



Stop Press: 10,000 Pests Trapped

The table of statistics on trap.nz this morning, at the end of July, tells a great story of the collective efforts of all our volunteer trappers. Woo hoo!

Traps:	1107		
Monitoring stations:	78		
	Total	365 days	30 days
Rat:	6330	831	99
Hedgehog:	1330	111	4
Mustelid:	670	71	6
Possum:	2	0	0
Other:	1674	466	67
Total:	10006	1479	176



Banded Rail Watercolour by a Volunteer

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 Results

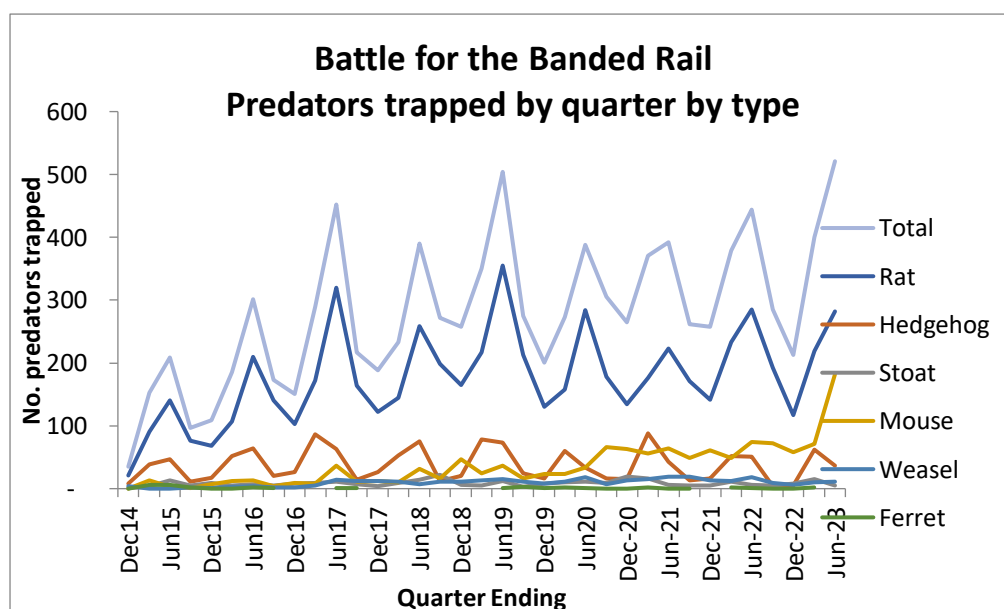
There are 1,106 traps in operation. The total catch for the June quarter was 521 and is our highest ever quarterly tally. The increase is largely due to the number of mice being caught, 182 this quarter compared with 74 for the same quarter last year. Total catches since 2014 is now 9,768.

Catches for Quarter 2 2023 Sector by Pest Type

Sector	Rat	Hedgehog	Stoat	Weasel	Mouse	Ferret	Other*	Total for Quarter	Total since 2015
Mapua to Bronte	52	12	2	3	10	-	1	80	2,370
Bronte to Hoddy Peninsula	44	9	-	-	12	-	-	65	2,544
Waimea West/ Appleby Hills	75	10	1	4	5	-	-	95	2,130
Waimea Delta to Monaco	111	6	2	4	155	-	3	281	2,724
Total for quarter	282	37	5	11	182	-	4	521	
Total since 2015	6,191	1,310	298	329	1,257	36	347		9,768

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

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



Trapping & Monitoring News from Tracey Murray

New Volunteers needed for trap lines

Please contact Tracey directly if you would like to help protect our birds from predators. Trapping requires checking and re baiting traps at a minimum of once per month. Ideally during the breeding season of the birds (October to February) this would increase to once a fortnight checks.

Pearl Creek cycleway (22 traps 6x rat traps and 16x DOC200)

This trap line is adjacent to the Pearl Creek Reserve and is around the cycleway and nearby paddock.

Redwood Road (23 DOC200 traps)

This line runs along the length of Redwood Rd and into part of the Seifried's vineyard. This line can mostly be done using a vehicle.

Heron line (12 DOC200 traps)

Partly along a walkway near Westdale Rd and then out to the estuary edge.

Bell Island (36 DOC200 traps)

This trap line is in a special place where the public don't usually have access to. Along the edge of the estuary and partly accessed by walking on the beach.

Trapping workshop Thursday 24th August 6.30pm, Mapua Hall

We are planning a trapping workshop so come along and learn about:

- Tips and tricks to be more successful with your trapping.
- Checking that your traps are still working effectively, and calibrating them to the correct weight.
- New types of traps and baits on the market
- How to exclude birds and others
- Ways to solve problems in the field, and with trap.nz.
- Where to look for help on trap.nz

Meet some new volunteers in your area and share ideas over a cup of tea. Please just come along and bring any neighbours or friends who may be interested.

Open to everyone.

Tracey, Predator Control Coordinator ph 0272865866

Do you know how high a pest can jump?

I saw this on a gate leading into the Zealandia pest free enclosure in Wellington. Weasels have the smallest jump at 30cm, up to a cat with a 1.8m jump.



Habitat Restoration Update from Kathryn Brownlie

Planting Season

We have been working with the community and student groups over the past few weeks. Here are some snippets and pictures from our plantings.

Mapua School planting by Simon Clearwater, Mapua School Newsletter

“Whole School Planting - streamside restoration.

The whole school have been involved in planting the stream banks - to make it more attractive, increase biodiversity and help our planet!

