

THE FRIENDS OF MANGARAKAU SWAMP INC. SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER March 2021

It is nearing the end of the financial year so here is our latest Newsletter.

EVERYBODY WELCOME TO OUR AGM !

This year we will hold the AGM at the **Courthouse Cafe, Collingwood** at **11:00 am on Tuesday 27th April.** **Mark it in your diary!**

We have made some more improvements in 2021 to tell you about.

SOLAR PANELS

To follow the electrical upgrade we felt Solar Panels would be a good addition. Financed by Robyn and the Native Forest Restoration Trust, we had 10 solar panels installed on the Visitor Centre roof. They have been buzzing away, producing up to 3,000 watts on a sunny day. We sell any electricity not used while we make it to the grid and receive a credit on our power bill.



PORCH

A porch was also constructed over the bottom door of the Lodge to give protection from the weather. (see above)

PAINTING

And all the buildings have had a good repaint. Thanks Chris.

Community Planting August 2020

Nelson Branch of Forest and Bird booked the Lodge for the weekend of 1st August and said they wanted a job to do. Several pine trees had recently been removed by the drain bridge and huge piles of mulch were left on that corner. What an opportunity to do a bit of planting to enhance the area.

Forecast for the allotted day was for pouring rain but fortunately it cleared and we planted 190 native plants around the edges of the clearing and mulched them very thoroughly. A very successful project to help the community in this area.

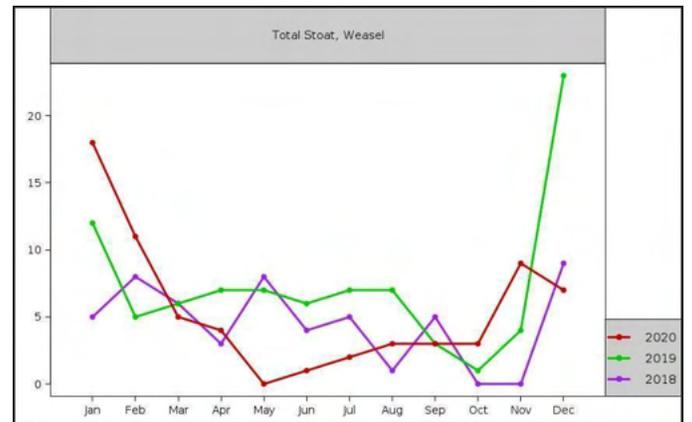
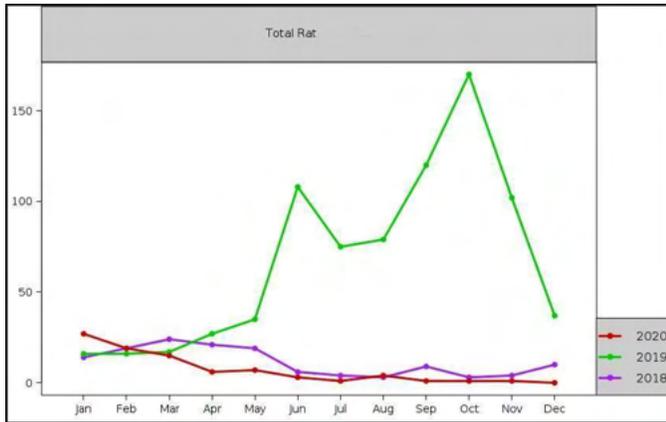


BITTERN

Once again we put out the sound recorders and are happy to say we still have a good population of Bittern booming. There have also been some fortuitous sightings like this one flying across the end of Big Pond.



PESTS 2020



The above charts show predator numbers have returned to more normal levels after the sharp increase we had with the last year in 2019.

Totals:

Rats	85	Mice	197
Stoats	53	Weasels	13
Hedgehogs	1	Possums	7

WEEDS

We are continually working away at our plant pests. Gorse, Montbretia, Convolvulus, Blackwoods and Blackberry, to name a few.

With the help of Chris (again) we have done a second knockdown of the Alder trees growing out into the swamp from a neighbour's property. This time we will make sure they don't come back.



LEGACY

Ginny Wood very generously left us a Legacy. We are underway using it to expand the flax area at the bush end of Bobby's Track, thus shading out the weedy areas and making more habitat for our swamp birds. Thank you Ginny.

SEAT

And this nice seat was donated by Clare Allen and her family who have had a lot of input into the swamp.



Lakes380

Lakes380 is the biggest scientific study of New Zealand's lakes in our history. It is a project to analyse water samples from 380 lakes in New Zealand. As Lake Mangarakau is a relatively pristine site it is providing a valuable benchmark for the study of other lakes.

Each month for the past two years Robyn has been taking a sample of the lake water and sending it to the Cawthron Institute in Nelson for their analysis and records.



You can read more about it here: <https://lakes380.com/about-the-project/>

Thanks

Thank you very much to those of you who gave a donation after your stay at the Lodge or with your subscription payment.

Also, we would like to thank people staying in the Lodge for keeping it clean and tidy.

Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions are \$20 and run through to 31st March each year.

Subs for the 2021-22 year are due from 1st April 2021.

In order to complete your subscription, please email the following details to mangarakauswamp@gmail.com

Name:.....

Address.....

Phone No.....

Email address.....

Subscription amount: \$20 Date Paid:.....

Donation amount (optional): \$..... Date Paid.....

For Internet banking: Bank account number: **NBS 03-1354-0421763-00**

Please enter 'Subs' and your Name in the Reference boxes.

For enquiries: ph: 03 524 8266 or Email: mangarakauswamp@gmail.com

Website for further information: <http://mangarakauswamp.com/>

Best wishes from the team here at Mangarakau Swamp -

Murray, David, Robyn, John B, Bron, John McK, Heather, Piet, Ian and Helen