



Predator-free Port Hills

April 2018 Newsletter

It's now that time of year when rats and mice are looking for a warm dry place to spend the winter, which makes it a great time to get serious about trapping!

Providing fresh bait in your traps will increase your chances of catching them. Peanut butter is excellent for both rats and mice, but you can also experiment with meat, fruit, eggs, nuts, chicken pellets or manufactured baits. If you've found something that's particularly effective, we'd love to hear feedback on the new Predator Free Port Hills Facebook group (<https://web.facebook.com/groups/168327740491153/>) or get in touch (contact details are at the bottom of this newsletter).

We also have a new public Facebook page, please like and share!

<https://www.facebook.com/PredatorFreePortHills/>

This month we have our first catch total to report, as well as the launch of a t-shirt design competition for kids, and updates on where things are at.

Thank you to everyone who has been updating TrapNZ (<https://www.trap.nz/>) with their trap records.

PFPH Pest Totals	
Possums	54
Mustelids	0
Rats	16
Mice	17
Hedgehogs	12
Magpies	1
Total	100



T-shirt Design Competition

The Summit Road Society is running a competition for kids and teenagers to design an original T-shirt to promote Predator Free Port Hills.

There are 3 age categories: under 7 years old, 8-12 years old and 13-16 years old.

The finalist for each age group is decided by the most likes on our public Facebook page and winner decided by the Summit Road Society. The grand winner receives

a fantastic prize pack including a t-shirt of their design! See the Predator Free Port Hills Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/PredatorFreePortHills/>

for entry forms or contact the Summit Road Society Secretary for more info.

Entries close 31st May.





Predator-free Port Hills

Trap Building

Thank you to those that volunteered to help with trap tunnel building after our last newsletter.

We are working on having a trap building day this winter, and are just waiting to hear back from a possible workshop venue.



We'd like to make wooden rat and stoat tunnels like these

Local Coordinators

We are holding a **BBQ for Local Coordinators on May 4th**.

As you may know we rely on Local Coordinators in each suburb or area to help get new trappers set up, to provide advice, and to follow up with anyone who hasn't been reporting on the status of their traps.

If you're interested in becoming a Local Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator, please get in touch.

PFFH Groups

Success! Cashmere are one of ten Kiwibank Predator Free communities selected in March. They will receive up to \$5,000 in subsidized backyard traps for their area. This follows from Sumner's success last year.

If you're keen and willing to champion PFFH in your community, you may want to consider applying to Kiwibank for your area in 2019. Kiwibank have also launched a separate Predator Free Schools fund, so schools can also apply. Get in touch if you'd like more info.



PFFH also applied to Kiwibank to cover all communities, but missed out this time. We have applied for a Fonterra Grassroots fund and will be applying for Rata Foundation funding this month, so fingers crossed.

Sponsorship

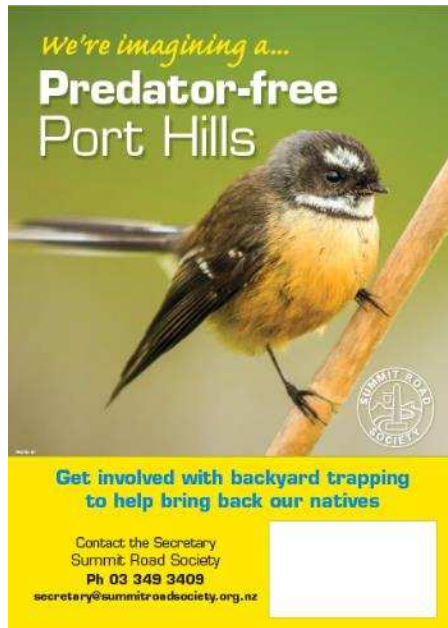
As mentioned in our last newsletter, we need to get more funds before we can buy more traps and expand further.



Predator-free Port Hills

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 have posters that they can put up to show that they are supporting us, either as a financial sponsor or simply support us by displaying our poster.



PFPH posters available to give out

Donations can be made to our new Predator Free Port Hills Give A Little page <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/predator-free-port-hills/donations>.

Trap Arrangements

Predator Free Port Hills has a goal of one trap in every five households within five years and we need to give careful thought about the best model to achieve this. Learning from the experiences of other Predator Free communities throughout the country, we are wanting to make some changes to how we distribute and manage traps.

Going forward we are proposing to set up a trap library, which will have traps available for short term loan so people can try them out. They will then be able to purchase a subsidized trap. The trap management proposal is currently out for feedback (see attached).

We will be looking to transition people with existing traps by 30 September. You will have the option of purchasing your trap(s) or returning them to the trap library. Those who paid bonds for more expensive traps will be able to use this bond as payment for ownership of the trap.

Predators Caught - TrapNZ

Many of you have been busy trapping!

One hundred pests have been removed from the environment since PFPH's records officially began at the start of February, from a total of 211 traps recorded on TrapNZ.



Predator-free Port Hills

Catch totals from TrapNZ for February and March are summarized below:

Pest Type	February	March	Total
Possum	28	26	54
Mustelid	0	0	0
Rat	2	14	16
Mouse	5	12	17
Hedgehog	7	5	12
Magpie	1	0	1
Total	43	57	100

The higher totals of rats and mice in March may be due to the change in the seasons - autumn is a great time for trapping.

Pest catch totals by suburb are as follows:

PFFPH Group	Total
Cashmere	1
Diamond Harbour	5
Governors Bay	6
Halswell	12
Heathcote Valley	4
Huntsbury	38
Lyttelton	1
Teddington	33
Total	100

The most active groups are Huntsbury, Halswell and Teddington – well done!

Logging pest catch totals is really important for the ongoing success of PFFPH. Seeing that we're making progress

as a group, even if your trap hasn't caught anything, helps keep enthusiasm up; and it is also really important for us to be able to get more funding for more traps in more areas.

If you have a trap, or traps, please make sure that you have logged your trap's status – 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 Coordinator and they will update TrapNZ for you. If you don't know who your Local Coordinator is, please contact Marie or Adrian (see end of newsletter for contact details).

News from Afar

Most of us think of the Galapagos Islands as a biodiversity hotspot, but did you know that it's only recently that baby tortoises have been seen. This is after more than 100 years without any baby tortoise sightings in the wild. This has only happened after rats were eradicated from Pinzon Island, one of the islands in the Galapagos.



An adult tortoise



Predator-free Port Hills

Happy Trapping!

PFFPH is important. The Port Hills and surrounding suburbs have great potential for flourishing biodiversity in their own right, and long term they will form a buffer to a Predator Free Banks Peninsula.



Rat eating a bird from a nest

Please be in touch any time, with ideas and news. We are also always looking for help from volunteers.

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

Your PFFPH 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 PFFPH tab

Predator Free Port Hills Facebook group:

<https://web.facebook.com/groups/168327740491153/>

PFFPH Donations:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/predator-free-port-hills/donations>

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 PFFPH Admin (checked by Adrian Heath or Marie) -

predatorfreeport hills@gmail.com

PFFPH Posters:

Please contact Marie or Jeremy Agar:

Marie Gray - PFFPH Steering Group & SRS Secretary -

summitroadsocietysecretary@gmail.com

Jeremy Agar – PFFPH Steering Group & SRS Vice President –

jeremyagar@xtra.co.nz