



Possums - Next Up!

Volunteers are needed to help the keen band of workers in Otanewainuku forest clear bait station lines in preparation for a possum control operation later this year.

After thorough consultation over the past two months the proposed operation has received encouraging support from local landowners and relevant iwi. Work days have been well attended, with the team taking advantage of the good weather to get bait station lines cleared. There is still a lot of work to be done but it is worthwhile to know the forest habitat and bird populations will benefit from the drop in possum and rat numbers.

Stoat, rat and feral cat trapping continues, and preparations are being made this month for the annual listening survey for kiwi over the months of April, May and June. Hundreds of people enjoy the walks in this special forest we need your help to keep it healthy and encourage more bird life.

Kiwi Listening Survey Training

Come along and learn how to differentiate a kiwi call from other night bush sounds.

Thursday 30 March. 7pm at the Greerton DoC office. Listening tapes supplied. All welcome.



Guided Walks

As part of the Sustainable Backyards Celebrations we are holding guided walks at Otanewainuku. You'll have the option of going to the top of the mountain, around the rimu walk, or adventurous souls can inspect a trap line with our stoat trapping team.

Date: Sunday 26 March **Time:** 12 noon

Location: Meet at the shelter by the carpark at Otanewainuku Forest on Mountain Road, Oropi. Travel up No.2 Road from Te Puke, or up Oropi Road, then Mountain Road from Tauranga.

Bring: Lunch, drink, **WARM CLOTHES**, sturdy footwear and a raincoat.

Contact: Carole Long 542 0224



A group enjoying the bush at our Open Day in February

Te Puke Show

OKT had a most successful day at the Te Puke Show in February. Sharing a stand with our major supporter - Environment BoP enabled the Trust to set up our stand in a very high profile location and with very little effort. We were thrilled to be awarded \$75 for 2nd prize for our combined trade display with EBOP. During the day many people who visited the stand expressed their support for the work the Trust is doing.

Neale Blaymires had a selection of traps and trapping tunnels on display. It was a great opportunity for many to see first hand what is involved in the trapping operations carried out at Otanewainuku. Thanks to the Trustees and members who helped in a most successful public relations effort.

Mark Dean



Moana & Neale with an interested punter at the Te Puke Show

Volunteer Notice Board

Thanks to everyone for putting in the extra time and effort to check trap lines on a regular basis this summer. A BIG thanks to Gordon Forward who after 3 years helping take care of Lines 20/22 line has moved onto other conservation work. Gordon, your help was greatly appreciated and we hope to see you back one day. Gordon has been replaced by Rod Ham joining Ian Borrie on lines 20/22. Catch rates for stoats and ferrets are down on last summer, and I take this as a sign that our hard work is paying off.

Stoat baits - only rabbit used this summer

As a result of the excellent results obtained during the salted rabbit/egg trial, plus numerous requests from volunteers to scrap using eggs, we have used only salted rabbit this summer. Alternating baits will still play an important role in picking up the odd rogue mustelid who is rabbit shy. In April we will switch to using all eggs for a period of trapping. Hopefully in the not too distant future other effective baits will be developed. Salted rabbit is now nationally recognised as a valuable tool in helping control mustelids. We get many requests for more information based on our rabbit vs eggs trial on a regular basis from all over the country.

Work Days

Possum control planned for this winter requires a huge input of volunteer labour to reinstate trap lines not currently being used for mustelid control. The three work days held so far have been well attended and attracted a good number of people new to the Trust. We thank you for your help and hope you maintain an interest in the trust and work it is doing at Otanewainuku. Work days are a good way of seeing what the trust is all about and experiencing Otanewainuku first hand with its fantastic bush and bird life. Plus you get to meet a great bunch of people, and the sausages aren't bad either!

Work Days - dates

Anyone interested in taking part in a work day, cutting new track lines or laying out traps. Contact Dave E to make a time. Small groups most welcome!

