

Treasure Island ambassadors

- Two students that have been employed as treasure island ambassadors have sent through an end of season report
- Three additional students are to start the ambassador role to cover the summer season
- Interesting notes within the report include the detection of cats, dogs, chickens and a goat on board the Sealink ferry to Aotea.
- Notes have been given to the new ambassadors to get information on the status of animals detected e.g. de-sexed, microchipped and whether they are staying on Aotea or just visiting.
- Information on the number of trailers and packed cars with unidentifiable risk items has also been asked of the next ambassadors so we can better understand and quantify the risk Aotea faces and therefore better manage these pest pathways.

Schools

Mulberry Grove

- 23 November 2017 a presentation was given to Mulberry Grove School on traps and technology.
- The kids were taught how to check rat traps and assigned a trap each
- One of the more creative trap names “Unicorn trapper”
- The kids are monitoring traps through econode and TrapNZ and are paired in junior-senior teams
- The next years’ work will focus on following the scientific method to answer a hypothesis on trapping



Okiwi School

- 23 November 2017 a presentation on how to check your monitoring tracking tunnels and how to use traps was completed with Okiwi school
- 80% of kids had rodent prints and were able to see the difference between mice, rats and wetas.
- Next year we will work on trapping with technology in Okiwi school and assist the kids with the kakariki project in collaboration with Great Barrier Island Environmental Trust

Community education

Econode

- Matt Way from econode was supplied with T-rex rat traps to assess whether the econode device could monitor a T-rex as well as a snap-E.
- The test was successful and T-rex traps can now be monitored with econode devices.



Jewels Booklet

- The jewels booklet has been circulated to the local board for their comment

GBIET

Kakariki project

- The environment trust has engaged with a kakariki researcher to detect the presence of nests in Okiwi. To date one confirmed nest has been identified in Okiwi reserve.

- The researcher Serena has engaged with Okiwi School and the kids have taken responsibility of monitoring the active nest in the reserve.
- The environment trust is liaising with Auckland council biosecurity on the use of traps to “guard” the nest from traps.
- Additional nest identification will be ongoing by the Department of Conservation (DOC) in the Hirakimata area.

