



Good news - rat numbers have dropped!

Rat numbers have fallen from 14% in August 2018 to 12% in August this year.

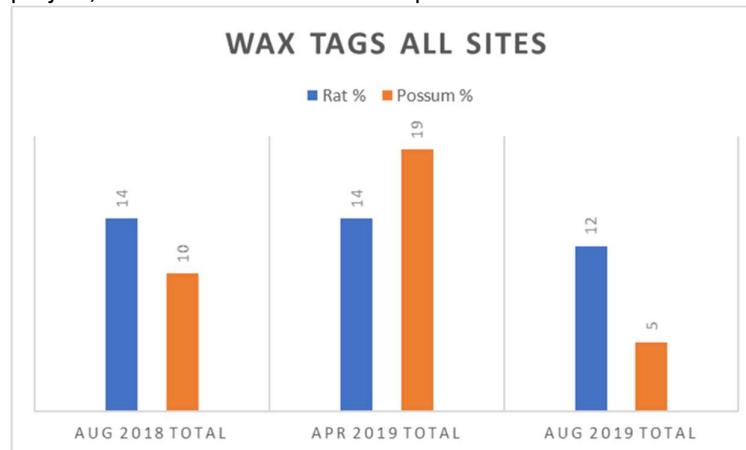
Possum numbers have dropped from 10% to 5% over the past year.

This is thanks to all the hard work of people doing pest animal control on their properties.

With monitoring results this low, we should hopefully have a successful breeding season for all the birds, insects and lizards in the Wildlink.

If you haven't already set your traps or refilled your bait stations, now is the time do it.

Remember to email your trap catches or enter them directly onto www.trap.nz Southeast Wildlink project, because we want to record pest animal rates in the Wildlink.



Number of participants

	Locations	Number of lines	Number of wax tags
August 2018	11	18	180
April 2019	15	22	220
August 2019	13	19	190

This table shows the number of participants, including two schools, Brookby school and Te Uho o te Nikau Primary School. Numbers fluctuate due to new participants starting and others not being available during the monitoring week.



Help with planting

Are you thinking of planting some native trees on your property? Do you currently have a plant nursery set up, or would you like to set one up? We are trying to find out what the capacity could be to help the community with native planting in the Wildlink. Be it helping with plant nursery working bees, sharing eco sourced seeds or plants.

Planting out stream edges and erosion prone gullies, fencing off remnant bush patches and under planting are all great ways to help reconnect fragmented sections of native bush within the Wildlink. This will allow for species to move more freely throughout the Wildlink, accessing more habitat for food and shelter.

If you would like any help with your plant nursery, or setting one up let us know.

Eco sourcing seeds

Summertime is a great opportunity to collect native seeds.

Eco sourcing seed is when you collect seeds from plants that are naturally growing in the area. This ensures that the plant is adapted to the local microclimate and will have better chances of survival.

It is also a lot cheaper to grow your own plants than purchasing them and much more rewarding I think.

Seeds that are ripe between November and January include:

titoki, rangiora, wineberry, whau, manuka, mingimingi, mahoe, mapou, five finger, rengarenga, hangehange, mamangi, koromiko, pigeonwood, and kawakawa.

For more information on eco sourcing, storing seeds and propagation look on the DOC website
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/run-a-project/restoration-advice/native-plant-restoration/ecosource-seeds/>

Brookby project

The aim of the Brookby project in association with Million Meters is to plant 880m of stream edge with native plants along the Papakura stream, located near Brookby School. So far the project has raised enough money to plant out 64m of stream.

Students from Brookby school will be involved in the planting, giving them a great out of classroom learning opportunity.

The Brookby project is hoping to start planting some of the length next winter.

For further details and to donate please click on the link below.

<https://millionmetres.org.nz/open-project/the-brookby-project-papakura-stream>

If the Papakura stream runs through your property and you would like help to fence and plant along the strip, please contact me.



Bird monitoring

Bird monitoring is between 16 and 24 November.

You can do a bird count at home or join us at Olive Davis reserve on Saturday 16 November.

It is easy to do bird monitoring - just record any bird you see or hear within five minutes and do three sets of five minute counts. It is best to do the bird count before lunch as they are more active in the morning.

You can email your results or enter them directly onto the inaturalist website.

<https://inaturalist.nz/projects/southeast-wildlink>

For information on bird identification or bird calls visit <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/>

Or you can use the garden bird survey tally sheet - it has images of birds you are likely to see

https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/120475/gbs-tally-sheet.pdf

Upcoming long-tailed bat monitoring

We will start our long-tailed bat monitoring soon.

If you are interested in having a bat monitor on your property to see if bats are present at your place, contact me.

Long-tailed bats are nationally critical - be a part of the monitoring programme to determine their distribution in the Auckland region.

Wildlink community profile

Kaka have moved into Nicky and Mark's working farm on Fitzpatrick Road in Brookby.

The cheeky presence of the at-risk native parrots is the couple's reward for years of planting and pest animal control.

They have both been busy over the years planting native plants in erosion prone areas and areas not suitable for farming. This work has enhanced the existing remnant bush patches on the property and helps to connect them; allowing species to travel from one area of bush to another in search of food and habitat.

This winter alone they planted out 6000 native plants; roughly 2500 of those plants were grown on site at Nicky's nursery. The others were in collaboration with the Trees for Survival programme with Mellons Bay Primary, Ellerslie Primary, & St Kents prep school. Others came from the Friends of Te Wairoa Nursery and planted with the help from Conservation volunteers NZ with corporate volunteer days.

Nicky and Mark use toxin bait stations and traps to remove introduced pest animals from their property. Bait take has increased recently, so they have increased their effort to control possums.

Nicky is a great conservation advocate, inspiring and helping others in the area with their conservation projects.