



May 2016

The Trust

Watch this space folks. Over the next few months there will be a change in the look and feel of the organisation as we move into a new phase. As an organisation we have come a long way since our inception in 1988 and the committee is excited about the proposals presented by Plato Creative, a design organisation employed to bring this to a reality.



Competition to rename

We are giving away a victor rat trap and tunnel for anyone who comes up with winning name for this newsletter. Send ideas to rosemary@thompsonfamily.nz

Volunteers

We continue to have amazing support from people who give of their free time to help protect the RFP and all those critters that live there. Some volunteers do seem to go above and beyond the call of duty and one of these has to be Mike White, the dynamo who leads our Fixit team. Mike is probably one of the few within the Trust who can truly say he knows the trapping network from top to bottom, travelling across our network ensuring the traps are working the way they should. Some of these traps have been in the park for 10-13 years and are showing signs of their long life. Without Mike and his Fixit

team we would not have an effective trapping network – Thanks Mike & the team.



Don't forget trappers send any issues with traps to fixit@rimutatatrust.org.nz .

Unsung heroes of the forest



Isn't it the coolest spider you've ever seen?

Dates to remember:

Stoat trappers challenge bingo Wednesday 15th June 2016

Pub Night Sprig n Fern – Wednesday 16th August 2016

End of year BBQ – Catchpool, Sunday 6th November 2016



This was a common expression on our faces as we competed with other teams at the Sprig and Fern quiz night last month. Three teams from the Trust hotly competed and one of the Trust teams won a prize of a \$50 voucher which will be carried over to the pub night in August.

Joining the Dots Phase Two

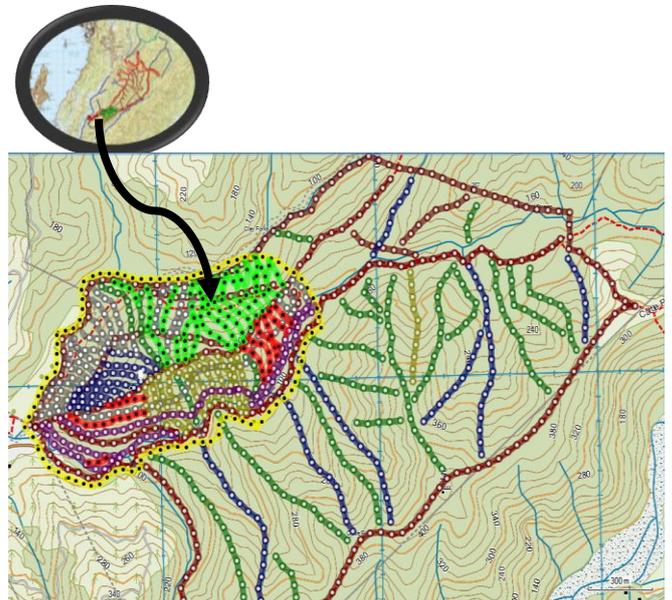
In a previous issue of The Rag we outlined the Joining the Dots project Phase 1 & 2. In this issue we'd like to show what we are looking to achieve in the Catchpool Eco Hotspot.

Phase two is about focusing on more intensified pest control within a smaller Eco Hotspot. Eventually we will have two Eco Hotspots, one in the Catchpool and one in the Upper Turere. These will then link to the GWRC Mainland Island pest control operation and pest control undertaken by Friends of Baring Head and MIRO.

The Catchpool Eco Hotspot's price tag is currently around the \$165,000 mark this is to install and maintain the pest stations within the hotspot. This is a huge commitment which we are confident we can accomplish. There are four stages,

stage one will encompass the Middle Ridge, Catchpool loop, 5 mile loop and the start of the Orongorongo track. If you would like to know more contact Melody @ bidi@xtra.co.nz or 0274524982

