

# Biosecurity Local Board General Update

Month/Year: 14<sup>th</sup> July-14<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Officers name: Jeremy Warden

## Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area- Great Barrier Island

### Plague Skink Shoal Bay Wharf

The chickens have been moved out of the original chicken cell into a holding cell. This was their second and final round in the original cell (Cell 1). Trapping for plague skinks will occur in the Cell 1 to assess the effectiveness of the chickens once the weather warms up sufficiently. Eggs from the project continue to be sent through to the City Mission weekly.

### Argentine & Darwin's ants

Auditing continued into the effectiveness of the Argentine ant monitoring and treatment carried out during the season at the 10 known sites. The methodology used has consisted of visual searching focusing on sunny elevated areas, logs and around rocks where ants are likely to be over wintering. This method disrupts nests so ants can be identified and directly controlled. Results of the audit will assist in formulating a plan for the up and coming seasons work. If ants are still found to be distributed across the sites at intervals less than 20m then a treatment only strategy will be implemented. If Argentine ants aren't visually observed then the site will be scheduled for Xstinguish baited pottle monitoring and any areas found with ants treated with toxic paste.

### Audit results:

Site:	Date(s)	Nest(s) found	Treatment Y/N
Oceanview Rd	28/06/18 & 03/07/18	4	Y
Okupu	08/06/18	5	Y
Masons Rd	17/07/18	1 (large 5m+)	N*
Thomas Rd	13/07/18 & 17/07/18	1 (large 60m+)	N*
44 Medland Rd	28/06/18 & 13/07/18	2	Y
Muberry Grove	03/07/18 & 04/07/18	0	N
Mohunga	29/05/18	4	Y
Sandhills Rd	Early August (AC Bio staff)	0	0
Sugarloaf	17/07/18 & 18/07/18	2	Y
Gray Rd	08/06/18 & 12/07/18	5	Y

\* Nests that were too large for the team to fully expose to treatments were left for the coming season of Xstinguish monitoring and control.



The picture to the left shows one of the large Argentine ant nests at the Thomas road site.

**Wharf and Airport Mustelid and Rodent Pest Surveillance (June)**

- Port Fitzroy 31% Bait take, 1 x kiore caught in DOC200, 1x Wax tag=Rat
- Tryphena- 30% Bait take 2x Ship Rat caught in DOC200. 1x Wax tag=Rat
- Whangaparapara- 30% bait take 2x Ship Rat in DOC200's. 1x Wax tag=Rat
- Okupu -60% bait take. 1 x Rat caught in DOC200, 1x wax tag=Rat
- Claris airfield environment – 31% bait take
- Claris residential-17% bait take

**Bait Stations at Transfer Sites (June)**

- Southern Stations- Medlands 60%, Okupu 100%, Puriri bay 100%, Mulberry grove 30%
- Northern Stations- Motairehe 100%, Okiwi 100% & Kawa 50%

**Private Jetties & Boat Ramps**

Location	DOC200	Bait Station	Wax tag
Yates	0x Rat	100%	0
Jetty	0x Kiore	75%	0
Pickards	0x Kiore	0%	0
Glenfern	0x Rat	0%	0
Whangapara Jetty	0x Rat	50%	0
Okupu Boat Ramp	0x Rat	30%	0
Mulberry Grove Boat Ramp	0x Rat	0%	0
Puriri Bay Boat Ramp	0x Rat	100%	Rat

**Conclusion:** No new species of pest animals detected, bait consumption has decreased at most sites for June.

**Coastal weed surveillance**

Survey work has been undertaken recently targeting all stretches of coastline between Whangapoua & Harataonga that can be accessed by foot. No new weed incursions have been found so far as part of this work.