



URBAN ARK MANAWA TAIAO

Nature in the city

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Pulsing with ANJA

Checking your traps 2 or 3 times a week can be a drag so we recommend Pulsing. This strikes a balance between maximum effectiveness and volunteer burnout. It can be nearly as effective as continuous control if carried out with high enough intensity and coordinated over a wide area.

We focus on four pulses each year: **August, November, January and April**. Keeping our traps set in these four months each year is most effective based on rat and bird reproductive cycles.

Already pulsing? If your group is already pulsing, then now is the time to rally the troops for a few weeks of solid effort.

Not yet pulsing? If your group isn't currently pulsing but needs a shot in the arm, now is a great time to get in touch with your trapper database and get them to reset their traps and check them at least every second day through August. With the rat numbers suitably diminished, then we can all have a rest until January.



MAUNGAWHAU ECOLOGICAL HALO

Enhancing native biodiversity
around Mount Eden

Maungawhau Ecological Halo comes to Mt Eden

Welcome to the [Maungawhau Ecological Halo](#), a buffer zone around the maunga to protect and enhance the diversity of native bird life. Urban Ark – Manawa Taiao are working closely with the Mt Eden and Epsom communities, businesses and schools to trap, weed, plant strategically and generally enhance the native biodiversity around Mount Eden.

If you live in the area, you can collect a **free rat trap** and safety box from the new Urban Ark trap library at the [Mt Eden Village Centre](#), open weekdays 9am–noon. They can lend you a free possum trap and also provide you with free resources to help identify invasive weeds on your property.

The keen team at the [Auckland Table Tennis Association](#) have set up a trapline on their border with the ecologically-significant Withiel–Thomas Reserve, and Urban Ark has helped the enviro group at Auckland Grammar school to set traps on school grounds. The latest organisation to come on board is [Eden Garden](#), a key piece in the protective ring around the maunga.

If you would like to get more directly involved in this project (perhaps distributing flyers or generally spreading the word), please get in touch with Phil on phil@urbanark.nz or 021 509 292.

Urban Ark – Manawa Taiao is a charitable trust governed by a Trust Board. Current trustees are Stefan Rüegg (chair), Siân Buley, Rachel Fanshawe and Stephen Knight-Lenihan. We have opportunities for new trustees to join the board.

Urban Ark wants the inner west of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland to be a place where communities come together to eliminate pest mammals – rats, possums, mustelids – and remove pest plants, while planting native species and restoring natural ecosystems. It envisions a thriving network of biodiverse parks, reserves and backyards connecting our maunga and awa.

We'd love to hear from you if you share that vision. All applications considered, but we are particularly interested in those with financial / accountancy skills and in increasing the cultural and age diversity people (not just middle-aged white folk).

Contact Stefan stefan@urbanark.nz



Getting your story out

Some of you may have caught social media expert Liz Carlson's PFNZ webinar a few weeks ago on *Engaging Communities And Sharing Your Story*. If you missed her wealth of great tips on how community groups can use social media to grow, reach new eyeballs and engage with people, check out the recording [here](#). Scroll down the same page to see the other 16 webinars Predator Free NZ have run since the first lockdown.



Funding

If you'd like help with your application, contact [Paul Whitfield](#).

Albert-Eden Grant Funds of between \$3000 and \$8000 are available for a range of projects including Community and Environment. Applications are open now and close on 27 August 2021. Projects can start after 1 November 2021. If you'd like help with your application, contact [Paul Whitfield](#).

Waitemata Grants Applications are close on 6 August for their Local Grant (\$3000 - \$10,000), but there is more time to prepare for their Quick Response Grant (\$300 - \$3000), which is open for applications 20 September to 15 October.



Calling all citizen scientists

Many of you will have taken part in the recent *NZ Garden Bird Survey*, counting birds in your garden or local park. That's a great example of citizen science in action, but we can all do more.

Counting birds is a fantastic way of doing your bit. Keeping track of what birds we see and making that information available for research helps gauge the effect on native biodiversity of all the trapping and planting work we do. We would love to see a lot more people using [eBird](#).

You don't need a cammo jacket and spotting scope to take part. Urban Ark coordinator, Paul Whitfield, now has a reasonable knowledge of NZ birds, but 18 months ago he could barely tell a starling from a blackbird. Join Paul for an hour-long workshop on how to get started, logging your first checklist and contributing to the [NZ Bird Atlas](#), a five-year survey of Aotearoa's avifauna.

Where Eric Armishaw Reserve, Pt Chevalier

When Saturday 14 August, 10am–11am

Cost Free

RSVP Yes, please. paul@urbanark.nz or 021 150 8284

Bring

- a smartphone loaded with the eBird app [for [android](#), for [apple](#)]. Pencil and paper works too.
- binoculars (we'll have a few pairs to borrow if you don't own any).
- clothing appropriate for the weather



What's on

Check out [Urban Ark – Manawa Taiao Events](#) page for more.

Phyllis Reserve Tree Planting Sunday 1 August, 10am–noon. Help Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga wrap up their 2021 plantings at the end of Springleigh Ave, Mt Albert. Follow the flags from the carpark, south-west along the path behind the Akarana Dog Training Club. Wear sturdy footwear and

bring your own gloves and a spade, if you have them. Refreshments will be provided.

[Harbourview Fernbird Flats Planting](#) Saturday 7 August, 10am–noon. Help our friends over in Te Atatu make the Harbourview wetland even more suitable for the resident fernbirds / mātātā.

[Citizen Science: eBird for beginners](#) Saturday 14 August, 10am–11am. Eric Armishaw Reserve, Pt Chevalier. (see above)

[The Great Kererū Count](#) 17–26 September 2021. It is a way off yet, but be prepared to help one of New Zealand's biggest citizen science projects.

[Auckland Climate Festival](#), 12–31 October. The event list is still taking shape, but look out for Urban Ark events around this time.



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