

Ranger Report April 2023

April has come and gone, and the rain doesn't seem to want to stop, and the humidity turns the forest into a sauna. The forest is slippery as anything and still a bit of tree fall occurring here and there but nothing major on the main walking tracks thankfully. One good thing to come out of the wet humid climate is the fungi, the forest has erupted with all kinds of wonderful fungi species, and I can barely contain my excitement. We also found a rather large chert deposit. Chert has been used by many cultures around the world as arrow heads and cutting tools. Without further ado let's get into it.



Still working on ID

Cyclocybe parasitica

Potential family: Omphalotaceae



Chert deposit

Trapping

We have a total of 70 pests for this month they are as follows: 4 stoats (two more compared to last month), 60 rats, 1 cat, 2 hedgehogs, 2 possums and a blackbird oddly enough. Our total for the year thus far is 267 pests with the majority being caught in the forest. The main species caught being rats: 224 followed by hedgehogs: 18 and stoats: 14.

MONTH	WEASEL	STOAT	RAT	CAT	HEDGEHOG	POSSUM	FERRET	OTHER	SET OFF
JANUARY	0	5	46	2	9	2	0	0	0
FEBRUARY	0	3	46	0	5	2	0	0	0
MARCH	0	2	72	2	2	0	0	0	4
APRIL	0	4	60	1	2	2	0	1	0

Forest	0	12	135	5	6	6	0	0	4
Buffer	0	2	89	0	12	0	0	1	0

Toxin removal

Over the last couple of months, we have been removing the Double Tapp form the bait stations and the full extent of the cyclone has been realized. Many lines have had slips and trees come down making the work difficult. Although the lines are still mostly doable some will need remarking and rerouting around slips.

Coronation reserve project

We are underway installing bait stations throughout the Coronation reserve, and it is an interesting bit of bush. The is little ground cover and is mainly mud making it rather slippery (I think I broke the world record of slipping over in a single day). The terrain is not as bad as Pukenui with a couple nasty gullies that have required rerouting for safety. The rain isn't making it easy, but we shall solder on as we do. There is some beautiful old growth Puriri and Rimu throughout the area and we have come across some interesting finds. The first being a grey faced petrel although it was deceased. Petrels are a burrowing sea bird that are found at Hen and Chicks Island, Whangārei heads and limestone island (many moons ago I built and installed nesting boxes on Limestone Island for petrels). Petrels generally return to the nest that they fledge in, we had a quick look around for a burrow but couldn't find anything. If they were nesting in the coronation this would be very significant but without further investigation, we can't draw any solid conclusions. I also found an old leghold trap I know from my own possum trapping Coronation reserve was a popular spot, with a wire brush and some CRC I'll have a new trap.



Old gold prospecting mine in Coronation reserve