

Winter 2017

COROMANDEL ENVIRONMENT NEWS

megaphone

THE FACTS & ISSUES

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*"Pest control is like cleaning toilets,
you just have to keep on doing it."*

Professor Carolyn King, University of Waikato

print house Ltd.



The art of catching critters

Want to target pests on your place, but not too sure where to begin? We pass on a few tricks of the trade...

Be clear about your goals

What pests you target will depend on the outcomes you are wanting to achieve. Are you wanting more birdlife, or simply to protect your lemon tree from possums?

Think seasonal

Consider a pest blitz in early spring. Anything done to protect birds during their breeding season is good, even if the pests rebound later.

Mix it up

An individual pest can learn to avoid a trap and pass their cautious genes to their offspring. Using a variety of traps and bait is recommended. Find the tools which suit you best.

Persevere! Just like house-work, pest control needs to be ongoing. Once you start, don't stop! And have patience. It can take years for a trap to catch its first stoat.

Team up

It helps to see you are part of a bigger picture. Talk to your neighbours or local conservation group about what you are doing. They may be keen to work together or share their knowledge.

Feeling inspired? We're here to help! For advice on where to start contact Natalie at natalie@meg.org.nz

Success! MEG Chair Lettecia clears a stoat corpse from a DOC 200 trap in our Kiwi Sanctuary



Taking stock of what matters

Terry Whitehouse is a master trap-builder and a local legend around these parts. In the past three years he has built over 800 stoat traps for us, all in his own time.

Terry has been involved in MEG since the early days. Health problems prevented him getting out into the field, so he stuck his hand up for the task of trap-building. Over the past three years, he's worked like a trooper to upgrade all of our old stoat traps that were installed in 2005. Years of practice has helped him refine the process, and he can now knock up a trap in a matter of minutes. We'd be lost without him!

This term, Terry had a little help from the Year 5/6 class at Coromandel Area School. The kids have built 29 stoat traps for us, and painted positive messages on the boxes to help raise awareness about kiwi. The traps will replace old, rusty traps in our Coromandel Kiwi Project. Now we're nearing the end of our trap upgrade, we hope Terry can enjoy a well-deserved break, and reflect on a job well done.

Above: Terry, beside a tower of trap building materials he has cut down to size.

Right: Children from the Coromandel Area School Year 5/6 class building and painting their stoat traps.



The pink and red dots above show the traps replaced in our kiwi protection zone since the Field team began the trap upgrade in 2013. To date 662 traps have been replaced.





News in brief

NEW FIELD TEAM VEHICLE

We are the proud owners of a Holden ute. The 4WD vehicle is our newest purchase and will prove invaluable for transporting the team, tools and traps, plus volunteers around rugged terrain. It was purchased from money we have fundraised, and is a big investment for MEG, but one we felt was necessary to ensure the safety of our team.

THE BEST TIME TO HEAR KIWI

Shorter days and colder nights means it's time to count kiwi calls. This year we aim to survey 13 sites, with each site visited five times. The best time to hear kiwi is on dusk, when they emerge from their burrows or shelters. We listen from May-July to get a handle on kiwi numbers, before breeding pairs hunker down for egg-laying. Kiwi pairs often duet, with one calling immediately after their partner has finished. Juvenile kiwi don't call. If you'd like to come on a listen, call Lettecia on 078666626.

WALKERS REACH SUMMIT

This year we hosted a walk as part of the ECHO Walking festival in April. Our Real Kiwi Country guided walk to the Kaipawa trig booked out, with walkers being treated to a birds-eye view of Coromandel Harbour.

Centre right: Another young kiwi from Moehau was released on Motutapu in April. MEG is one of several Coromandel community groups helping establish a kiwi population on the pest-free island using Operation Nest Egg.

Right: New volunteer recruits Daisy, Rachel and Grace, about to embark on their first kiwi listen. The ladies heard 22 kiwi calls in 2 hours, plus four more kiwi call on the walk out.

Above: Three of our Field team workers (Alex, Seamus and Dave) pose in front of their new work vehicle.





Winter Lecture Series

Back by popular demand this year's **Winter Lectures Series** has something for everyone. The free public talks are held at the Pepper Tree Restaurant in Coromandel. Come get cosy beside the fire with a warming drink. All welcome.

Impacts of creating an urban sanctuary in Wellington

Dr Colin Miskelly,
Curator Vertebrates, Te Papa
Monday 10th July, 7pm

Helping landowners enhance their slice of paradise

Elaine Iddon
Waikato Regional Council
Monday 7th August, 7pm*

Restoring a local treasure: exploring the potential of the McGregors wetland

Jim Dahm,
Coastal scientist/consultant
Monday 4th September, 7pm

**Dr Chris Paulin, Author of Te matau a Maui: Fishhooks, Fishing and Fisheries was scheduled to speak on this date. Due to unforeseen circumstances he will now feature in our 2018 programme.*

Knox Cottage

Looking for a winter getaway? Book a stay at our charming bach near Waikawau Bay.



This cheerful 2 bedroom cottage boasts ocean and estuary views. Waikawau beach is an easy ten minute walk along the estuary. With a cosy fire, the cottage offers a rustic, secluded getaway. Get back to a simpler way of life.

By choosing to stay here, you'll be helping support our efforts to protect local endangered wildlife.

To book your stay visit Bookabach.co.nz and search for 'Knox Coastal Cottage'

Winter rates from \$120/night

 **Follow us on Facebook** and help spread the word

Support our Work

Become a member of Moehau Environment Group.

You will directly help to protect the unique species and ecosystems on the Coromandel.

It's easy! Simply fill in the form below...

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
I'd also like to volunteer	Please circle: YES NO

Annual Membership fees:

Single: \$10, Family: \$20, Corporate: \$250

I would like to donate a further:

\$ _____

Please include payment by cheque.

Cheques payable to: Moehau Environment Group,
c/o Lettecia Williams, 1409 Port Charles Rd
RD4, Coromandel 3584

You can also pay online here

www.meg.org.nz/support-us/membership/

Pleased note for accounting reasons we no longer offer direct debit as a payment option unless requested.

Membership subs are due 1 October.

Have you paid? If so, many thanks.
We really appreciate your support.

For further information please contact:

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