

Pest Free Upper Hutt Champion Role Description

Pest Free Upper Hutt is a community-led programme to restore birds and birdsong, healthy native bush, lizards, etc to Upper Hutt. We aim to control to low levels, and eventually remove, mammalian predators in Upper Hutt in order to protect the native wildlife. This programme is organised by the Upper Hutt branch of Forest & Bird. We align with the movement to make New Zealand Predator Free by 2050.

Other components of the programme are to control invasive weeds, create eco-corridors, and plant areas of bush. Together, these measures will help native bird life to flourish. The karearea is now seen regularly in Pinehaven and other suburbs of Upper Hutt. There was even a kiwi in Whitemans Valley in 2014 – which sadly got killed by a dog. In due course Upper Hutt will become a safe haven for birds, such as kaka and kakariki, spreading from neighbouring mainland islands.

There are 40,000+ people in Upper Hutt, in about 17,000 households. We need a significant number of these households to look after the 4,000 traps needed to get the coverage to effectively control rats, stoats and possums and perhaps other species later. To manage this number of household participants we need one or more Champions in each suburb.

Role Description

A coordinator or Champion has the following coordination role:

- Look after a suburb, part of a suburb or a bush area, with the boundary defined in a Trap NZ Project (www.trap.nz)
- Manage emails through a contact email address for the suburb, eg, PestFreePinehaven@gmail.com
- Manage the members of the Project (ie, makes contact with interested people within the project area, explain the project to them, and help them to register as “backyard trappers”)
- Hold a supply of rat traps and tunnels, and assign an identification code to each tunnel
- Distribute trap and tunnels to backyard trappers. We ask trappers for a koha of up to \$20 for each pair of trap and tunnel – to cover the cost of further traps and tunnels. Receive and record the trapper details and any koha. Bank the koha into the Pest Free Upper Hutt bank account (see below).
- Explain to backyard trappers how and where to set up trap tunnels. Record the location of each trap in the Trap NZ Project (or help the trapper to record it)
- Give training to backyard trappers on how to use the traps and how to record catches
- Inform or get permission from UHCC, GW or DOC to trap on their public lands and advise them that traps and tunnels are placed away from public view.
- Contribute to the Pest Free Upper Hutt Facebook page, eg, record anecdotes, ask/answer questions, and provide occasional updates, tips and advice
- Participate in occasional coordination meetings
- Occasionally email members with progress updates for your project and progress in the whole of Upper Hutt. You will need to maintain an email list of members.
- Take part in occasional publicity drives to recruit new members (eg, pamphlet drops or open days).

Forest & Bird give training and assistance in the above role, and cover the cost of publicity (eg, printing).

Forest & Bird Pest Free Upper Hutt support:

Technical Support, Chris Cosslett, 021 136 0934, cosslett.hunter@pinehaven.net.nz

Programme Coordinator, Pat van Berkel, Pinehaven, 021 1459 789 pat.vanberkel@gmail.com

Finance Coordinator, Graham Bellamy, Brown Owl, 027 343 3574, gbellamy@kinect.co.nz

General enquiries: PestFreeUpperHutt@gmail.com (emails forward to the Programme Coordinator)