

Community education

Market days

- A biosecurity/biodiversity stall was held at the New Year's picnic at Claris Club on January 2018.
 - Queries included, plague skinks, argentine ants, weeds, native plantings and native gecko identification
- A biosecurity stall was held at the Fitzroy muscle fest on 6 January 2018.
 - Queries on Mediterranean fan worm were answered and info sheets supplied.

Site visit: Great Barrier Navy station (Awana)

- 17 January 2018 - the navy station was visited and a plague skink and argentine ant hand search undertaken. Information was given on best practice for rodent control.
- Both species were not detected

General

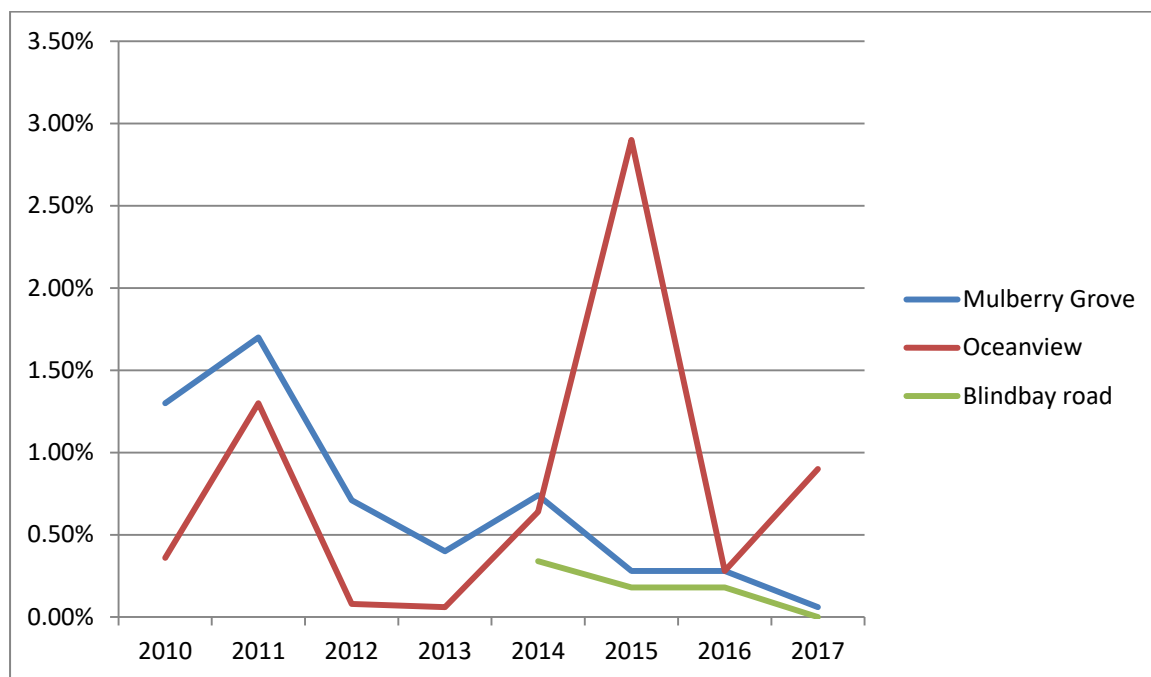
- 17 January 2018 - a possible introduced lizard sighting was responded to and was identified as a forest gecko



Argentine ants

- 16 January 2018 - Argentine ants that were suspected on Kaitoke Lane were visited and identified as white footed ants
- Argentine ant control on Great Mercury island between 8 and 10 January 2018 as part of an eradication feasibility study
- Monitoring across all ten argentine ants sites has been completed.
- Mulberry Grove, Okupu and Gray Road are left to be treated and will be completed by May 2018.
- No Darwin ants were detected at Mohunga this year
- Only 0.07% of monitoring pottles returned argentine ants at Oceanview Road, this is considerable less than last year.
- Unfortunately an infestation was detected at Blind Bay Road where none were detected in the 2016-17 season (Figure)

Percentage of argentine ant detections across three long term locations on Aotea 2011-2017



Argentine ant and plague skink surveillance

Argentine ants

- Blackwell’s pig pens (Risk pathway from sugarloaf site)
- Pathways from a property in Medlands Road, Tryphena was monitored through tracking down pathways of goods moved from the property prior to infestation identification
- Okupu property (a new resident moved from a known AA site)

Sandhills Road

- Five minute hand searches in properties and info given to resident
- No plague skinks were detected

Total control plants

Royal fern

- The royal fern program has been completed for the 2016-17 season
- No plants were detected during this season

Woolly nightshade

- The woolly nightshade behind Tipi and Bobs has been removed.

Pest coordinator

Okiwi

- A meeting was held at Okiwi School by the project coordinator Jo O'Reilly
- Areas have been designated and a timeframe for work to begin confirmed

Marine pests

Mediterranean fan worm

- A fan worm sighting was reported in Tryphena, information was passed on to Sam Happy the marine biosecurity advisor.