

This newsletter is supported by Tasman District Council and Tasman Environmental Trust

# Tasman Nelson Conservation Volunteers NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024



## WELCOME!

**This newsletter contains the latest trapping reports and news from conservation volunteers across Tasman and Nelson. Conservation-related events are often included, as well as relevant information and news from other sources.**

[Go to Trapping & Activity Reports](#)

\* No events reported for the upcoming month

### Go to More Reading

\* A simple modification that improves the effectiveness of Trapinator traps  
(suggested by Bryce Buckland)

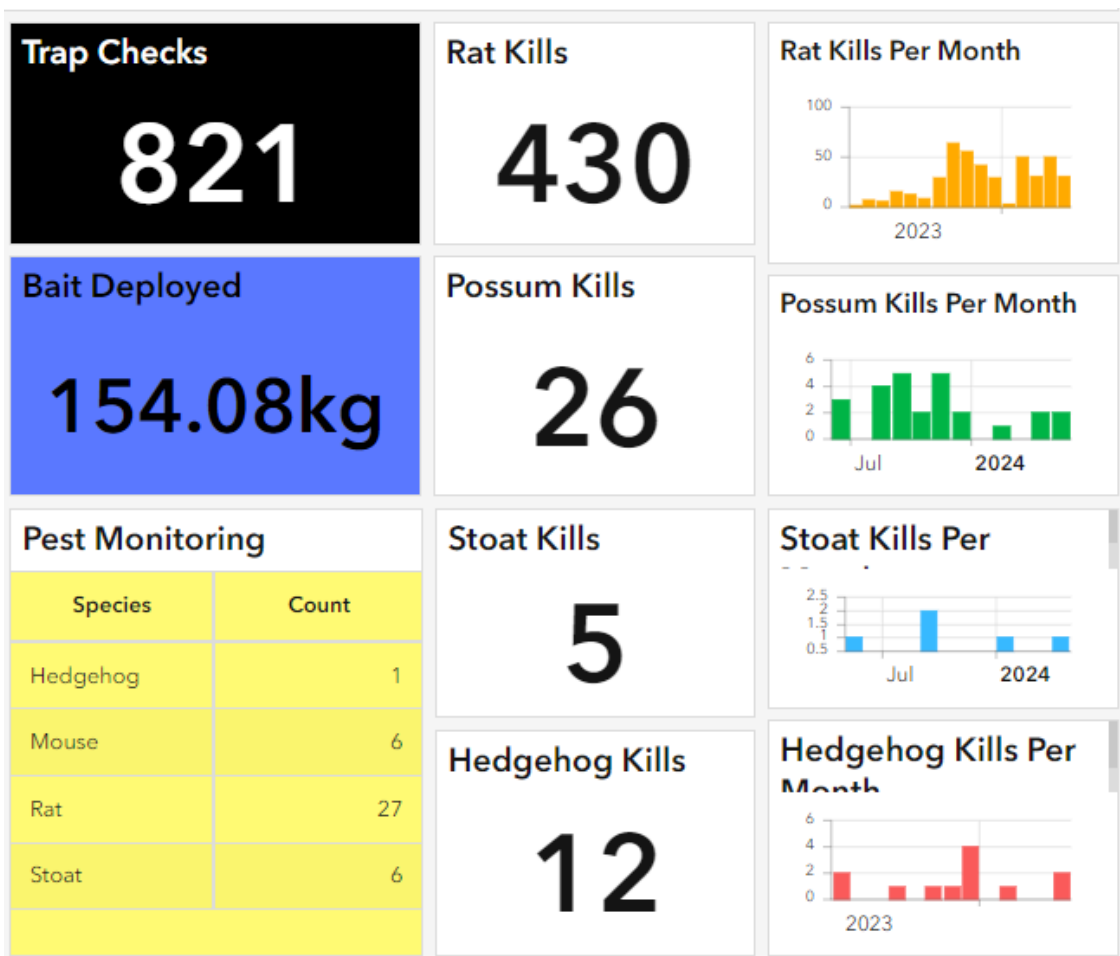
Repeated just in case you missed it the last time.