Sunday 2 April Saturday 8 April Sunday 30 April

Location: Meet at the shelter by the carpark at Otanewainuku Forest on Mountain Rd, Oropi. Travel up No.2 Road from Te Puke, or Oropi Road from Tauranga.

Time: 9am at the Otanewainuku shelter. Finish approx 3pm

Bring: Small pack with lunch, drink, WARM CLOTHES, sturdy footwear and a raincoat. Cancelled if wet.

Contact: Contact Dave Edwards 544 0885
djedwards@xtra.co.nz or Dave Wills 573 7322
dwills@doc.govt.nz if coming.

Situations vacant

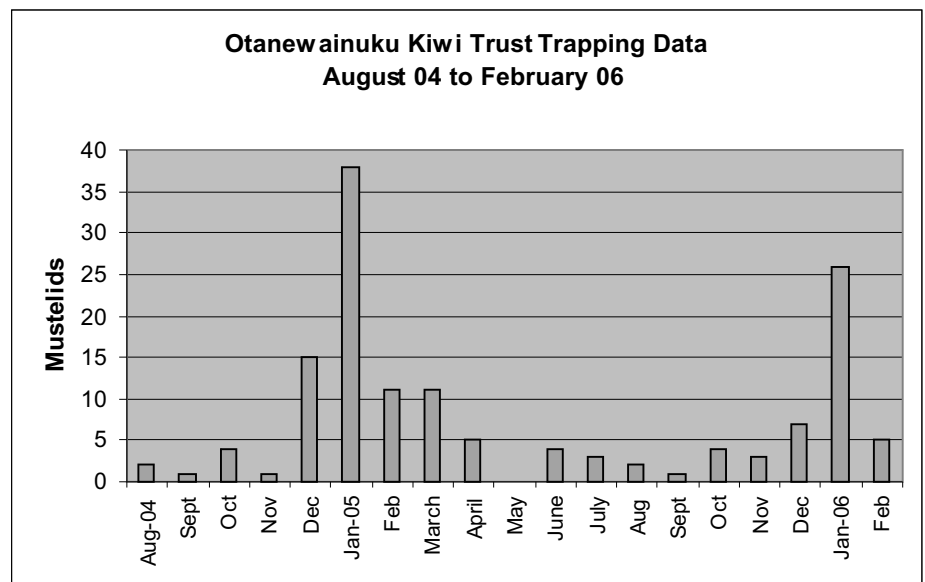
With the expanding role the Trust is playing at Otanewainuku comes an ever increasing workload which at present is spread between too few people. If you'd like to come along to an operations committee meeting or are interested in one of these roles, do contact me. We're a friendly bunch and it's very satisfying work.

Salted Rabbit Preparation Technician

A keen person is required to cut up and salt rabbits for stoat bait. Rabbits are supplied skinned and gutted, requires about 5 hours per month, and is not as bad as it sounds.

Contact: Dave Edwards 07 544 0885
djedwards@xtra.co.nz

Trapping Tally in
Otanewainuku
For the latest tally update see our
website www.kiwitrust.org



Trustee Profile - Jim Pendergrast

Interview by Sharon Seager

Jim is the founder and Patron of the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust, and he also works trap lines 24, 26 and 28. Jim and his wife Ngaire are known to all who visit Otanewainuku, as they co-ordinate and take part in the effort that assures the safety of cars at the Mountain Road carpark. Jim also began and co-ordinates the Neighbourhood Watch scheme for property owners in the area.

Jim has lived just around the corner from Otanewainuku, on Mangatoi Road since 1938 and describes the forest as his backyard. Over 58 years he has become familiar with every contour of the land. Jim started trapping stoats and ferrets at an early age and he used to keep the tails from his catches in an old tin matchbox. The Acclimatisation Society gave him tuppence per tail. Jim noted a marked decline in kiwi calls in the 70's, the same time ferret farming started in New Zealand.

