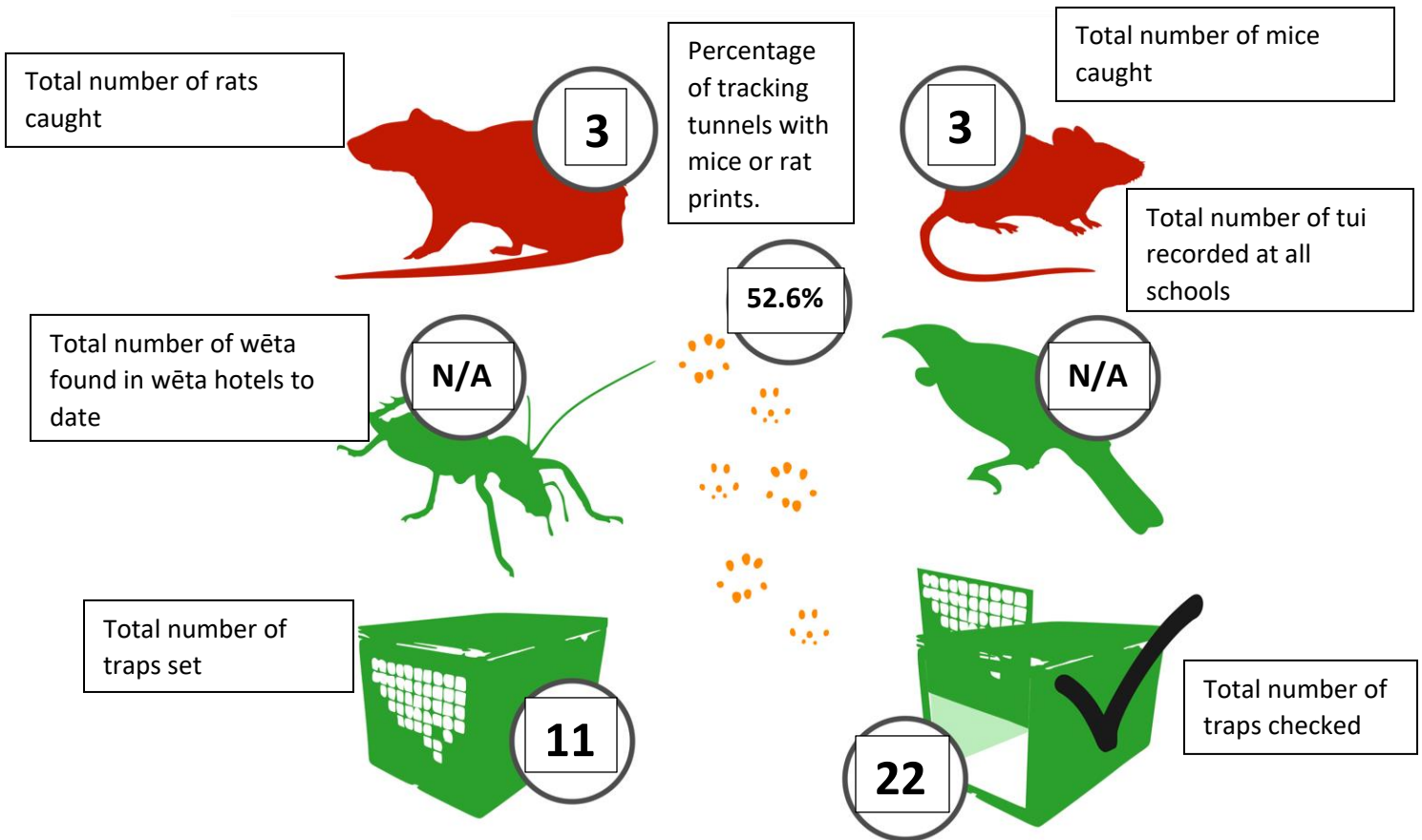




Predator Free Schools: Miramar



Update April 2018

Kia ora everyone, it was great to meet the amazing kaitiaki at EBIS and Worser Bay School. Remember if you need any help please don't hesitate to contact us. Our first monthly update highlights some of the amazing work already going on in this project. It is great to see the successful trapping of three rats. The data set is small, but as schools continue to set up their traps and send in their data this month we should see wider success of rat and mice trapping.

