

## Gillian Bishop Q.S.M. Biodiversity Conservationist.

The B4BR community were proud and pleased when Gillian was awarded a Q.S.M. in the Queen's Birthday honours, "for services to conservation".

Possibly many of us don't realise the extent of Gillian's influence in local conservation matters, or that most of this has happened in the last ten years. Or that, at an early stage in this work, she had to Google the meaning of 'biodiversity'. \*



As a child she liked to roam the hills in Otematata, and count the hundreds of octopuses frequently dying *en masse* on the Otago Peninsula beaches.

She embarked on a career in health management, based in Wellington, before moving to live beside the Waimea Inlet in 2000. She soon became concerned about the amount of development happening around the Inlet, and the actual and potential problems this could cause for the inlet ecosystem.

Then in 2009 NCC and TDC engaged Dr Glen Lauder to prepare and then facilitate the development of the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy. This is when the Waimea Inlet Forum (WIF) was formed, to provide a community voice and to collaborate with other agencies involved with the inlet environment, such as the two Councils, and DOC. Gillian has been the convenor of WIF since its inception.

Thus was when she had to Google the meaning of "biodiversity." \* And, after a long career as a bureaucrat, she comprehensively embraced a community empowerment approach. Public meetings were held, a WIF Working Group was set up, submissions made on various issues, and collaboration became the key to achieving environmental gains.

TDC was also working collaboratively, and in 2000 had set up the Tasman Environmental Trust (TET) with partners Federated Farmers, QEII Trust and the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board. TET aims to encourage the protection, restoration and management of local land, freshwater and estuarine environments. They supply advice, expertise and provide funds to enable projects to happen. TET also helps with advice on developing budgets, health and safety issues, and accountability. Funding comes from DOC, MPI, Ministry for the Environment, Rata Foundation, World Wildlife Fund, Lotteries, TDC and others.

For information about the Battle for the Banded Rail please contact  
Project Manager, Kathryn Brownlie on 544 4537 or [bandedrail@gmail.com](mailto:bandedrail@gmail.com)

For trapping information or support contact Field Officer, Tracey Murray  
on 540 2227 or 027 286 5866 or [bandedrail@gmail.com](mailto:bandedrail@gmail.com)

WIF was the first community group to be funded by TET. Currently they have almost twenty projects underway, with a total investment of \$4million. Battle for the Banded Rail, Pearl Creek, Wasp Wipeout, Takaka Valley Weed Control, Project Mohua in Golden Bay, and Farmers for Whio are just a few examples.

Gillian was invited to become a trustee, and has now been the Chair of TET since 2016.

Under the government's One Billion Trees project, over 70,000 shrubs and trees are being planted around the Waimea Inlet, and the Moutere Catchment Riparian Project involves 175 landowners collaborating to plant natives alongside streams in a "ridgetops to sea" approach.

Gillian says her satisfaction comes from "seeing groups getting out there and doing it; putting the right plants in the right places for the right reasons..." Together with eliminating predators, there are increasing opportunities for birds and other wildlife to flourish. "I'm just enthusiastic" she says.

Our thanks, Gillian, for your enthusiasm and for enthusing others.

## Planting Season Takes Off

Six Sunday morning community plantings have been held so far and good numbers of enthusiastic volunteers have turned up even on the drizzly days. It's been great to see several new faces and plenty of familiar faces too.

There are still plantings happening every Sunday morning from 9am, through to mid-September:

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August Mapua Embayment/Seaton Valley Stream. Access and parking at 126 Aranui Rd

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August Stringer Creek. Westdale Road opposite The Playhouse Café

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August Greenslade Park, Rough Island

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August Bronte Peninsula on Stringer Embayment. Access from 76 Bronte Road East

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August Research Orchard Road Reserve #2

Sundays 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Sep Hunter Brown Reserve, Rough Island



**Newsflash! There was a record turnout of 50 people at the Planting on 26 July.**



## Planting isn't just digging holes!

There are several jobs to be done on planting day. While some people like to go through the planting process from clearing a patch of earth, digging the hole, planting the plant, putting a guard on it and staking it, there are some who like to dedicate themselves to one part of the process.

