



Welcome to the August newsletter

Pest animal monitoring

Some of you will hopefully be able to carry out your possum & rat monitoring this August. I mailed some wax tags to some people so hopefully they arrive soon if they haven't already.

Hold onto the wax tags after you have finished the monitoring. I will organise for collection after 26 Aug.

If you still haven't received your wax tags in the mail yet just put them out when you can.

Thanks for being involved in the monitoring programme.

August pest animal toxin baiting pulse

Auckland Council have established some guidelines for using toxin bait controlling possums and rats.

Auckland Council are recommending the pulsing method; where by you only use toxin bait four times a year during the months January, April, August and November. These times are focusing on other food availability; April, winter there is less tasty fresh food around which makes toxin bait more appetising. Pulsing in spring August, November ensures fewer pest animals around when species you are trying to protect are breeding & fledging.

Pulsing toxin bait four times a year also means less work for the person doing the control, less toxin in the environment and saves on cost of toxin bait.

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Stream monitoring

The papakura stream catchment runs through the wildlink, it covers approximately 4,100ha and is roughly 63km. The health of the stream varies within the catchment depending on land use and vegetation cover.

Do you have a stream running through your property? are you interested to know the health of it? We are doing a demonstration of how to monitor the stream health in September, date to be confirmed at a site in the wildlink area. If you would like to attend please email N.Harrison@forestandbird.org.nz for further details.

You can see a map showing where there are currently wai care testing occurring on the link below.

<https://waicare.org.nz/Resources/StreamMap.aspx>

Auckland Council healthy water team have installed an automatic water monitor at Totara park, you can see live data at

<http://dashboard.innovateauckland.nz/dashboard/236010f0-55a3-11ea-a1d6-a1cab1e86e86?publicId=b0889560-0ec8-11e9-bae7-81dfc7b56620>

If you would like to do any restoration work along your stream please contact us, we may be able to help.

Pest animal control tally - Trap NZ

Thank you everyone for all the work you are doing controlling pest animals in the area; you are doing a great job; and to those people that are letting me know how many you have caught. It is great to see the total rising in catches over the wildlink area. Hopefully in a few years these numbers will start to decrease as the pest animal population is removed from the wildlink area. Then hopefully numbers of kaka, bat, lizards etc will increase.

So far the tally is

Hedgehog - 15

Magpie - 60

Mouse - 122

Possum - 262

Rat - 853

Stoat -1

Weasel 2

So please remember to keep emailing N.Harrison@forestandbird.org.nz your trap

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**Hillcrest Grove Reserve, Orford, David Nathan park & Totara park**

In association with Auckland Council this August a community pest animal monitoring line will be installed for the first time at Hillcrest grove reserve. A trap line will also be set up in Hillcrest grove reserve controlling possums and rats.

We are also wanting to set up pest animal monitoring and trap lines within Orford & David Nathan park.

There are also established trap lines within Totara park that could use a few more people checking them.

If you would like to volunteer to be involved with these reserves, please email N.Harrison@forestandbird.org.nz

Pest animal control - live capture

NZ biodiversity is unique in that we only have one native land mammal (the bat) so this means that to protect our native fauna we usually end up controlling non native mammals in our environment. Although we are controlling pest animals they need to be humanly killed. If you are using live capture traps the kill needs to be humane.

Trapping using live capture traps

NZSPCA wording on the humane euthanizing of animals: Feb 3 2017

The standard that must be met is that any animal must be killed in a way that achieves the following two elements;

- a) Rendered insensible (this in effect means it must be unconscious) , usually through stunning and
- b) Death immediately follows (heat and brain function being the usual tests)

Greg Reid, Chief Inspector, SPCA

Plants for sale

Nicky has grown some extra ecosourced tree ferns and Nikau in her plant nursery on her property. If you would like some, contact Nicky on 021 972 534



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270 ecosourced Kahikatea were generously donated to people in the wildlink by the Sayes family. The trees are from ecosourced seed which was then grown in the plant nursery at Gerald's home.

70 trees were distributed between 5 properties while the remaining 200 smaller trees in root trainers were donated to Papatoetoe pony club for growing on and planting later.

It will be great to see all the trees grow into beautiful specimens in the future.

Thank you again Gerald Sayes for your generosity.



Facebook group for the South-East Wildlink

A closed (private) Facebook group for people within the wildlink is up and running. The purpose of the group is to share stories, events, experiences or ask questions about pest animal/weed control, re-vegetation or interesting bird, bat, lizard, fish sightings or anything relevant to the project.

To join the group follow the link below or search South-East Wildlink.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2341448545905199/>

Upcoming events

August

Set traps and full toxin bait stations
15 - 23 Aug - Pest animal monitoring

November

Set traps and full toxin bait stations
21-29 Nov, - Bird count
Public day Sat 21 Nov 9.00am - 12.00noon

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Long tail bat monitoring, if you are interested in having monitoring to determine if long tail bats are present at your property please email

All events are subject to change due to covid 19.

For more details and to RSVP please email

N.harrison@forestandbird.org.nz

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