

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

Have You Seen a Matuku-hūrepo?

The matuku-hūrepo (Australasian bittern) is one of New Zealand's rarest wetland birds. Once common throughout Aotearoa, fewer than 1,000 are thought to remain today. The species is now classified as Nationally Critical due to wetland loss, declining water quality, and predation by introduced mammals. Although standing about 70cm tall with a wingspan of up to one metre, bitterns are notoriously difficult to spot. Their streaked brown plumage blends into raupō and wetland vegetation. Most people are more likely to hear one than see one. During spring and summer, males produce a booming call, like a distant foghorn, that can carry for kilometres. Hear the call at NZ Birds Online. Excitingly, matuku-hūrepo have been reported in and around Mahurangi Regional Park, as well as on properties throughout Mahurangi West. Their presence is a reminder of the value of maintaining healthy wetlands. While they may nest in the park, bitterns can forage up to 15km from breeding sites, meaning every pest on every property within our 3,500ha project area has the



Image from Predator Free NZ



Image from The Forest Bridge Trust

potential to put this endangered bird at risk. Mahurangi West Pest is working to protect and enhance these habitats through predator control and landowner engagement. Have you seen or heard a matuku-hūrepo on your property? If so, please let us know by contacting mahurangiwestpest@gmail.com. You can record sightings through the Love Bittern Project and take part in the annual Matuku Muster each spring.

Working Together for Wildlife

Mahurangi West Pest has recently renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with The Forest Bridge Trust, continuing an ongoing cooperation programme to support more connected, landscape-scale conservation.

Welcome Gary, Our New Trapper

Mahurangi West Pest welcomes Gary Cruickshank as one of our new paid trappers supporting predator control across the peninsula. Gary lives in Snells Beach and is involved with the Tamahunga Trappers, bringing trapping experience. We're pleased to have him on board helping protect native wildlife.



Gary with a flipping timmy

Thank you Judith Williams Trust

A huge thank you to the Judith Williams Trust for funding 4 x AT220 traps for our Puhoi-zoned Hubs.

Trap.NZ Results for June

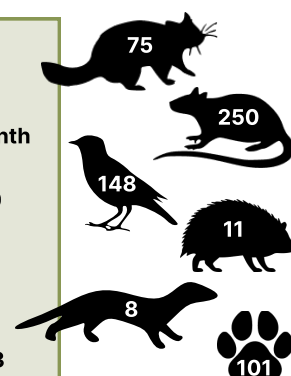
The Trappers Appreciation Event has been rescheduled please save the new date: **Saturday 15 August, 4-8pm**. Catches are on the rise this month, with encouraging results coming in from across the network.

Traps in the field: 1,657

Bait Stations: 541

Monitoring Stations: 1

	Total	Year	Month
Possum	4,071	602	75
Rat	4,369	1,320	250
Myna	2,943	853	148
Hedgehog	560	156	11
Mustelid	250	69	8
Other	2,124	899	101
Total	14,317	3,899	593



Donations: BANK A/C 06-0483-0894183-00

Thanks for your continued support - we put your donations to good use. Please use reference 'Donation'. For regular payments supporting a full-time trapper, use reference 'Trapper'.

Monthly Spotlight

Thank you to the 60+ volunteers who supported the Huawai Bay Restoration Project working bee in June. Together, you planted around 1,300 native plants and helped in restoring this special place.

Chair: Brian Bramell blbcims@gmail.com 021 0257 5957

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Pest Plant Buffer Project Coordinator: Maxine Finlay 022 132 1732

Planting Coordinator: Robyn Mackenzie 027 349 7823

Website: <https://mahurangiwestpest.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: Search Mahurangi West Pest

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3 Lyn Ladyman (Opahi): brianlynemail@gmail.com 09 422 0797

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5 Mike Neil (North Mahu West): mikeneil1951@gmail.com 027 474 1160

6 To be decided (South Mahu West)

7 Hugh Kininmonth (Bullock Track): hughkininmonth@gmail.com 021 979 350

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9 To be decided (Pukapuka West)

10 Mick Cleland (Pohuehue) clelandmp@xtra.co.nz 021 912 394