

Mahurangi West Pest

Mahurangi West Pest Incorporated

Annual Report

1 July 2025 - 30th June 2026

Foreword

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Thanks to the combined efforts of all our volunteer trappers, we achieved the following significant milestones:

2,231 pest control tools in the field [since 2019, as at June 2026]
4,070 possums entered in Trap.NZ [since 2019, as at June 2026]
14,198 pests entered in Trap.NZ [since 2019, as at June 2026]

You may remember that last year we talked about our new vision to:

"Understand the specifics of our peninsula's unique ecosystem and design programs to best support, protect and enhance it."

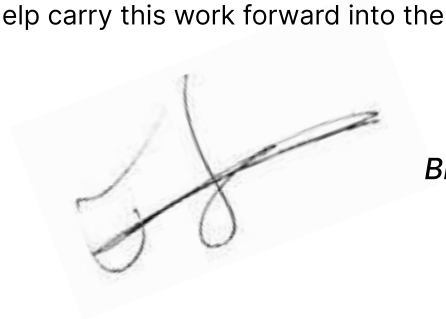
We are in a unique position, situated between Mahurangi Regional Park and McElroy Scenic Reserve. These reserves attract many native bird species, including some that are rare and particularly special. However, the parks alone cannot support all the needs of these growing populations. What we do on the 3500ha surrounding these reserves provides the feeding grounds, buffer zones and flight corridors these species need to thrive. We are part of a "landscape scale" ecosystem. Our efforts and our successes are essential to this much larger landscape.

Given this we begin to focus on the unique biodiversity of Mahurangi West. Our community is home to rare species, including the extremely rare Australasian Bittern, Long Tailed Bats, Banded Rail, Fern Bird, Spotless Crake, and Green Mistletoe. So with an eye on protecting all of our native plants and animals we are focusing some special attention on these unique and rare neighbours. We have talked about reaching a tipping point where we have reduced invasive predators sufficiently for native animal and plant species to begin not only to survive, but to thrive. We look around and see the results. I sit in my garden and five Kingfishers sit just a couple of meters away. The Banded Rails wanders around in Opahi Bay. An Australasian Bittern walks across private land and even stops to get its picture taken. The rare Green Mistletoe is flourishing on private land we protect. Our mission now extends well beyond simply eliminating pest species. The focus becomes bringing back the indigenous plants and animals that make New Zealand a unique place in the world. We are bringing back the birdsong. This leads us to our new initiative, Project Birdsong. Ask about it, talk about it and help us make it happen.

So what do we do? We get ourselves out of bed in the morning, put on our gear, collect our tools, and head out to walk a trap line, eradicate invasive weeds, plant a native or monitor and count the wonderful native species we have. And why do we do it? At the end of the day we call it Project Birdsong. Thank you for all your hard work, your support and for your commitment to "Project Birdsong". It is also encouraging to see more young people getting involved in our conservation work. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and willingness to get stuck in are an important part of building the next generation of people who will care for and protect this special place. The knowledge, skills and connection they gain today will help carry this work forward into the future.

What we do truly makes a difference.

Thank you all.



Brian Bramell
MWP Chair

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Executive Summary

The 2025–26 year has been another significant year for Mahurangi West Pest, with continued growth in community participation, restoration projects, and ongoing progress towards protecting and restoring the biodiversity of the Mahurangi West peninsula. Through the dedication of our volunteers, the support of our funding partners, and collaboration with landowners and conservation organisations, we continue to build a healthier environment for both people and wildlife.

Our organisation includes around 120 pest-control volunteers who maintain traps, monitor pest activity and record catches, alongside more than 80 biodiversity volunteers contributing to planting, weeding, bird monitoring, bat research, ecological monitoring and habitat restoration. Together, our volunteers donated an outstanding 6,753 hours during the year, demonstrating our community's strong commitment to conservation.

Predator control remains at the heart of our work. This year volunteers added 172 new pest-control tools across the peninsula including AT220 traps to extend coverage in harder-to-reach areas. This work was further strengthened by five paid part-time trappers, funded through the remaining Foundation North grant from the previous year and generous community donations. Collectively our trapping network recorded 3,791 pest catches during the year. While this is lower than the previous year's total, it reflects the cumulative impact of sustained predator control.

Encouragingly our quarterly bird monitoring continues to show positive trends in both native bird numbers and the diversity of native species being recorded, providing an encouraging picture of local biodiversity. Our volunteers completed eight biodiversity restoration days and planted 1,840 native plants, continuing to restore habitats across Mahurangi West.

New community initiatives also expanded the ways people can participate in conservation. Project Birdsong was launched to celebrate and support the recovery of native birdlife, while Coast Guardians was established with Auckland Council to monitor coastal birdlife and support protection of the Mahurangi West coastline.

We were pleased to secure significant funding through Auckland Council's Regional Environment and Natural Heritage (RENH) Grant Programme, Auckland Council's Conservation Leadership Fund, Auckland Council's Pest Plant Buffer Project, and the Judith Williams Trust. Together, this funding is enabling us to strengthen predator control, protect threatened species such as green mistletoe and matuku-hūrepo (Australasian Bittern), expand ecological monitoring and continue building the capability of our organisation.

