



Friends of Rotoiti News

March 2013

Welcome to a brand new year!

Well, another busy summer behind us - some great work was put in by all over the warmer summer months. Autumn heralded its arrival on Monday 18th this month with a huge electrical storm, complete with driving rain and hail. After such a dry summer, the rain was very welcome.

Sunday Ratters

**“Contribution without over commitment”
One Sunday a month at a set time.....**

Barb and Janice have been hatching a plan to cover the rat trapping lines and give other volunteers and locals a chance to help out. The intention is to provide an opportunity for those who can't help during the week and to train up some new volunteers.

The group would provide backup support to, and by no means replace, the Thursday crew. To be modelled on the Thursday checks i.e. beats and teams allocated by a coordinator with a common start time, appropriate recording and the encouragement of end of beat socialisation with coffee etc at DOC (or the local cafe!).

We would need a commitment from a team of experienced and regular ratters. This will ensure each beat has at least one of those "older hands" with as many "casuals" as needed.

Next spring would be a good time to aim for to be up and running, to enable us time to get the word out, hopefully gain support and give the above mentioned training team plenty of warning. We are looking at August 2013 to be our training month.

If you would like to be involved with Sunday Ratters please contact Janice 03 542 2009 or Barbara 03 545 7338.

A24's and Rat traps on Peninsula Line

Jenny Long, our ranger who is working on the A24 self-resetting trap trial for two years, has asked us for some help.

On the Peninsula Line, there are some of our rat traps right beside the stoat box with the A24. On Jenny's last check she found several mice and a rat that were dead within 1m of the trap box. Because they are so close together, it's hard to know whether the discards were from our trap rather than kills from the A24.

Jenny is asking that we discard any kills at least 5m away from the traps so that they won't mistakenly count them as an A24 kill, which are quite often found outside the box.

And also please leave any kills you come across that aren't from our traps so that Jenny does count those. Thanks!

Flashing Lights - update from Bryce

So far, four flashing lights have been checked on only two vehicles. Bryce has put dymo labels on the lights to show which vehicles they will work on. All lights with the small plug work on Toyota FSE221 (Rotoiti 8) and Mazda FPM841 (Rotoiti 4) but the one light with the larger (older style) plug only works on the Toyota.

Thanks for that Bryce.

