



Volunteer Lunch Invitation

Another planting season is over and it's time to celebrate the efforts of our volunteers and thank those who have contributed to make this project the success that it is.

If you have trapped, weeded or planted on the Waimea Inlet over the year, you are invited to join us on
Sunday 19th November from 11.30am at The Playhouse, Westdale Road

Lunch will be provided, drinks to be purchased.

Please RSVP by 10th November to Kathryn bandedrail@gmail.com

Step Out

Step Out is a festival of guided walks and activities this month coordinated by Tasman District Council.

We are hosting a walk at Hoddy Estuary Park on Saturday 28th October from 10am – 3pm. If you haven't been to this beautiful reserve before, this is a good opportunity to come along and find out more about *Battle for the Banded Rail* and to enjoy the short walk through to Research Orchard Road Reserve.

For the full programme click here: [Step Out Programme](#)



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

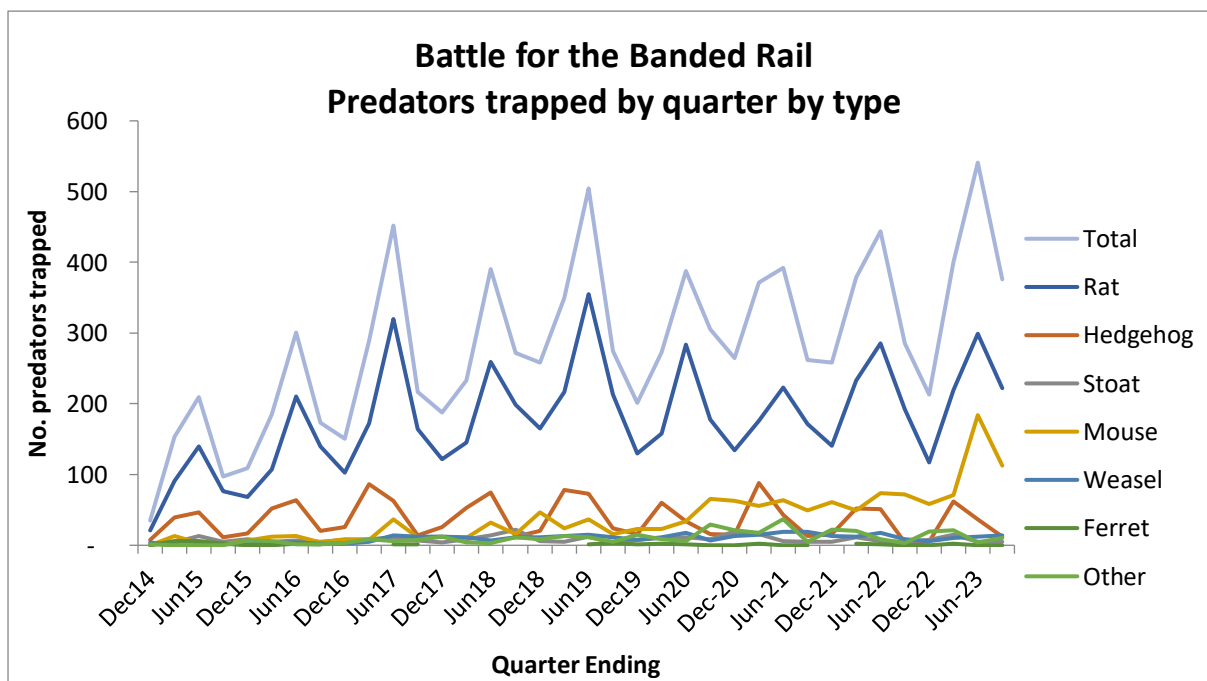
There are 1,139 traps in operation. The total catch for the September quarter was 376 and is our highest September quarter recorded, even disregarding mice catches. Total catches since 2014 is now 10,164.

