

"Understand the specifics of our peninsula's ecosystem, and design programmes to best support, protect and enhance it." - MWP Vision

Kia Ora Mahurangi West and Hungry Creek residents and landowners. This is our 58th update on projects to eradicate pests and improve our natural environment through greater biodiversity.

'Stone Cold Killer' - Now Listed Pest

On 20 November, Conservation Minister Tama Potaka announced that feral cats will be added to the Predator Free 2050 hitlist. Describing feral cats as "stone cold killers", Potaka said that they would "join their buddies, stoats, ferrets, weasels - mustelids, possums and rats," on the official list for eradication. It's the first change to the list of pest species since the target's inception in 2016.

Thanks to all those who contacted their local MP for the inclusion of feral cats after it appeared that the Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon, had reneged on his election promise to have this pest included.



Trap.NZ Results & Rise In Possums

A resurgence in possum numbers is reflected in this month's records, but we let our guard down back in October, with only 32 possums recorded. If you're not catching any, don't give up, now's a good time to re-bait your traps and check with pest control coordinators if it's time to switch your bait to something new.

Pest Control Tools in the Field: 2,068

Includes 523 Bait Stations
Monitoring Stations: 1

	Total	365 Days	30 Day
Possum:	3,679	742	76
Rat:	3,341	863	76
Myna:	1,870	1,670	120
Hedgehog:	456	137	8
Mustelid:	195	48	3
Other:	1,976	612	186
Total:	11,808	4,072	469



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

Thanks 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'. If setting up a **regular payment** to go towards a fulltime trapper, as your way of helping us, please use the tag 'trapper'.

Paper Rd Volunteers Gift 64 Hours

A huge thank you to all those who turned out to do ground prep (dig), weed, plant and mulch. A fantastic effort over three weekends, with over 200 natives planted.

Left to right: Despite the rain volunteers Di, Sarah and Kathy pitched in on November 9 (also Maus).



Tui Tops Spring Bird Counts

The spring quarter showed really promising statistics with the number of birds seen/heard for the year up 10% - 619 birds in September 2025 compared to 562 in 2024. The tui was our most commonly seen/heard bird in 2025 and 2024, with the sparrow second in 2025, and swallow in 2024. Mick and Barb's bird count reports (see below) are wonderfully detailed.



Aspects	Date: 20/9/2025. Time: 9.25am to 3.00pm				
	Location: to and from fence line of Pūriri Downs property.				
	Weather: 9-15 °C, fine, partly cloudy, sunny spells, wind: fresh southwesterlies				
	Observers: Mick Cleland, Barb Hughes				
Name		C	Call	Observed	Total
Californian quail		I	~~1111~~ 1		6
chaffinch		I	11		2
kākā		E	11	1	3
kōtare - sacred kingfisher		N	11		2
makipie - Australian magpie		I		1	1
miromiro - Nth Island tomtit		E	11		2
myna		I	1		1
pīpīwharau - shining cuckoo		N	1		1
Full call					
pīwakawaka - fantail		N	111	1	4
pūtangitangi -paradise shelduck		E	1		1
riroriro - grey warbler		E	~~1111~~ ~~1111~~ 111	1	14
tauhou - silveryeye		N	1111		4
tūi		E	1111		4
Notes and Observations					
C = Categories:					
E – endemic, only found in Aotearoa					
N – native, arrived by their own accord and established, found in other countries e.g. silveryeye found in Australia and Pacific Islands					
I – introduced by Acclimatisation Societies from 1860s to late 1800s					
13 species heard/observed – 5 endemic and 4 native species					
No kererū in count, seemingly a number feeding on willow tree buds at Pūriri Downs					
Puawānanga - Native clematis in full flower, two major clumps; viewed from trap 26964 towards the Taranaki gate end of line.					