Collaboration continues to be fundamental to our success. During the year we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with both The Forest Bridge Trust and Auckland Council, strengthening these important partnerships and our shared commitment to landscape-scale conservation. We also continued to work closely with Restore Rodney East, local landowners and many other organisations whose support helps make our work possible.

Supporting and celebrating our volunteers remained an important focus throughout the year. Alongside our community restoration events, we were delighted to host our Annual Trappers Appreciation Event, recognising the remarkable contribution our volunteer trappers make to protecting Mahurangi West's native wildlife.

Looking ahead our focus will remain on expanding predator control, progressing our Conservation Leadership Fund project, strengthening threatened species protection and monitoring, and supporting initiatives such as Project Birdsong and Coast Guardians. We will also continue building the partnerships and community capability needed to advance landscape-scale conservation across the peninsula.

Mahurangi West Pest sincerely thanks every volunteer, landowner, donor, funding partner and community member who has contributed. Together, we are demonstrating what can be achieved when a community works together to restore and protect its environment.

Our Strategic Focus

Our 2024 Strategic Plan outlines the next stage of Mahurangi West Pest's conservation journey. Our landscape-scale approach to predator control, restoration and community involvement remains the foundation of our work, while our growing understanding of the Mahurangi West landscape is helping us identify species and habitats that require more targeted attention.

The Strategic Plan sets out our vision to ***'understand the specifics of our peninsula's ecosystem, and design programmes to best support, protect and enhance it'***. Through monitoring, research and local knowledge, we are building a clearer picture of the biodiversity within our project area and using this information to guide our conservation priorities.

Through our monitoring and conservation work, we have identified several threatened or declining species of particular significance to Mahurangi West.

Four current priority species are:

Matuku-hūrepo | Australasian bittern
A nationally critical wetland species recorded within the Mahurangi West area. Our work focuses on improving our understanding of the local population and protecting the wetlands and surrounding habitat they rely on.

Pekapeka-tou-roa | Long-tailed bat
A nationally critical native mammal that has been confirmed on private land within the wider area. Monitoring, predator control and protection of potential roosting and feeding habitat are important parts of understanding and supporting the local population.

Green mistletoe | Pirata (Ileostylus micranthus)
A rare native plant that has been identified on the peninsula. Protecting host trees, reducing possum pressure and monitoring existing plants are key to supporting its survival and recovery.

Northland brown kiwi
Identified in our Strategic Plan as a species requiring further investigation. Further work will help confirm whether a resident population is present in the wider Mahurangi West area and guide future monitoring and protection.

These species demonstrate why targeted conservation is important. Our Conservation Leadership Fund project is already putting this approach into practice through targeted work to better understand and protect green mistletoe and matuku-hūrepo. The same predator-control network, habitat restoration and community capability developed across Mahurangi West can be applied strategically to protect the species and habitats that are most vulnerable.

Our focus for the coming years is therefore not simply to remove pests, but to understand what is living here, identify what needs protection, and use our resources where they can make the greatest difference.

