

Pest co coordinator

Bird monitoring workshop Okiwi



- A bird monitoring workshop was held on 20 May as part of the Okiwi pest coordinator project funded by the local board.
- The workshop was led by ornithologist Mel Galbraith who is a senior lecturer at Unitec, a trustee of Motu Kaikoura Trust and a council member of the ornithological society of New Zealand, now known as BirdsNZ.
- The workshop was attended by birding amateurs and experts from across the island
- The workshop was informative, well attended and received 100% positive feedback from attendees.

Ecology conversations

Summary of notes Ecology vision meeting Āperea /April

- The meeting was attended by 16 members of the Aotea community.
- The meeting was started with a presentation by Shanti Morgan on successful community ecology groups across New Zealand.
- A workshop was then held with attendees dividing into three groups to discuss projects that they would like to see the ecology vision group action.
- All groups were given maps of the island in which they could locate their project area and given words that could help inspire the type of restoration they were aiming towards.

- **Group one** proposed the idea of stream restoration and community pest control in the mulberry grove area based around Mulberry Grove School. This would act as an extension of the Windy Hill Sanctuary blocks on Rosalie Bay Road.
- **Group two** proposed the idea of a cat free north.
- **Group three** proposed the idea of an eco-hub/nursery in the central area of the island.
- **Interesting points from the workshop**
 - Rabbit, pig and pest bird control were not selected for any project.
 - Herbicides and second generation toxins (Brodi) were not selected for any project.
 - Diphacinone toxin was considered for use.
 - Two projects were interested in the relationship between the sea, the land and the people.
 - All three groups selected community engagement, education, empowerment and volunteers as important to their project.
 - No groups selected the trust or contractor option.
 - All projects had some form of council, Department of Conservation (DoC) and Iwi involvement.
 - All projects considered an online presence (Facebook or website).

Community

Private land owner Cape Barrier Road

- Information about trapping a three hectare site on Cape Barrier Road/Shoal Bay Road was given to a landowner.
- The landowner is going to monitor their property for rats and establish a trapping grid based on the best practice advice by biosecurity staff.
- This project extends out the existing trap network in Mulberry Grove to Shoal Bay.

Claris rat trapping programme

- Four dedicated volunteers are currently involved
- Ninety-nine rats and two mice have been caught since 10 January 2018

QEII info day at Mara Point

- The QEII board attended a week-long meeting/workshop on Great Barrier Island
- Biosecurity/biodiversity staff took the group on a tour around Mara Point and gave a run down on the projects in the area which include, costal weed surveillance, plague skink eradication feasibility study and pest incursion programs (Possum, rodent and mustelid surveillance).

Pest animals

Roosters

- Six abandoned roosters have been removed from Shoal Bay Road by animal management officers with the collaboration of biodiversity.

Plague skinks

- A sub-adult plague skink was found by building contractors at Claris Club on 4 May
- Biosecurity staff identified the skink through head scale microscopy.
- The skink was traced back to two possible sources which will be monitored for further specimens.
- Three new sites have been trapped with insect sticky trap cards with one property detecting a new plague skink population.

Argentine ants

- Felling of pines at a known Argentine ant site was inspected
- Pamphlets and ID information was given to the landowners who recently purchased the land.
- The landowners are happy to leave all vegetative material on site to reduce the chance of human mediated dispersal.
- A large Argentine ant nest was detected in a rotting pine stump while inspecting the site, which indicates the site, is still infested.

Pest Plants

Mariscus

- Seed heads from Mariscus were removed and bagged from plants on Sandhills Road
- The plants were then treated by biosecurity advisor Jeremy Warden.

Hutch wilco boat show

- The Hutch wilco boat show was attended on 17 May.
- Conversations with visitors were held at the Treasure Islands stand and were focused on promoting the Treasure Islands brand and informing the boating community on the rules around dogs, cats and pest-free islands. Additionally, plague skink and argentine ant pathways were highlighted in regards to Great Barrier Island.
- Two Great Barrier Island absentee landowners were met at the event and discussions were had on pest pathway management.

Personal development, meetings & training

- Great Barrier Local Board grants meeting (Advice)
- Great Barrier Local Board environment update

- Ecology vision update and overview
 - The local board agreed to use the underspend to fund materials for the ecology vision before the end of the financial year.
 - A decision was also made to continue funding the Biodiversity/biosecurity advisor position for 16 hours until a governing group is formed to continue the ecology vision.
- Treasure islands ambassadors update
 - A decision was made to carry forward the underspend to next financial year
- Community facility and I&ES collaboration meeting
 - Review of mowing and weeding contract and specs
- Total control shared learning workshop
- Central South Team meeting
 - Engagement results were analysed and discussed.
- Person Safety Training
 - Training on how to increase observational awareness to ensure your personal safety when in the public.

Holidays

- Anzac day
- Two days annual leave