***Kia tu kotahi –
(weave together to make whole)
Catchpool Eco-Hotspot***



Birds under pressure



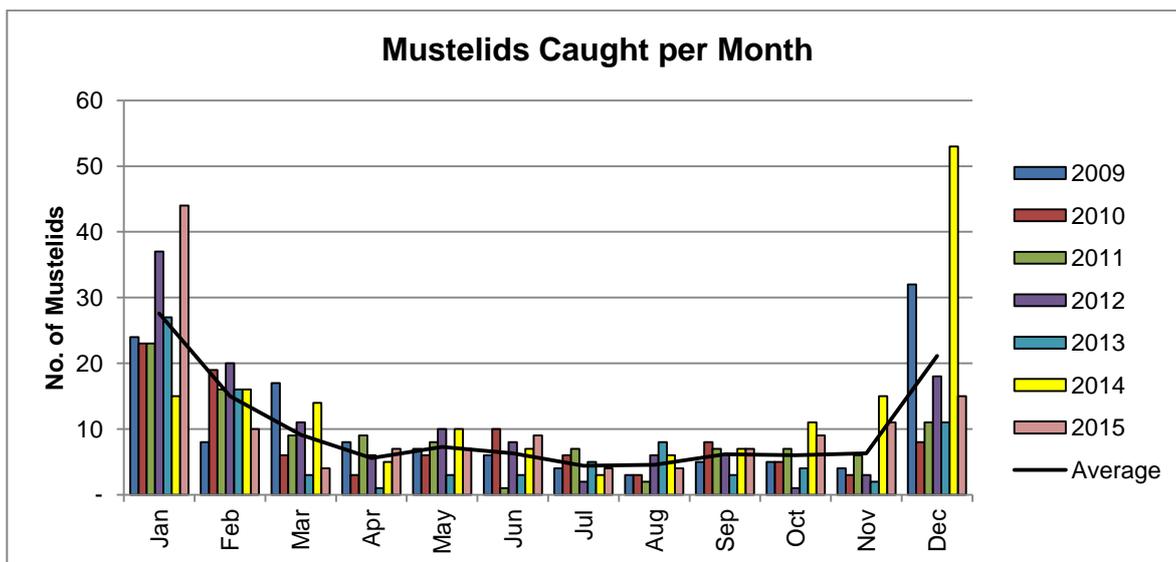
Scientists have confirmed the mast year seed fall predicted last year has eventuated. This autumn a higher than normal quantity of seed will drop to the forest floor, providing a bonanza of food for rats and causing their population to boom. The Rimutaka Forest Park has some beech forest and also podocarp

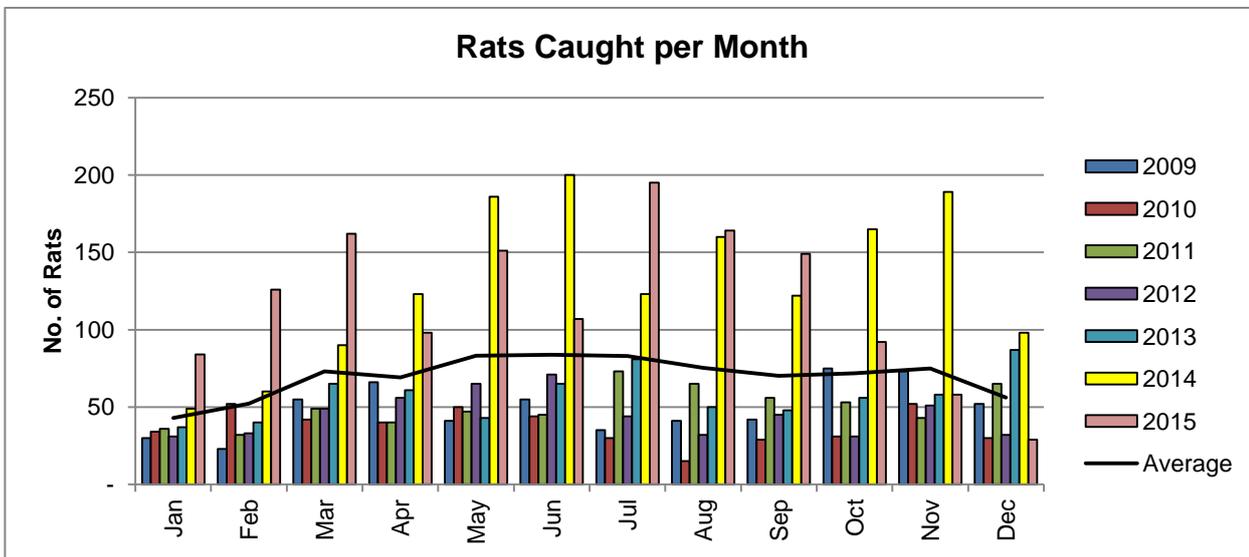
broadleaf forest which is producing a lot of seed this year.

As rats increase due to the readily-available food source, so will the number of stoats which feed on rats. Once the seeds germinate and the food source disappears in early spring, the plague of starving rats and hungry stoats will turn on native wildlife, bringing disaster if we do nothing. This is the time the first clutch of kiwi chicks hatch out. Below is an excellent link to a booklet on the DOC website, showing the cycle of events (page 2) and other useful information.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/threats-and-impacts/battle-for-our-birds-2016/battle-for-our-birds-2016.pdf>

The tables below show the fluctuations in catch rates over the last 7 years with a stoat spike in December 2014 and January 2015 preceded by the high rat numbers during 2014.





