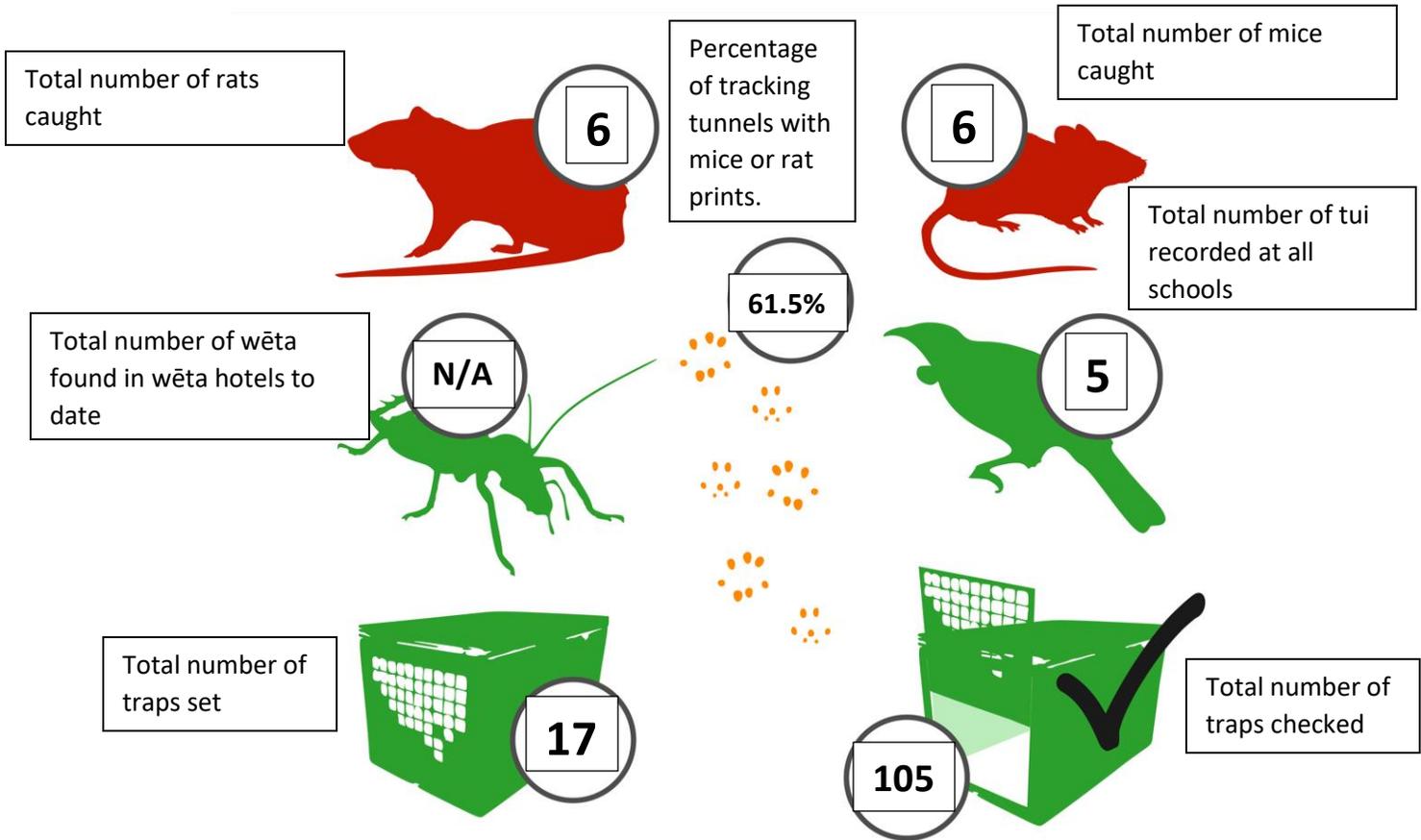




Predator Free Schools: Miramar



Update May 2018

Kia ora everyone, it is exciting to see more schools getting involved in tracking and trapping. There was a massive increase in activity and successful trappings. Schools' active engagement establishes a sturdy foundation for Predator Free Wellington. Many active trapping students will participate in ZEALANDIA Night Tours for Predator Free Schools at the beginning of this month.

Each logo represents the hard work Predator Free School students have been doing.

Positive Stories of the Month

Holiday Trapping: Seatoun School and Miramar North School

One rat and three mice were caught over the holiday break between Seatoun School and Miramar North School. It is great to see schools actively trapping, even over holidays. This degree of diligence is what is needed to reach pest free goals and it reflects positivity on all Miramar schools.

Secondary Schools: St. Catherine's

Year 13 students at St. Catherine's Girls College have set up monitoring equipment and traps. They have committed to trapping for the whole year, and have decided to build and sell wētā hotels to their school community. They are hoping to fundraise enough money for an end-of-the-year trip to Tararua Forest Park. They also have a project set up on Trap.nz.



* If you have ply wood, perspex or screws that you can donate to support the students work please contact Rebecca Rapira-Davies, phone: 021 883973 or email: bec@scc.school.nz .

Profile of the Month: Meet Joakim from Papa Taiao Predator Free Schools

Joakim, the newest member of the Papa Taiao team, moved to New Zealand from Sweden in 2010 and started his conservation work straight away. He has worked five years at the Wellington Zoo. Prior to working with Papa Taiao, Joakim founded Te Motu Kairangi-Miramar Ecological Restoration, an organization focused on involving local communities in monitoring and trapping predators. He continues to work on the Miramar Ecological Restoration project while at Papa Taiao.

Joakim was first introduced to environmental education as a student. On secondary school levels, Joakim studied topics such as conservation, wildlife management, and horticulture at the Natural Resource Programme in Sweden. Because of this, Joakim was excited to get involved in environmental education, as a teacher/facilitator, through the Papa Taiao Predator Free Schools programme. Joakim explains, “working with students can sometimes be a bit of a challenge, but students are also at that age where learning can be very rewarding...”.



This Star Wars enthusiast, loves to be outdoors planting trees and looking for New Zealand’s bush pigeon, the kererū. Joakim does the conservation education work he does because he feels that “ecological restoration is essential for long term species and biodiversity survival”.



On Humane Trapping

Despite the scourge invasive pests are to New Zealand, their eradication must be carried out humanely. It is important that as we trap pests, rather than demonizing them, we recognize that they are still living creatures. The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) established trap-testing guidelines to ensure the actual traps used cause as little suffering as possible. Hooded Victor traps (pictured below) are the primary choice of Predator Free Schools because they pass NAWAC's guidelines and are easy to set.



Please continue to update your information in the Predator Free Miramar google spreadsheet.

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. Great to see the improving trends this month! Keep up the good work – Kia manawanui!