Thanks to Kathryn and Abby from the Banded Rail project for making this possible and to Amber and the BOT for pushing this forward. Our next mission will be to maintain the area to ensure the plants have the best chance at survival. The Year 7/8 students were amazing tuakana, helping all the younger classes plant and dig holes in some very challenging soil.”



Nelson Preparatory School plantings from Prep Perspective Term 2

“Tree planting was a great experience. We went on the bus to Waimea Estuary in Richmond and when we arrived we were given instructions about how to plant carefully. We went down to a stream and dug in specially chosen plants that will survive well close to water. We really enjoyed the day and hope the plants grow well.

Every now and then, I would stand up and look back at the planting work we had just completed and see an ‘army’ of plants growing. It was hard to believe it was just a grassy area a few hours ago.

Everyone was so excited to go on the tree planting trip. The helpers were so nice to us and taught us how to plant. It was really fun digging holes and planting the trees.”

Community Plantings

We’ve had some beautiful mornings on the estuary through the winter, along with a couple of damp mornings. Still, our volunteers have turned up and we’ve got the job done.



Planting wiiwi at Estuary Place



Bronte Peninsula at high tide



Research Orchard Road



Hoddy Estuary Park



Morning tea at Research Orchard Road planting



Cardno Way, Bronte Peninsula



Planting wiwi at Bronte Peninsula

Plant Patch Oioi - *Apodasmia similis* - Jointed wire rush

Conservation status: not threatened

Oioi is endemic to New Zealand. It is a rush-like perennial herb and is distributed across the North, South, Stewart, Three Kings and Chatham Islands. It is found mostly in coastal environments in estuaries, saltmarshes, wetlands, dunes and sandy flats and hollows.

Its name comes from the Greek 'apodasmios' meaning 'separated', referring to the widely disjunct distribution of the species (there are two species in Australia, one in New Zealand and one in Chile). *Similis* means similar to another species.

Oioi plants are dioecious, which means the male and female flowers do not both occur on one plant.

This reed like plant slowly spreads from a creeping rhizome to form erect clumps which create a strong hold on the soil. It can cover large areas as it spreads by runners. Oioi flowers from October to December and fruits from December to March. Its leaves turn a russet-orange in colder weather. It is very hardy, grows in wet or dry conditions and is also a popular structural landscaping plant.

Oioi was sometimes used for outer thatching of houses by Māori. Colenso noted in 1868 that oioi was "by far the best of all the rushes and sedges for thatching on account of its durability".



Leaves are made up of segments which give a jointed look



Oioi used as a landscaping plant in Sundial Square, Richmond



Oioi imparting a distinctive orange-brown tinge to the vegetation at Hoddy Estuary Park

Celebrating Our Volunteers: Jane Wickham

Interviewed by Anne Hilson

Jane is an enthusiast par excellence; passionate about the environment and, with husband Graeme, actively concerned about climate change.

She says her interest in these topics began well over thirty years ago when her children were young members of the Kiwi Conservation Club.

Like many of our volunteers she has not yet seen a Banded Rail in the wild, though she knows that their footprints have been seen in the mud at planting days. After helping Forest and Bird with planting on occasions, she and Graeme have now been planting with the Banded Rail crew for three years, and there is no doubt that her motivation includes helping to make a difference for the climate in the long term.

Two years ago Jane began trapping on Bell Island. It's a place close to her heart, after playing golf next door on Best Island for many years. She has twenty four DOC 200 traps, uses peanut butter and rabbit bait, and she and Graeme visit them all every two to four weeks.

The catch is mainly rats and mice, with the odd stoat and hedgehog. They seem to catch more rats in winter than they do in summer. Jane thinks this may be because the north-east tip of the island is a breeding ground for the threatened Caspian Tern, which are very aggressive, but migrate northwards in winter.

An enthusiastic paddler, Jane originally thought she would kayak across to her trapline from Monaco. She now drives, finding it easier to access the traps at low tide. The journey can be made using her electric car. Much of her travelling round and about the city is done on a bike.

She would like to encourage more people to join us. She was a nurse in her past working life, very much tied to rosters. She has found that she is able to comfortably fit her voluntary work into a relaxed lifestyle and feels that she has been able to make a difference.

And that what ultimately matters is the synergy involved, the sum of the parts, the achievement of the whole group, rather than the individual results.



Project Spotlight

Battle for the Banded Rail is just one of Tasman Environmental Trust's current projects. Here is another project working with its local community in our region.



The Wakapuaka catchment, including the Wakapuaka River and Delaware Bay estuary, 15km north-east of Nelson City, is an important area for the Nelson community for swimming, picnicking, bird watching, kayaking, fishing and shellfish gathering.

Original land clearance in the conversion to farms and forestry accelerated the loss of forest and wetland habitats, degrading their quality over generations. The lack of riparian vegetation, limited access and negative downstream effects prompted the local landowners to take action.

The largest restoration project in Nelson on private land is now aiming to plant 13 hectares with over 90,000 natives in riparian margins, introduce extensive predator control measures, remove weeds, create an onsite nursery and install a public access track. Community involvement – current landowners, iwi, NMIT students and a local workforce – will increase biodiversity, enhance water quality, reduce sedimentation, create an eco-sourced native plant supply and re-connect the community with the mauri of this awa.



Read more at www.tet.org.nz

One more Community Planting Day on the Waimea Inlet in 2023

Sunday 27th 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.