

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

Tasman Nelson Conservation Volunteers NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023



**Welcome to the November newsletter
full of the latest trapping reports and news from
conservation volunteers across Tasman and Nelson**

Go to Upcoming Events

Working Bees on Waimea Inlet
"Trapper Natter" in Nelson 12 November

Go to More Reading

DOC Podcast - Sounds of Science
New use for Old Scooter Batteries!

TRAPPING & ACTIVITY REPORTS

PROJECT DE-VINE www.pdvet.org.nz

admin@pdvet.org.nz. Tel: 0800 669 3337

Fostering Native Ecosystems in Golden Bay & Top Of The South



Welcome to our first contribution to this newsletter!

Project De-Vine Environmental Trust is a community-led Golden Bay charity. Using funders, donations, and volunteers, we control the pest vines, old man's beard, banana passion vine, other invasive weed species & conifers in Golden Bay and from Riwaka to Marahau.

Over 850 properties are assessed. We carry out contract work for TDC, DOC, LINZ, NZTA, QEII, landowners and others to help cover our operating expenses.

We have started a trapping network based in and around the Grove Reserve and are expanding this to include all of East Mohua – from the Motupipi River to Wainui. This was funded by a three-year Jobs for Nature grant, which finishes in June 2024.

To record the sites and data efficiently, we have created an Arc GIS mapping system that uses an app to record all data. Here is a screenshot showing all the



The success of this project and the high numbers of keen landowners in and around the project area have encouraged us to expand out. We recently held a hui of key stakeholders and now plan to work with existing trappers and establish networks around them to achieve in time a landscape scale network in Golden Bay.

PACKERS CREEK, MAITAI VALLEY

(in area of New Zealand Deerstalkers Association's Packers Creek Rifle Range)

Greg Couper and Carina Jackson

carinajackson97@gmail.com

October Catch: 4 rats, 25 mice, 1 weasel, 1 ferret, 4 possum



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Friends of Snowden Bush is another of Tasman Environmental Trust's



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

FRIENDS OF ROTOITI (St Arnaud)

Ina Biertuempfel inche81@gmx.de

October Catch: Total: 287

7 hedgehogs, 139 mice, 8 possum, 5 rabbits, 126 rats, 1 stoat



MARSDEN VALLEY TRAPPERS

Kathryn Email marsdenvtg@gmail.com or Text 0273515428

WILL'S GULLY GROUP

Working for conservation in the Richmond Hills since 1999

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

Thanks to the Gully Volunteer team, Pic's Really Good Peanut Butter, Ewing's Poultry, Mainly Natives & Sarah & Rick Griffin.

Will Reports:

Repaired a DOC200 on Doug's Run. It had been placed on a slope and over time earth came down and rested on the top side. Even though the ply was treated, rot had started. So, it ended up with a new side and base, taking longer to repair than thought. All go now and I didn't even break the egg! Planted a couple of totara just before the last rain too.

Early in the month Kevin and I planted 5 flax, 4 teatree, 6 coprosma repens and 5 teucridium around the Top Table on Grassy Saddle. This season we only planted 563 plants, a lot less than the usual 1000 plus odd but we are running out of room!

In all over 24 years we have planted over 14825 plants. But have only caught 2479 animal pests!

The Asian wasps haven't been noticed so far as we haven't come across any inside the spray guards when attending the plants. Maybe the population has stabilised or hopefully diminished? If that's what it is, then maybe we will see more Monarch butterflies around this summer? Haven't heard any shining cuckoo's call this Spring but maybe need to turn the hearing aids on? We used to see the odd one around home but so far not a feather of one.

Rainfall for Hill St for October was 48.5mm (with the average October rainfall being 126mm) so a lot less than average for Oct. Rainfall so far this year is 1014mm (yearly average 1340mm).

The Gully Facebook page is becoming popular. We now have 157 people who follow the page and our activities. Not all are local, some are even from overseas.

Bryan Riley Reports:

Low numbers again. A good sign?

Jeana and John Report:

October catch our trap line: 2 mice and 1 rat (see photo below)

We have been puzzled for the last few months about what has been taking the possum bait without setting off the possum trap. Guess this photo answers that question. A Ship rat - note the long tail!

