



NZ Landcare & DoC Skills Workshop

When: Saturday 12 February 2005
Where: Oropi Hall
What: Predator control workshop
Why: To learn about stoats, ferrets and weasels and how to deal with them.

Topics include:

- * An introduction to control and ecological balance
- * Update on control methods and research
- * Trap designs and trapping
- * Monitoring
- * Hands on practical stuff

This workshop is for all volunteers and landowners, and will be run by Wayne Todd and Todd Hamilton, who are involved in community pest control in Whangarei, as well as representatives from DoC and EBOP. Full day, no charge, morning tea and lunch provided.

Contact: Robyn Skelton 027 275 8034
or Carole Long 542 0224
to book a place.

Dogs kill kiwi

We are working hard to save the remnant population of kiwi in the Otanewainuku area. One roaming dog could decimate this population.

Please do not bring your dogs into the area - even on a lead.

Why not?

Dogs are one of the greatest threats faced by adult kiwi. **All** dogs, no matter what breed, size and training are potential kiwi killers. Kiwi have a strong scent that dogs find irresistible and easy to track. The kiwi cannot fly away and its shallow burrow offers little protection. Due to its lack of flight the kiwi breast muscle is very weak, and the kiwi has no breast bone, so its chest cavity is very easily crushed by a dog's mouth - killing the kiwi.

"In 1987, a dog was on the loose in the Waitangi State Forest, Bay of Islands. For 6 weeks it rampaged through the forest. By the time the dog was caught as many as 500 of the 900 kiwi living there had been slaughtered."

Department of Conservation

What can I do?

1. Do not bring your dog into Otanewainuku Forest.
2. Let your friends, neighbours and visitors know why to not bring dogs into Otanewainuku.
3. If you own a dog keep it under close control at all times. At night dogs should be tied up or caged.
4. Report any sightings of stray dogs to the DoC.
5. If you see visitors walking their dogs in Otanewainuku, gently tell them about the danger dogs pose to kiwi. (One way to approach visitors is to ask them if they know there are kiwi living in Otanewainuku.)



Volunteers - making a difference

Thanks to all the people who helped out in the past and our current volunteers; listening for kiwi during cold winter nights, helping out on work days building tunnels or cutting new trap lines, working behind the scenes on tasks such as sponsorship, accounts, trap design, database or putting this newsletter together. Without your help the Kiwi Trust would not exist.

A special thanks to our line volunteers who give up so much time trekking through the bush pulling not so nice things out of traps and changing baits: Jim Pendergrast, Ian Borrie, Gordon Forward, Ian Harvey, Eion Howard, Julian Tipper, Graham Tobin, Maartje Houthuyzen, Ian Dench, Alister Kellet, David Eade, Don, Shannon and Jared Wright, Sheryl Petersen, Janet Houston, Mark Stoke, Tim, Debbie, Rebecca, Jacinda and Louisa Short, Allan and Kodie Grabram and Dave Edwards. Thanks also to all past line volunteers who were unable to continue trap monitoring.

If you unable to check your lines do give Dave Edwards (our volunteer co-ordinator) a call. See Page 4 - Ed He has a small waiting list of people who can fill in.

Volunteer Notice Board

Info sheets

To make things easier to understand we will put together some info sheets for you on different subjects important to the Trust. The latest is on trap and tunnel maintenance, making sure they do their job. There was a bit of confusion about this. Copies are in the cabinet - do take one!

Dave Edwards

Modification: Lift-off tunnel covers

Lift-off tunnel covers are now being built with two baffles to stop animals from squeezing between the top of trap and tunnel.

When there are spares available could you please change them over. They are a bit bulky to carry so you might want to do a few at a time. Remember that we have both wide and narrow tunnels so check the map for what's down your lines. These modified tunnel covers are in the cabinet.

Line Setting Workdays

Dates: Sundays 30 January, 27 February.
Installing rat trapping tunnels and extending stoat lines.

Meet: 10am 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!

Contact: Dave Edwards if coming Ph 544 0885

Rat & Fenn Trap Construction Workshops

Dates: Saturdays: 22 and 29 January, 19 February, 26 March and 23 April.

Start: 10am, byo lunch – tea and coffee provided!

Where: Neale's workshop in the Papamoa hills
586 Te Puke Quarry Road, Te Puke

What: Help make rat trap tunnel sets, and Fenn trap tunnels. All helpers get to take home a rat trap & tunnel to use at home. Please ring Neale if you are coming so he knows how many workers to expect on the day. All welcome!

Contact: Neale Blaymires Ph 573 4157
neale@orcon.net.nz

Egg containers

Earlier this year we purchased some plastic egg containers to reduce breakage. Unfortunately they have gone walk about. Could you please check at home to see if you have inadvertently taken one home when disposing of old eggs.

