

Our precious native plants and birds need our help if they are going to survive their battle with all the pests that humans brought here. Tawharanui is an example of what pest free New Zealand could be.



**Weasels**, although smaller than stoats, tackle prey much bigger than themselves. This makes ground-nesting birds easy targets.



**Ferrets**, bigger than stoats, were farmed for their fur. When the market collapsed, many escaped. They contribute to further decline of New Zealand's threatened bird species.



**Hedgehogs** were brought here by acclimatisation societies to remind settlers of their homeland. They have voracious appetites. Today they pose a threat to our native weta, skinks and the eggs and chicks of ground-nesting birds.



**Possums** are nocturnal. They eat enormous amounts of vegetation every night. They also compete with native bird habitat for food such as insects and berries. They disturb nesting birds, and eat their eggs and chicks.



**Cats** are cute and cuddly. However, hunting and killing, stalking and chasing are all part of a cat's predatory nature. They are a major threat to New Zealand's wildlife.

**Tawharanui Open Sanctuary** is a joint project between Auckland Council (AC) and Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Incorporated (TOSSI).



**Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc.**



Please be mindful of checking your gear for stowaways such as mice, rats, and ants before coming to the park, especially in camping gear and trailers.

## Pest animals and plants removed from Tawharanui Open Sanctuary



**Stoats**, weasels and ferrets are members of the mustelid family. Stoats are bigger than weasels and smaller than ferrets. Stoats were brought to NZ in the 1880's to control rabbits and hares. Stoats breed quickly with up to ten kittens in each litter. They are a major threat to our bird population all over NZ.



**Rats** can have five litters a year of up to fourteen babies. Rats eat birds' eggs and native seeds which alters the biodiversity of NZ's unique wildlife. Rats thrive wherever humans live.



**Woolly night shade** is a weed shrub progressively taking over any waste land through out NZ. Birds love to eat the ripe luscious yellow fruit and carry the seeds. It is removed regularly from Tawharanui.



**Boneseed** is a yellow flowering shrub which grows faster than pohutukawa and takes over pohutukawa habitat on coastal cliffs. Birds eat the berries and spread the seed. Bone seed is removed regularly from Tawharanui.



**Pampas** have silvered green leaves, with only one mid rib. The dead leaves spiral into wood shavings, toetoe does not. Pampas flower heads are erect. Pampas grows in open ground and takes over faces. Flowers are white or purple and appear February to May.



**Wanted**



**Native toetoe** have rich green leaves with veins each side of the middle rib. The dead leaves lie straight and the flower heads gracefully sway. Toe toe flower heads are golden and appear in spring September to January.

## Moth Plant



**Moth plant** is probably one of the worst invasive weeds in New Zealand. This evergreen aggressive climbing vine grows to 10 metres smothering everything in its path. The fruit carry thousands of silky tufted seeds which are dispersed by the wind. This plant is capable of killing mature trees. Sites at Tawharanui are recorded with GPS and inspected annually as the seed lasts in the ground for twenty years and seasonal conditions can suddenly trigger germination.



Large moth plant specimens are treated by cutting the trunk close to the ground and painting the stump with a herbicide. Pods must be picked and carefully destroyed. Seedlings can be carefully pulled out or large areas sprayed with herbicide.

## Asparagus Scandens



**Climbing asparagus** is an escaped garden plant that grows in shade and climbs to 6 meters. It smothers the under-storey, the next generation of forest. Birds eat the small orange berries and carry the seeds. At Tawharanui constant checking of forested areas takes place to avoid outbreaks. Climbing asparagus is treated by digging out small plants and destroying carefully. Large plants are sprayed with herbicide.



Treat immediately there is an outbreak. Know that with invasive weeds **“the longer they are left the bigger the mess.”**