Neighbours Ruth & Alan are a regular fixture and have made up our plant guards at several plantings over the past few seasons. They bring their own table and set up their workspace. Alan delivers the guards to the planters and is heard referring to Ruth as 'Mrs Green'. Although with fewer green guards being used that may have to change!



## Morning Tea – Rain or Shine



We always stop on planting days to have a well-earned break from the work, a hot drink, something to eat and a catch up with others. Generally, the near neighbours of the site help with yummy home baking. This is a very important part of plantings and another way of contributing to our planting mornings.

## School Plantings

Last term three classes from Nelson College Prep School had a planting afternoon on the Waimea Inlet. This is the fifth year the school has brought their students out to the estuary for planting. It's fantastic to have their continuing involvement and a great contribution that the school is making to estuarine habitat restoration.



## Trapping Results

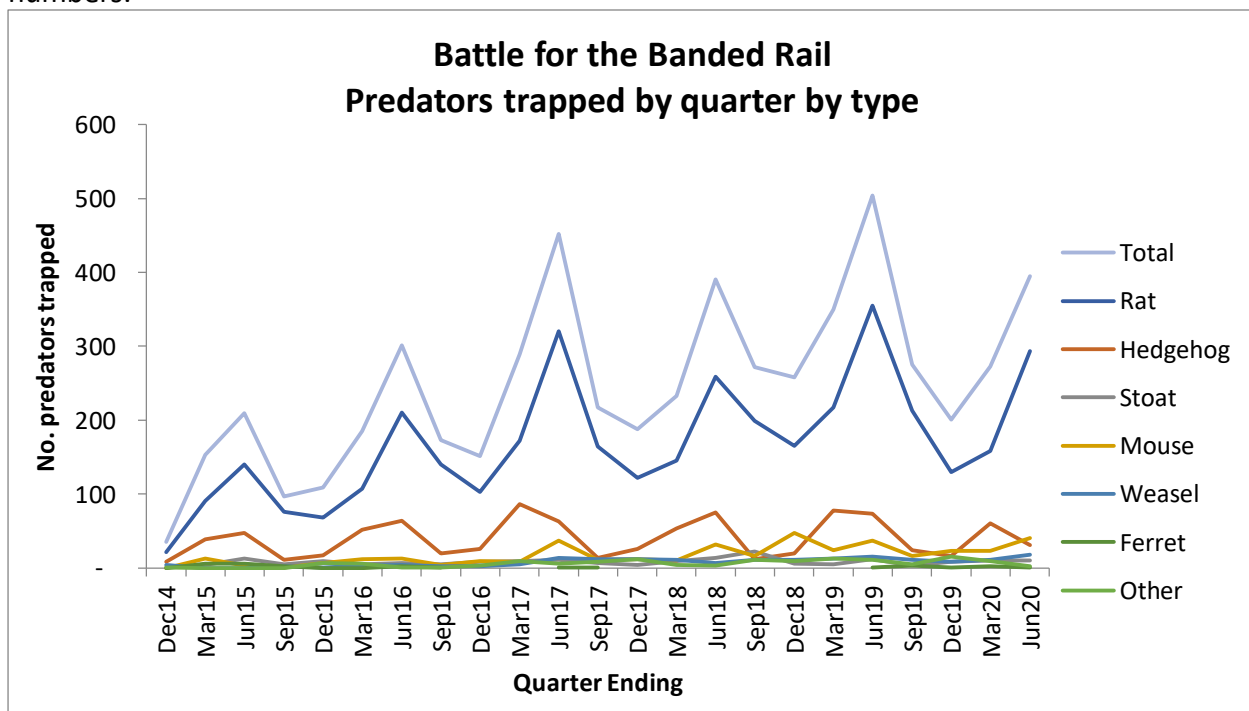
We have over 900 traps in operation. The total catch for the June quarter was 395. This is noticeably fewer than for the June quarters in years 2016 to 2019. We believe this is due to the Covid lockdown when fewer visits were able to be made to check traps.