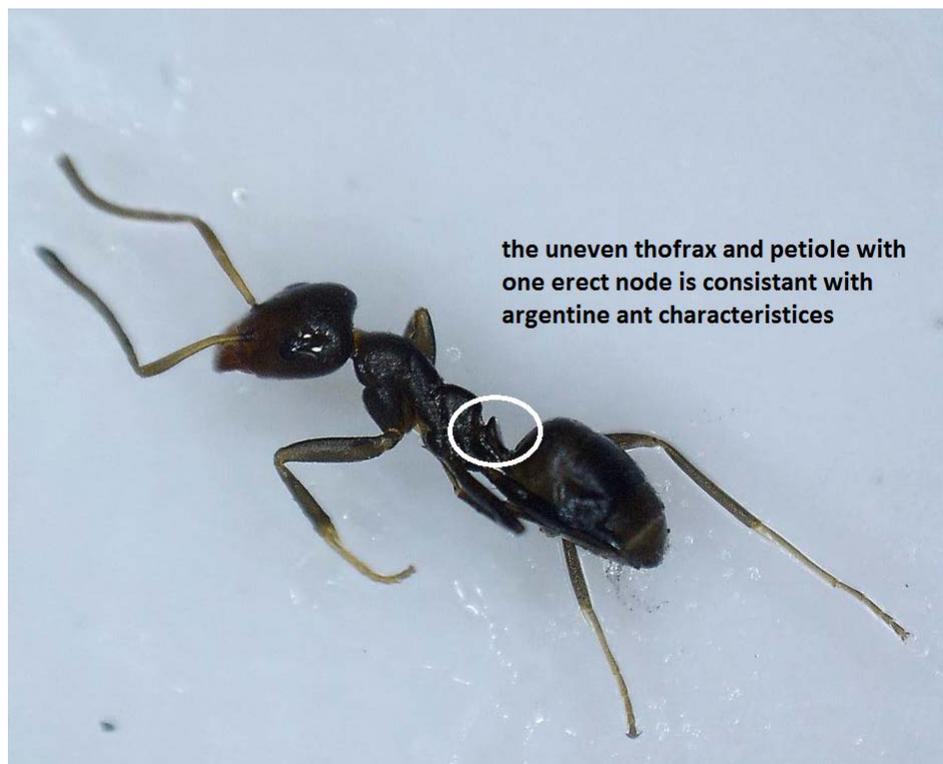
Glenfern Sanctuary

Rodent monitoring

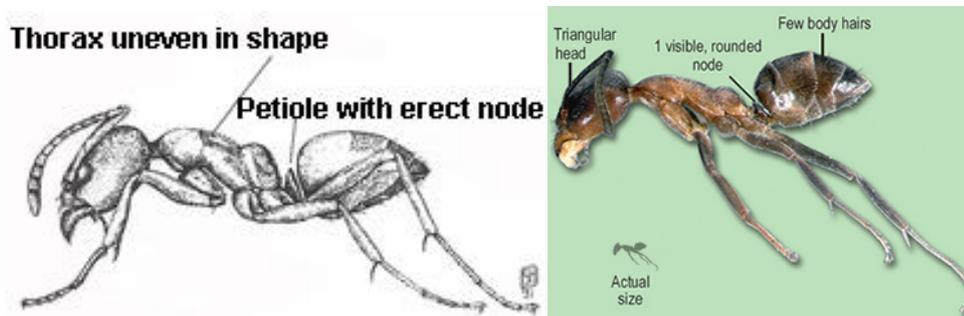
- Rodent monitoring was completed using rodent tracking cards across the peninsula between the 12th and 15th of December
- Auckland Council (Shanti) and DOC (Jordan) assisted Chris and Sarah the new Glenfern managers with collection of tracking cards
- The results came back at 3.5%, which keeps Glenfern sanctuary below the important 5% threshold.

Argentine ants

- Argentine ant monitoring and control has commenced at the Sugarloaf site
- Monitoring at the Crossroads site resulted in the identification of ants near the entrance of 4 Blind Bay Road.
- Argentine ants were detected at the historical site of in the Mulberry Grove area where significant pine felling has occurred in the last year. Fire wood removed from anywhere on this site should be carefully prepared and monitored. Derek Bell will take a ledger of those taking wood from the property including areas where no ants were detected.
- An ant specimen found on Kaitoke Lane is currently being identified by experts to assess the presence of this species in a new location.



Specimen found on Kaitoke lane by Aotea contractors



Argentine ant characteristics diagrams

Plague skinks

Chicken management

- An article will be placed in the next Barrier Bulletin explaining the chicken plague skink project to residents.
- 198 chickens are currently being managed by Envirokiwi staff. The chickens are cooped in two divided chicken cells within the plague skink containment area.

Morning tea

- The plague skink morning tea was attended by two Shoal Bay residents, Envirokiwi, DOC, Auckland Council staff and a local board member
- The aim of the morning tea was to answer questions or address concerns on the proposed chicken management plan.

- The team addressed concerns regarding monitoring of the chickens. The team have used a tag and release system of plague skinks in the chicken cell to measure plague skink abundance prior chickens. This process will be repeated post chickens to assess the effectiveness of the trial. Additionally, native skinks caught prior chicken release has been relocated outside of the plague skink delimited area.

Surveillance

- Surveillance sites that need prioritization have been highlighted as Port Fitzroy, Whangaparapara and Claris airfield
- It is proposed an intensive IST trapping grid will be used to monitor for the presence of plague skinks in these areas over a 5 night trap period.
- Additional surveillance at high risk sites will be completed through local board funding and will be managed through hand searching in addition to pottles being placed out at these sites for argentine ants.
- Surveillance is proposed to take place in March for optimal detection probability.

Personal Development, meetings & training

- 2018-19 environment work programmes for the local board
 - Working on collaborative programs with biodiversity and healthy waters
- Responsible use of fire arms course (with Great Barrier police) 12th, 13th, 14th and 17th December
 - Mountain safety course and test
 - Safe cleaning of rifles
 - Humane shooting of animals and shooting positions
 - Field day shoots with .22, 223 and shot gun
- Local Board workshop 5 December 2017
 - Update on plague skink eradication
 - Information on Houttuynia find at Glenfern
- Biosecurity team workshop 30th-31st December
 - End of year catch up
 - Trapping and pest plant workshops
- Working safely in a helicopter 24 – 25 November 2017
 - Course through rural fire
- Pest Liaison Group 22 November 2017
 - Judy Gilbert presented on 20 years of citizen science at Windy Hill
 - It would be great to see this presented on island
 - Biodiversity team have designed a new pest monitoring template for community groups
 - Update on pest free Auckland.