## TRAPPING & ACTIVITY REPORTS

**PROJECT DE-VINE** [www.pdvet.org.nz](http://www.pdvet.org.nz)

[admin@pdvet.org.nz](mailto:admin@pdvet.org.nz). Tel: 0800 669 3337

Fostering Native Ecosystems in Golden Bay & Top Of The South



Pests reported killed on our four trap lines by our team of six trappers:

**March:** 8 rats, 18 mice

**April:** 11 rats, 18 mice

**May:** 5 rats, 10 mice, 2 weasels.

Our last weasel kill was in 2022 and the previous ones back in 2019. It is quite likely that these ones were lured to the Reserve by the persistently large number of mice around. Time will tell. We are prepared for them.

It is sobering for folk like us, who dedicate our time and effort over years to protect and enhance our country's unique biodiversity, to realise that there are others out there who seem to believe that the main value of our environment is what can be extracted from it.

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### **PACKERS CREEK, MAITAI VALLEY**

(in area of New Zealand Deerstalkers Association's Packers Creek Rifle Range)

**Greg Couper and Carina Jackson**

carinajackson97@gmail.com

**This month's catch:** 2 weasels, 8 rats, 33 mice, 1 stoat




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### **FRIENDS OF ROTOITI (St Arnaud)**

**Ina Biertuempfel** inche81@gmx.de

**Total 478 Catches:** 1 hedgehog, 112 Mice, 5 Possums, 319 Rats, 31 Stoats, 1 Weasel




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### **MARSDEN VALLEY TRAPPERS**

**Kathryn** Email marsdenvtg@gmail.com or Text 0273515428

No report this month.

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### **WILL'S GULLY GROUP**

**Working for conservation in the Richmond Hills since 1999**

**Will Rickerby** willrickerby@gmail.com Ph 544 2929 [Facebook Page](#)

**TOTAL MAY GULLY CATCHES: 19 mice, 9 rats, 2 hedgehogs & 1 possum.**

**Will Reports:**

Pretty quiet this month just waiting for some rain. Ross, Michelle & I did trim along a fence line of overhanging branches though. Rainfall this month was only 29¾ mm which was pretty low but more than the 20mm in 2008 and 29mm in 2012. The gully Facebook page has had an increase in views this month for some reason. Good though.

**Bryan Riley Reports:**

Wilks Line: 3 rats, 1 mouse

Waterfall line: 2 rats.

**Jeana and John Report:**

April Catch: 1 rat

May catch: 1 possum, 1 hedgehog, 5 mice.

Was surprised to see the possum. Last few times checking the trap line the apples in the possum traps have all been untouched.

**Alastair Mackintosh Reports:**

Just one hedgehog caught this past month. Not much sign of anything else about, though not really cold yet.

Plenty of fantails around. Have a bit of a problem with honey bees taking over the bird feeder. They will drink the one litre bottle in a day which was meant for the tui & bellbirds. Do not want to discourage them too much as we certainly need bees.

**Bruce Harvey Reports :**

Not much happened this month.

May Catch: 1 mouse, 1 rat. (Grassy Saddle Area)

**Richard Wells Reports:**

May Catch: 3 rats.

**Mike Oliver Reports:**

May Catch: 12 mice (Fire Lookout Line)

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**FARADAY RISE**

**Ross Cullen** [rosscullen.kiwi@gmail.com](mailto:rosscullen.kiwi@gmail.com)

**May Catch:** 2 Norway rats, 11 ship rats, 15 mice, and 5 hedgehogs

**FOREST & BIRD**

**Gillian Pollock** [g.pollock@scorch.co.nz](mailto:g.pollock@scorch.co.nz)  
and **Mark Forward**

**Moturoa West End:**

**May catches:** 10 mice, 2 hedgehogs, 1 ship rat

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**NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME**

**Jacob Lucas** [jlucas@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:jlucas@fishandgame.org.nz)



**May Catch:** 6 rats, 4 hedgehogs

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**PAREMATA FLATS RESERVE (Delaware Bay)**

**Moira Tilling** [moiratilling@gmail.com](mailto:moiratilling@gmail.com)

**May Catches:** 142 mice, 15 rats, 3 weasels, 2 hedgehogs.

We have a healthy population of weta

**We're still looking for more weeders!**

Please email Mian at [gmianglim@gmail.com](mailto:gmianglim@gmail.com) if you can help Or, if you can help with trapping & monitoring, please email me at [moiratilling@gmail.com](mailto:moiratilling@gmail.com)

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**EASBY PARK/RESERVOIR CREEK**