What are your hobbies? I've been pig hunting from an early age. I started with my dog and a spear I made from the blade of a spade tied to a 4 foot piece of tanekaha. I got a few pigs with that, then I started using a tomahawk. That took skill and perfect timing.

I've collected model engines and meccano sets. I've still got the steam engine Dad gave me when I was seven. When I retired I took up restoring old engines and farm equipment. I've got a bit of a museum that people come up to visit.

How did you meet Ngaire? We met when we were 14; Ngaire's family lived locally at the time and I helped out on their farm. When they moved away we corresponded for a bit. Ngaire went to Australia for three years, nursing. When she came home for Christmas one year her brother organised me to join the family on holiday. Ngaire never returned to Australia, and we were married in 1950. We raised our five children here.

What are your vices? Haven't got any, though Ngaire might offer another opinion. Maybe I'm a bit too happy to potter on my own.

Have you travelled? Yes, we've been around the world. My favourite place is Hudson Bay. I got a local to take me up in his boat to see the pack ice. It was exhilarating. I could hear the icebergs rumbling and crashing. Up there you can see how vulnerable you are, a bit like being in the bush with a pig coming at you.

How do you get the energy to keep going? It's a natural thing to me, to be out in the bush. I've been doing it all my life. I would like to keep going as long as I've got the health.

I most enjoy walking in the bush, catching ferrets, walking in the bush, catching stoats, and walking in the bush. It's great seeing the numbers of small birds on the increase.

Jim and his wife Ngaire are national treasures. They give of their time and knowledge (and tomato sauce when we run out at Open Day's) freely. On a cold day what a pleasure it was to come out of the bush and see Ngaire wrapped in beautiful home knits, her needles clicking, her thermos at hand.. Or to see Jim sitting at the carpark, waiting for the last person to come out of the bush, making sure the cars are safe.



Ngaire and Jim Pendergrast

Farewell Glen Ayo

Glen Ayo was one of our founding trustees, and early on was involved in monitoring of the bush as part of his studies at the BOP Polytechnic. Glen now works for the Tauranga City Council as the Park Ranger on Mauao (Mt Maunganui).

Glen has resigned as a Trustee due to his heavy work commitments. He remains involved as a volunteer. The Trustees wish you well Glen, and thank you for your ongoing support for the OKT.



Glen Ayo

Welcome to Desmond Heke-Kaiawha

We warmly welcome Desmond Heke-Kaiawha, grandson our late kaumatua Dan Heke-Kaiawha,. Des brings his love for the Otanewainuku bush and passion for it's future to the Trust. With Des's support we look forward to more involvement with our local iwi.



Des Heke



Work Day volunteers Heather Diprose, son Julian, and nephews Luke and Thomas

Thank-you very much!

Organisation Donations received

Wanderers Tramping Club in Hamilton and also from the Breakaways Tramping Club in Hamilton.

A tribute to

The late Richard Torrond of England from his cousins KJ & AE Leonard of Tauranga. Many thanks for your generous donation.

Sponsor a Hectare

Mary McChesney of Mt Maunganui, John & Mary Sich of Pyes Pa, Dorothy Mutton of Te Puke, David & Janet Duggan of Tauranga, Harvey & Sara Rickard of Oropi.

Do check out our website www.kiwitrust.org to see businesses who support us.

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 info contact Mark Dean 07 5433021 Email Mark@naturalenvironments.co.nz

Lasting Legacy

We were honoured to receive our first donation in memory of a loved one this year.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, or make a bequest as part of your own Will, we would be very grateful.

Sponsor a Hectare

You can sponsor a hectare for just \$25 a year. Either fill in the form on the back of our brochure, or email us info@kiwitrust.org and we'll send you a brochure.

Donations may be posted to:

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust
PO Box 16117
Tauranga



Dogs kill kiwi
Leave them at home

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:

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

Ph 07 543 1478

Or preferably by email to:
moana@webstitch.co.nz