



Conservation Week Open Day & Sign Unveiling

Date : Sunday 8 August

Venue : Meet at the shelter, Mountain Road,
Otanewainuku Forest

Time : 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Bring your lunch to enjoy at the shelter while Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust members explain the work being done and vision for the future. We shall be unveiling the superb interpretation panel Comvita have generously sponsored.

Te Puke Rotary Club are busy working to upgrade the steps and repaint the shelter in time. A big thank-you to Te Puke Rotaary for their on-going work in keeping graffiti at bay in the shelter.

Trustees will lead guided walks to the top of the mountain, around the rimu walk, and adventurous souls can inspect a trap line with our stoat trapping team.

Bring : Lunch, drink, warm clothes, sturdy footwear and raincoat.

Contact : Carole Long 07 542 0224

Donations to Kiwi Trust appreciated.



Sponsor a hectare - or 10 !

At this time we are trapping 700 hectares of the Otanewainuku Forest reserve for mustelids (stoats and ferrets). Our volunteers are superb - we couldn't do it without you!

If you'd like to sponsor a hectare (\$25 a year) or 10, just fill in the form on the back of our brochure. Business sponsorships is also available. You'll receive our quarterly newsletter and know you are helping to make a difference! Volunteers with all sorts of skills, from database maintenance and trap checking, to scone baking are also wanted. Contact Dave Edwards ph 544 0885.

Our first AGM

Paul Jensen: Kiwi Expert

Date : Thursday 5 August

Venue : Oropi School 7.00 pm to 9 pm
Supper provided.

The Trust holds its first AGM on the second anniversary of the launch of this project to report to the community on work done so far and future goals.

We are very fortunate to have Paul Jansen from DOC Head Office as our speaker. Paul will give an update on kiwi status and research and outline the work of the Bank of New Zealand Kiwi Recovery Trust. He is a passionate speaker and well renowned for his knowledge in kiwi and kokako recovery.

Contact : Carole Long 07 5420224

Donations to Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust appreciated.



The next generation looking after our native species. Photo taken at the last gathering at Otanewainuku April 2004

Volunteer Notice Board

A huge **thank-you** for the work you are putting in on the trap lines, the salted rabbit is not as clean and easy as the eggs but is giving us good results. See page 1.

Loppers

Two pairs of pruning loppers have been left in the gear cabinet for general line maintenance. Do take a pair along with you every few months when you are checking your line. It makes the going a lot easier. Please don't cut the lines too wide; just enough to pass through comfortably.

Trigger Wire Gaps

Recently while filling in for someone who was away I found a stoat in one of the traps. Problem was, the stoat was heading out of the tunnel not into it! I found that the trigger wires on the other trap were badly bent to one side, leaving a hole big enough for a stoat to slip through without setting the trap off. The trigger wires often get bent when an animal is caught and obviously the volunteer had forgotten to straighten them again. Luckily in this case the stoat had decided to exit through the other end of the tunnel so we got him anyway.

There are some info sheets in the cabinet with pictures of trap setting and trigger wire spacing - do take one for a guide.

Blocked entrances

The lift-off tops on the tunnels we put in last winter are saving a lot of time and mucking around. However, I've found now that we aren't moving the tunnels all the time to change baits, there can be a build up of leaves and twigs over the tunnel entrances. We would like to make things as inviting as possible for Mr and Mrs Stoat so check that the entrance holes are clear.

Free up trigger wires

Since the Conibear traps were galvanized we are not experiencing the sticking trigger problems that we had last year, however just by sitting in the same position for months on end without being activated the triggers will tend to bind requiring more force to set off the trap. It would be a good idea if next time you are doing your trap lines to remove the traps from the tunnel and use a stick to set them off. This will free up the triggers; reset the traps, check the trigger wires and pop them back in the tunnel.

Spare time?

If you have any spare time and would like to help further there are two on-going projects Firstly we plan to extend the stoat trapping lines in the area from line 7 to line 17 north side of No 2 Road back to the farmland to give full trapping coverage of this area, we would then probably use the walking track as a crossover between these lines.