**Paul Hewson** [hewsonit@gmail.com](mailto:hewsonit@gmail.com)

**Allan's Track/Lodestone Park:** It's been a quiet two months with just 2 rats caught.

**Giles Griffith & Mike van Enter** [grifiles@gmail.com](mailto:grifiles@gmail.com)

**KRB Track:** No report this month

**Greg and Alison Pickford** [gregandalisonpickford@gmail.com](mailto:gregandalisonpickford@gmail.com)

**Reservoir Creek:** No report this month

**Keith & Desi Gorton** [keithbhl@tasman.net](mailto:keithbhl@tasman.net)

**Escalator Mountain Bike Track:**

**May Catch:** 1 rat, 8 mice

**Steve and Linda Liddicoat**

**Reservoir Creek:** 3 mice, 1 rat.

**Nigel Barrett & Chris Finlay** [finlaybarrett@hotmail.com](mailto:finlaybarrett@hotmail.com)

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## MARSDEN VALLEY TRAPPERS

**Kathryn** marsdenvtg@gmail.com or text 0273515428

No report this month

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## NATIVE BIRD RECOVERY, RICHMOND

**TIM WARD** timward2014@gmail.com

**Saxton Creek:** No report this month

**SUE MARREN** sue\_marren@hotmail.com

**LAWRIE HALKETT** thehalketts@xtra.co.nz

### May Catches

**Jimmy Lee:** 10 rats, 8 mice, 4 possums

**Sunview Heights** - six properties now involved: 12 rats, 31 mice, 6 hedgehogs

9 piglets (caught in a cage trap) been plaguing several properties along the top of Sunview heights all month

**BRUCE HARVEY** rpargue@xtra.co.nz

**Ron Valhalla traps:** No report this month

**Alongside Reservoir Dam:** No report this month

**Saxton Valley trapline:** No report this month

**ROSALIE AND PATRICK ADAMSON** pr.adamson@hotmail.com

**Reservoir Creek:** No report this month

**THANKS TO SPONSORS:** Ewing's Poultry, Sarah & Roick Griffen, and Pic's Peanut Butter

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## HEALTHPOST NATURE TRUST

Marian Milne Project Co-ordinator,

marianminenz@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.naturetrust.nz](http://www.naturetrust.nz)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/healthpostnaturetrust](http://www.facebook.com/healthpostnaturetrust)

**No report this month.**

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Barry Burger [farmersforwhio@gmail.com](mailto:farmersforwhio@gmail.com)

No report this month



**Brian Alder | Project Lead**

[brian@onetahuarestoration.org.nz](mailto:brian@onetahuarestoration.org.nz)

[www.onetahuarestoration.org.nz](http://www.onetahuarestoration.org.nz)

Check [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for more frequent updates.

**No report this month**

## OTUWHERO WETLAND

**Bruce Reid** [breid.mot@kinect.co.nz](mailto:breid.mot@kinect.co.nz)

No report this month

## BATTLE FOR THE BANDED RAIL

**Kathryn Brownlie** [bandedrail@gmail.com](mailto:bandedrail@gmail.com)



[Click here to read our latest newsletter here](#)

We have 1,158 traps around the Waimea Inlet - on the estuary edge, an inland buffer and some on islands in the inlet.

**Our catch figures for April 2024:**

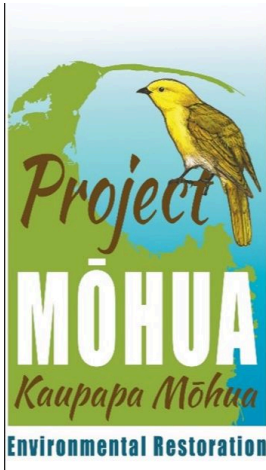
	April	12 months	Since 2015
Rat	135	1,006	7,095
Mouse	103	648	1,752
Hedgehog	21	130	1,430
Stoat	-	19	300
Weasel	9	60	385
Ferret	-	-	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>10,998</b>

[Read our latest newsletter here](#)



No trapping report this month but you can read our [Predator Control Report for December 2023](#)

This was compiled by Alistair Sheat using TrapNZ - a Geographic Information System - and the Goodnature dashboard.