Catches for Quarter 2 2023 Sector by Pest Type

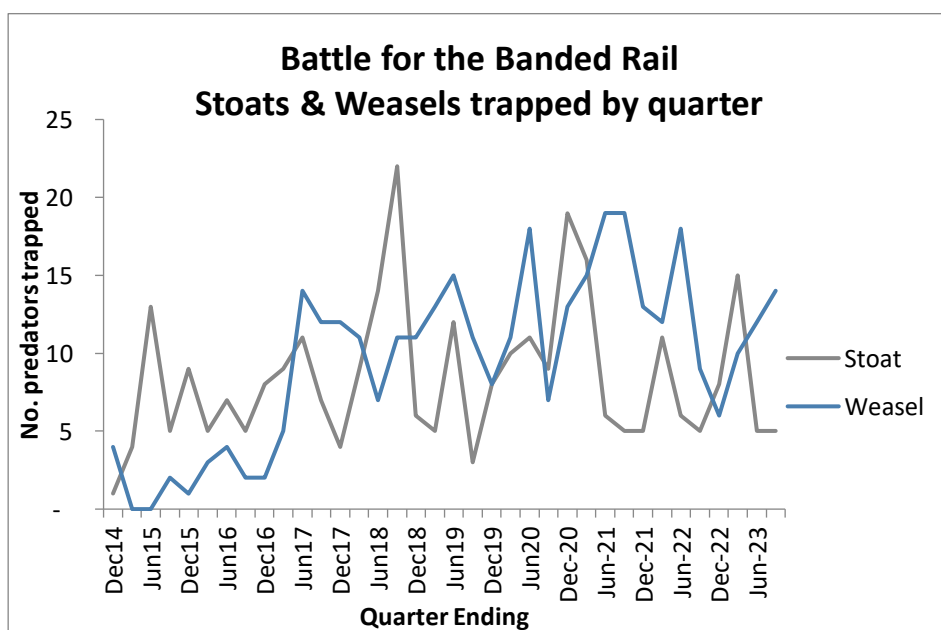
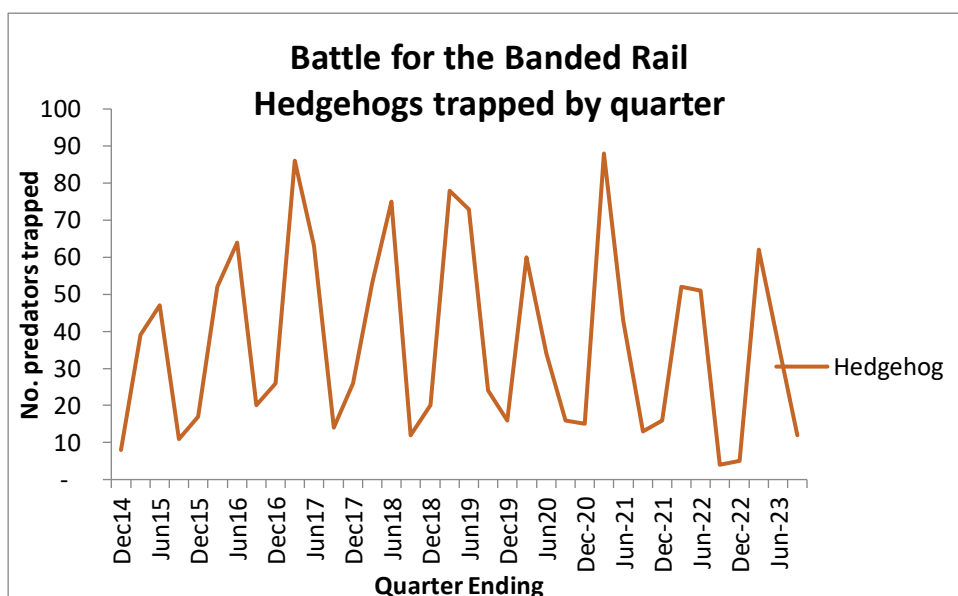
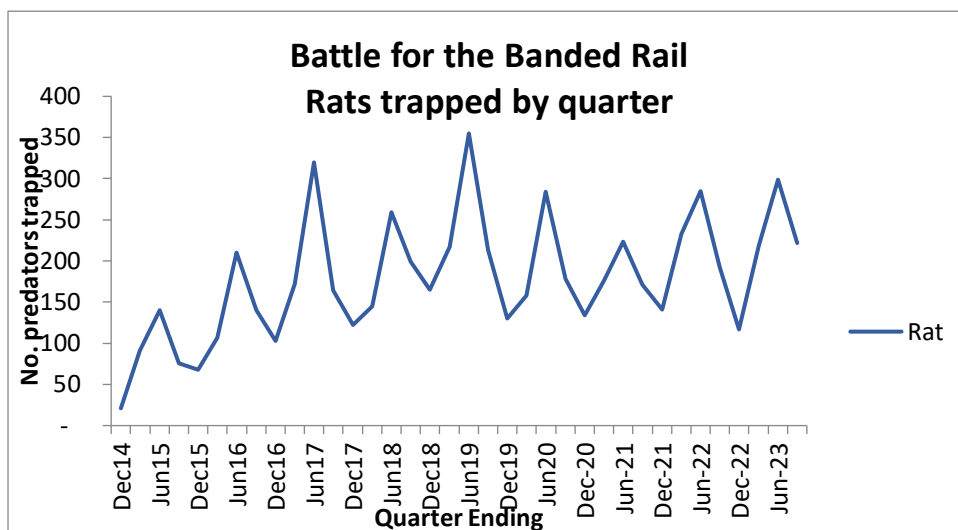
Sector	Rat	Hedgehog	Stoat	Weasel	Mouse	Ferret	Other*	Total for Quarter	Total since 2015
Mapua to Bronte	57	7	-	4	4	-	-	72	2,442
Bronte to Hoddy Peninsula	50	1	2	-	-	-	-	53	2,601
Waimea West/ Appleby Hills	35	2	2	4	2	-	1	46	2,188
Waimea Delta to Monaco	80	2	1	6	107	-	9	205	2,933
Total for quarter	222	12	5	14	113	-	10	376	
Total since 2015	6,430	1,322	303	344	1,372	36	358		10,164

