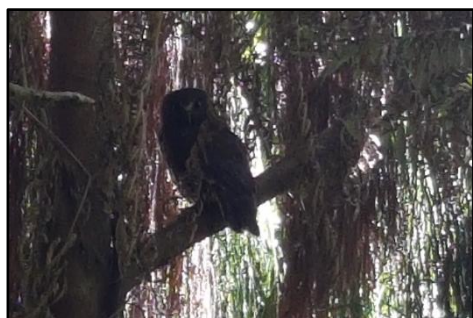


## Pukenui Forest Ranger Report 12/09/2019.

Finally! Winter is over! While the weathers still a bit iffy, the forest is already feeling warmer and the rangers much happier! Much of this month has been spent preparing for our September toxin operation, checking and servicing our many traps on the buffer and throughout the forest, keeping a close eye on our nesting kiwi and catching up with the elusive Muhammad for his transmitter change. Read on for more detail of the month's events.



Ruru in a rimu tree along one of the tracking tunnel lines.



Interesting green fungi found around Smithville/ Woodlea area.



Muhammad during his transmitter change.

### Predator Control:

Data summary 2019:

*Table 1: Trap data to date. (some data still coming)*

MONTH	WEASEL	STOAT	RAT	CAT	HEDGEHOG	FERRET
JANUARY	0	5	40	1	10	1
FEBRUARY	2	2	32	0	13	1
MARCH	1	0	45	0	6	0
APRIL	0	6	45	0	7	0
MAY	1	2	26	0	0	0
JUNE	0	5	44	1	4	0
JULY	0	1	26	0	1	0
AUGUST	1	3	22	0	1	0
<b>YTD</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>

Comparison to this time last year:

*Table 2: 2019-2018 data comparison.*

PEST	THIS YTD	LAST YEAR
WEASEL	4	1
STOAT	21	32
RAT	258	274
CAT	2	0
HEDGEHOG	41	33
FERRET	2	0
<b>TOTAL PESTS</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>340</b>

It has once again been quiet on the trapping front with only a small increase in mustelid catch and rat numbers staying at around the same level when compared to last month. With such a low catch rate more time has been spent servicing traps both on the buffer and throughout the forest to make sure everything is working the way it should. This is particularly important due to the recent ferret issues.

This year to date we have caught a total of 18 pests more than this time last year with 8 more hedgehogs, 3 more weasels, 2 more cats and 2 more ferrets caught. We have also caught 16 less rats and significantly less stoats with 11 less than this time last year.

### **Toxin:**

Much of this month has been spent preparing for our September toxin operation which includes a fair amount of paperwork as well as packing the toxin. As always there were a few hoops to jump through, perhaps a few more this year but we have finally got there! The operation was delayed somewhat but with everything now sorted we can get cracking and lay waste to any possums and rats whom have dared to dwell within Pukenui.

### **Kiwi monitoring**

The kiwi continue to do well in Pukenui, and we now have three kiwi sitting on nests! Waimarie is on day 84 of incubation and could hatch any day now, Hamza is on day 39 of incubation and most recently Sayyad is on day 26 on incubation. This is exciting news for Pukenui and shows the kiwi are more than happy in their new environment.

We once again gave chase to Muhammad this month and finally managed to locate and capture him successfully just south west of Whau Valley dam. He was the smallest of Pukenui's second lot of kiwi at 1900g but like the rest of our birds looked to be in good condition and has made a gain of 300g in weight since his release in April.

We also attempted to locate and capture Kaitaki this month but unfortunately missed out. We located his transmitter successfully behind Smithville road amongst a large gorse patch the problem being it was no longer attached to his leg. This of course means we can no longer keep tabs on Kaitaki from here on out but we're sure he'll continue to thrive in the forest.

Talha has managed to avoid us completely this month which means that unfortunately we have no activity data for her. She was last seen during her transmitter change early last month after which she took off like a bat out of hell! We have searched her usual area as well as the forest perimeter thoroughly to no avail. Her usual area is full of rocky terrain which may be interfering with her signal or its possible she has simply moved on elsewhere. Wish us luck in finding her over the next month.

The monitored kiwi have been active for an collective average of 10.50 hours per night down slightly from 11.80 hours last month. Austin was the most active bird for the third month straight with an average of 12.80 hours of activity per night up slightly from 12.66 hours last month. Sayyad was the least active this month with an average of 5.42 hrs of

activity per night which is down from 11.16 hrs last month, this of course is due to him nesting.

<b>KIWI</b>	<b>AVERAGE ACTIVITY (HRS)</b>
Austin	12.83
Ella	11
Hamza	7.75
Hurupaki	12
Kaitaki	11.30
Mucaad	10.66
Muhammad	11.83
Purehu	9
Sayyad	5.42
Talha	NO DATA
Tariq	12
Wana	11.66
Collective average	10.50