



Friends of Rotoiti News

April 2010

Welcome to 2010! Firstly I would like to thank everyone for their help and support over the past year as co-ordinator. March has been a big month as Marg and Drew put out the last lot of new DOC200s on the 3rd - no more Fenn traps!! We have had other big moves afoot with Sally resigning at the end of last year and I have been fortunate to be appointed your next permanent Community Relations Ranger. You'll be glad to know that Sally hasn't escaped completely - as we'll still be working together on some aspects of the job like Revive Rotoiti. See you at the next meeting - must be my shout! Cheers, Petr ☺

BRING ON THE 15,000 MARK FOR THOSE PESKY PESTS!!

Eight years of trapping and the mice numbers of late have certainly boosted the capture tally as per the summary table over the page. They have even managed to set off the bigger DOC traps on the Rainbow Line with four being caught during February.

Every now and then a real bonanza is had - a couple of stoat trap checks deserve a mention here. Looking firstly at our target species of stoats, it was Bryce and Carol who netted the most in one day with seven on 4th January - what a great way to welcome the new year and our second biggest stoat catching month as well! February saw the most variety recorded by Drew and Ray (a new volunteer - welcome!) on February 20th on their Rainbow trip, with 4 stoats, 4 rats, 1 weasel, 3 mice, 3 hedgehogs, 2 ferrets and a cat for the grand total of 18. The biggest haul though belongs to Drew and Marg when they took our newest volunteers, Brenda and Bernie (welcome!), out for a spin along the Rainbow and Mt Robert lines on the 27th of March. Making up a total of 20, the variety of captures ranged from 11 rats, 4 hedgehogs and two possums, as well as a cat, ferret and stoat. Maybe new volunteers have special powers?

The rat trappers have been experiencing their own bonanza of a smaller kind - the mice are still coming thick and fast, with 2795 being cleared out of rat traps over the past six months (my hands get sore just thinking about it). Thank you to all those who came in and did extra checks over the Christmas and New Year period too - it's much appreciated!

You're invited to the
Friends of Rotoiti Autumn Meeting

Time : 9am to 12pm
Then It's BBQ time....

When : Saturday 24th April 2010

Where : Department of Conservation
Tea Room, behind the Visitor Centre
View Road, St Arnaud

RSVP : Monday 19th April 2010
Petr Carter, 03 5211 067, pccarter@doc.govt.nz

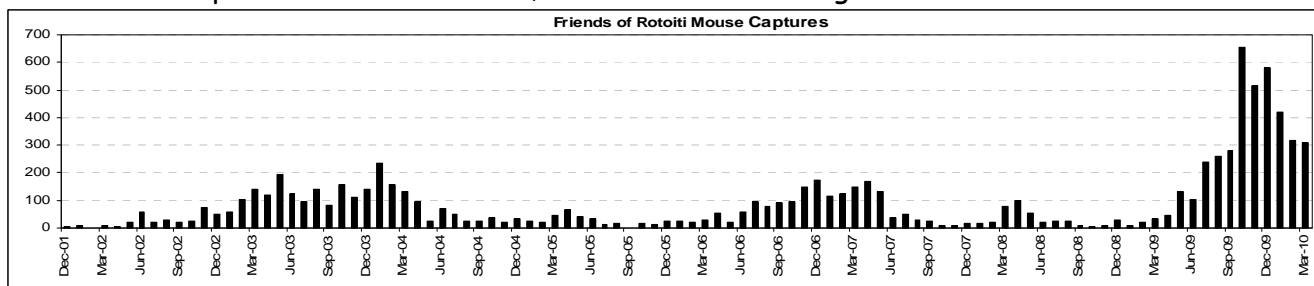
Agenda Items :

- ☞ Guest speaker : Grant Harper – RNRP team leader re funding through WWF
- ☞ Health & Safety Plan
- ☞ Opening of new room at the workshop
- ☞ Launch of the supporters club & update on donations
- ☞ Capture results
- ☞ RNRP update
- ☞ Trapping updates from roster co-ordinators
- ☞ Website
- ☞ German film crew

