

# Rivercare Newsletter

## Te Atatū Sea Scouts Declare War On Rats

The Te Atatū Endeavour Sea Scouts have taken charge of our trapping programme at Tawa Esplanade for the second year running. The Venturers aged 14-17 years will be responsible for checking, clearing and resetting the traps weekly.

A few weeks ago we had a training evening for the new trappers. The first thing they did was to check the tracking tunnel cards that had been left out overnight. The cards have an ink on them that leaves the footprints of whatever creature walks over it. The Venturers found the footprints of rats and mice and even a hedgehog (which, although they may be cute, are carnivores and feast on weta, lizards and bird's eggs). After seeing evidence of introduced predators they set the traps with peanut butter and laid them where the tracking tunnel cards had been; any catches made will be uploaded into the Trap NZ app.

We do trapping because we want to reduce the number of predators around Te Wai o Pareira. They do so much damage to our bird and insect life. It is estimated that, in Aotearoa 25 million native birds are killed every year by introduced predators!

Last year our team discovered that we even have Banded Rail living amongst the mangroves on the banks of the awa. These birds are endangered and very vulnerable to predation, as they make their nests on the ground. We were so excited to find this elusive and rare bird here, in the middle of suburbia and it has given us an extra push to reduce the number of predators.

So thank you Te Atatū Endeavour Sea Scouts for joining us in this mahi of protecting native flora and fauna and re-establishing balance to the ecosystems of Tawa Esplanade. Also, a huge thank you to Wild about Te Atatū who support this work by providing traps, tunnels, advice and handy resources like these ID cards. And to Henderson-Massey Local Board who support this project.

[Find out more](#)

## Community Meetings

On Thursday 20th of July the we held our Matariki and Mātauranaga public meeting, it was such a good night, we are grateful to all those who came out to join us.

A big thanks Dion who spoke, your passion was felt and I think everyone went away with lots think about.

## Coming Up

Join us for our second community meeting. Dr Matthew Bradbury has done extensive research into the causes of and solutions for urban flooding. Learn how we can improve our city's ability to cope with heavy rainfall.

**Venue:** Te Atatū Peninsula Community Centre

[More info](#)

## Planting Day

6th of August, 10AM-1PM,  
Tawa Esplanade- Matipo Rd.

Help us bring Tawa Esplanade back to life with another round of planting.

After the mahi join us for some kai.

Please book your free tickets, this helps us with our planning.

[book tickets](#)

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