
Stunning images taken by Bradley Shields



Bradley, a teen bird watcher and photographer from Golden Bay, recently shared these images with us that he took at Marahau.

'How to' videos

Tracey & Kathryn were recently filmed for resource material for the *Tasman Environmental Trust*. Click on the links to watch these short videos.

[Setting a trap](#)



[Planting demo](#)



For information about the Battle for the Banded Rail please contact
Project Manager, Kathryn Brownlie on 544 4537 or bandedrail@gmail.com
For trapping information or support contact Field Officer, Tracey Murray
on 540 2227 or 027 286 5866 or bandedrail@gmail.com

Trapping & Monitoring News from Tracey Murray

Trapping Results

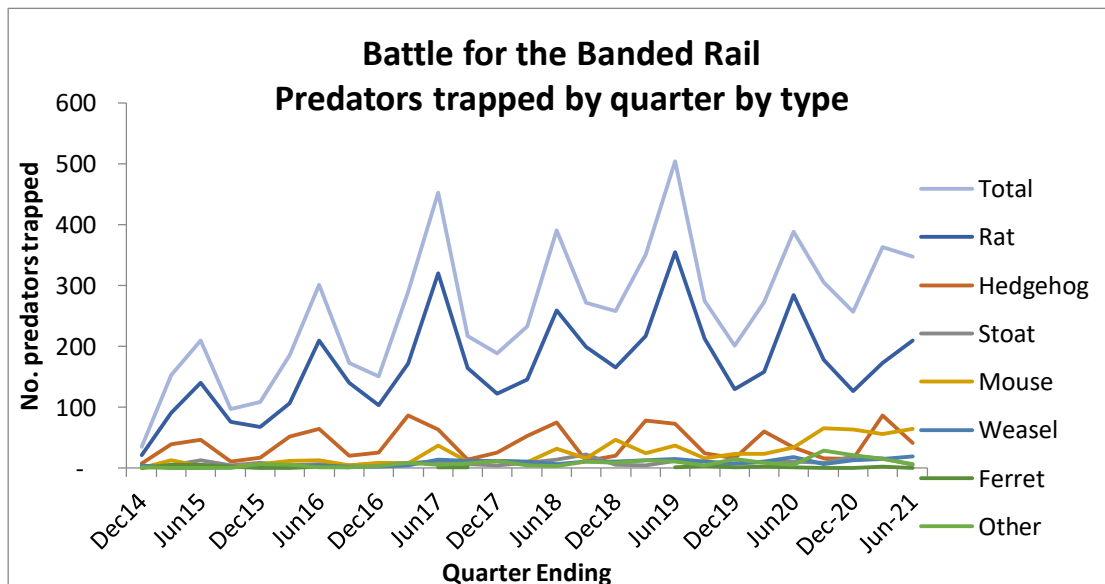
There are 950 traps in operation. The total catch for the June quarter was 347. This compares with 388 for the same quarter last year. The highest Q2 catch was in 2019 with 504. Total catches since 2014 is now 7,040.

Catches for Quarter 2 2021 Sector by Pest Type

Sector	Rat	Hedgehog	Stoat	Wease l	Mouse	Ferret	Other*	Total for Quarter
Mapua to Bronte	39	17	2	6	3	-	1	68
Bronte to Hoddy Peninsula	40	7	-	3	-	-	1	51
Waimea West/ Appleby Hills	48	6	2	5	10	-	3	74
Waimea Delta to Monaco	83	11	2	5	51	-	2	154
Total	210	41	6	19	64	-	7	347

*"other" includes rabbits, birds and unspecified catches

The following graph illustrates the annual pattern of catches since trapping began in late 2014.



Our Q2 catch this year (347) was lower than our Q1 catch (363) for the first time. In the past rat catches have been up to 80% higher between the two quarters, this year was around 20%. This coupled with a 50% decrease in hedgehogs for the quarter has given the overall decrease.