The last trap line check for the month (30 Oct) found all the traps still set and bait still intact, apart from a couple of rat traps licked clean by mice we suspect. Fingers crossed the low catch trend continues.

**Alastair Mackintosh Reports:**

Three rats for this past month. I was away for the first week – although I may add, I un-set traps at such times. From all evidence, there are others about. Quail all back - a bit sulky for a while from not being fed. Quite a few "Kereru" around, as are tui & bellbirds. I am continually surprised about how many blackbirds feed on the grain I feed the quail. Never thought they bothered with it. Not to worry!

Only 2 trips around the traps this month, caught 1 rat and 1 mouse.

Richard Wells Reports:

Only one check this month but most ground traps untouched. One possum only for the month. I will up the ante next month!

Mike Oliver Reports:

Mike has 2 rat traps and 2 possum traps set out on the ridgeline and hopes to increase the trap numbers soon. October catches were only one mouse.

This month's total Gully Catches: 5 mice, 6 rats, & 1 possum.

DID YOU KNOW??

There are 5000 - 7000 quills covering a hedgehog's back. Don't know who it was that counted them all!

FARADAY RISE

Ross Cullen Ross.Cullen@lincoln.ac.nz

October Catch: 1 Norway rat, 4 Ship rats, 1 mouse, 3 hedgehogs.

FOREST & BIRD

Gillian Pollock g.pollock@scorch.co.nz
and **Mark Forward**



Moturoa West End: 1 possum, 1 hedgehog

NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME

Jacob Lucas jlucas@fishandgame.org.nz



Oct Catches: 4 hedgehogs, 1 weasel, 1 rat

TRAP LINES: The Moturoa/Rabbit Island volunteer group have been active each month checking traps at Rabbit Island. Our line here ties in nicely with the Battle for the Banded Rail project (a Tasman Environment Trust project that has a network of over 900 traps).

We are also involved with Farmers 4 Who in the Motueka Valley - a group that is doing great work to benefit the whoio population with the goal that more are

around 20 lines in operation: fantastic work from Farmers 4 Whio.



COOKING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Recently, Fish & Game and Phil Hazeldine from Club Waimea (with help from volunteers) cooked up 60ks of game bird casserole for families in need, with meat supplied by game bird hunters. We aim to do this again soon with meat from the Molesworth Goose Hunt. Thanks to NZDA for the use of the metal detector to remove steel shot.

PAREMATA FLATS RESERVE (Delaware Bay)

Moira Tilling moiratilling@gmail.com

Catch: 89 mice, 5 rats, 1 hedgehog

For the last few months we have been hampered by what seems to have been a family of weka who have been systematically pulling apart the ice-cream containers that we place our mouse traps in. Two of our three traplines have been regularly targeted by weka. The lids have been pulled off and tossed aside. The traps then removed, the peanut butter eaten and the traps flung aside. It's caused a lot of extra work for our trappers.

However, John Young, our line leader was not to be outwitted by these skilled weka. He began by trying to discourage them by placing stones onto the lids of the closed ice creamer containers, but the stones were rolled off.

He then *backpacked* a large number of large, flat stones into the track and has finally deterred the weka with his weka-proof mouse traps! See before and after photos below.





Paremata Flats

Photos shows a section of the indigenous forest planted by Forest and Bird volunteers at Paremata Reserve in 2015/16

EASBY PARK/RESERVOIR CREEK

Paul Hewson hewsonit@gmail.com

Allan's Track/Lodestone Park: 1 mouse, 1 hedgehog, 1 rat

Giles Griffith & Mike van Enter grifiles@gmail.com

KRB Track: Catch since last report (July 2023): 3 mice, 1 rat

We have been replacing the possum masters with the more humane white boxy kill bar traps and installed a number of additional tunnel traps and the new DoC 150s with the anti weka tube at the front.

