

Pomona Post



Winter sunrise over Rona.

Kia ora Volunteers and 'Friends of Pomona'. Here is the latest edition of Pomona Post. Enjoy See you on the next trap check !

NOTES FROM TWO SMALL ISLANDS

Pomona

Once again our volunteer team have been out checking traps, servicing cameras and A24's.

Rat totals for the past 3 trap checks.....

1st May = 8, 9th June = 27, 3rd July = 11.

Stoat news, no stoats caught over this time but have been detected on cameras in various locations across the island. Possibly just 1 stoat. Still NO mice seen on cameras.

The Invercargill Yacht Squadron had a trap check over Easter..... 'good turnout of volunteers, some interesting weather and issues with the lake being so low'. 4 stoats out of 72 traps. Then Ross Forrester and Paul Waymouth had a 'nerve-wracking' trip across the lake in thick fog on the 8th June, spent the night on board the boat and only got 2 rats out of the traps. We really appreciate all your efforts in all conditions you guys. A fine crew of sailors !!

View of Hurricane Passage from the pick-up beach.



Rona

Since March volunteers have carried out 2 trap checks on the island and Mainland. On Rona all

monitoring shows NO predators big or small therefore this wee gem of an island maintains its pest and predator free status

The Mainland trap checks totals

3rd May 6 rats, 3 stoats, 20th June 9 rats. 0 stoats.



Land snail shell (endemic) found on Rona in snap trap boxes which were been taken off the Island. Snail belongs to the Genus *Rhytida*.

News brief

We have been busy.....

- ▶ New logo designed by trustee Liz Scott with help from tim mann design.
- ▶ New website by tim mann design.
- ▶ Gary Chisholm is designing and will be installing a trap trigger detection system for a trial number of traps on Pomona in September (Pomona Post will report on this in the future)
- ▶ Contractors are out clearing our tracks on Pomona from numerous windfalls. Volunteers will be queuing up to do the A-line.
- ▶ Kiwi rangers from Haast spent a night on Rona recently looking & listening for 2 missing kiwis..... still missing.
- ▶ A successful film evening (Growing up Kiwi by Maddie Brennan) and Pomona update held at DOC on the 1st June. A fine way to spend the first night of Winter.



Heat maps of rat captures on Pomona

Last year ..
July 2020 total
144 rats

This July 2021
11 rats.



SPYING IN THE BUSH WITH SPYPOINT CAMERAS

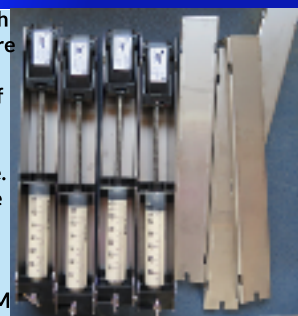


What happens on Pomona in the early hours of the morning.....

A rat and kiwi trying out the new 30cm measuring sticks. These have been put out in some locations across the island to help monitor kiwi size. Looking out for young kiwi in the future. It also looks like a new fun activity to keep the rats amused.



With donations from Myell Smith and Lynley King, 4 Automatic Lure Dispensers (ALD's) have been purchased and put out in front of cameras. One of the ALD's has been installed by trap P09 and is pumping out stoat/rat blood lure. The trap has the same lure inside so hopefully by pre-feeding the pests outside the trap, they will then be keen to have the same yummy treat inside. Then WHAM



VIPP

VIPP stands for.....

Very Important Pomona Person.

This column features a person involved in some way with the conservation work of the islands.

This edition of Pomona Post features.....

Liz Scott a current Pomona trustee

- ▶ Liz is another one of our volunteers who the more you get to know the more you realize what an amazing talented person she is. For example.....
- ▶ She is not only creates watercolour works of art featuring whio, Liz also spots whio families while out doing the Wapiti Foundation traps.
- ▶ Tramped and swam all over Fiordland. She particularly enjoys swimming in alpine tarns. Wild swimming at its best !!
- ▶ Enjoys dissecting stoats from Pomona.
- ▶ If you go around to her house chances are there will be one of the 'flock' receiving an extra bit of TLC. Look in the kitchen corner there could be Mrs Chicken or Miss Lamb tucked up with an extra fleece
- ▶ Liz has cycled along many country lanes in many countries. Those tree lined, stone walled English lanes remain her favourites. Especially if there are tea shops at the end.
- ▶ Milks her own sheep and then makes cheese. Haloumi being a yummy creation.
- ▶ All her feathered & woolly flock have names and a family tree to refer to.
- ▶ The new Pomona logo has been one of Liz's creations we all get to enjoy.
- ▶ AND her favourite place on Pomona is swimming near the pick up beach at the end of a trap check.
- ▶ AND while doing all of the above, she finds time to be a GP at the Te Anau Medical Centre.
- ▶ Ka pai Dr Scott



Current Trustees of the Pomona Island Charitable Trust

John WhiteheadChairperson
Paul KingSecretary
David Fortune Treasurer
Liz ScottTrustee
Gerard HillTrustee
Hannah Edmonds Trustee
Professor Sir Alan Mark..... Patron

POMONA PLANT HOTSPOT

The last edition of Pomona Posts 'Plant Hotspot' featured a giant totara our chiefly tree.

This edition features a very small, much trodden on, BUT a very interesting plant.

The carnivorous: *Drosera spatulata*, the Spoon leaved sundew, or Rosy sundew.

A really rosy place to spot *D.spatulata* is just after trap N05 enroute to N06. You can't miss this wee gem as the track goes down a small greasy slope where there is quite a collection of plants. As ones eyes should be watching where you put your boot, you will see the sundews.



A single *D.spatulata*, note the spoon shaped leaves.



Isla's boot and sundews

Below; Rosy sundew



This species of sundew is found on poorly drained acidic ground such as peat bogs. Can at times form a dense mat of spoon shaped leaves. Plant size range 2-7 cm. Flowers are white to pink and the tiny seeds are wind dispersed. The leaves turn a lovely red colour when the plant (just like people) is provided with plenty of light. Flowers well.

It not only looks pretty but uses its sticky droplets on its leaves to catch insects..... It eats those annoying insects like sandflies. What more could we wish for in a plant.

Apparently the South Island West Coast form is more robust and hairy than our rosy little delicate types found on Pomona.

The Latin name *Drosera*....means Dewy, *spatulata*....means like a flattened spoon And varieties of this species of dewy sundews are also found in exotic locations such as Tasmania, Borneo and the Philippines.



Two recent trail camera photos showing Pomona rats coming in for their mayonnaise meal from the ALD's. Winter salad dressing !

Last month June 20-26th was

National Volunteer Week | Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu

The Pomona Island Trust would like to take this opportunity to recognise & appreciate all the hard mahi done by our volunteers. From 27th May 2020 to 3rd July 2021 work done on Pomona is as follows.....

Number of trap checks = 20

There are 25 km of tracks on Pomona, volunteers have walked 500 km

Total hours worked = 1,053 hours

Eggs carried and put out = 150 dozen

Meat pieces = 3,600

Peanut butter = 48 kg

Number of camera, batteries carried = 2560

Number of DEAD RATS = 1,142

Well done

Ka pai



Thank you too, Southland Trailer Yacht Squadron for all your mahi.

