

This newsletter is supported by Tasman District Council and Tasman Environmental Trust

# Tasman Nelson Conservation Volunteers NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023



## Welcome to the May Newsletter!

It may be the weather, it may be a seasonal fluctuation,  
but fewer than normal reports were received this month.

Nonetheless this issue still contains plenty of interesting  
news and trapping results.

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undertaking project for a Bachelor's degree in Project Management.

You can help her with her research by completing a brief questionnaire on the topic of community engagement in ecological restoration projects.

She needs responses by 15 May 2023.

[You'll find her online questionnaire here](#)

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### Go to Trapping & Activity Reports

### Go to Upcoming Events

\* Community Plantings on the Waimea Estuary

### Go to More Reading

\* Are we about to lose back country tracks and huts?

\* What are the roadblocks to a rodent-free NZ by 20250?

## TRAPPING & ACTIVITY REPORTS

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### MARSDEN VALLEY TRAPPERS

**Kathryn** Email [marsdenvtg@gmail.com](mailto:marsdenvtg@gmail.com) or Text 0273515428

No report this month.

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### WILL'S GULLY GROUP

**Working for conservation in the Richmond Hills since 1999**

**Will Rickerby** [willrickerby@gmail.com](mailto:willrickerby@gmail.com) Ph 544 2929 [Facebook Page](#)

No report this month.

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## PACKERS CREEK, MAITAI VALLEY

(located near N Z Deerstalkers Association's Packers Creek Rifle Range)

**Carina Jackson and Greg** [carinajackson97@gmail.com](mailto:carinajackson97@gmail.com)

April catch: 25 rats, 3 mice, 2 possums, 1 stoat

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## FARADAY RISE

**Ross Cullen** [Ross.Cullen@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:Ross.Cullen@lincoln.ac.nz)

This April, our team of part-time and temporary trappers caught 8 ship rats, 11 mice, 1 hedgehog. There was a mouse inside our house which managed to evade capture but has been removed to the wild.

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## FOREST & BIRD

**Gillian Pollock & Mark Forward**

[g.pollock@scorch.co.nz](mailto:g.pollock@scorch.co.nz)



**Moturoa Westend traps:** April catch: 1 hedgehog, 3 mice

*Thanks to Ewings for eggs.*

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## NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME

**Jacob Lucas** [jlucas@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:jlucas@fishandgame.org.nz)



**Moturoa Eastend Traps:** No report this month

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## EASBY PARK/RESERVOIR CREEK

**Steve and Linda Liddicoat**

**Reservoir Creek:** 5 rats.

**Giles Griffith & Mike van Enter** [grifiles@gmail.com](mailto:grifiles@gmail.com)

**KRB Track:** No report this month

**Greg and Alison Pickford** gregandalisonpickford@gmail.com

**Reservoir Creek:** No report this month

**Keith & Desi Gorton** keithbhl@tasman.net

**Escalator Mountain Bike Track:**

**Nigel Barrett & Chris Finlay** finlaybarrett@hotmail.com

**Upper Reservoir Creek (new line)** No report this month

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## **MARSDEN VALLEY TRAPPERS**

**Kathryn** marsdenvtg@gmail.com or text 0273515428

No report this month

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## **NATIVE BIRD RECOVERY, RICHMOND**

**TIM WARD** timward2014@gmail.com

### **Saxton Creek**

Since last update in March – 2 mice, 2 possums, 9 rats and a ferret! Pest activity increasing after quiet summer. Was a surprise to get a large ferret in one of the DOC150 traps. Inspection frequency will increase as April/May has normally been peak activity time for rats.