The rat monitoring tunnels that some of you helped install are all ready to use. We will start monitoring rat numbers every 3 or 4 months, the work only requires putting ink pads and papers in tunnels and collecting the results. There is NO physical touching of rats.

If you have any comments or suggestions we welcome your feedback

Dave Edwards ph 544 0885
Volunteer Co-ordinator
or contact
Neale Blaymires ph 573 4157

Trapping in Otanewainuku 2002 - 2003 season (last year)

Month	Ferrets & Stoats	Details
Oct '02	XXX	3 stoats, 2 rats.
Nov '02	XXX	3 stoats, 12 rats, 2 hedgehogs
Dec '02	X	no stoats, 1 ferret , 8 rats.
Jan '03	XXXXX X	6 stoats, 4 rats, 1 feral cat.
Feb '03	X	1 stoat, 9 rats.
Mar '03	XXXXX	5 stoats, 3 rats.
April '03	XXX	3 stoats, 9 rats, 2 feral cats, 1 hedgehog, 1 possum,
May '03	XXX	3 stoats, 7 rats,
June '03	XX	1 stoat, 11 rats, 1 hedgehog, 2 possums, 1 chicken ???!
July '03	X	1 stoat, 12 rats, 1 possum.
Total	28	26 stoats, 2 ferrets, 1 chicken, 4 hedgehogs, 75 rats, 3 possums & 3 feral cats.

KIWI SURVEY WINTER 2004

Bird Monitoring

Keen teams of volunteers have been out in the dusk and the dark of the early evening listening at strategic points around Otanewainuku for the elusive kiwi.

The survey starts at dusk with a listening watch for one hour, followed by playing of taped calls at half hour intervals to elicit a response from any birds in the vicinity. Calm clear nights with little or no wind are best for surveying and the teams have been trained by local staff from the Department of Conservation to recognise kiwi calls. The listening watch is kept for three hours each evening for three nights at each site. A female kiwi was heard by Carole Long at the end of lines 20/22.

For more info contact Carole Long 07 542 0224
carolelong@xtra.co.nz

Salted rabbit vs. eggs

Fresh rabbit is a good stoat and ferret lure but goes off after a couple of days in the field. Reports from a Whangarei pest control operation indicated that salted rabbit was a good lure for stoats, so during the winter of 2003 we carried out a trial using salted rabbit as a stoat bait in some of our Conibear kill traps. The results were encouraging with 3 stoats, 1 ferret and a couple of feral cats caught in the first few weeks.

For our current trapping season from August '03 we decided to run a full trial over 700 hectares at Otanewainuku to compare the salted rabbit baits to the DOC standard lure of hen eggs which we were already using. To give the stoats a fair choice on what they would like for dinner we alternated traps with salted rabbit and eggs along each of our trap lines. Traps are checked and re-baited every 2 weeks during summer and every 4 weeks during winter.

After running the trial for 9 months and catching 57 stoats, 9 ferrets and 6 feral cats, the salted rabbit is giving very good results. When we allowed for having a few more traps baited with rabbit than egg, the salted rabbit is catching around 80% more stoats and ferrets than the standard hen egg lure.

The feral cat catch is lower than hoped for, but we think this is due to cats not physically being able to fit through our tunnel openings which are only 70mm wide. We will continue to run the trial during winter to see if the higher catch rate on rabbit is seasonal. Catch rates typically drop off during winter as stoats and ferrets are less active. I tend to think that the rabbit will still give good results during winter, as meat should be the natural food source.

One problem with making changes to a stoat trapping operation is that the catch rate in relation to the number of traps and time is low, so it's easy for results to get distorted. Only time will tell if the salted rabbit continues to outperform hen eggs. Even if it does we will probably still use hen eggs in half of our traps to pick up the stoats that aren't attracted to the rabbit meat. Given the large hunting range of stoats and ferrets and our trap spacing of 150 x 300 metres they must come across both the eggs and rabbit on a regular basis.

