

Jan 2018 Newsletter

Happy New Year!

From all of us at Predator Free Port Hills, we hope you have had an enjoyable festive season and wish you a happy and fulfilling year ahead, and plenty of successful trapping! Thank you for being part of PFPH and contributing to predator control for the benefit of our native animals, every little bit is making a difference.

Progress in 2017

We got started with setting up PFPH and recruiting volunteer Local Coordinators, and many more volunteer Trappers, enabling us to cover the hills and harbour basin from Sumner round to Halswell on the north side, and Lyttelton to Purau in the Harbour. The first round of loan traps was purchased and distributed, and there has also been much work in the background to plan for the next phase in 2018.

Marie Gray has now taken over from John Goodrich as Secretary of the Summit Road Society. Welcome Marie, and a big thank you to John for all your hard work for PFPH and the SRS over what has been a very busy year following the fires.

Here is a brief summary of where we are at:

- 20 Local Coordinators and deputies
- 14 Local project areas
- A Steering Committee established as part of the Summit Road Society to administer PFPH
- Around 300 traps loaned out
- We've been catching predators! But, we don't have good visibility on numbers until better reporting is happening - see below (big thanks to those who have been reporting already)
- We've been meeting with several reserve committees and trusts re integrating them into the overall Port Hills scheme. We hope to achieve funding for them soon.
- The Council and DOC are happy to direct any inquiries to us, especially for trapping on reserves and DOC land
- One reserve has successfully applied for funding for 100 traps which they are integrating into PFPH. They'll tell their story when their traps are in place.

Reporting of trap activity

START DATE IS FEBRUARY !

We're ready now to start the 'official' count of dead predators, so please, everyone, record all activities from February and report on trap.nz at least monthly (ideally whenever you check your trap), or to your coordinator directly if not using trap.nz.

So, the **first reporting date is 1st March** for February results.

- But... if you log kills on trap.nz then you don't need to do anything else
- Please remember that zero counts need to be reported.
- If coordinators don't hear from you, they won't know the reason, and they'll have to contact you to ask why there's no news
- Also, a no-catch is important information as we build our database, trying to know more about what works and what doesn't.
- Some people have caught a number of rats, possums, and hedgehogs, but we aren't sure how other traps are going where trap records haven't been reported. This is why it's really helpful if you can record whether you have caught anything or not each time you check your trap(s).

Website and Information

- The Summit Road Society website is being updated to include a section for PFPH. Once this is launched you will be able to find links to all of the relevant information about the initiative as well as our trapping guides etc. Watch this space... <http://www.summitroadsociety.org.nz/>
- Improved trapping information for volunteers will also be made available

What's happening in 2018

- Funding applications are being prepared to enable us to buy more traps and distribute them
- We will re-launch the initiative and recruit more volunteers
- Partnerships will be established with other groups such as reserve committees, trusts, DOC etc. to broaden the reach of PFPH outside urban backyards
- Continue to build up our trapping database on trap.nz
- Work to keep our stock of traps active and doing what we all want - catching critters

Useful information

If you're having trouble catching anything, it may be that the position of your trap isn't ideal or the bait is too old or the wrong type, or you could just be lucky and not have many predators in your area. Our [Trapper's Info Pack](#) and [Trappers Guide](#) might have some answers for you, otherwise see the links below.

if you need a refresher on any of the reporting procedures, using trap nz, or trapping practice, see the documents linked above or request them from your coordinator. If you would rather speak to someone, then please get in touch with your local coordinator, or email predatorfreeporthills@gmail.com with your questions (note there is sometimes a delay in replies from this email).

Want to see some of the latest developments in smart predator control? Here is some interesting reading: <https://cacophony.org.nz/>

Happy Trapping!

Some Useful Links:

Trap.nz - register traps and catches: <https://trap.nz/>

Trap.nz guide: <https://trap.nz/sites/default/files/Getting%20started%20with%20The%20Pest%20Trap.pdf>

Predator Free NZ - information and resources: <http://predatorfreenz.org/>

PFNZ trapping guides: <http://predatorfreenz.org/tools-resources/trapping-best-practice/>

DOC Predator Free 2050 info: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/predator-free-2050>

Pest Control Research - trap and bait supplier: <https://www.traps.co.nz/>

Contacts

General Enquiries for SRS:

Marie Gray - SRS Secretary - summitroadsocietysecretary@gmail.com

Admin and trapping questions:

In the first instance, please contact your local coordinator

Or: PFPH Admin (checked by Adrian Heath or Marie) - predatorfreeporthills@gmail.com