



Korokoro Environmental Group E-Mail Newsletter

Welcome to our e-newsletter

We are trying to improve our communications with residents of Korokoro and those who want to stay in touch with or get involved in environmental issues affecting the flora, fauna and people in the Korokoro valley and hills.

Working Bee – Sunday 29th July 10.00-12.00

Winter Planting in the Korokoro Valley

The BNZ Closed for Good project opened up a new area for planting on the Mill Workers Track.

The areas to be planted are a lower triangle at the base of the track itself opposite the Cornish street bridge and the river bank immediately south of the bridge. Meet at the carpark on Korokoro side of the stream; entrance of Pito One Road. There's now a track directly onto the Mill stream track.

Greater Wellington Regional Council

Julie attended the Friends of Belmont Park AGM on Monday 2nd July, at which GWRC staff gave a presentation about activities around the Belmont Regional Park, including operational plans for sites including Korokoro. This includes a good deal of fencing to restrict stock access around the upper catchment of the Korokoro stream. There has also been a lot of planning going into the risk management and damage mitigation for the felling of pines above Stratton Street, which is now expected to start in October of this year and go on for several months. KEG will meet with GWRC staff to liaise about plans for the Korokoro catchment.

BNZ Closed for Good Day

On 8 May two groups of eager BNZ workers, organized by KEG's Ken Marner, cleared two areas on the Mill Workers Track, and also cleared bush and rubbish from around a public seat on Titiro Moana Road. Thanks very much to BNZ for all their help, to HCC for providing the tools and guidance, and to Ken Marner for organizing the teams.

Mussel spat ropes, are they working?



Koaro

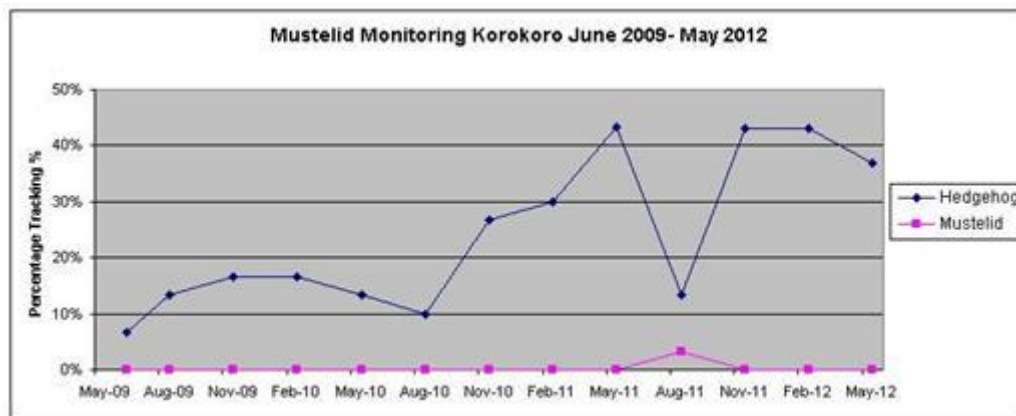
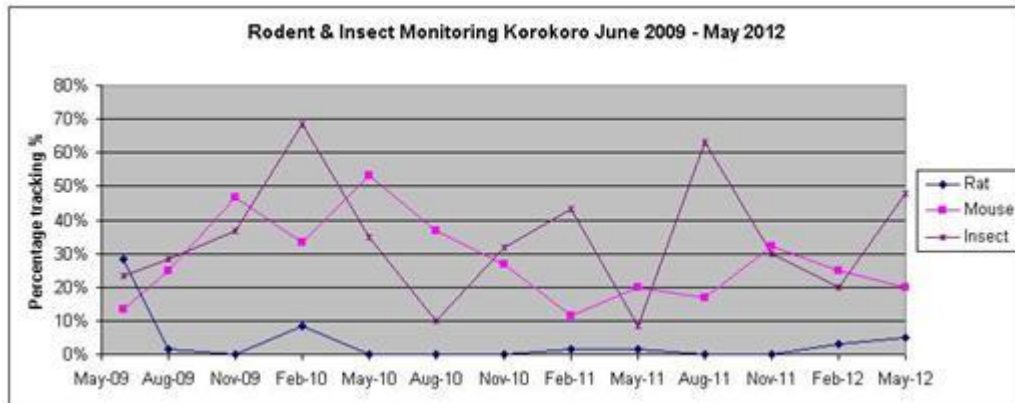
Redfin Bully

GWRC has been undertaking some checking of fish life in the Korokoro stream of late. They have found evidence of redfin bullies, longfin and shortfin eels and some koaro, all above the main dam. The numbers found are lower than expected but there is not enough data on this at the moment. There has been no sign of the giant kokopu, which had been noted in previous surveys.

