



DOC Senior Ranger Nik Joice demonstrating trapping techniques

TRAPPING WORKSHOP GIVES PEST CONTROL A BOOST

The Top of the South Pest Trapping Workshop, held at Saxton Netball Pavilion on 3 December, saw more than 130 participants learning about best practice in trapping predators to protect our native birds and fauna.

The day started with a welcome by Nelson Mayor Rachel Reese. Guest speakers Nicola Toki, Threatened Species Ambassador for the Department of Conservation (DOC); Myfanwy Emeny, from Wellington City Council, and Wendy Sullivan, Predator Free 2050 ranger for the Top of the South, each gave inspiring talks about what needs to be done to protect our native birds from invasive pest species.

After morning tea, the talks moved to focussing on best practice in trapping invasive predators. Tristan Rawlence, DOC Science Advisor, talked about how to monitor pest populations and gauge the effectiveness of your predator control programme. Nick Poutu, DOC Technical Adviser, gave a rundown of the science behind predator control best practice. Nik Joice, DOC Senior Ranger Nelson Lakes, talked about how predator biology can be used to enhance the effectiveness of a trapping programme and Grant Harper, biodiversity consultant, talked about how to enhance bird populations in Nelson.

After lunch, participants attended four practical workshops on different types of traps, trap maintenance, how to make sure non-target species like weka don't get caught in traps, online tools for recording trapping results and tools for monitoring results of predator work – such as tracking tunnels and chew tracking cards.

Groups from Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough then spent some time talking about the specific requirements for their areas and how to address the pest problem locally.

The technical talks from the day are available in video and powerpoint format on Council's website, ncc.govt.nz/pest-trapping-workshop.

The event was made possible with support from Nelson City Council's Nelson Nature Programme, Department of Conservation, the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary, Tasman District Council and Predator Free NZ.

ncc.govt.nz/pest-trapping-workshop

A HELPING HAND FOR BACKYARD TRAPPERS

Would-be backyard trappers have been given a boost with 100 rat trapping tunnels given away at the Pest Trapping Workshop, and a further 150 available in the New Year.



One of the backyard traps given away at the Pest Trapping Workshop in use

Local trapping stalwart Don Sullivan has donated 250 trap tunnels, and Rutherford Rotary Club funded the cost of the Victor rat traps, with support from Mitre 10.

Rutherford Rotary Club chairman Ian Catto, who is involved in trapping in Marsden Valley, said Don contacted him regarding the 250 tunnels, and Rutherford Rotary members were happy to support the initiative. "Mitre 10 also helped by giving us a good price on the traps."

The remaining 150 traps will be made available free to backyard trappers in February next year.

To find out more, contact nelson.nature@ncc.govt.nz

BACKYARD TRAPPING

If you want to get involved in backyard trapping, there are some great resources at predatorfreenz.org/backyard-trapping.

Here are some key points:

- 1 Identify what kind of pests are in your garden, and where to put your traps.

You can do this by looking for pest poo, or using a chew card (a baited card that attracts the animals to chew them, so you can see where they are active) or a tracking tunnel – a piece of card with ink on that records animal footprints.

USEFUL RESOURCES ARE:

- pestdetective.org.nz
- predatorfreenz.org/get-started
- predatorfreenz.org/tools-resources/trapping-best-practice

- 2 Once you know what kind of pests you may have on your property, look at different kinds of traps to see which is most suitable for your location and budget. It is important to remember that all traps should be humane, and designed so that they don't attract non-target species such as domestic cats and weka.

The **Victor rat trap and tunnel** is cost effective, long lasting and is well-designed to deter non-target species – shop.predatorfreenz.org

The **Doc 150, 200 and 250 traps** are designed to humanely control stoats, rats, hedgehogs and ferrets – predatortraps.com

Good Nature sell the **A24 rat and stoat trap** and the **A21 Possum trap** – which are self-resetting and kill the target species instantly. Whilst more expensive, they don't need daily checking and resetting so are good for more remote areas or if you are away from home regularly – goodnature.co.nz

USEFUL RESOURCE:

- predatorfreenz.org/tools-resources/trapping-best-practice/where-to-buy-equipment



Photo: Andy Underwood

Backyard trapping helps native birds like the kereru to survive