



Friends of Rotoiti News

Spring 2009



***11,155 pests removed
in under 8 years !
Dec 2001 - Oct 2009***



The milestone of 10,000 pests has flown past sometime in September, as the mouse captures have been so high over the past few months - see more about that later! Each and every one of you should be proud of your contribution towards this amazing tally which represents such long term commitment and dedication to conservation. Not to mention the time spent travelling up here, then spending hours and hours out there in all weather to check the traps, as well as all the trap building and maintenance, the list goes on... **Well Done !!**

**The latest figures of captures for the stoat and rat traps from
December 2001 to October 2009 - a total of 11,155 pests removed**

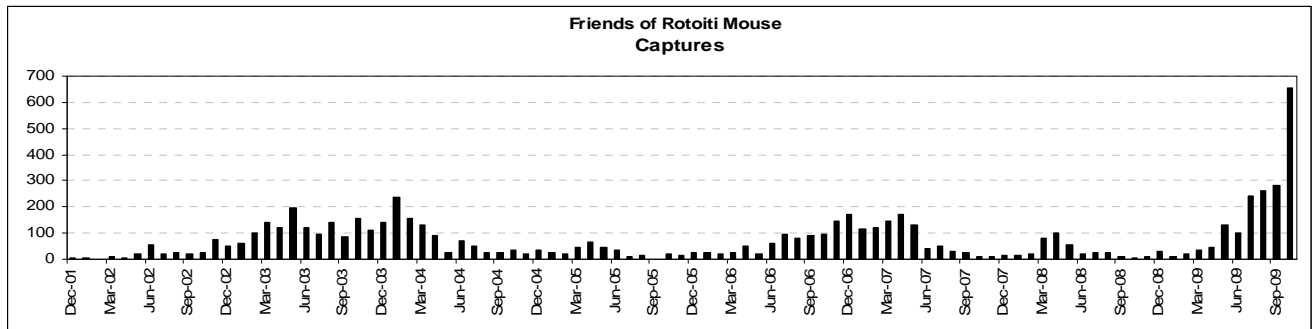
	Rat	Mouse	H/hog	Stoat	Ferret	Weasel	Cat	Rabbit	Possum	Bird
Stoat traps	777	-	861	567	53	9	7	114	117	6
Rat traps	1,213	6,914	32	18	1	11	-	3	-	8
Warrior traps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	458	0
Totals	1,990	6,914	893	585	54	20	7	117	575	14

Spring Meeting

We had a lovely meeting on Sunday 1st November at the DOC Nelson Lakes tea room, with a special thank-you to Sarah Forder and Fen for sharing with us the finer points of training a kiwi dog. Well done Fen for demonstrating a perfect "point" towards the training dove. As a small thank you and congratulations on reaching a major capture milestone, we watched "Bandits of the beech forest" which was filmed here in the mid 1990's - quite a good reminder of the impact introduced wasps have made in our beech forests. This documentary is included in Wild South Volume 7 and is available through Natural History New Zealand and can be purchased for \$29.99 through their website at www.nhnz.tv or phone (03) 479 9799.

Nelson Lakes National Park Junior Ranger Cup 2009 : Thank you to all 21 "Friends" who provided their time to be interviewed by a senior student from Lake Rotoiti School. I hope you've enjoyed reading their A3 posters which were displayed in the Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre. Judging has now been completed, with the winner to be announced at the school field day on Saturday 12 December. We hope to see you there!

RAT TRAPPING - We are currently scratching our heads about the mouse numbers being caught as it doesn't mirror the beech mast activity we've seen in the past. This year the beech mast was only partial, a mere fraction of the previous partial mast in 2006, and yet the mouse numbers are very high. The most common thought is that with reduced predator numbers and more beech seed available this winter, the mice have been free to increase in number. The more important question though is "What is going to be the effect of these large mouse numbers on the numbers of rats and stoats over the coming months"? Only time will tell...

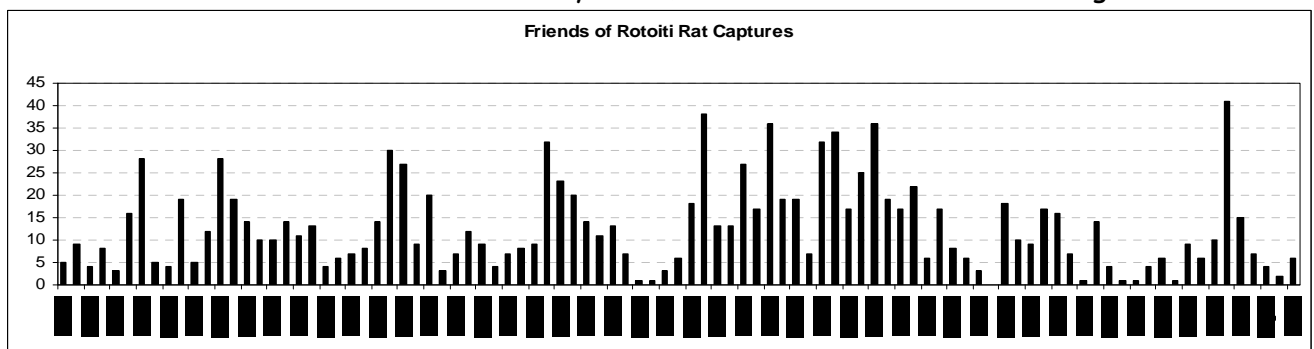


Trap box conversions - thank you to the "Three Musketeers" : A lot of work has been put in by Warwick, Peter and Alex to convert our Fenn boxes to take DOC200 traps, as well as constructing twenty new boxes. The goal is within reach, with most already complete, and the remainder to be done over the next few months.

Robin Monitoring : After much excitement, the robin monitoring didn't really eventuate as we thought it would. Kate has had advice from the technical advisory group for the RNP to concentrate on territorial mapping. So our rat trappers have been busily recording their sightings so Kate can note where and when each banded robin is hanging out.

Tracking Tunnels : A suggestion has been made for FOR to carry out tracking tunnel work within the rat trapping area around the village to monitor populations of rodents. If you would like to be involved in this type of pest monitoring, please give me a call.

RAT TRAPPING - After the record in May of 41, the numbers have eased off again.



STOAT TRAPPING - The stoat numbers have continued to be very low.