### Results Year to Date (Quarters 1 and 2 combined) by Sector

Sector	Rat	Hedgehog	Stoat	Weasel	Mouse	Ferret	Other*	Total for Year to Date
Bronte/Mapua	78	18	1	6	2	1	3	109
Waimea West/ Appleby Hills	106	18	10	9	10	-	3	156
Waimea Delta	124	19	7	7	50	1	5	183
Bronte to Hoddy Peninsula	143	36	2	7	1	1	-	190
<b>Total</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>668</b>

\*"other" includes rabbits, birds and unspecified catches

The following graph illustrates the annual pattern of catches since trapping began in late 2014. Every year the peak catches are recorded in the April-June quarter. The increasing numbers year-on-year are mainly because we are always increasing our numbers of traps and our techniques; it is NOT because there is a population explosion of predators! We know this because our biennial surveys show an increase in bird numbers.



## Trapping Report from Tracey Murray

This report from Tracey covers three separate programmes; Battle for the Banded Rail, Live and Let Live, and Mapua Dawn Chorus.

### Battle for the Banded Rail

The past few months have seen a return to normal as far as being able to check traps. Level one Covid restrictions still require us all to contact trace where we have been just in case, so keeping a record of the dates that you check the traps and anyone that you came in contact with is a good idea.

Monitoring tunnels and lines are being placed out in some of the embayments around the estuary. There are 12 tunnels in each line and they will stay out permanently so that the pests are used to encountering them in the environment. We will be monitoring in spring and autumn each year to build up a picture of what we are not catching and if we need to change things to catch trap shy pests. You can see where these monitoring lines are if you log into [trap.nz](http://trap.nz) and they are shown as yellow dots on the project page.

#### New trap lines

- An extension to Borck Creek trap line now goes along the cycleway as far as Sandeman Reserve
- After seeing the group of banded rail beside the Rabbit Island causeway in January, a new trap line of 16 traps was set out along here to catch any pests making their way across there. The line is called Rough Island Causeway
- A line of 22 traps is now in place between the Ravensdown plant and the Gibbons industrial area on Lower Queen Street, Richmond
- The Pearl Creek Reserve wetland also has 6 Good Nature A24 self-resetting traps in place to help protect the birdlife in the wetland and nearby Pearl creek area. The traps are set at a height above the flood zone and at a density to control mustelids. Recently Marsh Crake have been seen here, as well as Australasian Bittern
- A trap line of 6 traps has been placed on farmland where the Bittern has been seen. It's called Donnybrook and is along Cotterell Road.



*Bittern photos taken by Glenn Leys*



## Live & Let Live

A 3-week feral cat management project was carried out at the end of June and three feral cats were dispatched in the Pearl Creek area. The project involves community engagement and therefore the local community is aware of the trapping and has the opportunity to microchip their pet cats prior to the program starting.



The boundary area for Mapua Dawn Chorus has now been expanded to include Ruby Bay along to, and including, McKee Reserve. It also goes up the main highway to Stagecoach Rd and then across the ridge and down Marriages Rd.

Most of the traps have been added to [trap.nz](http://trap.nz) project and MDC trappers will be invited to join the project or you can request membership yourself. There are 143 traps in the MDC project to date with more being added all the time.

See the poster at the end of this newsletter advertising the upcoming community meeting to encourage new members. Please share this with neighbours and friends to get more people trapping!!

## Volunteers Needed for the Biennial Survey

Our two-yearly survey is planned for the morning of Saturday 12 September, meeting 8.30 am on Westdale Road opposite The Playhouse. There will be a group briefing (as in the photo below) so we know what we are looking for, and then we will split into smaller groups assigned to survey different areas of the inlet.

If you are interested in taking part, please let Kathryn know by emailing [bandedrail@gmail.com](mailto:bandedrail@gmail.com).



