



Forest & Bird
TE REO O TE TAIAO | *Giving Nature a Voice*

Kia ora, my name is

I live at

I am signing up to receive a rat trap as part of the Forest and Bird Pest Free Hibiscus Coast Project. I would like to invite you to do the same so we can form a small neighbourhood trapping group to get rid of rats and help the birds and lizards in our area.

Why? You might not be aware that more than 25 million birds, eggs and chicks are killed by introduced predators every year, in native forests alone. If this was to include residential areas like ours, the figure would be likely to rise to 100 million. Rats have spread over 94% of New Zealand land – so they will be near your place, even if you have never seen one, and if you have a cat it really won't solve the problem. People all across the coast are helping out and catching rats, these pests don't belong here and have to go before it's too late.

Rats:

- Eat native birds, eggs, chicks, snails, lizards, weta, larvae, and the seeds, fruit and flowers of native plants and trees. They also compete with native species for food.
- Breed so quickly that one rat can become hundreds in months.
- Spread diseases such as leptospirosis, as well as contaminating water, food and household surfaces.
- Cause millions of dollars of damage to property. They can chew through pipes and electrical cables, causing flood and fire risks

The traps are easy to use, humane and supplied in pet-safe wooden tunnels. They are available free on long term loan from the project, as long as we all agree to register them online and submit records of when we set our traps and when we catch something.

Keen? Please contact me on

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with your name, email address and street address and I will order a trap on your behalf.

Forest and Bird is a charity, reliant on grants and donations, so if you would like to make a contribution to their work, please let me know.

There is also a possum trap library that you can borrow a trap from for 6 weeks.

For more information about the Pest Free Hibiscus Coast Project, contact Project Coordinator

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