



THE OWAHANGA OBSERVER

October 2026



SHOULDN'T HAVE STUCK YOUR HEAD IN THERE EH

Contents

- Fire Risk symposium
- Pest Survey Review
- Managing the Pest program
- The Plan for Canada Geese
- Traps
- Golf
- Water test results (separate file)



**PUKETOI TO THE PACIFIC
CATCHMENT GROUP**

Fire Readiness: What You Need to Know

Date: Thursday 29
October 2026

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Venue: Pongaroa
Community Hall

Followed by refreshments

 **Puketoi to the Pacific**
CATCHMENT COLLECTIVE INC.

Join us for an informative evening exploring fire readiness, practical advice and how we can better prepare our farms, properties and rural communities.

Guest Speakers
Clayton Locke | FENZ
Benjamin Disney | Te Uru Rākau
Jamie Rohodes | Nateva
Leigh Christensen | Ernslaw

Our guest speakers will be joined by:
Peter Sinclair – Civil Defence, Tararua District Council
Lesley Coppel – Beef + Lamb

Why come along?

- Learn how to better prepare your property for fire risks.
- Hear practical advice from industry experts.
- Ask questions during our open Q&A panel.
- Connect with others in the community.

Everyone is welcome!

Please RSVP for catering purposes

RSVP HERE



Refreshments afterwards are promised, it may be “sausages on the Catchment BBQ” or possibly something more substantial.

But if you want hot chips you will have to go over the road to the hotel, you all know where it is.

Pest survey review

Thank you everyone who was able to attend we had an excellent turnout of 14.

This was a chance to concentrate on our area and see what mattered to people, and the discussion was quite lively.

Possums featured strongly, and as a result talks will be held with Horizons over extending involvement in monitoring and management in the area to the catchment with appropriate support. Greater Wellington regional council has trialled this with some catchment groups in its area and the success of this approach means it will get more support in future.

In the meantime, there's a greater chance of our discussion with Horizons succeeding if we can continue to gather information via chew cards and trapping to support our standpoint.

We also need to keep the monitoring going for other species, so if you indicated you were willing to put cameras out again, we will be in touch and deliver them over the next weeks.

As said above possums featured so strongly in the discussion that a proper debate on the ranking of other pests never really got started.

Phil is conducting a separate phone survey to address this, so if you haven't already been contacted, he will get to you sooner or later. The results of this survey will be passed on to John Hart for consideration and his report will be circulated to everyone once its received.

Managing the Pest program

This is being capably managed by Phil Minto.

In case you're unaware he has extensive experience in this area having been involved in culling operations since 2004 for the likes of Auckland, BOP and Wellington regional councils alongside working for private organisations like Prohunt and NZ Carbon Farming plus doing deer and cattle recovery around Wanganui.

He's also known to catch a few pigs and shoot a few deer and goats around the district and knows the area like the back of his hand, so is an excellent choice for the role.

Funding applications for us to run a comprehensive long term pest management program have been made, how successful they are will determine the extent of what can be achieved. The results will be known before the end of the year.

Irrespective I suspect people will just keep chipping away at it.

The plan for Canada Geese

This is a separate operation Phils looking after.

It is already mostly funded and scheduled to be conducted over the moult (December to February). There may be the occasional ground shoot and Kids days outside this period, but the big numbers will come from helicopter runs.

There have been requests from outside the catchment to be included and these will need to fund their portion accordingly

Success will come from people being vigilant and looking out for and reporting concentrations of geese around waterways, dams etc.



Depending on the numbers and how many runs are needed a contribution from landowners may be asked for but this should be minimal in relation to the benefit it offers.

Traps

The gift that keeps on giving is how I would describe these things.

Chew cards in the 4 mile bush haven't been touched for 2 weeks, and no possums have been caught for 3 weeks, so for the present at least the areas clear.

As a result, the traps will be removed, serviced and repositioned.

The bushwalk ones are still catching and chew cards are being marked, so they will be re baited and left at present.

Tallies so far 36 possums across both sites

14 in 4 mile bush, 22 in the Bushwalk and I lost count of the rats somewhere around 60.



A funding application is in for more auto traps, but if you have a Timms, or one of the Trapinators that were distributed at Weber, put them out along with a few chew cards they work just as well but only one possum at a time.

Competition time

Send us the number of possums you catch per month. The information helps build our case with Horizons and you could **win a chocolate fish.**

Golf



Ambrose Golf Tournament
Supporting The Rural Support Trust
(East Coast Rural Support Trust - Tairāroa)

Get a team of three together and join us with special guests Ruben Love and Christian Cullen for a day of golf, fun, food and awesome prizes. All welcome; men, women, pros and hackers alike.

Bid and win at the Auction to have Ruben Love or Christian Cullen on your team, to be held just before the Shot Gun start! 12 or 18 hole options.

When
Thursday 12th November 2026
at the Pahiatua Golf Club
Morning Tea at 9.30am with
Shot Gun start at 10.00am
Charity Auction held in the evening.
Bar facilities available

Registration Fee
\$75 per player - Teams of 3
Includes light refreshments
and supper

To register your team
Please contact **Kelly** on 027 425 8192 or email kelly.hb@pb.co.nz

PropertyBrokers  Proud to be here

Auction to win
Ruben Love or
Christian Cullen
on your team!



We have two teams entered into this, courtesy of the catchment, and I think Lower Akitio might as well.

Best of luck to Marina, JC, Tyson, Mark, Lindy and Gillian

Remember it's the taking part that's important and It's not a contest, honestly.