ADDING CATCH DATA TO TRAPNZ WEBSITE USING THE APP

- The easiest way to add data for your catches is to download the trapNZ app onto your phone.
- You will be able to add catches and other details about bait used etc while you are out in the field checking your traps.
- Here is a screenshot of what the app looks like:


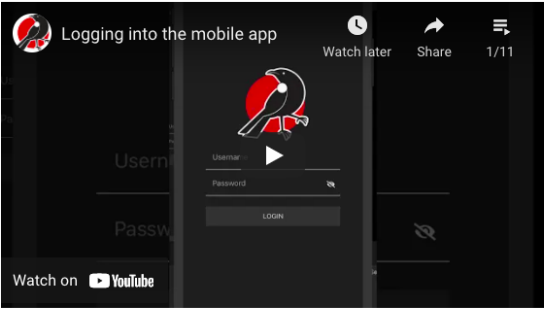
Using Trap.NZ

- Creating a new account
- Projects
- Traps & stations
- Lines
- Administration
- FAQ
- The TrapNZ app
 - Logging in
 - The Map
 - Menu
 - Layers
 - Adding installations
 - Adding records

The TrapNZ app

The TrapNZ app works with the TrapNZ website and allows you to record trapping data on your phone. With it, you can plot traps, bait stations, monitoring stations, and bird count locations. You can also add records to installations (traps, stations and locations) when you are out in the field.

The app will show you a map of your project area and works offline (when you are out of cell phone or WiFi coverage). Records are stored and synced automatically whenever there is a data connection available.



- To be able to use it, you first need to be a member of TrapNZ, and the Battle for the Banded Rail project. You can request to become a member and the administrator will allow you access.
- Log in to the project on your computer and click on the 'HELP' button at the top of the page.
- A list of topics will appear. Click on 'The TrapNZ app'. The page shown above will come up.
- Click on the 'play' button in the centre of the video and this will play several videos one after the other explaining all you need to know.
- There are also other topics to explore under 'HELP' should you want to know more!

Should you still need to, of course I can always help if you contact me on pukeko92@gmail.com

Thanks Tracey

'LIVE AND LET LIVE' FERAL CAT PROGRAM

This has been the 4th year that we have run this program in the Pearl Creek area. This area is chosen because of its high biodiversity values. There is a reserve running alongside the creek which has been restored with native habitat over a number of years by Forest and Bird. It is possible to walk into the reserve and admire the well established trees and birdlife.



Over the past 4 years we have typically caught 6-8 feral cats over a 3 week period. All cats are checked for microchips and ownership and released if they are a pet. This year only one feral cat was caught in the cages, so hopefully this is a good sign that people are taking better care of their pets and keeping them inside at night. It could also indicate that less cats are being dumped and left to fend for themselves and feast on our birdlife.

Did you know...?

Ever wondered what to call the group of hedgehogs or ferrets you have caught? Here are some collective nouns:

A colony or pack of rats

A colony, gang or pack of weasels

An array of hedgehogs

A business of ferrets

A gang or pack of stoats

A mischief of mice

A colony, nest or warren of rabbits

A destruction of wild cats



I didn't come across a collective noun for banded rail specifically, but this one is somewhat appropriate for us:

A rumour of rails

Habitat Restoration Update from Kathryn Brownlie

Our planting season is ticking along nicely. The weather has mostly been kind, despite some terrible forecasts leading up to the weekends in June. We have held seven community planting mornings so far this winter and plantings continue on Sunday mornings through to mid September (see schedule at the end of this newsletter).

Other groups have also been planting around the Waimea Inlet – NMIT trainee rangers, Whenua Iti, school classes, Student Volunteer Army, Rotary and SBS Bank.



Maisey Embayment



Manuka Island



Cardno Way, Bronte Peninsula



Plant Patch

Marbleleaf

-

Putaputaweta

-

Carpodetus serratus

Conservation status: not threatened

Putaputaweta is an attractive native tree with spreading branches and an interesting name. The tree's Maori name gives it away with its meaning 'full of weta holes' as older putaputaweta are occasionally home to weta. The weta hide out in burrows left by puriri or ghost moth caterpillars.