In 2014 the trapping network struggled to keep up with the number of rats caught and a big Thank you to the trappers who increased their trap checks to clear the traps. This year, we will remain on fortnightly traps checks through autumn/winter to keep the DOC200's available for the beasts. The A24 self re-setting traps buffering the core zone (phase 1 JtD) will remain on a monthly re-baiting check.



www.whitebaitconnection.co.nz

Two members of the Trust recently attended a Fresh Water Hui organised by the Whitebait Connection and supported by GWRC and DOC. This was a very worthwhile Hui to help us as an organisation understand what we can do to support the already amazing waterways and aquatic biodiversity in the park streams.

Like most things, monitoring is the key to understanding changes overtime and what we can do to support the wildlife in the streams.

Restoration Day – Carterton Event Centre - Wairarapa 21st May 2016

Anyone keen on going to Restoration day book in via <http://www.naturespace.org.nz/wellington-restoration-day-2016>. You can go for part or whole day, check out the agenda for the day on the Nature Space site. This is a great opportunity to connect with like minded people and learn on the way.

Forest Bird Survey

Acoustic_Daybird_survey_2015

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was made on March 29 by Susan Ellis

summer time (NZDT)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1		NOTE EACH CARD SHOULD LAST 2 WEEKS when recording 2 hours/day at high-rate. Batteries also last around 2 weeks.												
2	Location (nearest trap)	Start date (Ram/7am recording)	Start date (23:00 recording)	Collection date (last day with Ram recording)	Location (NZTM, GPS)	Location (notes)	Recorder r#	Flash card#	Time (NZST or NZDT)	hours rec rate	deployed by	Best date for analysis (momin g calls)	Backed up?	
3	WG	2/12/2015	1/12/2015	3/12/2015	E176511 2m downhill in line with gate	6 N5427	KR3	2014-9	summer time (NZDT)	8:00-9:00: 23:00-24:00	HIGH SE		3/12/2015	elements
4	SG4	2/12/2015	1/12/2015	3/12/2015	E176587 1m from trap on small tree	9 N5427 354	KR5	2014-4	summer time (NZDT)	8:00-9:00: 23:00-24:00	HIGH SE	NOT GOOD-needs re-reading		elements
5	MW18	2/12/2015	1/12/2015	3/12/2015	E176650 directly above trap	0 N5427 236	KR1	KR1B	summer time (NZDT)	8:00-9:00: 23:00-24:00	HIGH SE	MARGINAL	3/12/2015	elements
6	WV21	2/12/2015	1/12/2015	3/12/2015	E176663 5m uphill from trap- lee side of lancewood	5 N5427 090	KR7	KR2B	summer time (NZDT)	8:00-9:00: 23:00-24:00	HIGH SE	NOT GOOD-need re-reading		elements
	OT2	2/12/2015	2/12/2015	6/12/2015	E176157 Note pink marker		KR12	KR3B	summer	8:00-9:00: HIGH	SE		5/12/2015	elements

Recorder Metadata * Weather conditions *

In consultation with monitoring experts from DOC and Victoria University the Trust deployed acoustic recorders across the network collecting call data for presence/absence of forest birds. The recorders have the ability to programme two sets of on/off time periods and we used the second time period to record presence/absence of kiwi. The Forest bird time period was aligned with the research conducted by Victoria University in the Greater Wellington Regional Councils, Water Catchment and the Aorangi Forest Park in the Wairarapa. Susan Ellis sent us all scurrying around the park installing and removing acoustic recorders all the while keeping this all clear in her head. All 75 calling stations have now been counted. This data will kick start what will become an annual bird count survey over 10kms of the park. These will tie-in with the regional 5MBC and look for changes over time in forest bird prevalence. Although not finalised

they show an impressive number of Tomtits in the park.

Welcome to Ricky and Haere ra to Dion in the Water catchment.

Dion has moved into a new role with Greater Wellington Regional Council and Ricky Clarkson has taken over from Dion as the new Ranger in the Wainuiomata Water Catchment.

World Earth Day 22nd April 2016

The Trust was very happy to host for a second time a visit by US Ambassador Mark Gilbert and the American Embassy NZ team. It was also marvelous to see DOC and Hutt City Council join us to celebrate Earth Day 2016.



Peter Cooper from the RFPT provided an informative walk/talk on the park's natural habitat with the highlight showing the recently re introduced Yellow mistletoe. Trust volunteers and Embassy staff enthusiastically planted native trees and installed a trap-line to commence the establishment of the Catchpool Eco Hotspot.

None of what we do would be possible without the support of Sponsors, Donors and Supporters – Thank you.



Pharazyn Trust



RON and EDNA GREENWOOD ENVIRONMENT TRUST



Flyrite – Rimutaka Heli Services

COLIN WEBSTER WATSON TRUST



Lottery Grants



Ngā Takuhe Rota



Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui

Thank you to all those like minded people who sponsor a trap, kiwi, or tree through the trust's sponsorship program.