## Celebrating Our Volunteers: Gary Marshall

Gary is “Mr Weasel”; last year he won a chocolate fish for catching the most weasels. A look into his well-used notebook shows that on just one of his traplines he catches 2 to 4 weasels each month.



He was interested in birds from a very early age, inspired by his father and grandfather. “Birdlife always pushed the right button for me,” he says. He was a collector of birds’ eggs, and remembers using a teaspoon to extract eggs from the nest of a German Owl. He has always wanted to get seriously into conservation, and is right into it now.

Gary’s first foray into trapping was some years ago, when he met Will Rickerby and began trapping on the Richmond Hills. At the time, Gary’s son was a bit young for climbing about the hills, so he gave it a break; until he read an article about B4BR in the Waimea Weekly ,and contacted Tracey. She took him out for a look around and he was hooked. He joined the B4BR workers just over three years ago.

It’s become quite a family affair with help from young adult children, Jordan and Lisa, and brother Rex.

He has two traplines near the Waimea River. Sixteen DOC 200 traps on the Pearl Creek Cycleway line, and nine on the Waimea River line. They set up these lines carting the DOC 200 traps in a wheelbarrow which repeatedly got bogged down. Luckily, Gary is a very fit runner, and has been a cycling postie in Richmond for 34 years. Pushing heavy barrowloads of traps through mud would be beyond most of us.

His bait of choice is peanut butter with dehydrated rabbit, and with vegetable oil near the trap entrance. He usually does his trapping business in weekends, when the apple orchard workers aren’t around.

Recently he also took on a third line, in the Pearl Creek Reserve wetland, where he was excited to see a Marsh Crake. This is a very damp place and not easy to trek through. He visits his traps here two or three times every six months. He has six A24 Good Nature traps, set two to three hundred metres apart. They are connected to something solid, such as trees; not always an easy job to find in a wetland.

The A24 traps are powered by gas cylinders. When a predator tries to reach the lure, they brush past a trigger which fires a piston, killing them instantly. The piston retracts and resets the trap ready for the next victim.



*Marsh Crake*

There is a Chirp system available which syncs to the operator’s phone, but out there it only works at a 50 metre range. This isn’t a problem as the trap is capable of killing 24 predators with one gas cylinder. The dead bodies are usually eaten by other predators or birds, so the opening is kept free for the next pest.

Gary is very happy to see that TDC is going to plant a mixed native and exotic forest in the Kingsland Forest area, after harvesting the pines. He also has quite a long list of other local places where he would like to see traplines.

Two years ago Gary took a class from Richmond School to see what his trapping involved. As a result, the school now has its own trapline.

In his third winter of trapping, he joined the planting gang as well. He says he doesn’t see any of this work as a commitment; “it’s a labour of love”, he says. Thanks, Gary. You’re a megastar!

## Salisbury School

We received a request from Salisbury School asking for help with planting. We have an ongoing relationship with the school where the students and staff are nurturing and providing plants for our community plantings. It was great to be able to give back to them.

Carolyn Shirtliff of Salisbury School wrote:

“On Friday the 17th of July volunteers from *Keep Richmond Beautiful* and *Battle for the Banded Rail* helped plant at Salisbury School.

Altogether approximately 220 plants were put in. The school appreciates their generosity and time to get in so many plants. The stream will welcome the much needed cover and more plants were placed in an area from our 2016 centenary planting.

A huge thank you to Kathryn for organising this much needed help”.