Putaputaweta tolerates both sun and frost but prefers moist, reasonably deep soils. It can be grown in the open or under partial shade and will do surprisingly well in exposed situations on dry soils, though may not grow to maximum height in these conditions

From November through March adult Putaputaweta produce masses of fragrant white flowers in panicles (branching clusters of flowers) which attract bees and insects to the pollen and nectar. The shiny deep purple berries that follow blacken as they ripen during March through May. The fruit provides smaller forest birds such as grey warblers and fantails with welcome autumn feed and they are the principal form of dispersal.

It is widespread throughout New Zealand from the far north to Stewart Island. Putaputaweta is found on coastal lowland and also up to 1200m as understorey in taller forest and is quite common in beech forest.

Some other facts about putaputaweta are:

- Pioneers used it to make sturdy axe handles and other tools
- It is a favoured host for white-berried mistletoe in the South Island
- It is sometimes referred to as bucket-of-water tree owing to its extreme sappiness and resistance to fire
- Makes an ideal specimen tree or as a component of a native landscape
- *Battle for the Banded Rail* has planted 200 putaputaweta as part of its habitat restoration to date



Bamboo stakes

We've written about our plants and plant guards before, but there is a story behind our bamboo stakes too. This article was written by Niki Morrell for Tasman Environmental Trust

Over 200K pre-used stakes saved from the bonfire and back in action!

More than 200,000 used bamboo stakes have been saved from going up in smoke and are now enjoying another lease of life, thanks to a nifty recycling agreement between TET and Waimea Nurseries.

Battle for the Banded Rail's Kathryn Brownlie recently organised distribution of the stakes on a crisp Friday morning against a very picturesque backdrop! B4BR and the Moutere Restoration projects took the lion's share but there were still plenty to go around.

"We cast the net a bit wider this year," says Kathryn. "We [originally] organised this on a smaller scale but we got more inquiries and the projects have grown, so Waimea Nurseries asked that we coordinate it.

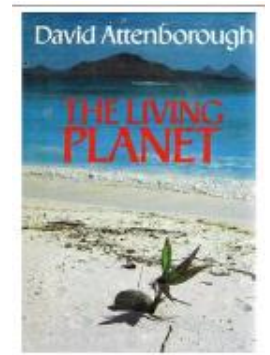
Read the full story here [TET website stories](#)



Estuarine Mud

"Estuarine mud has a fineness, a stickiness and a smelliness all of its own. If you step into it, it clings so tenaciously that it can suck the boot from your foot. It is so fine-grained that air cannot diffuse through it, and the gases produced by the decomposition of the organic debris within it stay trapped, until your footsteps release them and produce a whiff of rotten eggs."

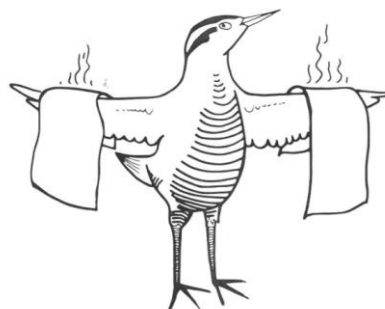
David Attenborough, 'The Living Planet'



Storage Space Needed - can you help us?



Tasman Environmental Trust is in need of dry space to store traps, plant guards, stakes and equipment. It could be a shed (single garage size or bigger) or a bay in a shed and would need to be accessible 7 days a week. TET's projects, including *Battle for the Banded Rail*, currently use garages and space around their project managers' homes. As the number of projects increases and the need to share resources it would be great to have a common space we can all use. Please email bandedrail@gmail.com or info@tet.org.nz if you can help.