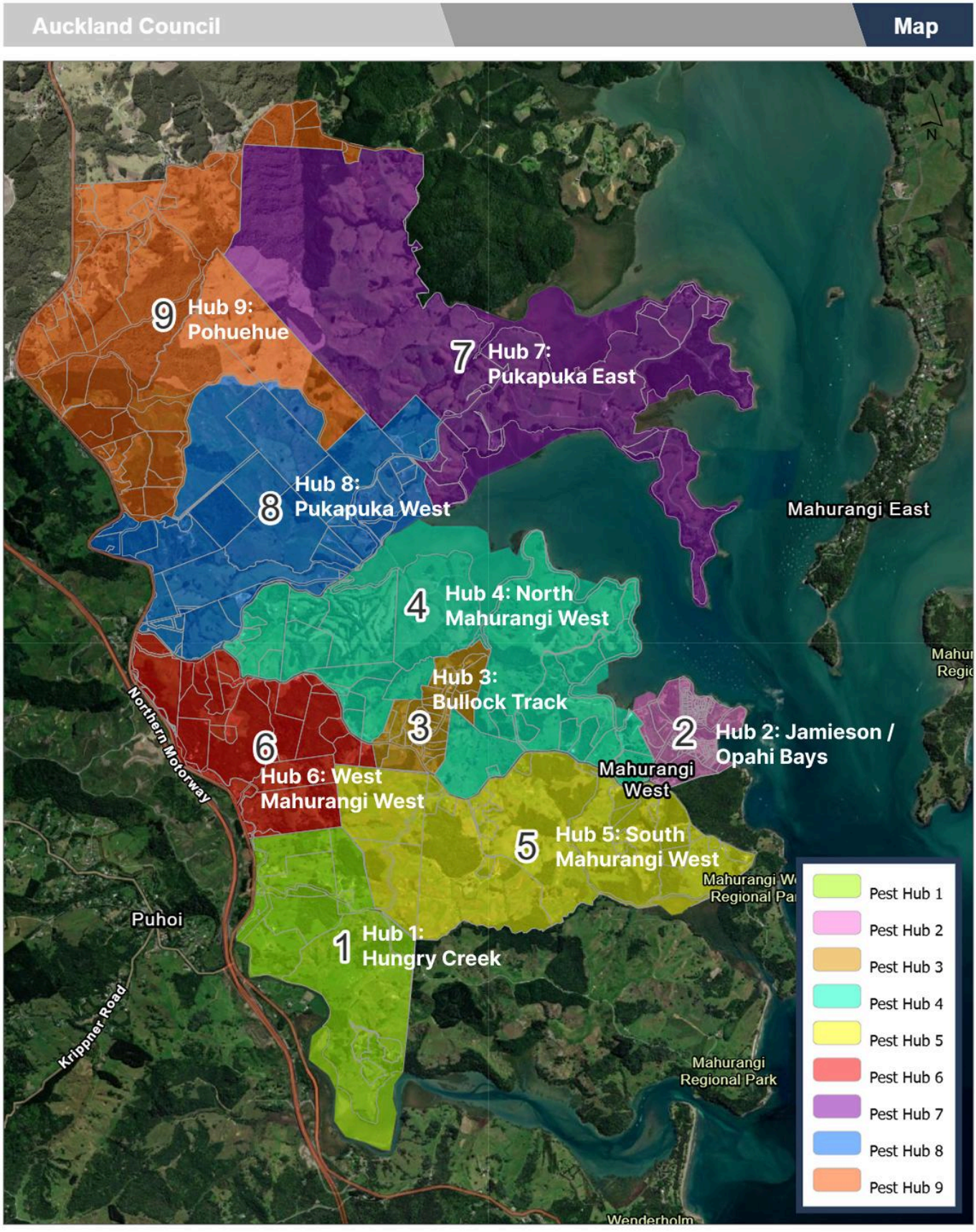


Above: Long-tailed Bat image from Department of Conservation



Above: Australasian Bittern | Matuku-hūrepo image from birdsnz.org.nz

Pest-Control Trapping Hubs



Team Mahurangi West Pest

It is only through community-led teamwork and the generous efforts of our many volunteers that we can realise our vision of pest eradication, restoring our natural ecosystems, and enhancing the indigenous biodiversity and special character of the Mahurangi West peninsula.

Incorporated Society - Members (22 - Including Committee members)

Fran Ashton - (Biodiversity Monitoring)
Jae Frew
Joanna Gullett - (Community Coordinator & Facilitator)
Michelle Spooner - (Social Media)
Maxine Finlay - (Buffer Zone Coordinator)
Robyn Mackenzie - (Volunteer Planting Coordinator)
Lex Marshall
Paul Jamieson
Lyn Ladyman
Keegan Tinsel
Ian Cheeseman
Kathryn Ashworth
Anasazi Whaanga Green
Mick Cleland

Committee Members (8)

Brian Bramell - Chair
Stephanie Herron - Secretary
Hugh Kininmonth - Treasurer
Rachel Lampen - Chief Operating Officer
Mike Neil - Pest Control Manager
Mel Whaanga - Iwi Advisor
Jeff Marsh - Pest Control Manager
Beth Harper - Birdsong Project Manager

Pest Control Coordinators (7)

Hub 1 (Hungry Creek) - Ian Cheesman
Hub 2 (Jamiesons) - Jeff Marsh
Hub 2 (Ōpahi Bay) - Lyn Ladyman
Hub 3 (Bullock Track) - Hugh Kininmonth
Hub 4 (North Mahurangi West) - Mike Neil
Hub 5 (South Mahurangi West) - Vacant
Hub 6 (West Mahurangi West) - Hugh Kininmonth
Hub 7 (Pukapuka East) - Stephanie Herron
Hub 8 (Pukapuka West) - Vacant
Hub 9 (Pohuehue) - Mick Cleland

Paid Positions

- Community Coordinator & Facilitator (16 hrs p/w) – Joanna Gullett: funded by Auckland Council's Regional Environment and Natural Heritage Grant; supports volunteers, projects, engagement and funding. A special thank you to Nada Cottrell for her many years of service as MWP's Community Coordinator. Nada retired from the role this year in anticipation of a move. We thank her for her contribution and wish her all the best for the future.

- Pest Plant Buffer Coordinator (4.8 hrs p/w) – Maxine Finlay: funded by Auckland Council's Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP); coordinates pest plant control.

- 5 x part-time Trappers: Funded through donations and Foundation North; deliver predator control.

- Project Managers – Barbara Hughes & Mick Cleland: funded by Auckland Council Conservation Leadership Fund; lead projects protecting and restoring green mistletoe and matuku-hūrepo (Australasian bittern).

Thanks to our Stakeholders

The Auckland Council

Mahurangi West Pest is grateful for the ongoing support and partnership of The Auckland Council. Superstar Rebecca Kemp and the dedicated Environmental Services team continues to provide valuable advice, guidance and support across our conservation projects.

A key milestone this year was the signing of a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Mahurangi West Pest and Auckland Council. The MOU provides a framework for working together across Mahurangi Regional Park and Te Muri Regional Park, recognising the important contribution of community-led conservation and our shared goals for protecting and restoring these special places.

We are particularly grateful to Jared Anderson, Auckland Council Park Ranger, for his ongoing support and close connection with our group. Jared has been instrumental in helping launch our first project together, Coast Guardians, and is always generous with his time, knowledge and advice. He regularly keeps us informed about wildlife sightings and recovery, and his wealth of local knowledge has been invaluable to our conservation work.