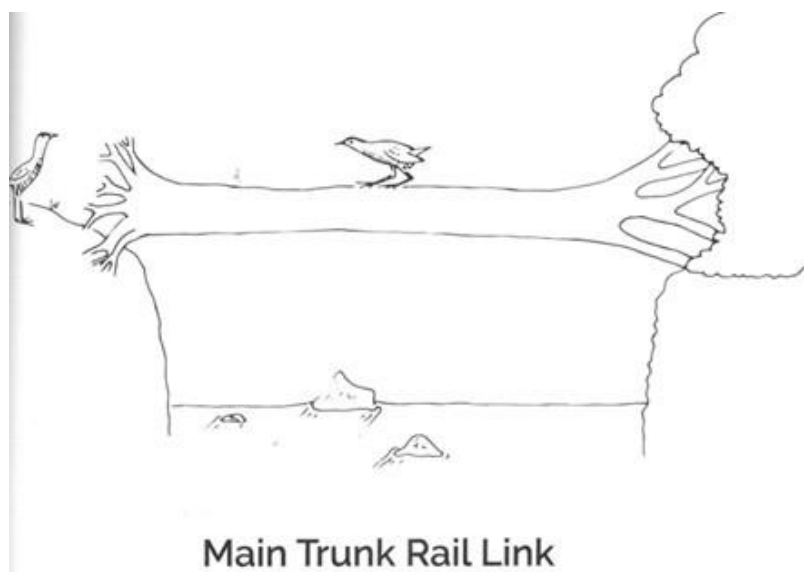


## Tasman Nelson ● ● ● ● Conservation Volunteers **NEWSLETTER**

This monthly newsletter is worth checking out. Click [July newsletter](#) to read the latest issue. It is sent monthly by email and focuses on trapping efforts in the region (you will be surprised how many groups are trapping and where), and includes other interesting bits and pieces. If you want to receive it directly there is a Subscribe button on the first page.

### Newsletter help required

Anne Hilson (another of our megastars) has written articles, compiled and produced our newsletters for a good five years. However, Anne is taking 6 months leave to concentrate on some of her own writing. Is there anyone who could help fill this void? If so please email us. There are others who write articles, submit bits and pieces and can help with editing.





# Community Meetings



Help us protect and increase Mapua's native bird life

## Community Meeting

- Learn how you can encourage biodiversity and make a real difference in our beautiful corner of Nelson Tasman (includes Ruby Bay and surrounding Mapua areas).
- Get an update on project progress.
- Meet other community members who are already trapping, including new MDC Coordinator, Tracey Murray.
- Learn about neighbouring trapping groups, other projects, apps, and future plans.
- Display of traps and how to use them (traps and tunnels for sale at \$5/ea), plus info on recording catches and using the [trap.nz](http://trap.nz) website.
- Join our FB page for updates and information.

When: Wednesday 19 August, 7:30pm

Where: Mapua Hall

If you can't get there but would like to participate, please contact Tracey at [mapuadawnchorus@gmail.com](mailto:mapuadawnchorus@gmail.com)



A Community Project

We are on a long journey and we welcome you to join in

### Initial Public Meeting

- Kina Bird Song introduction and objectives
- What Kina Bird Song is doing
- Learn about local trapping groups and future plans
- Recording catches and using the [trap.nz](http://trap.nz) website and app
- A display of traps and how to use them
- Discussion on habitat restoration, Billion Trees in our area
- Current and future funding
- What we as a community may want to do

When: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of August at 7.00 pm

Where: Tasman Bible Church, Williams Road, Tasman

Neil Bruce-Miller, Tasman [neilbmnz@gmail.com](mailto:neilbmnz@gmail.com) 021540391

Tim Lole, Jakkett Island [tim@timlole.nz](mailto:tim@timlole.nz) 0210314257

Linda Thurow, Kina Peninsula [l-thurow@hotmail.com](mailto:l-thurow@hotmail.com) 0221289002

David Easton, Mariri [david@eastonapples.co.nz](http://david@eastonapples.co.nz) 021314902 Initial Project Coordinator



Waimea Inlet Forum

## Blue Carbon and Waimea Inlet

Estuary saltmarsh and wetlands can capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by sequestering the Carbon in their underlying sediments and dead biomass. What is happening on Waimea Inlet?

*Waimea Inlet Forum invites you to a workshop on 10.00 – 12.00*

*Saturday 29 August; Headingly Centre, Richmond*

Helen Kettles, Marine Technical Adviser DOC will share international findings and techniques for measuring sequestered carbon.

Our contact: [info@tet.org.nz](mailto:info@tet.org.nz)