Heated Towel Rail

Celebrating Our Volunteers: Peter Syms

Interviewed by Anne Hilson

Peter has been trapping in and near Mapua since meeting DOC ranger Roger Gaskell at Grossi Point Reserve in 2013. Roger asked him to take over the trapline on No Mans Island, south of the reserve. No Mans Island is where several bird species breed, as do many rats, burrowing in the gritty soil. High spring tides can wipe out nests some years. Some of the birds seen here include oystercatchers, pied stilts, gulls, herons, spoonbills, terns, godwits, and occasionally eastern curlews.

Peter was a good choice for this job, as an experienced kayaker. He and Margot have kayaked extensively in New Zealand and overseas, mainly in the vicinity of Vancouver Island.

Then in January 2014 he took over the line around the wetland to the north of the causeway on Toru Street leading to the Mapua Leisure Park. He has also helped with weeding at Pearl Creek and planting at Dominion Flat.

Peter and Margot took up tramping in their university days. Both became government scientists (he initially as a meteorologist). After Margot broke a leg in an accident they chose kayaking as an alternative to tramping, although Peter is a landlubber by inclination.



When Peter's job in geothermal disappeared in a restructuring, they moved to a farm at Brandy Creek near Dovedale, 21 hectares with a small flock of sheep, bees and a burgeoning interest in trees. They planted hundreds of trees, including 300 hazelnuts, thirty heritage apple varieties and many timber species. After 27 years they moved to Mapua, where they had to make choices about which few trees to plant on a much smaller section.

They have a ten-hectare block in the Marlborough Sounds, which they are helping regenerate. Existing tawa, kaikomako and kohekohe in a scrap of original forest, plus manuka and kanuka scrub. Akeake, flax, cabbage trees, kowhai and others have been planted in areas that were bare pasture. Predators, mainly rats, are trapped with a Goodnature A24 trap and DOC 150s.



Peter replaces his egg baits monthly, and also uses peanut butter, dehydrated rabbit and is trying cheap mayonnaise (Pam's Classic Whole Egg Mayonnaise, which is 8 percent egg).

Other suggestions include:

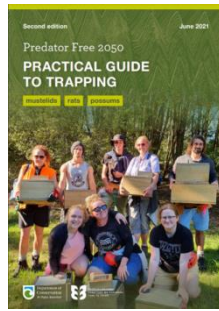
- Widening the trap entrance if you want to catch hedgehogs
- Using several baits at once
- Changing baits periodically
- Scratching the dirt at the trap entrance so that it looks a busy place.

Peter's other interests include the Tree Crops Association, of which he has been a member since his hazelnut days. He has edited the Nelson Tree Crop News since 1992. www.treecrops.org.nz

Peter is another of our volunteers who has not yet seen a Banded Rail in the wild. Hopefully, as a result of his efforts and those of the team, he will see them soon!

Trapping Resources recommended by Peter

Guide for trapping information:



[Click here to view](#)

There is also a huge range of articles with plenty of useful information on the Goodnature website:
[Goodnature articles](#)

Come and join us at a Community Planting Day on the Waimea Inlet in 2021

Sunday 1 st August	9am – 1pm	Mapua Embayment/Seaton Valley Stream Access and parking at 126 Aranui Road
Sunday 15 th August	9am - 1pm	Hunter Brown Reserve, Rough Island
Sunday 22 nd August	9am - 1pm	Reservoir Creek Embayment Park at Aquatic Centre, walk through highway underpass to estuary
Sunday 29 th August	9am - 1pm	Hunter Brown Reserve, Rough Island
Sunday 5 th September	9am - 1pm	Greenslade Park, Rough Island
Sunday 12 th September	9am - 1pm	Hunter Brown Reserve, Rough Island

Please bring gloves, spade and drinking water. Wear solid footwear and clothes suitable for the weather conditions. Morning tea will be provided.

Battle for the Banded Rail is a project working with local communities to increase the number of banded rail and other estuarine birds on the margins of the Waimea Inlet by restoring habitat and trapping predators.

For more information email us at bandedrail@gmail.com or phone Kathryn 544 4537