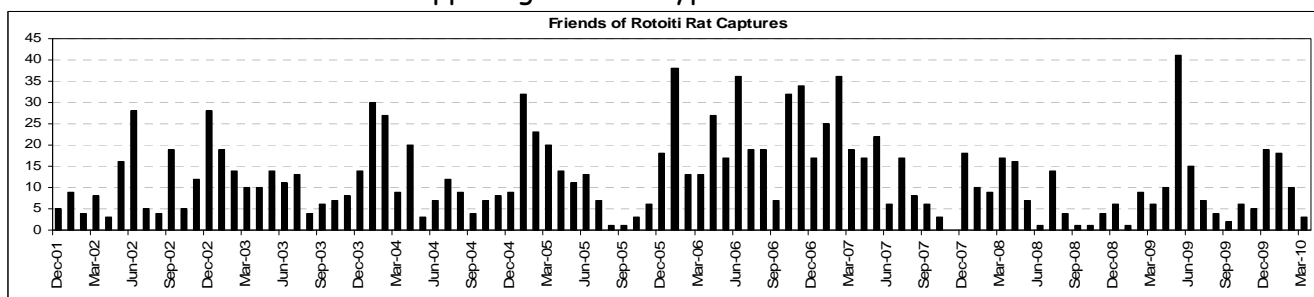
The latest figures of captures for the stoat and rat traps from December 2001 to March 2010 - a total of 13,663 pests removed.

	Rat	Mouse	H/hog	Stoat	Ferret	Weasel	Cat	Rabbit	Possum	Bird
Stoat traps	918	4	899	646	59	17	9	124	133	6
Rat traps	1268	9054	32	19	1	11	-	3	-	9
Warrior traps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	466	-
Totals	2,186	9,058	931	665	60	28	9	127	599	15

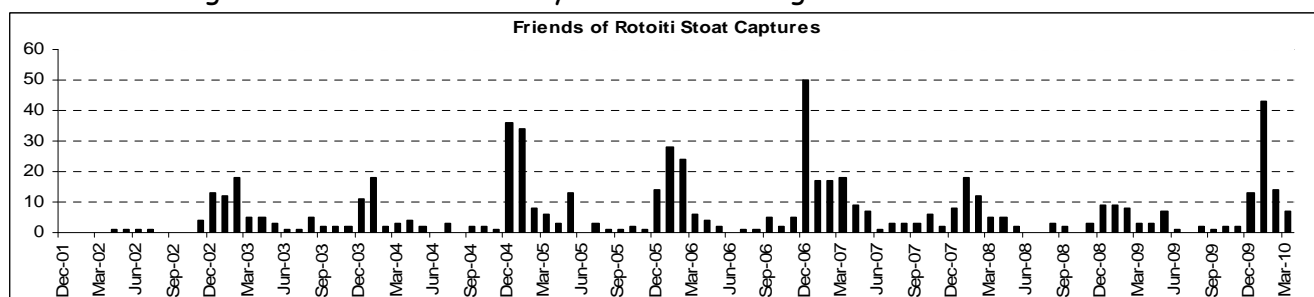
MICE GALORE! The by-catch of mice in our rat traps has been huge - have a look at the past six months! As per the last newsletter, we are still scratching our heads as to the reason.



RAT TRAPPING - Not much happening here - a typical summer rise.



STOAT TRAPPING - Summer was here and so were the stoats - a large summer spike - the highest we've experienced since the summer of 2006/07. Maybe they've been enjoying mice snacks? The high of 43 stoats in January is the second highest after 50 in December of 2006.



POSSUM TRAPPING - Very quiet so far this year - maybe we've got them on the run!

POSSUM CAPTURES ON STOAT CONTROL LINES - 466 total	MAY, JUNE 2004	JULY 2005 TO JUNE 2006	JULY 2006 TO JUNE 2007	JULY 2007 TO JUNE 2008	JULY 2008 TO JUNE 2009	JULY 2009 TO MAR 2010	TOTALS
RAINBOW	3	69	57	40	7	6	182
MR ROBERT	4	14	20	13	2	0	53
WHISKY FALLS	n/a	45	110	51	19	6	231

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