

## Biosecurity Local Board General Update

Month/Year: 14<sup>th</sup> April to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Officers name: Jeremy Warden

### Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area- Great Barrier Island

#### Plague Skink Shoal Bay Wharf

- Intermittent plague skink captures have been continuing around the perimeter of the Shoal Bay site. Traps have been deployed around these capture 'hot-spots'. These 'hot spots' should be able to be contained by upcoming fencing works.
- The damaged section of the plague skink containment fence at the wharf has been repaired.
- Letters advising of Auckland Council and DoC's commitment to eradicate Plague Skinks from the Shoal bay
- Liaison with landowners regarding containment fence stage 1

#### Plague Skink Response Rakino Island

Assist with initial response to plague skink incursion on Rakino 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> May.

#### Argentine & Darwin's ants

The first treatment has finally been carried out within the Medland road site (Pauline Bellerby and Dave Shaw properties), except for one property where the land owner denied access. Work was carried out here on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April. Uptake of the bait (Extinguish) was very good and this was both noted and photographed. The second round of treatments is due in the next favourable weather window.

#### Argentine ant and Plague skink surveillance

Argentine ant surveillance carried out at 50 Mangatawhiri Road and 40 Schooner Bay Road (Great Barrier Island Campground). Four different species of ants identified none identified as being Argentine ants.

#### Mulberry Grove & Okiwi Community Pest coordinators

##### Mulberry Grove

Rat numbers are similar to last month (Juli still has to get in touch with some property owners). Matt presented new Eco node models that are being worked on. New traps have been ordered. Matt has added nine new traps with Econodes (six within the Mulberry Grove School grounds and three in the adjoining reserve).

Traps have also been added to two more properties in the Mulberry Grove residential area with more to come.

##### Okiwi

Meeting with the DoC confirmed their interest in the project and willingness to assist or support where possible. They are bound by their rules and regulations which may affect the ability of the project to undertake work on DoC land e.g. use of certain toxins and rabbit control. Currently no rabbit shooting is allowed on the DoC land. DoC are currently prioritising and working to plan some work in the Whangapoua basin area themselves but it may be physically separate to the Okiwi community project e.g. may be focussed on the sand dunes and around the airport. We will continue to engage with the local DoC office on this project.

#### Kaitoke Fire Ground Weed Control

Indian Hawthorn, Lantana and Bushy Asparagus grid searched and removed from an allocated area within the firegrounds. This work was carried out on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Aristea control has begun at the northern end of the runway. Here, a digger was used to dig a large pit and all target weeds were buried on site. This work was carried out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May. There is still work to be done here as more scrub needs to be cleared and a large amount of weed matting will be both pinned and buried over areas the target weed was found and has most likely seeded.

## West Coast Weed Surveillance

### Coastal Weed Surveillance:

Moth Plant identified and removed at 175 & 210 Schooner Bay Road. Envirokiwi staff worked with Clint Stannard (Kaikoura Island Ranger) to treat mothplant sites around the coastline of Kaikoura that were found as part of earlier Coastal Surveillance work.

## SWI Weed Control

The weed team at Envirokiwi has grid searched for Smilax at the Max Jamieson site (now owned by the Winger's), Medlands Road. Work here occurred on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of April. The team also located a large Lantana infestation which carries on to a neighbouring property. This has been noted and the landowner will be contacted.

## Wharf and Airport Mustelid and Rodent Pest Surveillance (April)

- Port Fitzroy – 41.6% Bait take, 1 unidentified rats caught in DOC200, 1x Wax tag=Rat
- Tryphena – 26% Bait take 0x Ship Rat caught in DOC200. 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Whangaparapara – 38% bait take 2 x Ship Rat in DOC200's. 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Okupu – 100% bait take. 0 x Rat caught in DOC200, 0x wax tag=Rat
- Claris airfield environment – 67% bait take
- Claris residential – 22% bait take

## Bait Stations at Transfer Sites (April)

- Southern Stations – Medlands 30%, Okupu 30%, Puriri bay 100%, Mulberry grove 50%
- Northern Stations – Motairehe 100%, Okiwi 100% & Kawa 50%

## Private Jetties & Boat Ramps

Location	DOC200	Bait Station	Wax tag
Yates	1x Rat	75%	0
Jetty	0x Rat	12.5%	0
Pickards	0x Rat	12.5%	0
Stellins	0x Rat	0%	1x Rat
Whangapara Jetty	0x Rat	20%	0
Okupu Boat Ramp	1x Rat	100%	0
Mulberry Grove Boat Ramp	0x Rat	replaced	0
Puriri Bay Boat Ramp	0x Rat	100%	0

Conclusion: No new species of pest animals detected, bait consumption (Pestoff Brodificoum) has decreased slightly in most areas.

Rats not so much a problem in DOC200's over the past month.

## Weed Surveillance

Over the past month land based weed surveillance has been continuing in the Medlands area. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the programme and is being carried out by Karen Denyer in partnership with Envirokiwi.

Several important finds have been recorded including a mature *Cythea cooperi* (Australian tree fern), One x Moth plant, *Hydrocotyle umbellatum* and quite a few Lantana recordings.

## Feral Pigs

Pig damage reported from Community Facilities on Sandhills Reserve Medlands.

## Myrtaceae seed bank support

In response to the recent discovery of myrtle rust in Northland, DoC has prioritized the collection of seeds from plants within the Myrtaceae family with the assistance of Auckland council staff.

- Seed collection was undertaken at Needle rock for *Metrosideros fulgens* and *Metrosideros robusta*.
- Further collections will continue in the following month.