* 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



These graphs show the quarterly catch pattern for rat, hedgehogs, stoats and weasels. Rats and hedgehogs follow a similar seasonal pattern. The pattern for stoats and weasels appears to be more random.



Trapping & Monitoring News from Tracey Murray

Trapping Workshop Report

A very interesting trapping workshop was held on August 24th at the Mapua Hall. 14 people attended and there was a mix of existing volunteers and a few new faces from the community.

The main purpose of the workshop was to familiarise volunteers with how to calibrate traps. This was done using a 50g and a 100g weight. The traps should not go off with 50g of weight on the trigger plate but should go off with any pest over 100g. This is to avoid the traps triggering with a mouse, which is not our target predator. Everyone went home with both 50g and 100g weights to use next time they went out into the field to check their traps.

We had a good look at new traps on the market on a 'display tree' put together by Josh Preston from the Motueka DOC office. He also showed us some of the familiar DOC 200's and various possum traps.

Various types of bait were displayed, and ideas on how to make your traps more enticing for pests to enter were shared. There was also discussion on entering data onto trap.nz and on future trapping innovations to watch out for.

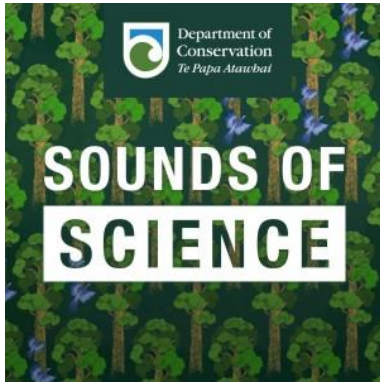


Josh demonstrates the new Rewild F-Bomb trap



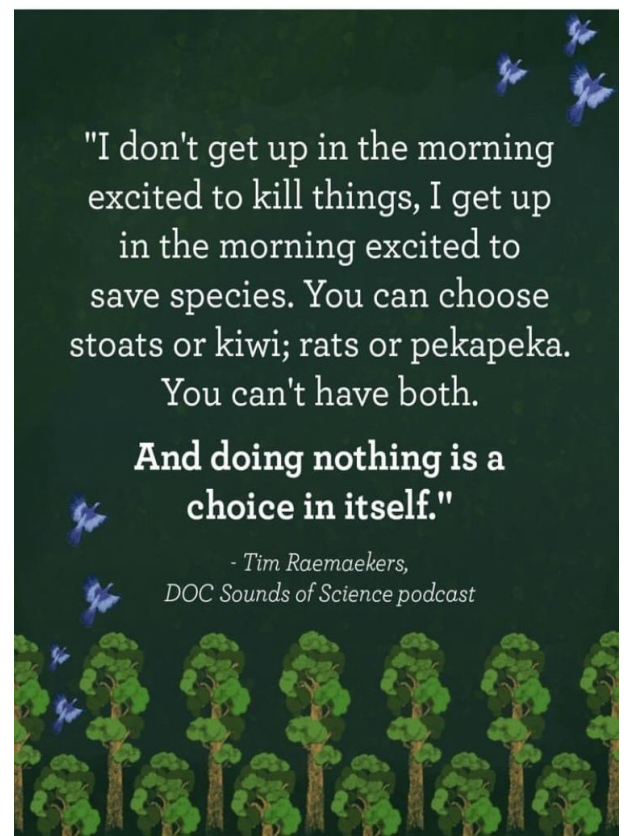
A podiTRAP, another NZ designed trap

DOC Sounds of Science Podcasts



If you enjoy listening to podcasts, this is a really great series recorded by different DOC staff specialising in a variety of wildlife and wilderness areas throughout NZ. Each one is about 20 minutes long.

[Click here](#) for the list of podcast episodes



Banded Rail makes the Teatowel

I was delighted to see a banded rail included on this teatowel of New Zealand birds I was recently given.



Habitat Restoration Update from Kathryn Brownlie

Planting Season Completed

This winter 13,000 plants were added to sites around the Waimea Inlet. This brings the grand total to 165,000 since 2014. This achievement is only possible because of the involvement of a lot of people – the community volunteers, school students, organisations, businesses, contractors, bakers, council staff and our generous funders. Thank you to every one of you.

Our last planting day was at a new site for us. The site was the Waimea Delta Wetland at the end of Cotterell Road. The planting included 300 rushes (*juncus krausii*) which one volunteer described as a real mud fest! It was a great finale to the season with easy digging and lots of yummy morning tea baking!



Planting rushes at Waimea Delta Wetland

Plant Releasing & Maintenance

After a few weeks break since planting season has finished, we have just begun the important work of planting maintenance. We meet each Friday morning from 9-11am. We are also going to trial a Sunday morning working bee once a month with morning tea provided as we do for planting mornings through the winter.

Friday 20 th October	Cardno Way
Friday 27 th October	Moreland Place Reserve
Friday 3 rd November	Bronte Peninsula (access from 92 Bronte)
Sunday 5th November	Research Orchard Road
Friday 10 th November	Hoddy Peninsula, 57 Hoddy Road
Friday 17 th November	Mapua Embayment (126 Aranui Rd)
Friday 24 th November	Apple Valley East (43 Apple Valley Rd)
Friday 1 st December	Stringer Creek, Westdale Road
Sunday 3rd December	Hoddy Estuary Park
Friday 8 th December	Manuka Island
Friday 15 th December	Maisey Embayment

Fridays are from 9-11am. Sundays from 9-12 noon.
Bring drinking water and gardening gloves. We have tools you can use.
Please let me know If you want to receive our weekly reminders.



Plant Patch **Whauwhaupaku** - ***Pseudopanax arboreus*** - **Five finger**

Conservation status: not threatened

Five finger is one of New Zealand's most common native trees. It is widespread in bush, broadleaf forest, scrub, stream and coastal margins and gardens throughout the North & South Islands, although it is rare in Central Otago.

Pseudopanax is Latin for "false ginseng". It is derived from the Greek words 'pseudo' (false) 'pan' (all) and 'akos' (remedy), referring to the medicinal plant ginseng, which is also in the genus *Panax*. *Arboreous* means tree-like.

