

## Auckland Council Great Barrier Island Argentine ant Summary report 2015/16

The information contained in the report below has been provided sequentially from month to month and contains efforts by both Biosecurity and Envirokiwi Ltd.

### July/August 2015

#### Mulberry Grove School

Ant Surveillance monitoring carried out before commencement of building works.

Argentine ants were discovered in monitoring/treatment pottles by the old refuse station. On their discovery builder Paul Thorburn and Mulberry Grove School principal were notified of their presence at this location. In addition the location of the 2013 finds within the school grounds were provided to the School.

#### Sandhills Road, Medlands

Call from 53 Sandhills road and site visit confirmed Argentine ants present in an old stump in front of the house

Nothing detected at No#11

### September/October 2015

#### Ocean view road

Argentine ant monitoring was carried out at Ocean view road in late September early October with a small number of ants found on the southern side of the road in the fixed dune area but none around residential properties in this area. The greatest concentration of ants were found behind the houses on the Northern side of Ocean view Road. This area was treated with xstinguish treatment paste on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October.

#### Sugarloaf

The new Sugarloaf site was treated with xstinguish treatment paste on the 12<sup>th</sup> October and a repeat treatment will be done in three weeks-time.

#### Thomas Road

Thomas Road was treated with xstinguish treatment paste on the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> October and a follow up treatment will be done in three weeks-time.

#### Sandhills road

53 Sandhills road had an xstinguish treatment carried out on the 13<sup>th</sup> October.

#### Masons road

Masons road was visually monitored for ants and treated on the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

### October/November 2015

#### Ocean view road

This area underwent its second treatment with xstinguish treatment paste on the 30<sup>th</sup> October.

#### Thomas Road

The second treatment was carried out on the 13<sup>th</sup> November. No Argentine ants had been observed recently by residents or by staff carrying out the work.

#### Mulberry Grove

The 2ha extended area opposite the fire station on Rosalie Bay Road was monitored on the 14<sup>th</sup> October returning only 2 positive pottles. The Mulberry Grove area was treated 20<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> October and is currently undergoing its second treatment (17<sup>th</sup> November)

#### Blind Bay Road

This was Monitored and treated on the 16<sup>th</sup> October returning 3 positive finds across the 2 ha site. The 2<sup>nd</sup> treatment carried out on the 5/11/15 (ants visually seen here in garden and uptake noted).

#### Okupu

A visual search for Argentine ants was carried out at the beach side of the site. – No visible sign of ants were detected. Applied xstinguish bait as part of the programme. The baits presented attracted a considerable number of Argentine ants.

A site visit in response to possible Argentine ants on a property neighbouring the above site (1 Camerton Lane) was carried out. A large number of other ant species were found but no Argentine ants.

## **November/December 2015**

### Thomas Road

Site visit to Kevin Denholms to look at driveway excavation being carried out through the Argentine ant site. No visible sign of ants within the work site.

### Mohunga

Darwin's ants under went there first treatment with xstinguish treatment paste on the 13<sup>th</sup> November and a second treatment was undertaken on the 26<sup>th</sup> November. Very little evidence of Darwins ant's present on the second visit.

### Masons Road

The small site at 130 Masons Road was treated with xstinguish treatment paste on the 13<sup>th</sup> November

### Sandhills Road (15 & 53)

N0# 53-apply bait directly on the ground and place 15 x pottles in strategic places. No Argentine ants identified on site

N0# 15- apply bait directly on the ground and place 15 x pottles in strategic places. A large number of Argentine ants identified. Large column on the deck at the western end of property, small trail on eastern deck, around concrete water tank to boundary and along hose pipe, around dinghy out front.

Brian Shields with Reece Jones detected Argentine ant nests in a clay bund and across the road from number 15. Nests were dug up and treated with Bifenthrin and Kas sand. Dog did not detect any Argentine ants at Number 53.

### Sugarloaf

Second treatment of the season carried out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Still a lot of ants visible.

### Okupu

Carried out the second treatment of the season around driftwood lodge.

Found Argentine ants on North side of drive.

Suspected Argentine Ants brought in from 134 Puriri Bay Road (Karen Walkers) for identification. Ants were confirmed not to be Argentine ants.

## **December/January 2016**

- Suspected Argentine Ants brought in from Schooner bay farm company for identification were confirmed not to be Argentine Ants
- Ants brought in by parks staff from Medlands car park, Oruawharo Lane were not Argentine ants.

### Okupu

Treatment on the 13<sup>th</sup> January on the 2ha site included a 10m buffer on the north side of Driftwood lodge drive

## **January/February 2016**

### Okupu

- Additional monitoring carried out on the lower side of Blind Bay Road. Treatment carried out in areas that returned positive for ants on January 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Second treatment within the 2ha area on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February

### Sandhills Road

Progressive monitoring has been carried out (28th, 29th Jan and 3rd, 4th Feb) to help determine the extent of the re kindled area at the southern end of Sandhills Road. Work is still in progress as the infestation is found to be spreading north and in to the paddocks behind the properties at the southern end. The area is estimated to be approximately 4.5ha.

### Mulberry Grove

Treatments as well as some monitoring within historical infestation sites was carried out on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of February. Argentine ants were located after monitoring in the property opposite the school. This was treated accordingly. All other sites that were monitored showed no sign of Argentine ants.