Above: A significant milestone for Mahurangi West Pest. A signed Memoranda of Understanding with both The Forest Bridge Trust and Auckland Council

The Forest Bridge Trust

This year marked an exciting new chapter in our relationship with The Forest Bridge Trust, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our organisations.

The MOU formalises our commitment to working together on predator control and biodiversity activities, including sharing knowledge, data and resources and identifying opportunities to support common conservation goals.

We are grateful for The Forest Bridge Trust's generous sharing of knowledge, experience and advice, and their ongoing encouragement and support for our community's environmental work. We look forward to building on this partnership and exploring further opportunities in the year ahead.

Ngāti Maraeariki ki Mahurangi

We are grateful for our ongoing relationship with Ngāti Maraeariki ki Mahurangi and the active involvement of whānau in MWP. Their representation on our Committee helps ensure mana whenua perspectives are reflected in our work, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen this relationship.

Forest & Bird

Forest & Bird Warkworth covers the area between Pūhoi and Maungaturoto and continues to support conservation efforts across the region. We are grateful for their ongoing mentoring and support, and this year we worked together on moth plant removal at the Pūhoi Viaduct Bridge and myna bird pest control.

Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust

Mahurangi West Pest values our relationship with Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and the opportunity to continue building our understanding of the cultural significance and environmental values of our local area.

Thanks to our Stakeholders Cont.

Restore Rodney East

We are grateful for the continued support of Restore Rodney East (RRE) and their commitment to strengthening biodiversity across our region. RRE has supported our environmental projects and pest control work through educational opportunities, advice and connections. Their Lending Library has also provided us with access to a wide range of equipment for our conservation work and community events.

We particularly thank Tim Armitage, RRE Chair, and Sarah Churchouse, RRE Facilitator, and Fran Ashton, RRE Secretary for their ongoing encouragement and willingness to share their knowledge and help promote the work of Mahurangi West Pest. We greatly value RRE's commitment to community-led conservation and look forward to continuing this relationship in the years ahead.

Rodney Local Board

We are grateful to the Rodney Local Board for its ongoing support of Mahurangi West Pest and our environmental restoration work. Dan Marrow, Community Park Ranger, has been particularly helpful in supporting our working bees, providing native plants and other resources, as well as valuable advice. We appreciate the Local Board's continued support of community-led conservation and look forward to working together to enhance our local environment.



Mahurangi Land Restoration Project

Our sincere thanks to the Mahurangi Land Restoration Project, which is no longer active, for their valuable support of restoration efforts in the Mahurangi area. Their funding contribution supported the logging work at Huawai Bay, helping prepare the site for replanting with native vegetation.

Pest Free Mahurangi East

We have enjoyed developing our relationship with Pest Free Mahurangi East, particularly Karen Ward and Michael Wheatcroft, who have been generous in sharing their knowledge and experience with us.

They welcomed us onto one of their traplines, providing a valuable opportunity to see their approach in action and learn from their experience. We greatly appreciate their willingness to share what they have learned and look forward to continuing to build connections between our two community-led pest control groups.



Above:
Joanna Gullett and Karen Ward (Pest Free Mahurangi East) at Lawries Reserve

Left:
Dan Marrow (Rodney Local Board) delivering plants for a working bee at Jamieson Bay Esplanade

Goods and Services in Kind

Warkworth Butchery

Thank you to Warkworth Butchery for their ongoing donation of fat and meat for our predator traps. Their generous contribution helps keep our traps full of tasty treats.

Deb Farquhar

A huge thank you to Deb Farquhar for generously giving her time each month to proofread our newsletter. We really appreciate her ongoing support.

Grantley Imports

A huge thank you to Grantley Imports Ltd for their continued support through generously discounted pest-control equipment and supplies. We particularly appreciate Carol Johnson for her ongoing support, advice and willingness to help us source the equipment we need to keep our predator control network operating effectively.

ITM Warkworth

We are incredibly grateful to Carl Pauling and ITM Warkworth for their sustained support over many years. Their generous supply of quality timber has helped us build and maintain traps and accessories used throughout our predator-control network.

PIC's Peanut Butter World

We are grateful to Pic's Peanut Butter World for their ongoing support and generous supply of peanut butter byproduct which has been a valuable resource for our predator control programme.

Kylie Watt

Thank you to Kylie Watt for generously giving her time and expertise to check and sign off our end-of-year financial reports. Her support helps ensure our financial reporting is accurate and completed to a high standard.

Trappers Appreciation Event Sponsors

A special thank you to the businesses that supported our Trappers Appreciation Event. Pizza Hut generously supplied pizzas, New World Orewa donated a $100 voucher towards food and drinks, Bunnings Silverdale donated a $100 voucher for trapping equipment, and Pūhoi Valley donated cheese, which was enjoyed by everyone and also used as gifts for the recipients of awards.

NZ Auto Traps

A huge thank you to NZ Auto Traps for supporting us with discounted pest-control traps. Special thanks to Karen John for her continued support and assistance.

Interserv

Thank you to Interserv for their generous support in helping us build trap boxes and myna bird cages for our predator control work. Their time and expertise have provided us with practical equipment that helps strengthen our trapping network.

