

Pest plants

Drone surveillance

- Drone surveillance to detect Royal fern through multi-spectral analysis in the Kaitoke wetlands is planned for next month.
- This data will be presented as orthomosaic images with location data on weeds
- Correspondence has been given to surrounding landowners and effected parties.
- A community notice has been sent to the barrier bulletin and a notice will be posted to social media.



Multispectral analysis showing weed species

- High-resolution orthomosaic images and location data captured by a drone and observed in the field on a smartphone.



Orthomosaic basemap with points of interest layer on smartphone app.

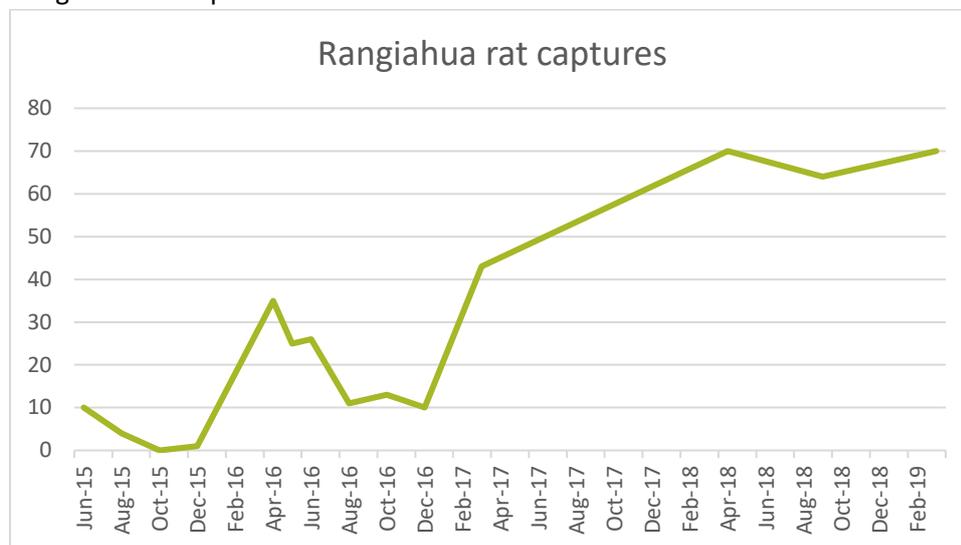
Feral Cats

- 20 live cage cat traps have been installed around the Harataonga recreation reserve and Harataonga scenic reserve. With appropriate permits from DOC.
- Traps are checked daily in accordance to animal welfare guidelines; feral cats are humanly euthanized and owned cats released.

Broken Islands-Rodent control

- The broken islands rodent control stations were serviced this month
- 70 Rats were caught on Rangiahua, 14 on Motu Mahuki and 6 on little Mahuki.

Rangiahua rat captures 2015-2019



- A management decision was made to remove all rodent bait from the broken islands group to be replaced with four T-rex snap traps in each station.
- A rodent management plan is currently being devised to make better management decisions around controlling rats across the broken islands and grey group.

Rabbits

- A contracted company undertook spotlight shoots in Kaitoke, Awana & Okiwi. The field team included a local shooter.
- Contractors noted rabbits were light shy particularly in Okiwi which resulted in the need for infrared equipment.
- Additional shoots were undertaken on private land in Kaitoke and Okiwi as extra funding was available through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate
- Over 500 rabbits were culled during the March shoot.
- Another round of rabbit control is planned for June which is forecast to include shoots, warren fumigation and destruction.

Plague skinks

The plague skink population delimitation work at Omanawa lane between October and December 2018 found the extent of the plague skink population was larger than first anticipated which resulted in a stop and re assess point for the project.

In December 2018 a Department of Conservation and Auckland Council joint-agency management team determined that the focus of the plague skink programme should be shifted from eradication to adaptive management, on the basis that the size of the Omanawa Lane population makes eradication unlikely.