**SUE MARREN** sue\_marren@hotmail.com

**Jimmy Lee:** Nil catch as far as gate - rest not checked due to logging

**Sunview heights:** 12 mice, 2 rats

**LAWRIE HALKETT** thehalketts@xtra.co.nz

**Jimmy Lee:** No report

**Sunview Heights:** No report

**BRUCE HARVEY** rpargue@xtra.co.nz

**Ron Valhalla traps:** No report this month

**Alongside Reservoir Dam:** No report this month

**Saxton Valley trapline:** No report this month

**ROSALIE AND PATRICK ADAMSON** pr.adamson@hotmail.com

**Reservoir Creek:** April catch 10 mice and 1 rat

**HEALTHPOST NATURE TRUST**

Marian Milne Project Co-ordinator,

marian@farmside.co.nz

**Website:** [www.naturetrust.nz](http://www.naturetrust.nz)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/healthpostnaturetrust](https://www.facebook.com/healthpostnaturetrust)



**HealthPost.  
Nature Trust**

No report this month

**Brian Alder | Project Lead**

brian@onetahuarestoration.org.nz

[www.onetahuarestoration.org.nz](http://www.onetahuarestoration.org.nz)

Check [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for more frequent updates.

**No report this month**

**OTUWHEREO WETLAND**

**Bruce Reid** [breid.mot@kinect.co.nz](mailto:breid.mot@kinect.co.nz)

April	Otuwhero Wetland	Nells Bush	Total
Rat	6	21	27
Possum	0	5	5
Stoat	1	0	1
Mouse	18	10	28

**TITOKI RESERVE**

**Chris Potter** [titokireserve@gmail.com](mailto:titokireserve@gmail.com)

No report this month - away on holiday

Our March 2023 newsletter includes a quarterly update on our activities and much more.

[Read full newsletter here](#)

## BATTLE FOR THE BANDED RAIL

Kathryn Brownlie [bandedrail@gmail.com](mailto:bandedrail@gmail.com)



**Here's just some of what you'll find in our latest quarterly report.**

Apart from our trapping numbers (see below) this report also shines the spotlight on Peter Kinder, another of our valuable volunteers. He remembers small mountains of dead rabbits on his family's farm in Otago in the 1950s, a time when rabbits were rampant on farmland, and were a serious threat to the grasslands and biodiversity.

Also in the spotlight is the Motupipi River Restoration which began in 2018 and has been a wonderful collaboration between Landowners, NZ Landcare Trust, Tasman District Council, Tasman Environmental Trust, Project Mohua, Manawhenua ki Mohua, Fonterra, Project De-Vine, Takaka Primary School and the community.

If you need a refresher on the nature and function of estuaries, you'll find that in our newsletter too.

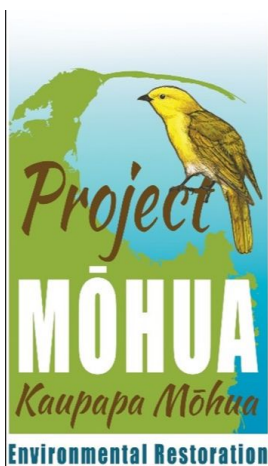


And finally, Tracey Murray muses over our abiding fondness for hedgehogs - in spite of the fact that they devour many native species and can be more prolific than rats.

[READ FULL REPORT HERE](#)

								Quarter	since 2015
Mapua to Bronte	27	20	2	7	12	-	5	73	2,290
Bronte to Hoddy Peninsula	48	12	3	-	3	-	3	69	2,479
Waimea West/ Appleby Hills	40	11	3	2	3	2	3	64	2,029
Waimea Delta to Monaco	93	19	7	1	53	-	10	183	2,438
Total for quarter	208	62	15	10	71	2	21	389	
Total since 2015	5,898	1,273	293	318	1,075	36	343		9,236

\* includes rabbits, birds and unspecified catches from Goodnature A24 traps where the species caught is unknown



## PROJECT MOHUA GOLDEN BAY

[www.projectmohua.org.nz](http://www.projectmohua.org.nz)

Information on conservation events and volunteer opportunities in Golden Bay are also available on our [Facebook page](#)

No report this month.