Equipment and Time

A huge thank you to the individuals who generously lend us equipment and give their time to help with our work.



Above: Volunteers lending gear and time to cutting a new trapline

Funding Overview

Funding Sources

Mahurangi West Pest continues to be supported by a combination of grants, donations and project funding, enabling us to deliver predator control, restoration, pest plant control, community engagement and coordination across Mahurangi West.

Auckland Council remains a significant supporter, providing $28,395 for our Community Coordinator role, $10,000 towards the Pest Plant Buffer Project, and $27,720 through the Conservation Leadership Fund.

We received $2,438 from the Judith Williams Trust, which funded the purchase of four AT220 traps to strengthen our predator-control network in our Pūhoi hubs.

Mahurangi West Pest acted as the umbrella organisation for the community-led Huawai Bay Restoration Project, providing a structure for the project to receive and manage funding while supporting the community-led restoration effort. The project received $48,600 in community donations, with a further $51,894 reimbursed by Auckland Council for project expenditure.

Community donations remain an important part of keeping our wider programme operating, with $34,940 received during the year. These funds help cover the cost of traps, equipment and other resources, as well as supporting our paid part-time trappers.

We are especially grateful to Mahurangi Estates and Bluestar Group (New Zealand) for their generous support during the year, and to everyone who makes monthly donations. This regular income stream is invaluable, providing greater certainty when planning our work and committing resources throughout the year.

Thank you to all our funders, donors and supporters. Your financial contributions help us continue our conservation work and support the many volunteers who make Mahurangi West Pest the success it is.

We also thank our newsletter supporters - Detailed Construction, Mahurangi Honey, Davey Controls, Bluestar Group and Auckland Council - whose support helps us share our conservation work and keep our community connected.

Pest-Control Programme

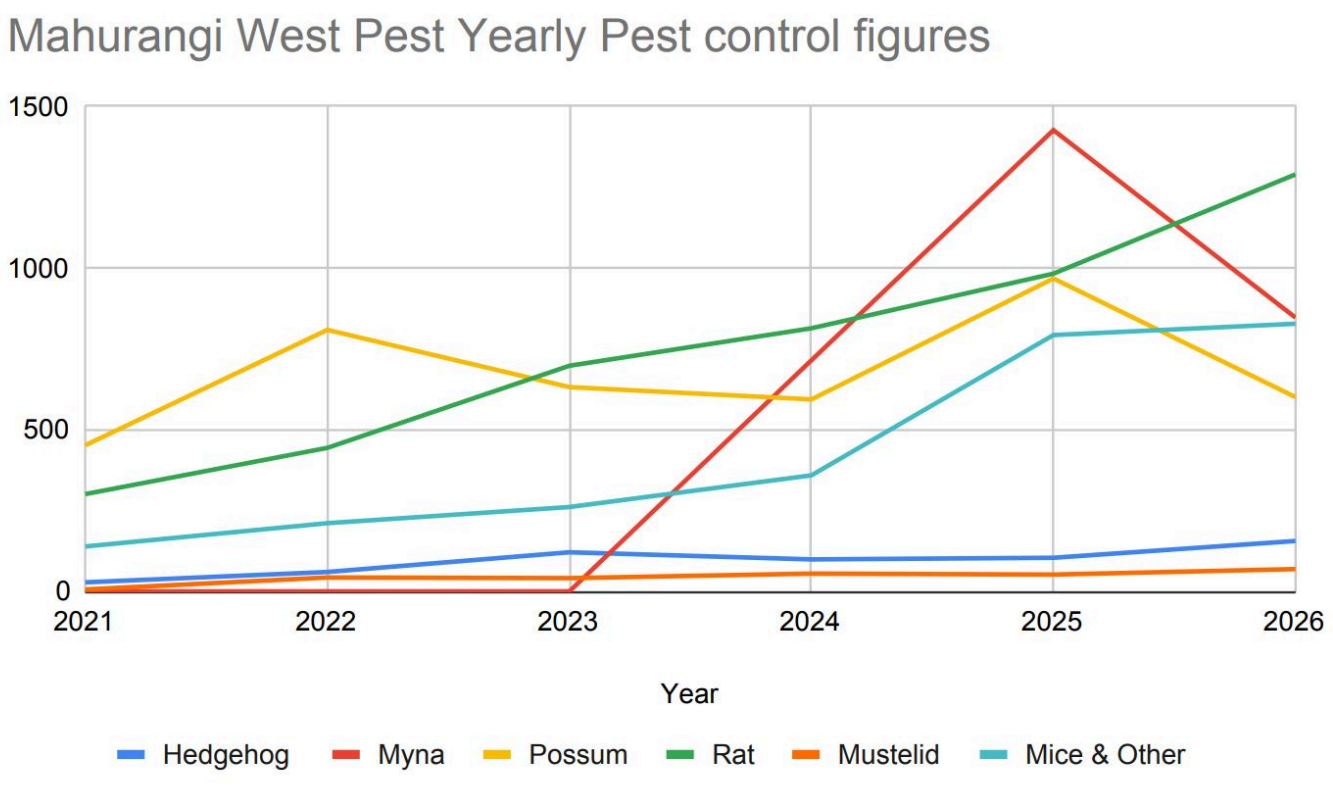
Predator control across Mahurangi West continues to expand with volunteers and paid trappers working together to protect our native wildlife. During the 2025–26 financial year 3,791 pest catches were recorded through Trap.NZ, compared with 4,327 the previous year.