## **February/March 2016**

### Okupu

Additional monitoring carried out on the 14<sup>th</sup> March between driftwood lodge and the drain within Okupu reserve. Treatment carried out in areas that returned positive for ants March 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Oceanview Road

Third treatment carried out on the 15<sup>th</sup> February

### Sandhills Road

Progressive monitoring has been carried out on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> Jan and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Feb and the monitoring area extended again on the 16<sup>th</sup> February. This was to determine the extent of the rekindled area at the southern end of Sandhills Road. The monitored area was treated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

### Thomas Road

A visual hand search was carried out on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March. Several nests of ants were found in the macrocarpa trees on Mouats drive and at the end of Thomas Road. Thomas Road ants were treated with Kas and Biffant.

Monitoring was carried out by Envirokiwi around George Medlands homestead where ants were identified and the Pine slash on Kevin Denims property-no ants found at this location

### Sugarloaf

Visual/hand searching at the Sugarloaf on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March found nests in mulch by the two houses and two nests on the hill. The 4 nests were treated with Kas sand and Biffant

Brian Shields Auditing for Argentine ants at a number of high risk sites (See Brians report)

Blackwells Quarry -Ants identified for Fulton Hogan as southern ants (*Monomorium antarticum*)

## **March/April 2016**

### Sandhills Road

2<sup>nd</sup> treatment carried out on the 21<sup>st</sup> March.

### Thomas Road

14<sup>th</sup> March- Visual/hand searching from Mouats to Roy & Joys.

Envirokiwi staff pottle monitoring around George Medllands.

15<sup>th</sup> March- Visual/hand searching paddocks, open north facing sections and Thomas road. Ants found Ngaire & Ken Cloughs. Envirokiwi staff pottle monitoring Pine slash at Kevin Denims-No ants found.

17<sup>th</sup> March – Envirokiwi staff pottle monitoring Thomas road sections and paddocks – Ants found in property on The Lane and in Paddock cared for by Kurt Currie.

29<sup>th</sup> March – Envirokiwi staff pottle monitoring Thomas road infestations in order to find delimitation lines. Treatments of isolated sites were also carried out on the 29<sup>th</sup> March and 15<sup>th</sup> April.

### Gray Road

Argentine ants discovered on the Gray Road Possum carcass on the 29<sup>th</sup> March triggered monitoring surveillance in the area. Approximately 7ha was monitored between the 6<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> April with ants found over most of this site.

Monitoring carried out 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of April - Envirokiwi pottle monitoring both sides of road from Kaitoke bridge to Barrier Cartage yard (inc all properties between) with infestations found to be widespread.

### Sugarloaf

15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March- Visual/hand searching and treatment of nests found by Biosecurity.

### Okupu

14<sup>th</sup> March Envirokiwi pottle monitoring around driftwood lodge. Ants found were treated on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Ants brought in from Schooner Bay Road were identified as not being Argentine ants but Black ants.

## **April/May 2016**

Surveillance of settlement areas that has included Tryphena, Medlands, Claris, Whangaparapara, Okupu, and Awana with half of Port Fitzroy complete.

This month Port Fitzroy & outer islands will be completed and then if hours are left further sites in the Medlands area will be done.

No new infestations of Argentine ants have been detected to date.

### Thomas Road

15<sup>th</sup> April – Envirokiwi treating buffer-Thomas road sections and paddocks

### Gray Road

Delimitation completed 20<sup>th</sup> April using pottle monitoring.

First xstinguish treatment 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Second xstinguish treatment 5<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> May

Delimitation work on Gray Road has confirmed ants close to the edge of the Sand Quarry. Contractor DCL has been notified in order for them to avoid the area.

## **May/June 2016**

The regional programme for the seasons monitoring and treatment of Argentine ants is complete and the report and planning for next season is currently being worked on.

Property owner of 1 Lane, Medlands inquiry re shed construction. One of the conditions of resource consent was to consult with biosecurity regarding Argentine ants on his property and to contain fill on site.

## **June/July 2016**

Argentine ant Local Board funded surveillance has been continuing. Recent sites surveyed include Motuhaku island, Nagels Cove, Kaitoke School, Mike Patterson subdivision, Kaitoke Lane old nursery site, Claris Store, Golf Club, Sports Club, Navy station, Okupu transfer station, Dale Charteris property and neighbouring properties. No Argentine ants have been found at these sites. Further monitoring and treatment has also occurred around the known Argentine Ant site at Thomas Road (David Hill property), Medlands (see below).

### Argentine ants-Thomas Road

Surveillance carried out at saw mill site on the 24<sup>th</sup> June detected ants. Further surveillance monitoring carried out around the homestead and at potential high risk sites on the property with no further Argentine ants found. The first treatment of the above small infestation was 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Working on monitoring the 56 high risk surveillance sites. No new populations of Argentine ants found.

## **July/August 2016**

Working on monitoring the high-risk surveillance sites at the north end of the island. No new populations of Argentine ants found. Physical works are now completed and the report is being worked on

### Argentine ants-Thomas Road

Second treatment at sawmill site on Dave Hills property. Lot of ant activity observed during this treatment.

Sample of Ants brought in from the corner of Whangaparapara road and French st were white footed house ants

Sample of ants brought in from Rivendell Nursery was confirmed not to be Argentine ants

## **August 2016**

### Argentine ants-Thomas Road

A visual search of the sawmill site identified one small nest at the base of a macrocarpa tree. The nest and the surrounding area was directly treated with bifenthrin insecticide