Possum trapping

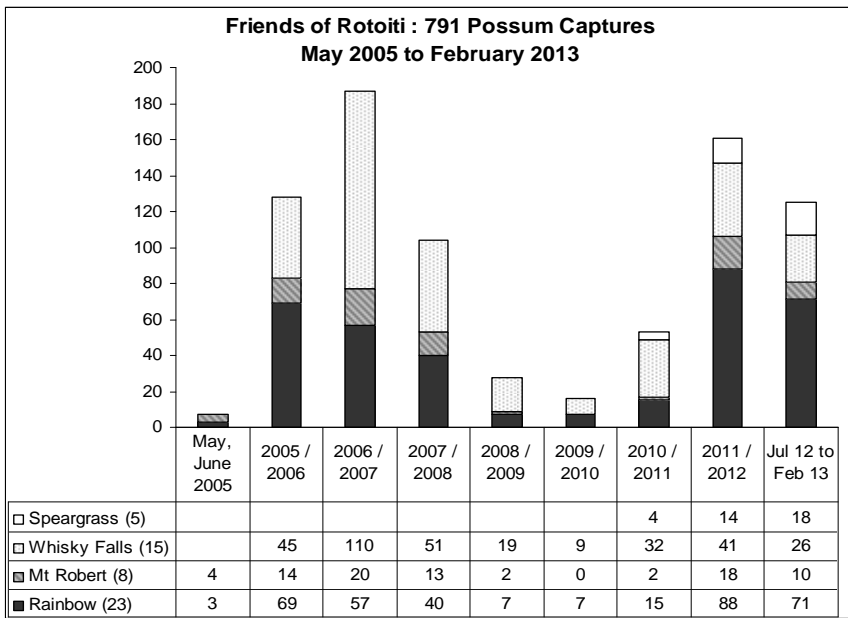
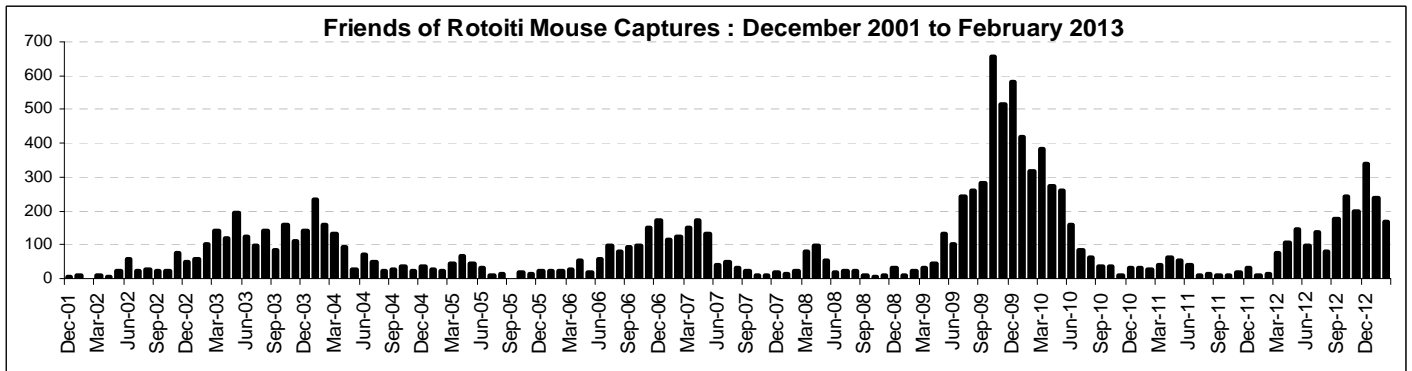
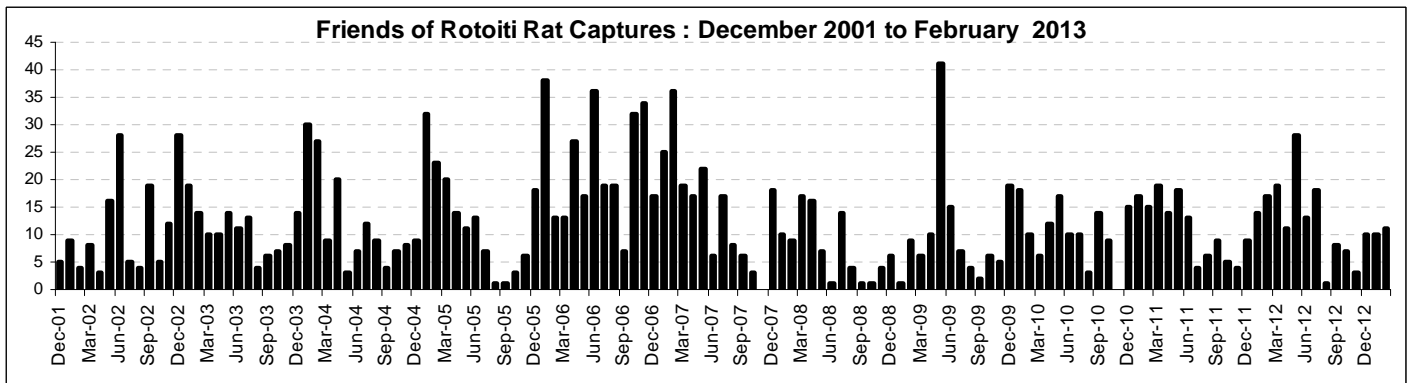
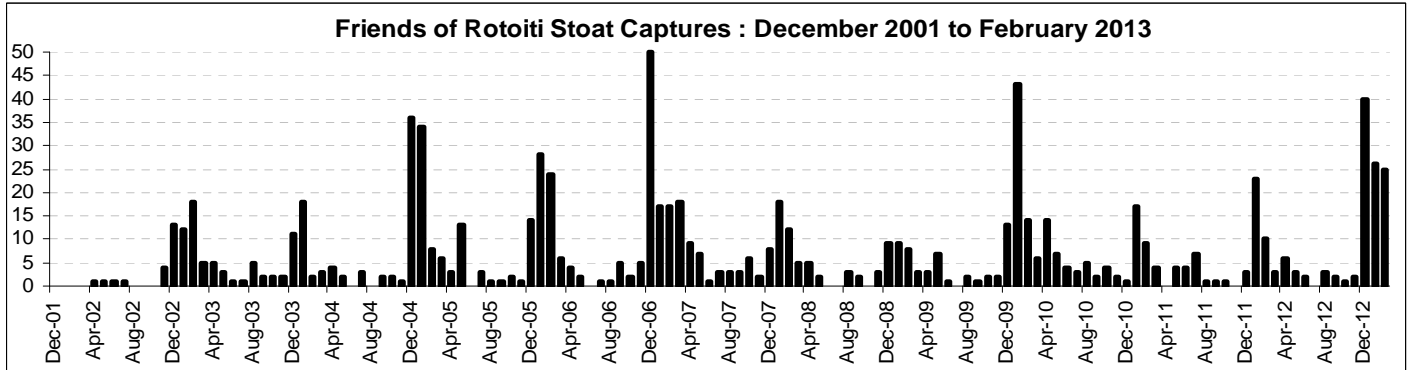
The flow of captures on the data sheets just keep rolling in. Please remember to mark the sentinel captures clearly with a capital **S** or **Sent** or **Sentinel** on your data sheet. We want to make sure any captures in both the possum and stoat traps are correctly recorded.

Captures for this year so far are high again - a great result for our new Sentinel traps.

Friends of Rotoiti - Captures from December 2001 to February 2013

Total Pests 19,236

	Rat	Mouse	H/hog	Stoat	Ferret	Weasel	Cat	Rabbit	Possum	Bird
Stoat traps	1,653	32	1,152	901	77	39	29	182	162	15
Rat traps	1,672	12,471	34	23	1	14		3		23
Possum Traps									791	
Totals	3,325	12,503	1,186	924	78	53	29	185	953	38



Friends of Rotoiti Co-ordinator :

Petr Carter : Ph 03 521 1067,
pccarter@doc.govt.nz

Trap check co-ordinators :

Rat trapping : Janice Gibbs : Ph 03 542 2009,
Email : janice@ts.co.nz

Rainbow Valley and Ski-field stoat lines :
Marg Hunter : Ph 03 547 6676, Email :
drew.marg@xtra.co.nz

Whisky Falls stoat line : Warwick Ward : Ph
03 578 6492, Email : warwickward@xtra.co.nz

Mt Robert / Speargrass stoat line : Barbara
Smissen (temp) : Ph 03 545 7338, Email :
dave.smissen@xtra.co.nz

Tophouse Road stoat line : Peter Hale : Ph 03
521 1955, Email : peter.jackie@farmside.co.nz