



"Ensuring the long term survival of kiwi in Otanewainuku Forest, preserving our taonga of native flora and fauna for generations to come."

No 9 SPRING 2006

## Stop Press!

### **Kiwi to be released in Otanewainuku in 2007**

Great news for our team! Three or four kiwi will be released into Otanewainuku forest early in 2007 to boost the low numbers of North Island brown kiwi already living in Otanewainuku.

This is the result of three years of hard work by all our volunteers and a good result from the recent 1080 possum control operation.

Western Bay of Plenty kiwi are close to extinction because of animal pests and loss of habitat. Translocation of birds into the forest is an important step in making sure kiwi survive and thrive, not only on offshore islands and in sanctuaries, but also in special areas of forest like Otanewainuku. This can happen when communities such as ours, take an interest and special pride in sustaining wildlife locally, and it is very encouraging to know that another major step has been achieved.

The biggest risk now facing these birds is the presence of dogs in the forest and the Trust is keen to educate the public to keep dogs out of the kiwi zone.

Watch this space for more information in our next newsletter!

Carole Long

## Open Day

Meet for a free sausage sizzle with volunteers and trustees and get an update on progress and plans for the future. Guided walks available during the afternoon with options 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 29 October**

**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 and Mountain Road from Tauranga.

**Bring:** Lunch (to go with the sausages), drink, WARM CLOTHES, sturdy footwear and a raincoat.

**Contact:** Carole Long 542 0224

## Possum Control - Success

### **Possums**

Numbers are down from an estimated **35-36%** prior to control to **5.3%** after possum control. Possum populations were monitored using Residual Trap Catch (RTC) method. (*More about this method on page 4 -Ed*)

This is a very good result for a bait station grid with 150m spacing. Imagine at least 1½ rugby fields between each bait station in any direction).

### **Rats**

The highest monitoring result was at **45.5%** in November 2005. The monitoring result immediately pre possum control 6 Aug 2006 was **26.3%**. Immediately after possum control on 19 Aug 2006 the result was **11.1%**

It is thought that the drop in rat abundance since monitoring in Nov 2004 is due to two main factors:

1. The trial rat control trap lines over 270 hectares of the Southern Block, (approximately 1/4 of the total project area). Results from this area were 50% lower in pre possum control monitoring on 6 August 2006 than in November 2005.
2. The natural drop in rat abundance due to cold winter conditions that varies from year to year.

### **Volunteer Input**

51 volunteers contributed over 1500 hours of work!

Over 67km of bait station and boundary lines were cut and re-marked. The bait station layout was redone to cover entire 925 hectares. 456 bait stations were checked, replaced or reattached and floors fitted. Much other work that goes on behind the scenes to make it all work is seldom remembered, but is so vital.

These are brilliant results - thanks for all your efforts.

**Dave  
Wills**



## Volunteer Notice Board

The weather is warming up, winter is but a distant memory and another full-on trapping season is nearly here! This is a good time to get those traps in top condition. Info sheets on trap and tunnel maintenance are in the cabinet so please take one and read as a refresher.

### Trapping Tally in Otanewainuku

For the latest tally update see our website [www.kiwitrust.org](http://www.kiwitrust.org)

### All 950 Hectares are now under Stoat Control

On the last workday we set traps and tunnels up on lines 31 and 33 over the mountain, so, except for a few loose ends to tidy up over the next month or so, all of our 950 hectares is now under stoat control. This is ahead of our planned schedule so **HUGE** thanks to everyone who helped out. Welcome to Trevor Page, who helped out on Possum Control Project workdays. He has taken on stoat control and will be sharing lines 13/15 in the north block.

### New Stoat Bait

This season we will be using a new stoat bait of minced rabbit. During the initial trial we had problems with bait been eaten by insects (black beetles) and possibly mice. I have added some salt to the mixture, so we will see if this helps. The bait is more user friendly than the original salted rabbit we started with. Let's hope it works just as well. In order to trap those cunning stoats who become bait shy a variety of effective baits is sorely needed.