Going forward, the plague skink programme will focus on:

- developing effective tools for eradicating plague skinks from other sites
 - o preventing the spread of plague skinks from Shoal Bay and Omanawa Lane
 - o preventing the transportation of pest species from the mainland to Aotea Great Barrier.

Meetings were held with effected land owners this month to inform them about the change in the projects direction

- Landowners expressed support and gave positive feedback on communication and project deliverance to date.

Community pest coordinator

- The community pest coordinator is maintaining community participation for rodent control in Okiwi.
- A five-minute bird count was held in January and was successful with 26 participants.
- The coordinator has sent round a monthly newsletter informing the community on local biodiversity and biosecurity information including rabbit control, wasp nest removal and kaka abundance.
- The pest coordinator will continue to support the Okiwi biodiversity project moving forward.

Pest Pathway ambassadors

- The prize for filling out the pest pathway survey (a trip for two to tiritiri matangi) was awarded to a participant in Auckland.
- The ambassadors are continuing to work in Claris, shoal bay and Port FitzRoy.
- 182 surveys have been completed by Great Barrier residents and visitors.
- This information will continue to be gathered by ambassadors through to Easter weekend.
- A final report will be presented to the Local Board in Quarter four.

Ecology vision

Pest control survey

- A survey alike to the survey used in Okiwi for the Okiwi pest control feasibility study was sent to landowners in, Medlands and central Tryphena (Gooseberry flats).

- **Medlands (prelim results)**
 - 15 people responded (8 from Sandhills Rd, 6 were permanent residents, 3 part-time (2-3 months) and the remainder occasional visitors).
 - 12 respondents were already controlling rats. Six were using Murray Staples's service and 3 others had 'staff' do it for them.
 - 12 respondents were interested in participating in meetings and collaborative efforts on the island.
 - Four respondents are participating in the Medlands Oruawharo Eco-Initiative group meetings.
- **Tryphena (gooseberry flat) (Prelim results)**
 - 10 people responded.
 - Seven were already trapping rats.
 - All respondents were keen to participate in meetings.

Full survey information will be presented in a final report at the end of the financial year

These surveys resulted in the establishment of the Medlands Oruawharo Eco-Vision Initiative (MOEV), as the group agreed to call itself.

The eco-vision facilitator worked with this group this month by facilitating fortnightly meetings. A newsletter has been established and is being sent out to interested people in the Medlands community.

Next steps for MOEV

- To visit the Okiwi Community Pest Control Project
- Visit Windy Hill to see a large-scale community pest control project
- To undertake a kayak trip up Oruawharo Stream to talk about the current ecology and restoration possibilities with Taryn Wilks as a fresh water specialist.

The facilitator has expressed that there is a strong interest to start a community-led pest control project and/or an Oruawharo stream care project.

Further work with the group will confirm priorities and the group's commitment. The facilitator will help develop the group and engage other landowners in the area to participate. This will be presented in a feasibility study at the end of the financial year.

Ecology vision Monthly meetings

- An Ecology Vision meeting was held on the 16th of February and had 20 attendants. Marie McEntee presented on 'Pest Perspectives around the world'.
- The next ecology vision meeting will be held on the 30th of March a co-author of the Auckland Community Ecological Monitoring Guide will be presenting on how to undertake different types of ecological monitoring for ecology vision projects.

Schools

The ecology vision facilitator has been supporting Mulberry Grove School with re-establishing regular checking of the mulberry grove trap network on the school grounds and public land.

Training

- Coordinated Incident management response training (CIMS) (Mangere)

Meetings

- Stoat incursion response de-brief (Bledisloe)
- Biosecurity team meeting (Auckland)
- Central South Team meeting (Skype)
- Plague skink TAG workshop (two days-Auckland)
- Ecology vision meetings (Medlands)

Leave

- Five days annual leave was taken this month

Next month:

- Ecology vision monthly meeting: community led ecological monitoring
- Easter weekend market day: Biosecurity stall at Claris
- Feral cat control & monitoring (Kaitoke)
- IES show case
- Biosecurity team meeting
- Plague skink TAG
- Motu Kaikoura open day