### PROJECT MOHUA GOLDEN BAY

[www.projectmohua.org.nz](http://www.projectmohua.org.nz)

Information on conservation events and volunteer opportunities in Golden Bay are also available on our [Facebook page](#)

**No report this month.**

### BIRDLIFE CENTRE OF NEW ZEALAND

Gretchen Holland [gretchen@kaka.nz](mailto:gretchen@kaka.nz)

Please note that our reports now include stats from our “Backyarders”

	APRIL	MAY
Rats	38	41
Mice	140	89
Possum	3	2
Hedgehogs	2	0
Weasels	0	1

### FRIENDS OF FLORA

Gerald Bruce-Smith [gbruce-smith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gbruce-smith@xtra.co.nz)

No trapping report this month but you can read our latest newsletter [here](#)







No report this month

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**BIRD LIFE ON THE GRAMPIANS** Bryce Buckland [bbuckland@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bbuckland@xtra.co.nz)

No report this month.

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**A big thanks to Pic's Peanut Butter for supporting community conservation, helping to make New Zealand predator free.**

Pic's supplies peanut butter as trapping bait - trappers report that predators rats and other predators find it irresistible!

**Pic's Peanut Butter for traps \$15 per 5kg (incl. shipping)**

Waste/end of run peanut butter is given to community groups for the cost of shipping and handling.

A small amount of blue powdered food dye has been added to the tub as an indicator this is not for human consumption. The 5kg bucket will bait over 1,000 traps. One bucket only per order: no shipping to the Chatham Islands.



UPCOMING EVENTS

**NO EVENTS REPORTED FOR THIS MONTH**

MORE READING

**This advice has appeared previously the Newsletter but is repeated here in case you missed it the first time!**

After not having much success with Trapinators, I have made a few minor modifications and am now getting good hits: last month we got 4 possum, but since the modifications we have caught 18 possum.

1. As supplied, the bait clip is set right forward on the rod and secured with a spring (Photo One) In this position it is very difficult for the possum to reach the bait, so they put their claws into the trap. This sets off the trap, and they escape.

2. Modify by moving the bait clip (Photo Two) Having the bait clip above the entry makes it easier for possum to reach, and get caught (Photo Three)

3. Don't screw, or nail the trap to a tree. Instead, attach them to a bit of decking timber with short tech screws and then use an impact driver and 100mm tech screws to secure it to the tree. (Photo Four) This makes the traps easy to put up, and easy to move.

Placement of traps is important too. The secret is to find where possum track - it takes a bit of practice to see, but once you know what to look for, it's easy. The new blend of possum dough is very effective as a bait.

