



## **Trapper's report Pukenui/Western Hills Charitable Trust (July 2015)**

Hello all,

Winter's here and the days are short up there in the bush. Luckily up until recently it's been a mild winter and on the still clear days, it's simply sublime out there clearing the traps.

A few good kills to report lately. Two feral Tomcats have met their demise and a few stoats as well. The two toms were big heavy cats and it's nice to know they're gone.

The extra stoat kills reported this time round is a little disappointing but seems to be a seasonal thing as Bevan has also picked up a few as well. Kills came from above Barge park and one in the middle of the forest. Above Barge seems to be a predator hotspot at the moment. Rat kills have also been up a little over the past few months.

The trail cams have continued their vigilance in the area we found the Kiwi sign. Each time I go in to check the footage I'm filled with hope that this check will be the one, but so far have only picked up mostly pests and a couple of the native birds.

These two pictures were caught just 15mins or so apart and show a stoat standing on the mud where the kiwi prints were found then a Kereru sitting only a foot away from where the predator had been. It shows the potential of these



pests to kill birds we think of as canopy dwellers.

Concerned about the multiple days this animal was active and in an important area, I immediately added two stoat boxes to this area. Fingers crossed these will result in a kill. One of the trail cameras is watching a trap box, so it will be interesting to see if we have any interest.

The tracks are pretty wet now so be careful out there and watch your step. Also with short days remember that it gets dark earlier in the bush so factor this in if you are walking any of the tracks.

Still plenty of reasons to get out there for some fresh air and exercise as it's a lovely time to see the many lichens, toadstools and other fungi that become so prolific in these conditions.

Cheers

**Luke Robertson - Pukenui Trapper**

