sarah Churchouse (left), Facilitator **Restore Rodney East**, delivered 22 traps and trap boxes to us in 2022, a welcome donation.

Jeff Marsh (right), pest control coordinator, ready to distribute 38 traps from a generous **Predator Free NZ** grant in 2024.



Lead Pest Controller

We couldn't have got 2,000 traps into the field, if it wasn't for **Jeff Marsh** (left), stepping forward to spearhead the entire trapping programme. Whether its training volunteers, supplying pest control tools and lures, maintaining the accurate recording of catches on Trap.NZ, obtaining GPS readings for each tool, or organising the deployment of volunteer teams, Jeff has worked tirelessly to improve organisational efficiency.

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More Traps From Grants & Donations

In December 2023, we received a grant from the **Foundation North Trustees**, who provided \$5,000 for purchasing pest control tools. We chose self-loading, auto-luring rechargeable electric AT220s from AutoTrap NZ. Foundation North also gave us a further \$6,439 towards engaging a young person to trap part-time.



Right: Mike Neil and Mick Cleland, Hub 9 (Pohuehue) coordinator, setting up 44 possum and mustelid traps and 21 bait stations for rats, on the 2km-long Windy Ridge track.

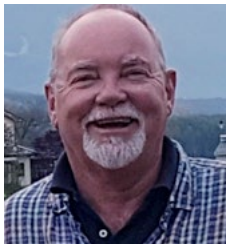
Left: Mike Neil, reloads an auto-trap as part of the Auckland Council's Northern Team December 2024 visit to our newest trapline near Windy Ridge. Above Left: One of Mike's modified double-stoat traps in the field. Above Right: An auto-trap showing a custom-built ramp and four dead possums.



The Forest Bridge Trust (TFBT) generously donated 60 single wooden trap boxes in 2023 (shown below). They were constructed by the Men's Shed, and converted to doubles in-house. TFBT committed its support to MWP with a joint MOU signed in 2021, which covered planned expansions, combining our existing volunteers, and growing the area under pest control.

The **Auckland Council** designed our initial traplines back in 2021, as well as providing pest control tools then and in subsequent years. Special thanks to Rebecca Kemp of the Council's Biodiversity Team for going out of her way to ensure we received the tools that we need.

We are also hugely indebted to the **Generosity Corner**, Warkworth, for generous donations that have enabled us to purchase new, and highly efficient auto traps.



Above right: Hugh Kininmonth serves both Hub 3, Bullock Track and Hub 6, West Mahurangi West.



Volunteers On A Mission

"It's worthless to have 2,000 pest control tools in the field, if we don't have volunteers to check, bait and maintain these tools, says Brian Bramell, MWP Chair. "It's our mission to maximise the efficiency of all these tools", he adds. "Now our mission falls to our incredible group of volunteers, to make sure they check and bait their traplines often. Consistent and dedicated actions win the day. It does not take a big commitment of time to make a huge difference."

Left: Maria Radic with her 'prize' catch. Even if they find it icky, there's satisfaction in a job well done!

Pest Control Coordination

We couldn't have achieved what we have without our volunteer coordinators who are essential for maintaining volunteer trapping teams, and the efficient running of our programme. We acknowledge coordinators, Ian Cheesman, Mick Cleland, Stephanie Herron, Peter Johnston, Hugh Kininmonth, Lyn Ladyman, Jeff Marsh and Mike Neil for their unstinting efforts.

Trap.NZ Data For April

Total Traps in Field:	1478		
Bait Stations:	508		
Monitoring Stations:	1		
	Total	365 Days	30 Days
Possum:	3,103	891	86
Rat:	2,650	846	66
Myna:	895	481	0
Hedgehog:	371	82	12
Mustelid:	166	50	4
Other:	2,190	1,183	48
Total:	8,480	3,052	216



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