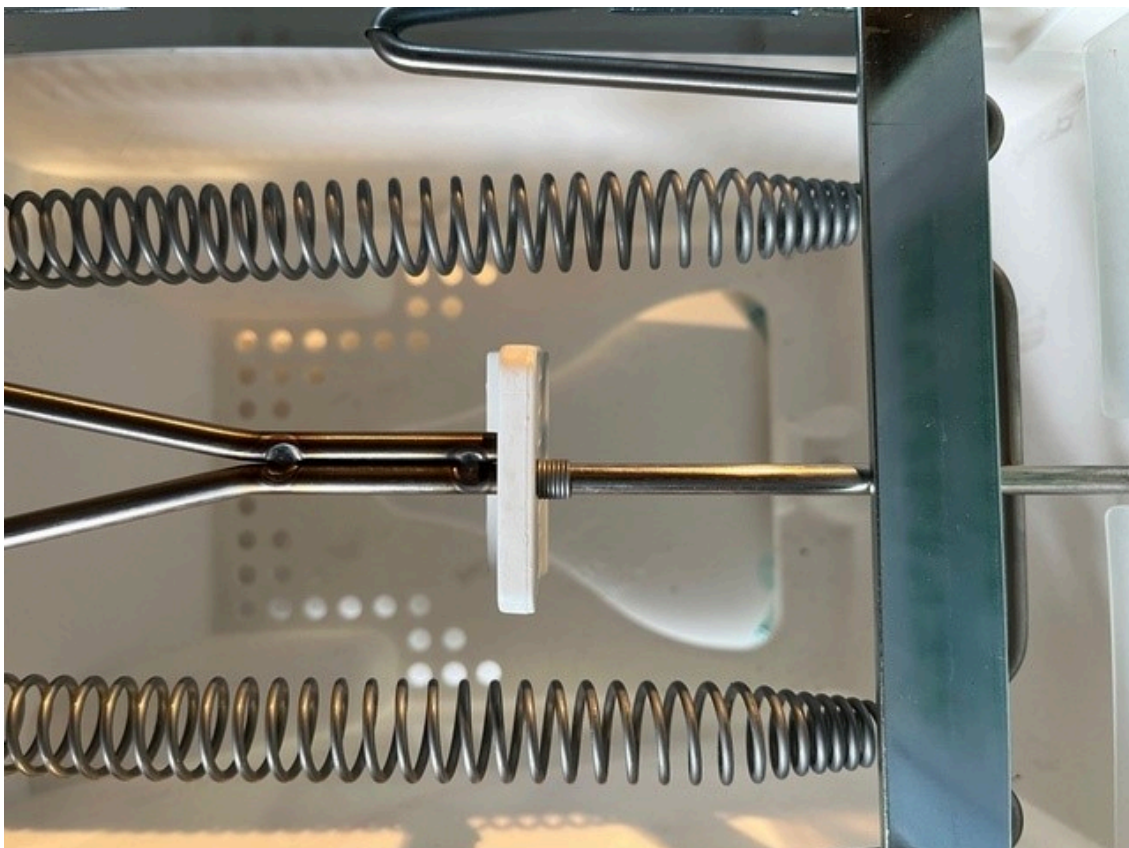


Photo 1: Trap as supplied from factory

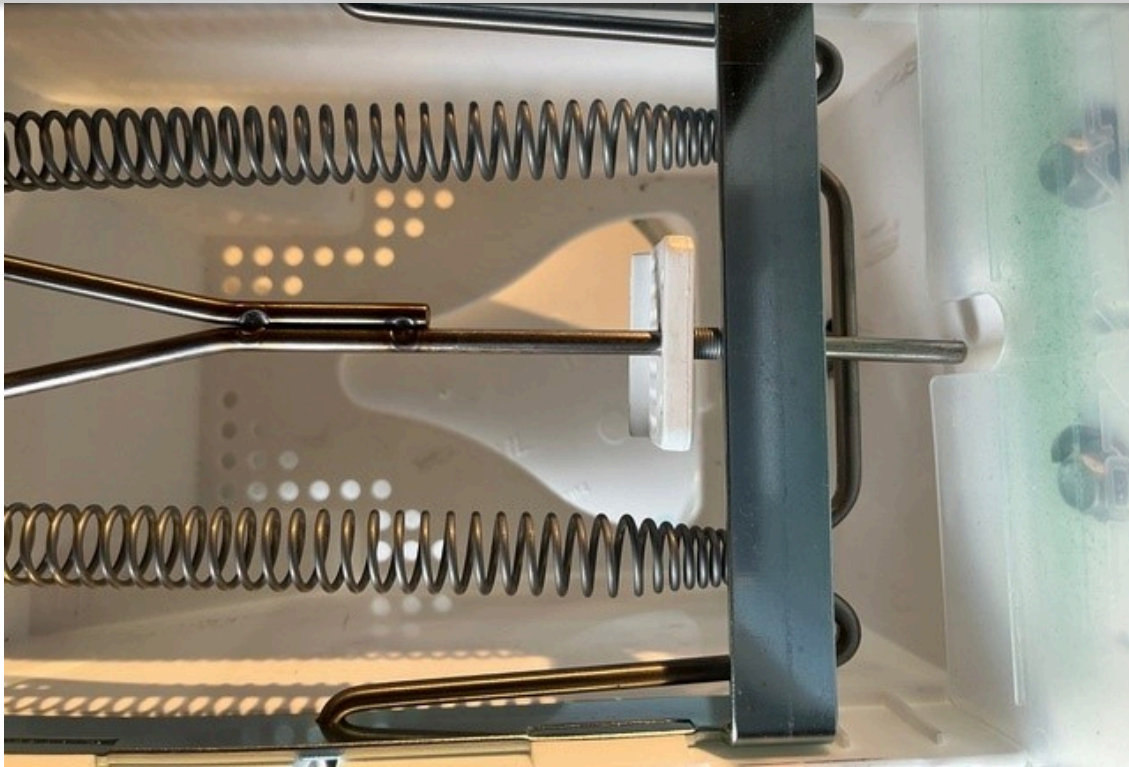


Photo 2: Trap after modification





Photo 4: Traps place on either side of possum track

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#### **ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**

Established by Will Rickerby in 2009, this monthly newsletter is now managed by the Tasman Environmental Trust and collated by Ro Cambridge. Content is supplied by conservation volunteers in Nelson Tasman. Opinions expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect that of the Tasman Environmental Trust.

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