Pseudopanax is a small genus which includes lancewood (*pseudopanax crassifolius*) and toothed lancewood (*pseudopanax ferox*).

Five finger is easily recognised by its compound leaves with five to seven leaflets (not to be confused with *Schefflera digitata* or seven-finger!). Its foliage becomes adorned with clusters of tiny white scented flowers during winter which bees love. The flowers are followed by bunches of dark purple berries enjoyed by birds in summer.

Five finger is a dioecious plant meaning female and male flowers grow on separate plants.

Traditional Māori uses include:

- using the small logs stripped of their bark to make skids for hauling canoes
- making small water vessels
- producing a khaki dye from ripe berries
- using gum from the plant, known as pia houhou, to make water vessels watertight

Battle for the Banded Rail has planted more than 1,500 five finger plants around the Waimea Inlet.



A five finger leaf with six leaflets

Celebrating Our Volunteers: Clare Kininmonth

Interviewed by Anne Hilson

“Being outside” is Clare’s happy place. Beginning with visits to her parents’ bach in North Canterbury when she was seven, where she became a keen trout fisher, she is now thoroughly involved in much ‘outside’ business in and around Mapua.

She is involved in the Battle for the Banded Rail groups in the seasonal planting and weeding, and her happy trapping place is at Higgs Reserve, and along the coastal edge of the Thawley property, the QE2 covenanted land.



Over the last twelve months Clare, along with Fred Overmars and Jo Heatherbell, have been doing a spectacular job of restoring the native bush on Higgs Reserve. This has involved clearing out the gorse and barberry plants and replacing them with native plants in the clearings. The Council has contributed a track; a bit hairy but useful if you’d like to have a good look at their work. It begins on the left-hand side of Mapua Drive where the street joins SH60, behind the tall metallic artwork.

Another major project of Clare’s is the work done, with Council approval, on Bullivant Island, between the Mapua wharf and Rabbit Island. All wilding pines, wattle trees and other non-native species have been removed. Of the older larger pines, many have been removed but some kept for stability. These also help to protect one very large and spectacular totara tree. Replanting with native trees is underway.

She works with the Waimea Inlet Forum, is a member of the Boat Club, and helps at the Maritime Museum on the wharf; this has included making several videos for display. The photo shows her at her most recent environmental task; helping a group of enthusiasts plant a wind shelter behind the Westfyld bus stop at the top of Higgs Road.

Clare describes Mapua as a “crossover village”; meaning that it still comprises an extensive variety of land uses; residential areas, industry, lifestyle sections, reserves, farmland (including a sizeable QE2 covenanted farm), beaches and walkways. She would like it to remain this type of place, rather than developing every empty area for residential purposes, but feels that it may be at a tipping point. “People have to learn to live more eagerly with Nature”, she says, “we don’t have to develop everything.” This idea applies to land adjoining the village too; there is currently discussion about whether some of the pathways along the shore should be moved further inland with a few viewing areas incorporated. This would make for a more natural environment for the likes of Banded Rail and others.

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.

Friends of Snowden's Bush

Snowden's Bush covers over five hectares off Waimea West Road in Brightwater. This DOC reserve is a rare example of the podocarp forest that once covered much of the area and is one of the last surviving native lowland bush areas on the Waimea Plains.



Snowden's Bush is dominated by mighty totara, titoki and matai, some over a hundred years old. New seedlings have flourished since stock grazing ceased in the 1970's, and a regeneration project started in the 1980's has seen the return of tui, bellbirds and kereru to the community.

Today Snowden's Bush is an important and much-loved community asset. Friends of Snowden's Bush aims to foster community engagement to continue protection and restoration. Friends of Snowden's Bush wishes to acknowledge the amazing work of the Snowden's Bush Trust who fundraised to purchase the adjacent 3,500m² of land from the Nelson Diocesan Trust to be incorporated into the existing Snowden's Bush reserve.

Snowden's Bush is a Department of Conservation Reserve. Please leave only your footprints behind when visiting. It is appreciated that your dog is on a lead within the native trees.

Read more at www.tet.org.nz