Greg and Alison Pickford gregandalisonpickford@gmail.com

Reservoir Creek: No report this month

Keith & Desi Gorton keithbhl@tasman.net

Escalator Mountain Bike Track:

No report this month

Steve and Linda Liddicoat

Reservoir Creek:

No catches in October

Nigel Barrett & Chris Finlay finlaybarrett@hotmail.com

Upper Reservoir Creek (new line)

October catch: 4 rats

WE HAVE A PROBLEM! DO YOU HAVE A SOLUTION?

The bait in our possum traps is being eaten out by the birds. Over a period of time they seem to have learned that there is food in the traps and the birds are targeting them and cleaning them out.

We've tried wrapping the apple in meshed frost cloth but the birds manage to pick the apple clean and leave the wrapping intact. We're going to try jam in some bags but if anyone else has any ideas [please let us know](#)

MARSDEN VALLEY TRAPPERS

Kathryn marsdenvtg@gmail.com or text 0273515428

No report this month

NATIVE BIRD RECOVERY, RICHMOND

TIM WARD timward2014@gmail.com

Saxton Creek: No report this month

Jimmy Lee: 2 mice, 2 rats + 1 stoat - caught in the same trap as the weasel last month.

Sunview Heights: 2 rats

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: No report this month

THANKS TO SPONSORS: Ewing's Poultry, Sarah & Roick Griffen, and Pic's Peanut Butter



HEALTHPOST NATURE TRUST

Marian Milne Project Co-ordinator,
marianminenz@gmail.com

Website: www.naturetrust.nz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/healthpostnaturetrust

No report this month.



Brian Alder | Project Lead

brian@onetahuare Restoration.org.nz

www.onetahuare Restoration.org.nz

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

No report this month

OTUWHEREO WETLAND

Bruce Reid b Reid.mot@kinect.co.nz

Work continues on weed control with mowing, weed eating, and spraying.

Willow infestations from upstream persist along with all manner of nasties. A catchment-wide approach to the Otuwhero Valley is slowly gaining momentum. Shining cuckoos are present in Nell's bush, marking the seasonal changes.

Rat	6	10	16
Possum	1	3	4
Stoat	0	0	0
Weasel	0	0	0
Mouse	37	23	60



TITOKI RESERVE

Chris Potter titokireserve@gmail.com

More of the same this month, with one notable exception - a possum. The first caught in Titoki since December 2019, and which had clearly never met a Sentinel before. It will not be warning others.

October catch: 3 rats, 12 mice and 1 possum

The expected jump in rat numbers has not eventuated – yet.

BATTLE FOR THE BANDED RAIL

Kathryn Brownlie bandedrail@gmail.com



You'll find excerpts from our latest newsletter below.

[Click here to read the full report.](#)

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

PLANTING SEASON COMPLETED

This winter we added 13,000 more plants 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 the Waimea Delta Wetland at the end of Cotterell Road - a new site for us. The planting, which one volunteer described as “a real mud fest!” included 300 rushes (*juncus krausii*) It was a great finale to the season with easy digging and lots of yummy morning tea baking!

ARE YOU CALIBRATING YOUR TRAPS?

The trapping workshop we held in August at the Mapua Hall was designed to show 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.



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 making traps more enticing for pests. We also discussed entering data onto trap.nz, and on future trapping innovations to watch out for.

In the picture left, Josh demonstrates the new Rewild F-Bomb trap

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteer Clare Kininmonth, interviewed by Anne Hilson



CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteer 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.

Clare 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

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.

Clare 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 birds such as the Banded Rail and others.

FARMERS FOR WHIO

Barry Burger farmersforwhio@gmail.com

This year is racing along and it is hard to believe that summer is upon us once again.

Our whio are currently in their nesting season, with hatching occurring any time from now on. It has been a great winter and spring in our area for whio, in that our catchments have been quite stable with no major



waters.

The dry summer that is forecast will provide good breeding conditions for most things, unfortunately the predators we are targeting included. On a positive note, DOC modeling indicates that there will be no beech flowering this summer in our region, so we won't have predator populations exploding as a result of a beech mast.

