

## Trapping Progress

135 predators were captured in this quarter, a similar result to the same time last year. Trappers have now accounted for 2,496 animals since the programme began (see table on page 2).

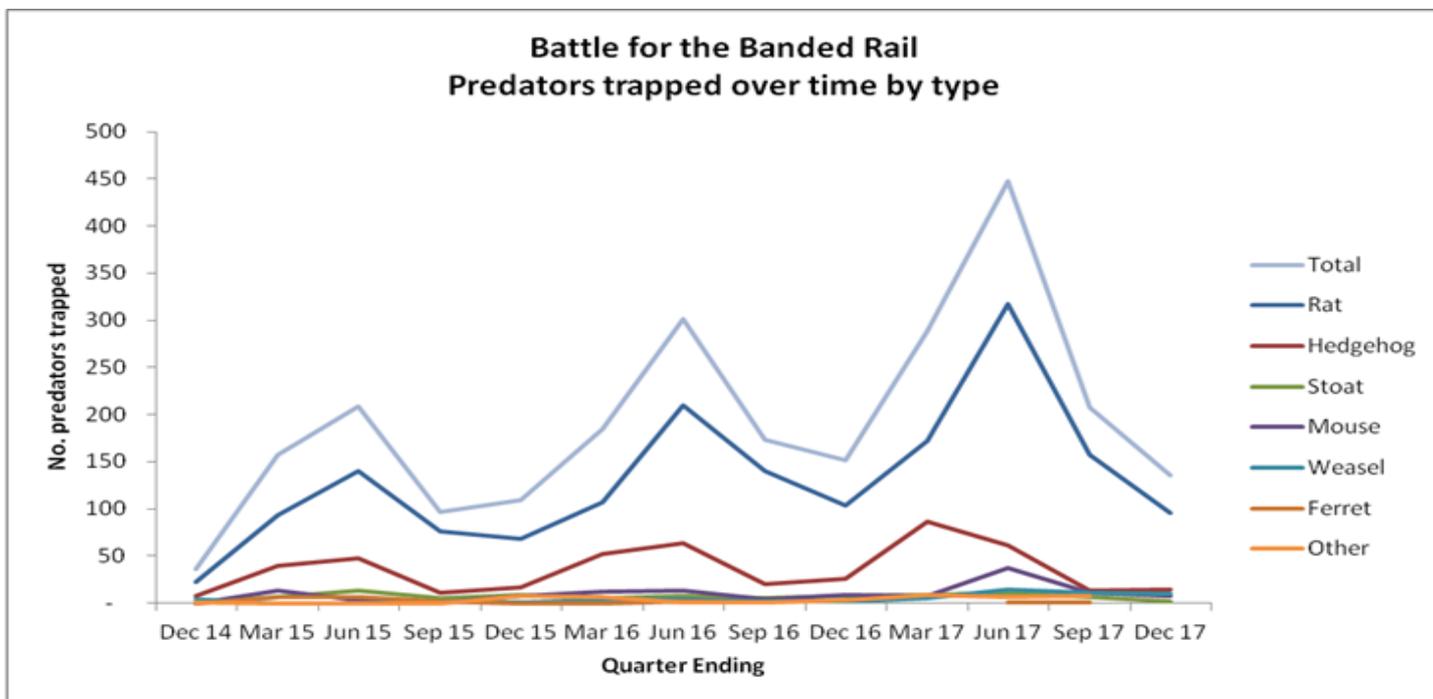
Note that a large number of stoats were trapped in the Waimea West/Appleby Hills sector.

A glance at the graph on the next page, of the history of trap catches over time, will show that the fourth quarter of every year has resulted in the lowest number of catches. It would be interesting to know if other groups have similar patterns.

## Trap Catches October-December 2017

Sector	Rat	Hedgehog	Stoat	Weasel	Other*	Total for Quarter
Bronte/Mapua	45	6	0	0	4	55
Hoddy	23	4	1	0	4	32
Stringer/Bronte	10	1	0	0	2	13
Waimea West/ Appleby Hills	17	3	1	10	4	35
Totals	95	14	2	10	14	135
% of Total	70.4%	10.4%	1.5%	7.4%	10.4%	100%

(Note: \*Other includes mainly mice, and also rabbits, possums, birds and “unspecified catches.”)



## Summary of Trap Catches Over Three Years 2015-2017

Predators Trapped	2015	2016	2017	Three Year Totals
Rat	399	560	741	1,700
Hedgehog	122	162	174	458
Stoat	34	25	28	87
Weasel	7	11	40	58
Ferret	14	3	2	19
Mouse	24	38	64	126
Other	8	11	29	48
Totals	608	810	1,078	2,496

One major reason for the increase in numbers is the increasing numbers of traps used, up to 644 in December 2017 from 337 in 2015.

### A Note on Bait

Some trappers experiment with different types of bait. Please don't change to an alternative, though you could trial another bait in addition to using the rabbit erayz. We are following a best practice model and trying to have consistent methods.

## Update on Habitat Restoration (Planting and Weeding)

Our plantings have been tested recently with both the storm surge overnight on 7<sup>th</sup> November and then a long spell of dry weather.

Research Orchard Road reserve and part of Bronte peninsula appear to have taken the biggest hits in the storm. A few hundred plant guards were dislodged at Research Orchard Road. A huge thanks to the locals who collected many of them in and to our volunteers who helped to re-secure them over the following fortnight. The following photo shows some of the damage at the Maisey embayment planting.