Rabbits are generously supplied by EBOP from their rabbit control work and are salted down by volunteers.

Dave Edwards

The bird-monitoring program was kicked off with an evening covering both bird monitoring and a training session for the yearly kiwi survey, which is now underway.

The evening was well attended and I'm sure everyone learnt something, we are grateful to John Heaphy from DOC for giving up his time and sharing his knowledge on kiwis and bird monitoring it was much appreciated.

Monitoring is a key part of any pest control operation and should cover both your target pest and the species you are trying to protect.

Monitoring birds will give us an indication of the bird species and numbers in the Otanewainuku area. It will tie in with the rodent monitoring program and provide valuable data to help gauge the effectiveness of both current and future pest controls.

With an effective pest control operation in place over time we will see an increase in bird numbers and hopefully the return of species like the kokako which until recently were sighted in Otanewainuku.

The program will also help to raise the awareness and knowledge of the volunteers who are carrying out the pest control and monitoring work.

Monitoring procedure

We have decided to use a simplified line transect method where as an observer walks down a set line they record all birds seen or heard. Monitoring will be carried out while trap lines are being serviced, as this will give regular data over all our current trapping area.

Info sheets showing bird species and tapes of their calls are available to help with the identification of different birds.

Contact Carole Long

07 542 0224
carolelong@xtra.co.nz



Thank-you very much!

We'd like to thank the following businesses, organisations and individuals who have supported us in the last 2 years.

Environment BOP	Comvita	Te Puke Rotary
Te Puke Forest & Bird	Web Stitch Needlecraft Designs	
Naturally Native	Oropi News	Oropi School
Howick Kindergarten	Copyman Greerton	

Sponsor a hçetare - sponsors

Mark Crowley

Plus all our trap checkers and other volunteers.

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust Board of Trustees



Standing : Jim Pendergrast, John Mullany, Dave Wills, Dan Heke-Kaiawha, Mark Dean and Sharon Seager. Sitting : Moana Hodge, Neale Blaymires and Glen Ayo.
Not pictured Dave Edwards - seconded to the BOT July 2004 - Welcome Dave!

Line Setting Workdays

Sunday 1 August
Sunday 5 September
Sunday 3 October

First Sunday of each month meet 10.00am at the Otanewainuku shelter. We will work through to approx 3pm. Bring warm gear and good boots, a small pack with lunch and a drink. Cancelled if wet. All welcome!

The first couple of workdays we aim to set out rat traps and perhaps some possum traps.

contact Dave Edwards
Ph 544 0885

Rat Tunnel making

Saturday 31 July
Saturday 4 September

Come to Neale's workshop in the Papamoa hills and help make some rat trap tunnels. 586 Te Puke Quarry Road, Te Puke. 10am byo lunch - tea and coffee provided! Please ring Neale if you are coming so he can bake enough biscuits!

All helpers get to take home a rat trap & tunnel to use at home.

contact Neale Blaymires
Ph 573 4157

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust Contacts - who's who?

Kaumatua	Dan Heke-Kaiawha	07 544 1099	
Chairman	Mark Dean	07 543 3021	mark-esme@clear.net.nz
Volunteers	Dave Edwards	07 544 0885	djedwards@xtra.co.nz
Trapping	Neale Blaymires	07 573 4157	neale@orcon.net.nz
Secretary	Carole Long	07 542 0224	carolelong@xtra.co.nz
Finances	John Mullany	07 579 1917	mullany@xtra.co.nz
Newsletter & website	Moana Hodge	07 543 1478	moana.oropi@clear.net.nz
Trustee	Sharon Seager	07 533 2238	Sharon.Seager@comvita.com
Trustee	Glenn Ayo	07 572 0224	
Trustee	Jim Pendergrast	07 573 8711	
Trustee	Dave Wills	In Mauritius until September 2004	



Please send photos, comments and other contributions to:

Moana Hodge
Hereford Rd
Oropi, R.D.3
Tauranga 3021

Ph 07 543 1478

Or preferably by email to:

moana.oropi@clear.net.nz