

Winter Trapping and Planting

Stage one of the Mainland Trapline Extension was completed two weeks ago. We have now doubled the number of stoat boxes and there is still money in the kitty to add a few possum traps and additional stoat boxes on lateral beach access tracks or at view points e.g. at Yellow Point.

Our next check will be the first over the entire network, in time for the winter gathering. Since the extensions require Watertaxi transport, we rely on the goodwill of commercial operators. We cannot take their generous support for granted, so here are ways to 'ease the load': all trips are one way and we will walk out; we will not displace fare-paying passengers which means we might have to wait for the next available boat on short notice. We are trying to spread trips over all operators as much as practicable. Traps are usually checked over the weekend but we encourage the use of Fridays or Mondays, in order to make use of the DoC boat as well.

A problem?

Sadly, most of the traps from 9 to 22 were set off by 'vandals'. Incidents of vandalism have in the past been low but this recent spate of activity has clearly reduced our tally. It appears that two possum traps have gone missing as well. No stoats were caught this time.

The team for the last two checks and the placing of traps on the extension included Jim and Janet, Zoe, Pat and Dave, Paul, Tom, Allan, Georgina, Robert, Will and Jenny - hope I haven't forgotten anybody! Many thanks to Aquataxi for transport.

Preparations to translocate the Saddleback or Tieke from Motuara Island in the Marlborough Sounds to Adele Island are well underway. Peter Gaze is guiding the project and will tell us more at our Winter Gathering on 17th August. Release of the Tieke is scheduled for 5th September, 2014.

Press Stop! The second tunnel footprint check on Pitt Head showed a 3% return which is lower than the previous check at 5%. If similarly low figures are found for the third check in November, this would give the green light for a South Island Robin Translocation from Adele onto the mainland.

Results July and August 2014

Results for the two months - 22 rats in July and 36 in August. The running totals are 1,297 rats, 133 stoats, 97 possums, 20 mice, 6 hedgehogs and 1 quail.

Observations

The bait had gone from a large number of traps and those at A 9 - 22 had been tampered with so that they were set off. Another two possum traps have disappeared.

Thanks!

In addition to the dedicated work of our volunteers, the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust again records its grateful thanks to the **Canterbury Community Trust** for financial support for our trapping work and to the **Pacific Development and Conservation Trust** for funding the trees and cages used in the tree planting project.

2014 Planting's Looking Good!

The planting of trees using funding provided by the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust was completed in June and the areas with a variety of fire resistant vegetation and trees that provide additional food for the birds, look good already.

Three years after the first 1,200 trees were



planted, the coastal track from Tinline to Marahau and Adele Island now has a new cover of eco-sourced broad leaved fire resistant species including kohuhu, tarata and five finger as well as the more common kanuka and akeake and ngaio and some black beech.

Northern rata, milk tree and titoki were also planted in each of the three years and these were caged to prevent deer and possum browse. The building of cages was done on-site by volunteers. Thanks to all of you for a fantastic contribution to the park – one which your children and grandchildren will enjoy in decades to come.