Clive's report on the damage at Bronte:

"Unfortunately the low lying land at the tip of Bronte peninsula didn't survive. Those high winds and tide that caused the tidal surge seems to have taken out about one hundred plants we planted this winter. I've collected up the empty plant guards that were washed up on the strandline and put them under a tree to stop them blowing around. More upsetting is that the original remaining saltbush seems to have had an argument with a very large and angry tree trunk which seems to have floated over the plant and seriously pummelled it."

Some plants are suffering from the salt inundation incurred during the surge. We will be planting an even wider margin of saltmarsh ribbonwood (*Plagianthus divaricatus*) and other saltwater tolerant species wherever possible with future plantings.

The dry weather has also made things tough for the plants. There have been some losses which is a shame but losses are part of the nature of a project like this. Overall the survival of plants is still very good.

## Site Reviews

Each year DOC and TDC staff, along with our site and project leaders, have visited and reviewed our restoration sites. Out of the review a document is written which is invaluable for our planning. With 9 current sites and one or two new sites to begin restoration this year it takes 2 full days now to carry out these reviews. We have covered half the sites in early December and the second day is scheduled for next week.

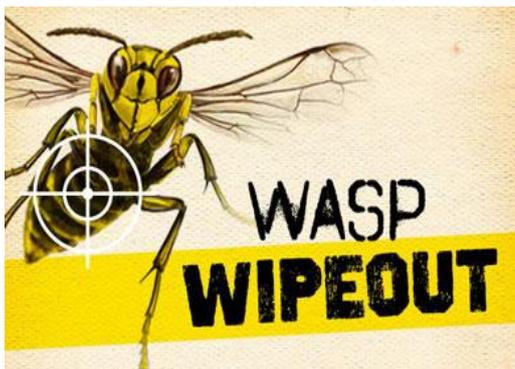
Thanks to Roger of DOC in particular for this important contribution to the project.



December site review underway at Hoddy Estuary Park

## **Three Things to Do...Your Help is Needed (if you can do any of the following)**

### **1. Waimea Inlet Wasp Wipeout**



The Wasp Wipeout Campaign began last summer, and is run by The Nelson Mail, DOC and Tasman Environmental Trust. If you would like to be involved in this work around the Waimea Inlet email Gillian Bishop at [mb7@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mb7@xtra.co.nz). Describe where you would like to work eg. round your home and adjacent areas. Let us know if wasps were a problem there last year. The protein-based bait with Vespex, is not attractive to bees, and will not harm them.

There is evidence that wasps kill, and suck dry, nestling birds.

We need to be ready for when the wasps become a problem this season, which can happen suddenly.

Looking for inspiration? Watch this 10 minute video <https://www.merchento.com/vespex-information.html>.

We need one or two people to also volunteer to do the required training. It isn't necessary for every wiper-outer to be trained; presumably the trained people will then train the rest of us, and it doesn't look difficult. Any offers? The training is done on line, and is explained in the video.

## 2. Help Shape the Implementation of the Waimea Inlet Strategy.

**Come Along to a Workshop 2 March 2018 : 4pm to 7pm at the Headingly Centre, Richmond**

The Waimea Inlet Forum welcomes your participation on 2 March 2018 4pm to 7pm at the Headingly Centre to review and refine the draft Action Plan developed to support implementation of the Waimea Inlet Strategy. <https://waimeainlet.wordpress.com>

At the Workshop we will focus on how the Action Plan could be improved to best achieve the vision in the Strategy.

If you cannot make the workshop, we are happy to take written comments which should be sent to Anna Gerraty at TDC [Anna.Gerraty@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:Anna.Gerraty@tasman.govt.nz) by 9 March.

The Workshop will be facilitated by Peter Lawless who is helping to draft the Action Plan. The results of the workshop and written comments will be compiled and circulated to participants. The Waimea Inlet Coordinating Group will then finalise the Plan to be ratified by Signatories to the Plan including Nelson and Tasman Councils. The councils will also be provided with the comments made so that the process is transparent and the Councillors can consider all perspectives, whether or not particular points have made it into the draft Action Plan.

All are welcome. Please register for the workshop by 25 Feb. We will provide light refreshments and would like to know numbers for catering purposes.

For further information, or to register, contact [Gillian Bishop](mailto:Gillian.Bishop@tasman.govt.nz) at 027 2407534, or [mb7@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mb7@xtra.co.nz)

## 3. Weeding Mornings on the Estuary

If you can spare an hour or so on one of these Friday mornings between 9 – 11 am, please come and join us to weed in and around the plants and plant guards.

2 February Dominion Embayment - parking at 43 Apple Valley Road

16 February Bronte on Stringer Embayment – 92 Bronte Road East

2 March Hoddy Estuary Park

16 March Bronte North – park on Cardno Way

Bring drinking water, gloves and a weeding tool. Clippers can be useful to cut long grass back from around the plant guards.

## Hiding from the heat by reading in the shade?

I don't usually recommend books but I will just this once.

"Rat Island: Predators in Paradise and the World's Greatest Wildlife Rescue," by William Stolzenburg. Rat Island refers to the island of Kiska in the Aleutians, but the book deals with many other islands as well. New Zealand's efforts figure largely, both in New Zealand and overseas.

I was amused by this comment. After talking about American habits promoting feral cat colonies he says "*New Zealanders, on the other hand, have taken the practice of killing for conservation to the level of civic duty. In the same way that a coterie of Audubon Society members might gather with their binoculars a Saturday morning bird walk through Central Park, citizen groups in new Zealand are now marching into their local woods with snap traps.....*"

The book is currently in the Takaka library, so put in a request for it locally.