
Predator Free Port Hills (PFPH)

Feb 2018 Newsletter

From all of us at Predator Free Port Hills, we hope your trapping is going well.

Our first reporting date is coming up! **If you have a trap, or traps, please make sure that you have logged your trap's status by 1st March** – this includes reporting that your trap has caught nothing. You can do this using the TrapNZ website or the TrapNZ app, or you can contact your Local Co-ordinator and they will update TrapNZ for you. If you don't know who your Local Co-ordinator is, please contact Marie or Adrian (see end of newsletter for contact details).

If you have been updating TrapNZ, thank you. Trapping records are important. They give us evidence of the effectiveness of the PFPH initiative and will also help with funding applications so we can do even more going forward.

Traps

In the last few weeks, we have bought a small number of traps, including some Predator Free NZ Trust rat tunnels, as we suspect that many rats are too shy to enter the black rat boxes. By buying some rat tunnels, we'll be able to compare their performance, so we can make sure we are using the most effective, safe traps long term. The traps purchased for people to borrow include:

- Trapinators for possums x 8
- PCR 200 for mustelids and rats x11. These are best for experienced trappers.
- PFNZ Rat Tunnels x10

We also purchased 10 Goodnature trap strike counters. These are available for purchase for people who already have Goodnature traps but who didn't get counters (discounted at \$25 each). Counters are needed because killed pests drop out of the Goodnature trap and are often scavenged, which means you won't know how many pests you're killing if you don't have a strike counter attached to your trap.

PFFPH Groups

Late last year, a new PFFPH group was started in Huntsbury – welcome. There are a couple of very keen trappers in Huntsbury who have caught hundreds of rats over the years and they are keen to trap in Mt Vernon Reserve as well. Trapping in reserves is a longer-term goal, which will be done in addition to our main focus, which is backyard trapping. We have already met with CCC and DOC, so trapping in public reserves will be possible once we have the funding and agreements in place.

In the last week Jeremy has met with residents from Mt Pleasant. Thirty people signed up for traps – excellent. Once we have funding for more backyard traps, Mt Pleasant will be well on their way.



Predator Free Port Hills groups on TrapNZ (<https://www.trap.nz>)

Funding

Funding is becoming the word of the moment! The traps purchased in January and February used up the last of our PFFPH start-up funds. This means we need to get more funding before we can expand further.

As well as applying for grants, we are also looking for sponsorship from businesses. If you know of any local businesses who might be open to giving a financial donation, no matter how small, please let us know.

We put one funding application in at the end of last year. We also applied for the Kiwibank fund last week so we will hopefully have funds for more traps soon. We also plan to apply for Rata Foundation funding, which opens in April. We will be looking at making applications to other funding organizations as well as asking businesses for sponsorship.

Late last year Predator Free Port Hills teamed up with the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust to apply for Predator Free 2050 funding. This fund is for big predator free projects. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful this time, but Banks Peninsula does have the potential to be a flagship for large scale predator free areas on the mainland, similar to Miramar Peninsula in Wellington and the Otago Peninsula. Predator Free Port Hills would form an important first line of defense to a predator free Banks Peninsula. This is a long-term vision, but with the backing of the government's Predator Free 2050 movement, it is feasible.

Logo and T-shirt Design, Wooden Trap Building - Volunteers Needed

We also need help, people with time and expertise who can contribute behind the scenes to this initiative. If you have the particular skills we're looking for, please think over whether you've got the time to volunteer to:

- Contribute to this newsletter as an editor or help administrate a PFPH Facebook group. Even if you don't want the responsibility of running these, any stories or updates would be gratefully received. Becoming a co-editor or co-administrator is also an option, so the responsibility is shared with others.
- Design a 'Predator-Free Port Hills' logo. While our traps are identified as originating with the Summit Road Society, there are other landowners and groups with their own activities. A 'PFPH' symbol would help us all achieve our eventual goal under one umbrella name
- Design a T-shirt. This could be a great fundraiser and a way to spread the word. It might carry the 'PFPH' logo.
- A volunteer group (like a Men's Shed), or simply some individual volunteers to help us build wooden rat tunnels. We could then look at getting businesses to sponsor materials for the tunnels.

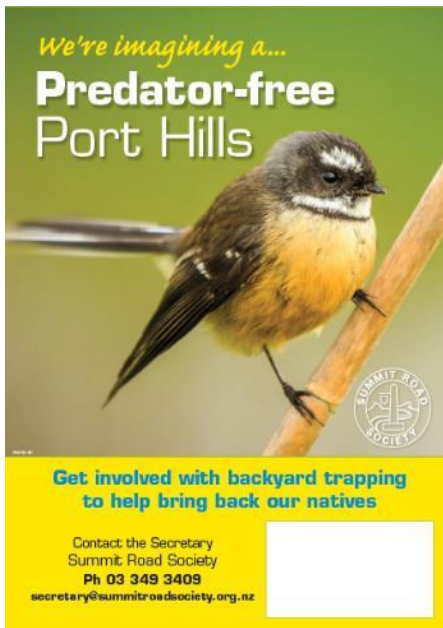


We'd like to make wooden rat tunnels like these

Getting the Word Out

We have some new posters! We have printed a number of these and the plan is to display them in public places around the community such as libraries, schools, cafes, businesses and community centres. The blank space is to add any details which suit your particular area. This could either be contact details for your Local Co-ordinator, or if you're a business we are getting some stickers made to show that you either support or sponsor PFFPH.

Please think about suitable sites in your area and get in touch with either the SRS secretary, Marie, or Jeremy if you'd like some posters. They are available in A4 and A5 sizes.



PFFPH posters available to give out

We also have a new supply of stickers ready to go, thanks to Pamela in Cass Bay.

Happy Trapping!

TrapNZ have recorded 57,000 pests killed in New Zealand so far this year. How many can we get in our first month of recording pests?

Please be in touch any time with ideas and news.

Your PFPH Steering Group, Adrian, Gina, Jeremy, Marie, Melanie, Myles

Contacts

General Information:

Predator Free Port Hills Website: <http://www.summitroadsociety.org.nz/> and click on the PFPH tab

General Enquiries for the Summit Road Society:

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

PFPH Posters:

Please contact Marie or Jeremy Agar:

Marie Gray - PFPH Steering Group & SRS Secretary - summitroadsocietysecretary@gmail.com

Jeremy Agar – PFPH Steering Group & SRS Vice President – jeremyagar@xtra.co.nz