If you have spare cardboard egg containers at home could you please drop them in the cabinet.

Weasels

We have never had a reported catch of a weasel, this maybe because there are no weasels in Otanewainuku or that they have been mistaken for a small stoat.

Weasels are very similar in appearance to a stoat except they are smaller and have a thin short tail whereas the stoats tail is long with a black bushy tip. If you think you may have caught a weasel and don't mind carrying it out please drop it in the freezer along with a note, so we can check it out.

For size comparison see photo below:



Trapping Tally in Otanewainuku

For the latest tally update see our website www.kiwitrust.org

Season	Mustelids	Details
2002/2003	Total 28	26 stoats, 2 ferrets, 1 chicken, 4 hedgehogs, 75 rats, 3 possums & 3 feral cats.
2003/2004	Total 67	55 stoats, 11 ferrets, 3 hedgehogs, 82 rats, 2 possums & 5 feral cats.
2004/2005	Mustelids	Details
August	XX	1 stoat, 1 ferret, 15 rats.
September	X	1 stoat, 12 rats.
October	XXXX	4 stoats, 25 rats.
November	X	1 stoat, 17 rats.
December	XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX X	14 stoats, 2 ferrets, 2 feral cats, 16 rats, 1 hedgehog, & 1 possum.
Total	24	21 stoats, 3 ferrets, 2 feral cats, 85 rats, 1 hedgehog & 1 possum.



Open Day

We know rain is a blessing, but sometimes we could do with a little less! Not daunted by the drizzly weather, more than 30 people gathered at the Otanewainuku shelter on our last open day in October. It was great to catch up with volunteers and introduce new people to the project. Andrew Jenks from Wild New Zealand attended, together with members of Te Puke and Tauranga Forest & Bird.

Visitors heard about progress to date and the strategy and vision for the future of the forest. New information on traps and trapping was presented, followed by a session on species of native birds present and methods of management. Sausages and onions sizzled on the barbeque as questions and discussions lasted through lunch time.

Guided walks were once again popular and everyone had the chance to inspect a trap line.

The next Open Day will be Sunday 27 February 2005. All welcome!

For further info contact Carole Long 542 0224



Trustee Dave Wills

Directions for 2005

Our stoat trapping programme will steadily expand this year to cover a greater area of Otanewainuku forest. We currently trap stoats over 700 hectares of forest, and will now expand during 2005 to include Otanewainuku mountain; starting near the visitor shelter with the first of the new lines and then moving southwards to eventually trap over the whole mountain.

In a slight change of trapping methods we will use Fenn traps on Otanewainuku mountain instead of the current Conibears. The Fenns are also a kill trap, but are triggered by the stoat walking on a foot plate, rather than by pushing past trigger wires as in the Conibear. We have developed a new metal tunnel to suit the Fenns which volunteers can help construct at my workshop on the regular workdays. It looks similar to the existing tunnel, but has a sliding inspection hatch instead.

So why use Fenn traps? The Conibears have proven to be effective, but we need to continually explore new trapping methods (as we have with the salted rabbit trial) so we can get our stoat catch rates up as high as possible.

Intensive rat trapping over 700 hectares of forest is the next major expansion in pest control. The Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust has successfully applied for a fresh \$12,000 of funding from EBOP's Environmental Enhancement Fund for purchase of 1400 rat traps and construction of tunnels. Volunteers have already made about 500 of the tunnels at my workshop – a majority of those tunnels were turned out by the local Crane family; who have regularly come out to hammer, cut, drill and pop rivet the steel sheets into shape.

We will progressively roll out the new rat trapping programme as volunteer numbers permit. In the initial stage, rat traps will be set out along existing stoat lines (with each rat trap spaced 50 metres apart), so volunteers can check them while they are doing their stoat traps. With a little practice, the rat traps only take about 30 seconds to check and re-bait. Eventually the unused trap lines (in between the present stoat lines) will also be set out with rat traps, and the whole 700 hectares will be covered with a 50 x 150 metre grid of rat traps. Not many rats will escape.

I've had a lot of interest from people wanting to purchase rat trap & tunnel sets for their own use. I can supply a complete trap set for \$25 including GST & courier delivery (add an extra \$3 for rural delivery). Either phone or email me if you would like to order one.

Neale Blaymires

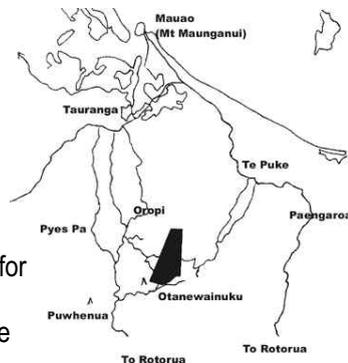
07 573 4157 neale@orcon.net.nz

Sponsor a hectare or become a volunteer

You can sponsor a hectare for just \$25 a year. Corporate sponsorship is also available for businesses.

