



ISSUE 2 • 2019

# THE MEG-A-PHONE

A Newsletter from Moehau Environment Group

## MEG Operations...

The last quarter has seen a concerted effort to upgrade the Rat Attack Project in Port Charles. This 300 ha project has approximately 2000 rat traps in a grid network with 60km of track. Many of the traps have been replaced with new ones and boxes upgraded. Over time the bush has thickened up with lots of growth making it necessary to re-cut and re-mark the rat lines. We have now replaced around 800 boxes and traps and re-cut and marked 85% of the project area. The trap network has been set up in CatchIT so we can record trap catch onto our database.

Maintenance on our stoat line network has been providing a much needed break and variation from the Rat Attack. 4 stoat lines have been re-cut to clear gorse and overgrown bush from the tracks so the trappers can easily service the lines.

Our weed team has been working in the Port Charles area targeting Wild Ginger and Climbing Asparagus.

Coming up next, Waikawau Wetland Rodent Operation and more work in the Rat Attack!

Pictured right: Hochstetter frog. MEG Field team member, Mischa McCauley, shared his lunch spot with a Hochstetter frog in our Rat Attack project area recently. Mischa commented "Once you start seeing them (the Hochtstetter's), they're everywhere!" A sure sign our hard work in this area is having a positive effect!



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By the time you read this, our annual Kiwi Listening Survey will be coming to an end. We'll be collecting in all the data from our acoustic recorders and our volunteers in the field, and analysing it to give us an idea on kiwi numbers.

Our volunteers 'listen' over 5 separate nights at 2 hours a time. When they hear a call they record the time, bearing and approximate distance of the call and whether it was a male or female bird.

We've had volunteers man 11 listening sites this year and have used 12 acoustic recorders.

Keep an eye out in our next MEG-a-phone issue to see the results.

## Waikawau Children's Forest Tree Planting 2019



We had a fabulous morning planting 200 native trees (Manuka, Kanuka, Ti Kouka, Ake Ake and Karo) at the Waikawau Children's Forest with kids from Colville School in May.

The purchase of the trees was made possible with funding from Trees That Count and the really cool thing was the trees were purchased from Beth and her team at Colville Harbour Care.

This project with Colville School has been running for over 10 years and this year we had ex Colville School pupil and current MEG field team member, Mischa, along to help with the planting and to check on the trees he planted here as a young student.

This area is going to look AMAZING in a couple of years! Can't wait for next years planting day.





## The Ginger Bash is a Regular Thing!

### Wild Ginger

An extremely shade tolerant, long lived & fast growing plant. Forms dense mats of tubers that prevent anything from growing through, stopping native regeneration. Seeds are spread by birds & possibly possums. New plants grow from rhizomes moved by people, flooding & contaminated machinery.

Our group of 'Ginger Bashers' is growing! If you're a regular user of the Harray Track in Coromandel town you've probably seen the destruction and havoc we've been wreaking. Don't worry, all those dead and dying plants are Wild Ginger, a pest plant that was introduced to NZ. We've been cutting the plants down and then pasting with a herbicide which kills the rhizome and stops the plant growing back. "Easy and super rewarding", is how one of our bashers described the morning! If you'd like to be informed about our next Ginger Bash, email your details to [info@meg.org.nz](mailto:info@meg.org.nz) Huge thanks to Waikato Regional Council for providing us with our own "weed-kit" for our volunteers to use. You guys are an awesome bunch to work with!





# MEG Winter Lecture Series



What started out with very small beginnings (in local hairdressing salon, Moon), is now filling, and sometimes overflowing, the front room at The Pepper Tree Restaurant!

Our popular MEG Winter Lecture Series has been running over the cooler months for 5 years now and never fails to attract high level speakers and very topical topics.

This year is certainly no different with a panel discussion on climate change and the likes of Dean Baigent-Mercer and Dr Mike Joy giving enthralling talks on their favourite topics.

In August we will have Carlos Lehenbach give a talk on native orchids and September will have Ben Knight from Sustainable Coastlines.

A huge thanks to the owners and staff at The Pepper Tree for being so accommodating and hospitable and to our volunteer Carol who organises and often hosts the speakers each year.



## Catch Data For Target Species



**Stoat**  
**2019** - 124  
**Project Total** - 2295



**Weasel**  
**2019** - 41  
**Project Total** - 876



**Rat**  
**2019** - 848  
**Project Total** - 16,037



**Ferret**  
**2019** - 1  
**Project Total** - 3

## Sponsor a Stoat Trap

Would you like to sponsor a stoat trap within our kiwi sanctuary? Well you can! For just \$65 per year you can help provide protection for kiwi chicks in the wild. You'll receive a certificate, a map showing the location of your trap and the catch data for the sponsorship year. Not to mention lots of warm fuzzies!

## Thanks to our Volunteers, Members, Sponsors & Funding Partners...



Would you like to be one of our Corporate Sponsors? Email us at [info@meg.org.nz](mailto:info@meg.org.nz)

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