

## Pukenui Forest Ranger Report 11/08/2021



The eel know as Fluffy. Have been feeding this fella on the regular a few years now.



*Crucibulum laeve* or common bird's nest fungus. Found near Taraire ridge track.



*Crinipellis procera* Found in the southern portion of the forest.

### Trapping:

We've had a slight dip in pest numbers this month with rats still being caught quite frequently. Only one mustelid has been caught since the last report which was on the buffer once again which is exactly where we want to catch them! Cat numbers seem to be at an all-time high which is a bit worrisome. Two have been caught on the forest edge over the last month and we've had reports from the public that they are seeing them lurking about quite frequently on the surrounding farmland. Not sure what the explanation for this is but we need to remain vigilant with our cat traps to ensure we stop them before they get a chance to fill their bellies in the forest!

In addition to our regular trapping, we also have managed to put a couple of days into installing our recently acquired AT220 auto traps with the help of volunteers. As mentioned in the last report the idea of these is to slow the reinvasion between toxin operations from the yet to be poisoned eastern portion of the forest into the intensively managed western portion of the forest. We've checked a few of these traps since the install and can report they are working as intended with nice little piles of dead possums and rats sitting beneath them! A huge thank you to all the volunteers that helped with this, it's always great to see the community getting involved and as always, your help is much appreciated. I'm sure the forest inhabitants are celebrating with every bang of the trap!

This year to date we have caught a total of 315 pests, 15 more than this time last year. The totals include 16 less stoats and 9 less hedgehogs as well as 2 more weasels, 19 more rats and 9 more cats than this time last year. No ferrets have been detected this year.

## Trap data summary 2021:

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

| MONTH    | WEASEL | STOAT | RAT | CAT | HEDGEHOG | FERRET |
|----------|--------|-------|-----|-----|----------|--------|
| JANUARY  | 0      | 3     | 28  | 4   | 7        | 0      |
| FEBRUARY | 0      | 1     | 21  | 0   | 3        | 0      |
| MARCH    | 1      | 3     | 26  | 1   | 0        | 0      |
| APRIL    | 2      | 2     | 40  | 0   | 1        | 0      |
| MAY      | 1      | 0     | 52  | 2   | 3        | 0      |
| JUNE     | 1      | 1     | 62  | 1   | 3        | 0      |
| JULY     | 0      | 1     | 43  | 2   | 0        | 0      |
| YTD      | 5      | 11    | 272 | 10  | 17       | 0      |

Comparison to this time last year:

Table 2: 2021-2020 data comparison (some data still coming!).

| PEST        | THIS YEAR TO DATE | THIS TIME LAST YEAR |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| WEASEL      | 5                 | 3                   |
| STOAT       | 11                | 27                  |
| RAT         | 272               | 253                 |
| CAT         | 10                | 1                   |
| HEDGEHOG    | 17                | 26                  |
| FERRET      | 0                 | 0                   |
| TOTAL PESTS | 315               | 310                 |

## Toxin/bait stations:

We have yet again been firmly focused on lowering bait stations in preparation for the September toxin operation and are finally on the home stretch! These will be completed in the next few weeks all going well. The Double Tap has arrived at our lock up, waiting to be bagged up. Once complete we should be all go come September!

## Kiwi monitoring:

Not a lot of news on the kiwi front this month. Ben and Carl Dowds spent a day looking for the five transmitted kiwi and found the same three as the month before. Fortunately, Morrie was a little easier to track this time, so they were able to record his data stream which we missed out on last time around. Max Hutchings has also been out and about helping with the search which has helped us narrow down the found bird's locations as well eliminate areas in our search for the missing birds. Jeanette and #69 are still at large but I'm sure they'll turn up at some point! Interestingly no nesting activity detected on the monitored males yet.

The monitored kiwi have been active for an collective average of 11.77 hours per night during the last month. Barr was again the most active bird found this month with an average

of 12.5 hours of activity per night down slightly from 12.66 hours last month. Ataahua was again the least active bird found this month with an average of 11.16 hours of activity per night up from 9.33 hours a night last time around.

*Table 3: Average activity of each monitored kiwi between 07/07/2021 and 11/08/2021.*

| <b>KIWI</b> | <b>AVERAGE ACTIVITY (hrs)</b> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Jeanette    | MIA                           |
| Barr        | 12.66                         |
| Morrie      | 11.66                         |
| Ataahua     | 11.16                         |
| #69         | MIA                           |