The decrease is largely due to fewer possum catches following last year's Auckland Council control campaign, and fewer myna catches following the intensive trapping programme begun in 2024. Trap.NZ figures do not capture all pest control across the project area. Bait stations are used alongside trapping to target rats and other pests, but bait kills cannot be reliably quantified so are not recorded. The actual number of pest catches across the project area is therefore significantly higher than the figures indicate.

This year has seen investment in the trapping network through grants and donations. We have added 35 AT220 traps, allowing us to target harder-to-reach areas. We have expanded the use of Double DOC200 traps, an innovative design developed by our trapper Mike Neil. These traps have proved successful in catching mustelids.

Five part-time paid trappers have helped keep our expanding trap network operating effectively. They complement our volunteers, who check traps, maintain equipment and record catches.

The graph below shows yearly pest catch totals. Our goal is to extend consistent predator control across more of Mahurangi West. The benefits are becoming increasingly visible, with improvements in birdlife and tree foliage in areas under predator control. We will continue to expand our network, monitor results and reduce the pressure pests place on our native wildlife.



Key Projects

Project Birdsong

Project Birdsong was launched this year, spearheaded by volunteer Beth Harper, to celebrate and support the recovery of native birdlife across Mahurangi West. Building on the success of our predator-control programme, the project aims to grow community support for protecting our native birds and their habitat. Two successful events were held during the year, with around 40 residents attending the launch at Mahurangi West Hall, followed by an Oyster Farm Nature Walk through regenerating bush.

Project Birdsong provides another way for our community to get involved in conservation, shifting the focus from the pests we remove, to the native wildlife returning as a result of that work. We look forward to growing the project and celebrating Mahurangi West's birds.

Regional Park Buffer Zone

This year marked an exciting new chapter for our Regional Park Buffer Zone Project as we welcomed Maxine Finlay as Pest Plant Buffer Project Coordinator. Maxine is leading the programme and supporting landowners to reduce the spread of invasive pest plants from surrounding private properties into the Regional Park.



Above: Top of Ōpahi Bay working bee photographed by Maxine Finlay



Above: Wild ginger (Hedychium gardnerianum) photographed by Maxine Finlay

This year five additional properties joined the programme, bringing the total number of actively participating properties to 17. Information was distributed to 85 properties, including a letter drop to 75 homes, while site visits and ongoing conversations provided practical advice and support. Weed bags, herbicide gel pens, information leaflets, contractor contacts and volunteer assistance have also helped landowners take action on their properties.

Control efforts focused on asparagus fern, wild ginger and climbing jasmine. Significant progress was made at Ōpahi Bay Road and Barr Road, where extensive infestations are being reduced and native forest is beginning to recover. Mature wild ginger was also removed from nearby iwi land, helping reduce seed spread into surrounding bush.

A particularly rewarding outcome has been seeing native regeneration return to cleared areas, with species including kawakawa, kōwhai and tōtara naturally establishing.

Looking ahead, we will continue working with landowners in priority areas, maintaining existing sites and tackling priority pest plants. Each property brought into the programme strengthens the buffer protecting Mahurangi Regional Park and contributes to healthier native forests across the region.

Key Projects Continued

Community Response Group & MWP Annual Event

In October 2025, we held our joint annual event with the Community Response Group, bringing together over 60 locals and frontline responders. Mike Neil and Jeff Marsh kept our volunteer trappers well supplied with lures, baits and giveaways.

Conservation Leadership Fund Project

The Conservation Leadership Fund supports our Project Manager roles, providing the resources and dedicated capacity needed to coordinate and deliver key conservation projects across Mahurangi West.

Our Green Mistletoe and Matuku-hūrepo Protection Project is now in its fieldwork phase, combining targeted predator control with ecological monitoring to protect these native species and their habitats. New traplines, trail cameras and monitoring are helping guide ongoing protection efforts.

Trappers Appreciation Event

Our annual Trappers Appreciation Event brought our trapping community together to celebrate their contribution. The evening included presentations from Dr Jean Gulbransen and Jared Anderson, along with awards recognising Mike Neil as Volunteer Trapper of the Year and Keegan Tinsel and Suzie Baartz with the Rookie Trapper Award.



Left: Rookie Trapper of the Year: Suzie Baartz. Photographed by Maree Owston-Doyle

Community Working Bees

Over the past year, volunteers contributed more than 200 hours to planting and weeding across Mahurangi West, planting more than 650 native plants. Working bees were held at Jamieson Bay Esplanade and the top of Ōpahi Bay. Thank you to everyone who got involved, and to the Local Board for their support.

Huawai Bay Restoration Project

Mahurangi West Pest has been proud to act as the umbrella organisation for the community-led Huawai Bay Restoration Project.

The initial restoration phase is nearing completion, with invasive vegetation and unwanted trees removed and more than 5,000 native plants planted. More than 60 community members have attended a working bee, with the Morehu whānau providing tremendous support through funding, labour and encouragement.