At this stage we will still be using eggs in some tunnels, and alternating with the minced rabbit. There are specific information sheets on your line in the cabinet regarding the type of bait to use on your lines. Please note anything unusual on your monitoring cards: The more feedback we get, the better, no matter how insignificant it may seem!! If you have a problem such as baits going missing from the traps, then chances are others may be having the same problem. Do make a note of it, then we can see what we can do to solve it.

*If you have any problems or questions please contact me. As always your comments and feedback are appreciated, this is your Trust and we would like you to have a say in how it's run.*

*Dave Edwards*

**Ph 544 0885**

**djedwards@xtra.co.nz**

**Rat or Stoat Line Volunteers wanted!**  
**Fill -ins or longer term - Call Dave Edwards**

### AGM Guest Speaker: Alan Saunders "Communities in Conservation"

Alan congratulated the Trust on the work achieved so far and gave a background to New Zealand's conservation challenges from his perspective. He worked for NZ Wildlife Service and the Department of Conservation until 2004. He is now Director of the Pacific Invasives Initiative, working with nations of the Pacific to improve invasive species management. Alan is based at Auckland University.

The title of Alan's address "A community approach to conservation" reflects a need to focus on communities of people as well as biological communities

New Zealand is a world leader in conservation.

Factors which have led to that status are:

- ~ 40% of bird species lost
- ~ 95% of wetlands lost
- ~ loss of habitat
- ~ hunting of native species
- ~ huge impact of invasive alien mammals more - than 30 are rated as conservation pests.

We are the seabird capital of the world and our soils are enriched by the presence of seabirds over thousands of years. Any conservation project has to focus on outcomes e.g. Why are we doing this work?

20 years ago the only safe haven for endangered species was offshore islands. We have over 700 islands greater than 1 Ha in size, but most have been invaded by one or more pests. Translocation of species endangered by invasive predators on the mainland to safe island refuges has been a key tool to their survival.

For example, the kokako from the Western Bay of Plenty were at risk from predators and loss of habitat and several pairs were transferred to Hauturu/Little Barrier Island. This is another species we may see returned to Otanewainuku in the future.



*Alan admiring a Guam Rail on Palau*

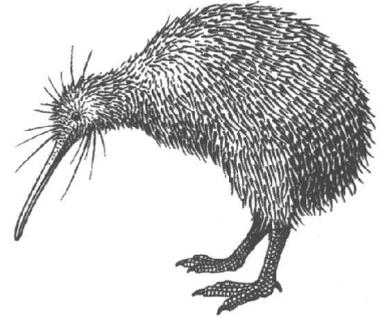
# Species: **NORTH ISLAND BROWN KIWI**

Status: **In serious decline (estimated at 10% per year)**

Estimated national population: **15 000 - 20 000**

Estimated Western bay of Plenty population: Estimated at **15 - 30**

Otanewainuku Population: Estimated at **3 - 5**



Kiwi are unique in that they have many characteristics that are similar to mammals. They have marrow in their leg bones, (unlike other birds), their body temperature is much higher than most birds, they have no wishbone or flight muscles, (which means their chest area is very vulnerable to crushing when caught by a dog or people), their nostrils are at the tip of their bill and they hatch fully feathered.

**Egg development:** It takes approximately 3 weeks for a kiwi egg to form inside the female bird. For the relatively small size of a female kiwi, (2.5kg - 3kg ) it produces the largest egg compared to any other bird in the world. The egg takes up about 1/3 of the females size and weight.

**Incubation:** 68 - 70 days for the chick to develop and hatch. Two eggs are laid in each nest. Because of the size of each egg the female can only produce 1 egg at a time. The first egg is only incubated for short periods of time during the first 3 weeks so that development is delayed until the second egg is laid. This adaptation ensures that both chicks will hatch within a few days of each.