## BIRDLIFE CENTRE OF NEW ZEALAND

Gretchen Holland [gretchen@kaka.nz](mailto:gretchen@kaka.nz)

Please note that our reports now include stats from our “Backyarders”

	FEB	MAR	APRIL
Rats	34	56	52
Possums	2	4	3
Mice	29	98	69
Hedgehogs	4	11	3
Weasels	-	-	1

[Read or download our latest newsletter \(March 2023\)](#)



## KAITERITERI MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK

Rod Markham [rodmarkham7@gmail.com](mailto:rodmarkham7@gmail.com)



### OUR MARCH / APRIL REPORT

Results for the DOC 150 trapping network are seasonally low over this period  
- **March:** 2 rats **April:** 6 rats

Michael Brewer, who is poisoning wilding pines in the park, has purchased an automatic AT220 trap.

This is a resetting possum and rat trap that uses a mayonnaise lure. In March Michael set this up on Cruise Control and then, in April he moved it to Glade Runner. Both sites are inside the established trapping ring, and kills are much higher than expected for a single trap -

**March Cruise control:** 4 rats 1 possum. Are our DOC 150s very effective, or is mayonnaise the secret? We will investigate further.

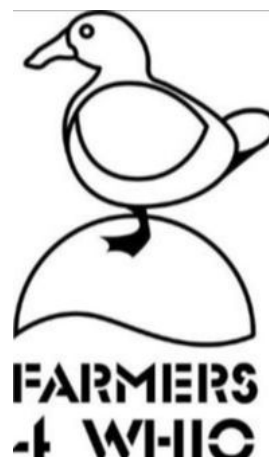
**April Glade Runner:** 8 recorded strikes (3 bodies)

In May a group of Whenua iti students will be setting up trapping tunnels to record predator activity in the Rimu Grove area and also carry out trap maintenance.

## FARMERS FOR WHIO

Barry Burger [farmersforwhio@gmail.com](mailto:farmersforwhio@gmail.com)

No report this month





No report this month

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**A big thanks to Pic's Peanut Butter for supporting community conservation, helping to make New Zealand predator free.**

Pic's supplies peanut butter as trapping bait - trappers report that predators rats and other predators find it irresistible!

**Pic's Peanut Butter for traps \$15 per 5kg (incl. shipping)**

Waste/end of run peanut butter is given to community groups for the cost of shipping and handling.

A small amount of blue powdered food dye has been added to the tub as an indicator this is not for human consumption. The 5kg bucket will bait over 1,000 traps.

One bucket only per order: no shipping to the Chatham Islands.



## UPCOMING EVENTS





coming up on the Waimea estuary.

The first planting on 28th May at Estuary Place in Richmond coincides with Climate Action Week. Everyone is welcome and there are jobs other than digging!

See full schedule below.

### Come and join us at a Community Planting Day on the Waimea Inlet in 2023

Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	9am – 1pm	Estuary Place, Richmond Access from Lower Queen St or from the cycleway
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	9am – 1pm	Moreland Place, Māpua Access from Moreland Place or Rana Place
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	9am – 1pm	Hoddy Estuary Park Access and parking at 232 The Coastal Highway
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	9am – 1pm	Research Orchard Road Reserve
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	9am – 1pm	Manuka Island Follow sign to Manuka Island from Redwood Road
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	9am – 1pm	Sandeman Reserve, Richmond Parking at end of Sandeman Road
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	9am – 1pm	Bronte Peninsula Access from 50 Bronte Rd East. Park on Bronte Rd East
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	9am – 1pm	Cardno Way, Bronte Peninsula North Parking on Cardno Way, off Bronte Rd East
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	9am – 1pm	Waimea Delta wetland Access and parking at the end of Cotterell Road

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

## MORE READING

### BACKCOUNTRY HUTS & TRACKS BOUND FOR THE DUNNY?

This is the question posed by David Williams, Newsroom's environment editor, reporting that \$300 million of deferred maintenance has forced DOC officials to consider drastic measures. [READ MORE](#)

### ROADBLOCKS TO NZ'S BID TO BE RODENT-FREE

aren't able to rid them from our country by 2050. [READ MORE](#)

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#### ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Established by Will Rickerby in 2009, this monthly newsletter is now managed by the Tasman Environmental Trust and collated by Ro Cambridge. Content is supplied by conservation volunteers in Nelson Tasman. Opinions expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect that of the Tasman Environmental Trust.

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