A special thank you to Pete Doolin and Hugh Kininmonth for their leadership and commitment, and to Mike Owston-Doyle, Mick Berger and Paul Jamieson for their practical support and hard work.

While the initial restoration is nearing completion, regular working bees will continue over the next five years to maintain the site through ongoing weeding and clearing.



Above: Working bee at Huawai Bay

Biodiversity Monitoring

Bird counting volunteer group

Our volunteer bird-counting programme continues to provide valuable insight into the health of Mahurangi West's native bird populations. The monitoring area extends from Pohuehue Road (old State Highway 1) at the end of Mahurangi West Road through to the coastal communities of Jamieson Bay and Ōpahi Bay.

This year, 18 volunteers have been carrying out surveys across 18 monitoring sites. While the number of sites has reduced from 21 following some volunteers moving away from the area, the programme continues to build a valuable picture of biodiversity changes across the peninsula.

The programme has also added a couple of new native species to the quarterly count this year, most recently the Spur-Winged Plover and Royal Spoonbills. Some species, such as fernbird/mātātā, are known to be present but are not captured in the monitoring statistics because they are extremely difficult to see.

The results continue to show encouraging signs for native birdlife. Over the past three quarters, native bird numbers have increased by around 10%, and native species made up 60% of all birds recorded - a small increase on the previous year. A total of 18 native/endemic species have been identified.



Silvereye / Tauhou (Zosterops lateralis) photographed by Mike Brockie



Indian myna (Acridotheres tristis) photographed by Joanna Gullett

Tūī remain the most frequently recorded native bird. Myna birds prevail as the most commonly recorded introduced species and remain a significant challenge, competing with native birds for food resources. Canada goose numbers also appear to be increasing, which is something to keep monitoring.

There have been several exciting biodiversity milestones this year. For the first time, we have confirmed successful kākā breeding within Mahurangi West. Other notable observations include a Morepork/ruru nest with chicks, Fernbird/mātātā and Australasian bittern/matuku-hūrepo sightings from local Ranger Jared in the Te Muri estuary, and regular visits from a group of royal spoonbills in Jamieson Bay.

Residents are encouraged to plant locally successful native species, helping provide food and shelter for the birds already present and supporting the return of species moving back into the area from nearby sanctuaries such as Tiritiri Matangi and Hauturu. Thank you to Fran Ashton for coordinating the bird-counting group and Phil Yates for his continued improvements to our data-management system, which helps streamline our monitoring process.

Digital Footprint & Engagement

Facebook Engagement

6,882 views

88 total followers

496 engagement (clicks, reactions, comments, shares and saves on a post)

Mahurangi West Pest uses Facebook as a means of keeping the community connected with our conservation work. Over the year we shared 40 posts featuring updates from the field, working bees and events, volunteer achievements, wildlife sightings and pest-control successes.

Facebook is an important way of reaching people beyond our existing volunteer network and encouraging wider community involvement. Posts about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities help raise awareness and encourage participation, while photos and stories from our volunteers give the wider community an insight into the work happening across Mahurangi West.

We are grateful to everyone who contributes photos, stories and updates, and to those who like, comment on and share our posts, helping to spread the word about our conservation work.

We would like to thank Michelle Spooner for her ongoing work managing our Facebook page, sharing our conservation updates and helping keep our community informed and connected

Newsletter Engagement

294 subscribers

This year Mahurangi West Pest transitioned from our traditional PDF newsletter to an interactive online newsletter using MailerLite. One MailerLite newsletter has been sent before the end of the financial year, with the previous newsletters distributed as PDFs. The new format gives us greater flexibility with content, makes it easier to share links and connect readers with our Facebook page and website, and provides useful insights into readership and engagement.

We would like to sincerely thank Lex Marshall for his many years of managing our subscriber list and distributing our newsletters. As one of our earliest volunteers Lex has helped keep our community connected. We look forward to continuing to develop our online newsletter over the coming year.

Website Engagement

1,117 views

604 visitors

Blogs is most viewed page: 635 views

Our website continues to provide an accessible source of information about Mahurangi West Pest, our projects, volunteering opportunities and conservation work.

Over the past year, 15 blog posts were published, with the Blogs page being the most visited area of the website. Work has also been undertaken to improve the website's layout and navigation, making information easier to find and access. The Donate button and About Us section have been updated, with further improvements planned over the coming year to ensure the website remains useful, informative and easy to navigate.

We look forward to continuing to develop the website as an important resource for our volunteers, supporters and the wider community.