**Chicks:** Kiwi chicks are unique in that they hatch fully feathered and are fully developed except for being very small in size. Once the chick hatches it survives for the first week by absorbing the remaining egg yolk stored inside its body. This first week is when the chicks build up muscle and fitness by following the male kiwi around and learn what foods it should eat. Adult kiwi do not feed their chicks at all. After the first week kiwi chicks are left on their own but sleep during the day with the adult male in the nest burrow. He protects them in and around the nest burrow but lets them fend for themselves once they go out at night. After 6 months the kiwi chick has grown to about 1kg in weight and is big enough to fend for its self against most predators.

**Adults:** Adult kiwi can live from between 40 and 50 years. Kiwi start breeding at about 2 years old. They do not mate for life but are very likely to spend many years with the same mate. Female kiwi are bigger, (2.5kg - 3kg) than males, (1.8kg - 2.2kg) and have much longer bills so that they don't compete with each other for food. Kiwi have air cells at the tip of their bills for detecting vibration which they use for finding underground insects, worms and grubs. These birds are very territorial and will often remain in the same territory for many years.

## ***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  
Mark@naturalevironments.co.nz



**Great idea for Christmas gifts!**

Otanewainuku Kiwi doll by Cloud Nine Design  
Stone OKT T-shirt

To order ph Moana 543 1478 info@kiwitrust.org

# Thank-you very much!

## Donations received

From Trust Power, as winners of the Heritage - Environment award, \$250.

## Sausage Sizzling for Kiwi

To the students and staff of Oropi School \$138 as the result of a sausage sizzle. Well done folks!

## Sponsor a Hectare

Elizabeth Mayo of Te Puke, Rita Carter of Tauranga, Eila Ellis of Tauranga, Peter Underwood of Te Puke, ND & RE Espin of Te Puke, Papatuanuku Services of Tauranga, BM McKey of Otumoetai, and Brian Bennet of Te Puke. Do check out our website [www.kiwitrust.org](http://www.kiwitrust.org) to see other businesses who support us.

## 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](mailto:info@kiwitrust.org) and we'll send you a brochure.

## Christmas Fund Raiser - Bayfair

Next month if you're planning a visit to the Bayfair Shopping Centre, keep your eyes peeled for us!

We'll be selling our own fundraising chocolates for a gold coin donation, soft toy kiwi complete with their own egg, and sponsor a Hectare plots in the bush.

## Sunday 19 November

Bayfair  
Mt Maunganui

T-shirts

Kiwi soft toy

Chocolates

Sponsor  
A Hectare



Moana Hodge with daughter Freya & Cloud Nine Design Kiwi [cloudnine.co.nz](http://cloudnine.co.nz)



## RTC Monitoring Method

The RTC monitoring method is where a number of random lines for 10 possum traps, at 50m spacing are generated on a map of the control area by a computer programme. The number of lines is calculated on the area of possum control. Traps are set on these lines for three nights and are checked and emptied each morning. After the third night the traps are removed and the total number of possums captured is recorded as a percentage of the number of trap nights. For example 10 lines of 10 traps = 100 traps x 3 nights = 300 trap nights.

Rat populations are monitored using tracking tunnels which measure change in population abundance rather than numbers. Monitoring has been carried out annually in November and changes measured by a percentage of 100 tunnels that show rat foot prints after 1 night of monitoring. For this project rat monitoring was carried out immediately prior to the possum operation and again immediately after possum control.



Dogs kill kiwi  
Leave them at home

## Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust Useful Contacts

Chairman	Mark Dean	07 543 3021	<a href="mailto:mark@naturalenvironments.co.nz">mark@naturalenvironments.co.nz</a>
Volunteers	Dave Edwards	07 544 0885	<a href="mailto:djedwards@xtra.co.nz">djedwards@xtra.co.nz</a>
Secretary	Carole Long	07 542 0224	<a href="mailto:carolelong@xtra.co.nz">carolelong@xtra.co.nz</a>
Finances	John Mullany	07 579 1917	<a href="mailto:j.mullany@clear.net.nz">j.mullany@clear.net.nz</a>

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:  
[info@kiwitrust.org](mailto:info@kiwitrust.org)