There isn't any evidence at the moment that the mussel spat ropes are helping giant kokopu migrate up and over the lower dam.

What about pests in the valley

KEG has, for the last several years, contributed to pest monitoring in the hills on the side of the Korokoro stream by providing volunteers and a volunteer coordinator. Volunteers really enjoy doing the monitoring, it is a chance to get off track and to get physical exercise, whilst also contributing to species protection. The pest monitoring has shown that there is a fair bit of movement in numbers of pests throughout the year, which is affected by the seasons and the weather, by numbers of predatory and food species, and by pest management.



Kim Broad, from GWRC comments that 'The slow rise in the rat tracking rate is nothing to worry about yet. Interesting to see the mouse tracking trending down as the rat tracking rises. Something to keep an eye on. Insect tracking continues to be very variable. There seemed to be a larger representation of weta amongst the insect tracking this time. We haven't always recorded weta separately in the past so I would have to check all the old cards if we wanted to have a closer look at weta data alone at some stage. The hedgehog tracking is still higher than we would like to see.'

The next monitor is planned for the last weekend in August, 25th & 26th.

Why are hedgehogs pests?



Hedgehogs are primarily insectivores. Studies by Landcare Research in 2003 suggested that hedgehogs are responsible for significant levels of predation on skinks and ground-nesting native birds' eggs, and raise suspicions that mature females may be the worst culprits.

For information on Hedgehogs, see

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/animal-pests/animal-pests-a-z/hedgehogs/the-threat/>



What sort of birds and trees are in the valley?

In March this year, the [Wellington Botanical Society](#) continued their excellent work of gathering information and updated the Botanical list for Korokoro Valley (attached) following a recent botanising trip.

Birds seen/heard in the valley by the Botanical Society In March. Have you seen/heard others? Let KEG know (judyp@xtra.co.nz)

Anas superciliosa	pāpera	grey duck
Gerygone igata	riroriro	grey warbler
Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae	kererū	kererū
Petroica macrocephala toitoi	miromiro	North Island tomtit
Prothemadera novaeseelandiae	tūī	tūī
Rhipidura fuliginosa placabilis	pīwakawaka	North Island fantail
Zosterops lateralis	tauhou	waxeye

Submissions

Over the last couple of months we have made submissions or written letters on the following:

1. [Hutt City Council Water Conservation and Efficiency plan](#)

We submitted that the Council needed to integrate any plans for better use and protection of the water supply for human use, with a clearer understanding of the use of the water by other species – flora and fauna.

2. **Parking at Petone Station.**

John Ainsworth wrote to the Hutt News in May about an article on the “Park-and-ride overflow failings”. He had been recording and photographing the number of cars parked on the verge of London Rd, Pito-One Rd, and Korokoro Rd. He commented that “between 40 and 50 cars during week days. These are cars that do not fit into the existing car park. This overflow indicates the success of the Regional Council’s promoting public transport, but it is a problem and a problem that needs rectifying before people are put off using the trains. As your article points out, there is land available alongside Pito-One Ave that is up for sale at the present time. We believe it is owned by NZ Transport Agency – if so, it is publically owned. It would be a great shame if this land became unavailable to enlarge the car park. When the D2P project was planned KEG pointed out that the number of car parks would be reduced, firstly by removing some parking spaces within the car park alongside Petone Station, and secondly by removing the parking area at the bottom of London Rd. We suspect that the demand for parking will expand, and we urge expansion the parking area. These parking spaces are used by people on the Western Hills where there is an infrequent bus service and a long climb home.”