Either fill in the form on the back of our brochure, or email us info@kiwitrust.org and we'll send you a brochure.

Volunteers with all sorts of skills, from database maintenance and trap checking, to scones baking are also wanted. Contact Dave Edwards ph 544 0885.



Corporate or Business Sponsorship

Is your business or someone you know looking for a worthy local environmental project to sponsor??

We have a range of sponsorship options from as little as \$250 per annum.

Bronze: 10 hectares for 1 year \$250

Silver: 20 hectares for 1 year \$500

Gold: 40 hectares for 1 year \$1000

Platinum: 100 hectares for 1 year \$2500

For more information contact

Mark Dean 07 543 3021
mark@naturalenvironments.co.nz

Trustee Profile - Neale Blaymires

The Trust depends on trustees to hold the vision and maintain the momentum of the OKT. This newsletter we'd like to introduce you to one of the people that work so hard, often behind the scenes.

Neale is a founding member of the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust Board and a driving force in the operations group. Neale can be found clearing lines, fixing the guttering on the shelter at Otanewainuku, inventing and trialing better ways to kill pests, speaking to groups and writing reports. The tunnels for the traps are all made in Neale's workshop. Neale is one of the people that give the Trust an edge in research on pest management. He lives with Christine in the Papamoa hills, between Te Puke and Tauranga.

Occupation: Magpie trap maker and longtime builder of his new home (variously described as a work of art or an oversized bookcase - and universally described as unfinished)

Best thing about where I live: Tui, wood pigeons, kaka and bellbirds. The view out to Maketu and the best weather in NZ.

Involved in conservation work because: If we all leave it to someone else or to another day, then we lose most of our native birds.

My passions are: Bollywood movies, Indian music, film festivals, vodka and books (and more books).

Vices: Bollywood movies, Indian music, film festivals, vodka and books.

I don't like: Rats, possums & feral cats. Country music, television and American foreign policy.

I would really like to: Have more hours in the day, read more books, be a better writer and know how to use all the software on my computer.



Trustee Neale Blaymires and a double stoat catch

EBOP Funding

The Trust has just been awarded \$12,000 from the Environmental Enhancement Fund (Environment BOP) for a rat trapping programme. Trapping rats starts in the New Year, and will eventually cover 700 hectares of Otanewainuku forest. This is part of the long term vision to return the native bird population to it's former glory.

A lone kokako continues to sing in Otanewainuku, and efforts are still being made to track our remnant kiwi population.

Pests under siege

Working in partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding, Department of Conservation staff and Trust volunteers have helped keep up the pressure on the alien invaders. DoC is currently focussed on clearing out pigs recently released illegally in the forest.

Cats

Cats are also high on the alien invader list, and the Kiwi Trust plans to trap feral cats next year. Cats hunt over a wide range and

kill all kinds of native birds - from fantails to kereru. There is an ongoing problem with people dumping kittens at Otanewainuku - the SPCA is the place for those unwanted felines!

Possums

A possum trapper is currently trapping possums for fur in Otanewainuku, at no cost to the trust. While his operation will not reduce possum numbers to the ideal levels we would like, it will go a long way towards reducing possum numbers and to a lesser extent rats in Otanewainuku. His operation is approved and monitored by DoC.

He is using cyanide in containers which are stapled to trees, he will only be working one or two of the existing trap lines at any one time, cyanide will be put in the containers in the afternoon and removed the next morning as he plucks the possums.

If you do come across the containers with cyanide in them please keep well clear it is just as lethal to humans as it is possums!

Bruce Brown: Our Legal Eagle!

Very sincere thanks are due to Bruce Brown, of the Te Puke law firm Manning, Gibbs and Brown, who successfully guided the Trust in its early days through the maze of documents and forms required to get us official status.

From the drafting of the Trust Deed, working out the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Conservation, through to the bewildering array of procedures necessary for registration as a charitable trust and incorporation Bruce cheerfully did all this work without charge and smoothed the path for the Trustees. He also arranged for the supply of a Common Seal for the Trust which of course features a kiwi!

As an experienced tramper, Bruce is very familiar with the Otanewainuku forest and maintains a keen interest in the restoration project, particularly the kiwi survey.

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust Useful Contacts

Chairman	Mark Dean	07 543 3021	mark@naturalenvironments.co.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	j.mullany@clear.net.nz

Please send photos, comments and other newsletter or web site contributions to:

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Tauranga 3021

Ph 07 543 1478

Or preferably by email to:

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