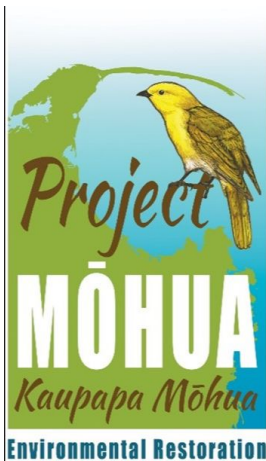
Our latest trapline installed is in the mid-Baton on the Ludlow's property, using traps built in the spring with Motueka High School outdoor education students.

ABEL TASMAN BIRDSONG TRUST

Abby Butler (Coordinator) atbirdsong1@gmail.com



Our August 2023 newsletter contains all our latest news. [Read full newsletter here](#)



PROJECT MOHUA GOLDEN BAY

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

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

Mice	37	29
Possums	4	1
Hedgehogs	1	0
Weasels	1	0
A24	7	0

FRIENDS OF FLORA

Gerald Bruce-Smith gbruce-smith@xtra.co.nz

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



KAITERITERI MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK

Rod Markham rodmarkham7@gmail.com



No report this month

BIRD LIFE ON THE GRAMPIANS Bryce Buckland bbuckland@xtra.co.nz

No report this month

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.

PIC'S REALLY GOOD PEANUT BUTTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORKING BEES

Battle for the Banded Rail has begun the important work of planting maintenance, meeting 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.

COMING UP!

Friday working bees run from 9-11am. On Sundays they run from 9-12 noon. Bring drinking water and gardening gloves. We have tools you can use.

Friday 10th November	Hoddy Peninsula, 57 Hoddy Road
Friday 17th November	Mapua Embayment (126 Aranui Rd)
Friday 24th November	Apple Valley East (43 Apple Valley Rd)
Friday 1st December	Stringer Creek, Westdale Road
Sunday 3rd December	Hoddy Estuary Park
Friday 8th December	Manuka Island
Friday 15th December	Maisey Embayment

[Email Kathryn Brownlie](#) if you'd like a weekly reminder.

Nelson trapper natter event



Learn * Connect * Share * Upskill

Monitoring - TrapNZ - Trap Calibration - Meet Other Nelson Trappers

If you're a trapper or interested in creating safe habitat and increasing biodiversity in Nelson, come along, hear the latest, have a cuppa and a chat. Make connections, share knowledge or just show up for a nose!

WHEN: Sun 12 Nov, 10-1pm

WHERE: Trafalgar Pavilion, Trafalgar St, Nelson

please call 0212608415 to **RSVP for monitoring field trip**



Info and RSVP contact
elaineasquith@tet.org.nz



PRESENTED BY NELSON NATURE, TASMAN ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST and PFNZ

This gathering is an opportunity for groups to show what they're up to, connect and share knowledge. It'll be mostly informal to stimulate discussion and connection – not just talking heads!

PROGRAMME

10am: Open and meet the groups

10.30am: Talking Heads (just a little bit!)

Brook Waimarama Sanctuary - on aspirations and wins,

Nelson City Council on what we know

11.30am Speed Workshop

Predator Free NZ & TET are planning Top of the South symposium weekend event in Feb/March next year. We want to hear what you would most value at that event.

12.00pm Groups and Projects Display

A chance to try out demo items and learn/ connect with other groups, plus - practical demos

12.30 Monitoring Field Trip at Centre of New Zealand

With Nick Sparks from Kumanu. **Spaces are limited: RSVP required**

[Email Elaine](#) to reserve your place.

MORE READING

DEPT OF CONSERVATION PODCAST

The Sounds of Science

If you enjoy listening to podcasts, this is a really great series recorded by different DOC staff focusing on a variety of wildlife and wilderness areas throughout NZ.

Each episode is 20 minutes long and [you'll find the full list of episodes here](#)

OLD SCOOTER BATTERIES: POWERING THE HUNT FOR POSSUMS, STOATS AND RATS!

Entrepreneur Shaun Ryan's pest-detecting cameras mix new with old: artificial intelligence and used batteries from Lime scooters. The Christchurch-based engineer has paired up with his brother Grant to develop smart tech targeting possums, stoats, rats, hedgehogs, wallabies and feral cats and dogs.

The duo is so confident in the ability of technology to beat pests that they expect the country's predator free by 2050 goal could be accomplished a decade early.

available to anyone. [Read full article](#)

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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