Statement of Cash Received and Cash Paid

For the year ended 30th June 2026

	Current year $	Last year $
Opening balance in bank account(s) - at the start of the financial year	$20,969	$19,973
Plus cash received from operating activities		
Donations, koha, bequests and other fundraising	$83,540	$19,310
General grants received	$2,438	$2,355
Service delivery grants/contracts	$118,009	$17,377
Membership fees and subscriptions	$0	$0
Sale of goods or services (commercial activities)	$1,725	$1,300
Interest or dividends received	$115	$401
Other cash received	$0	$0
Total	**$205,827**	**$40,743**
Less cash paid for operating activities		
Fundraising costs	$0	$0
Employee remuneration and other employee related costs	$0	$0
Volunteer related costs	$26,559	$29,582
Costs related to sale of goods or services (commercial activities)	$0	$0
Other costs related to delivery of entity objectives	$135,240	$7,638
Grants and donations paid	$0	$0
Other cash paid	$0	$2,456
Total	$161,799	$39,677
Total GST paid or refunded in the financial year	$0	$0
Cash surplus or (deficit) from operating activities	**$44,028**	**$1,067**
Plus cash received from other activities		
Sale of investments	$0	$0
Sale of other assets	$0	$0
Cash received from loans and borrowings	$5,874	$0
Total	**$5,874**	**$0**
Less cash paid for other activities		
Purchase of investments	$0	$0
Purchase of other assets	$0	$0
Repayment of loans and borrowings	-$5,874	$0
Total	**-$5,874**	**$0**
Cash surplus or (deficit) from other activities	**$0**	**$0**
Income tax paid or refunded (if applicable)	-$20	-$70
Increase/(decrease) in cash	**$44,008**	**$996**
Closing balance in bank account(s) - at the end of the financial year	**$64,977**	**$20,969**
Represented by:		
Closing balance of bank account(s)	$64,977	$20,969
Balance invested in term deposit(s)	$0	$0
Cash on hand	$0	$0
Total cash balances held	**$64,977**	**$20,969**

Reserved Funds

For the year ended 30th June 2026

Funding Categories	**$**
Auckland City Bat Grant	$475
AK Council - Pest Plant Buffer Project Grant	$5,359
AK Council - REHN Grant	$8,512
Conservation Leadership Fund Grant	$14,228
Foundation North Grant	$3
Huawai Bay Trees Project - Donation	-$4,155
Judith Williams Trust Grant	$0
Mazda Grant	$180
Unallocated cash received and paid	$40,375
Total Reserved and Unreserved Funds	$64,977
Bank Balance 30th June 2026	$64,977

Profit and Loss

For the year ended 30th June 2026

Income	Current year $	Last year $
Auckland Council Co-ordinator Grant	$28,395	$17,377
Donations	$34,940	$19,310
Foundation North Grant	$0	$0
Interest - ANZ Bank	$115	$401
Mazda Grant	$0	$2,355
Trap fees	$1,725	$1,300
Judith Williams Grant	$2,438	-
Huawai Bay AKL Donations	$48,600	-
Huawai Bay AKL Reimbursements	$51,894	-
AK Council - Pest Plant Buffer Project Expenses	$2,500	-
AK Council - Pest Plant Buffer Project Wages	$7,500	-
Conservation Leadership Fund Expenses	$12,120	-
Conservation Leadership Fund Wages	$15,600	
Total income	**$205,827**	**$40,743**
Expenses		
Bat Grant Expenses	$120	$435
Co-ordinator Grant Wages	$15,150	$23,980
Foundation North - New Job Expenses	$0	$3,519
Foundation North Grant Wages	$3,660	$2,602
AK Council - Pest Plant Buffer Project Expenses	$1,821	$1,509
AK Council - Pest Plant Buffer Project Wages	$4,026	$3,000
Mazda Grant Expenses	$0	$2,175
Conservation Leadership Fund Expenses	$12,067	-
Conservation Leadership Fund Wages	$1,425	-
Huawai Bay AKL Expenses	$104,649	-
Judith Williams Expenses	$2,438	-
Other Operating costs - Traps & Baits	$13,835	$2,400
PO		$50
Website expenses	$379	$0
Other General Expenses	$51	$5
Trappers Wages	$2,178	-
Total expenses	**$161,799**	**$39,676**
Profit/Loss	**$44,028**	**$1,067**

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 30th June 2026

	Current year $	Last year $
Current Assets		
ANZ Bank	$64,977	$20,969
RWT receivable	$316	$296
Total Current Assets	**$65,293**	**$21,265**
Net Assets	**$65,293**	**$21,265**
Represented by:		
Current year Surplus	$44,028	$1,067
Prior Surplus	$21,265	$20,198
Total Accumulated surplus	**$65,293**	**$21,265**

All amounts recorded in the Performance Report are inclusive of GST (if any). The organisation is GST registered and any GST payable to, or refunded by, the IRD is recognised when paid or when a refund is received

Contact Us

Contacts

Brian Bramell
Chair
BLBCIMS@gmail.com

Joanna Gullett
Community Coordinator & Facilitator
mahurangiwestpest@gmail.com

Website:

http://www.mahurangiwestpest.wordpress.com/

Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550901104535

Newsletter

https://preview.mailerlite.io/forms/2346067/193744657051551642/share

Registered Address

Stephanie Herron
MWP Secretary
540 Pukapuka Road
RD 3 Warkworth
0983
New Zealand

Donation Information

ANZ Bank Account No: 06-0483-0894183-00

Please consider making a donation to Mahurangi West Pest. All donations directly fund our local trapping and restoration initiatives to protect our native wildlife. Thank you for your generosity!

Mahurangi West Pest Registrations

Registered Incorporated Society: NZBN 9429049973433
Incorporated Societies No. 50080430
[Date of incorporation: 13 /10/ 2021]

Registered Charity No: CC59676
[Date of registration 26/11/2021]

GST Registration: 135 - 360 - 684
[Date of registration 15/04/2026]