This month, each of the pictures seen above is partnered with an explanation.

Positive Stories of the Month

Comments from Miramar North Kindergarten

"I wanted to say a massive thank you for your visit to us on Thursday! The tamariki absolutely loved it and lots of them shared the experience with their parents at pick-up time. We had great feedback from the tamariki (they talked about the 'dead' animals that eat eggs for the rest of the day) and kept asking us 'when you will be back to visit!'

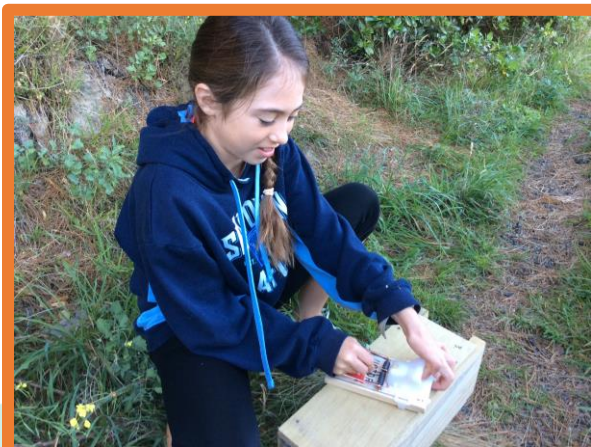
"The session you provided was at a perfect level for the tamariki present. Having an interactive part of the talk, with you asking them questions, getting them up and moving, and having different props for them to explore made it easy for the tamariki to engage and stay focused."

"We also really loved the use of te reo throughout your talk."



Seatoun School

Seatoun School has been very diligent in their trap setting and checking. They found success catching one rat and three mice. They have maintained up to date and accurate data, thereby setting a high bar for the other Miramar schools.



Secondary Schools: Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngā Mokopuna

After completing his groups predator control project, Christian Mauriri, a student from Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngā Mokopuna gave a kōrero about this work to his school. Check out the full video of Christian's kōrero, on [Facebook here](#)

Students at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngā Mokopuna are continuing to trap and collect data from their trapping tunnels. The tunnels have been showing signs of mice and rats in the area. They're looking into potential informational signs about Little Blue Penguins in Seatoun.



Profile of the Month: Dan Henry

As founder of Predator Free Miramar, Dan Henry is a well known figure in the Miramar conservation community. The Miramar Peninsula was already possum free when Predator Free Miramar started in 2017, so the task here is removing all other predators from the Miramar Peninsula such as stoats, weasels, and rats. Dan's conservation efforts are motivated by the legacy that will be left behind for future generations, and he also recognizes that the future generation has a crucial role to play in the current efforts to make New Zealand predator free.



Dan believes learning valuable skills such as trapping builds confidence in young people. "So many things in this world are out of our control", he explains "but setting a trap, and making your own small backyard a better place for the birds and the bush is something that gives people a genuine buzz". He sees this feeling of empowerment particularly important in young people, who can feel like they have little control in other aspects of their lives.

The trapper and educator is also excited about the possibilities of environmental education and has "great confidence that our young people will realise the huge scope for employment and innovation in this [environmental] sector and start creating their own career paths around the movement". When asked about New Zealand's goal to be predator free by 2050, he expressed his confidence in science, technology, and most importantly, people in achieving this goal. Henry explains that once the general populace starts noticing positive changes in our environment, they too will be on board and will help to drive further advances in predator control.



Coming Up

There will be a ZEALANDIA Night Tour for all active trapping schools and students occurring at the beginning of the second term on the nights of Wednesday 2 May or Thursday 3 May. Keep watch for information in the coming weeks as we work to roster students.



Like our Facebook page, Predator Free Miramar, to get more tips and updates.

Visit pfw.org.nz for supplementary information and to see how other schools in Wellington compare to Miramar.

Many thanks for keeping your traps baited and set and recording your data. It is not too late to get started either! Keep up the good work – Kia manawanui!

