



No 14 WINTER 2008

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

Tutaki - feisty kiwi farewelled

An early morning phone call brought shocking news to our Secretary, Carole Long in May. A dead kiwi had been picked up on No.2 Road and moved to the side of the road. "It is just devastating, and such sad news. We have felt as if there has been a death in the family today."

Department of Conservation ranger, Dave Wills, who is also a member of the Trust Board, had the sorry task of picking up the body of Tutaki, a female kiwi, who had evidently been feeding in the soft soil on the side of the road when she must have been hit by a vehicle. She would have died instantly, as her injuries were severe, and even the transmitter on her leg was demolished. Dave Edwards, volunteer coordinator for the Trust, was monitoring the birds the previous day and recorded her about 400 metres from the road. Tutaki is the bird whose wanderings around the 1200 hectare forest have kept the monitoring team busy over the past year since she was released in April 2007.

She was one of two female kiwi from the captive breeding programme at Kiwi Encounter in Rotorua released into Otanewainuku last year. Staff from Kiwi Encounter are also very sad over the loss of this bird, as they had reared her and she was in prime condition - a very feisty female. A karakia was said over Tutaki's body at the DOC office in Greerton. A restless spirit is now at peace. Her precious feathers will be used to repair local Maori ceremonial cloaks.



Photo courtesy BOP Times



Photo Neale Blaymires

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 13th July **Time:** 1pm

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. *Oh yes, and your cheque book to sponsor a hectare or a creche post! - Ed*

Contact: Carole Long 542 0224

\$100 000 Kiwi Creche Boost from WBOPDC

Western Bay of Plenty District Council has committed \$100,000 to the provision of a creche for kiwi chicks adjacent to the Otanewainuku forest. With commitments of earthworks, fencing materials, transport and sponsorships already in place the funding for the creche is now approaching \$200,000, almost a third of the \$650,000 budget needed to complete the project.

All legal requirements have been met for the use of the 21 hectares of native bush which will form the creche. The land is privately owned and covenanted under QE II Trust, with limited access which is a bonus for a facility which needs to be safe from interference. Fundraising is a high priority and applications are being made to local, national and international bodies for the remainder of the funding. It is hoped that construction of the predator proof fence will begin later this year, to assist with chicks hatched and reared at Kiwi Encounter in Rotorua. Department of Conservation, local iwi, Kiwi Encounter and local service clubs have shown their support. Do get a group together and sponsor a post (and four metres of fence) for \$950. Your help makes all the difference.

Volunteer Notice Board

The long beautiful spell of Autumn weather is over and winter is here in force! Winter can be a hard time to get motivated and check trap lines, but with the ever increasing bird life, Otanewainuku is a special place to spend a few hours on a winters day. Pockets of brilliant rata flowers can still be seen and keep an eye out for the kohekohe which is in flower and having it's best display in years!

Stoat bait trial

We have been trialing a new rabbit based stoat bait; eggs and rabbit have been alternated down each trap line. The initial results are looking good with rabbit catching around 3 times the number of stoats as the eggs. We will continue to run the trial for the rest of the year to build up more data.

2008 Bait Station Operation - Volunteers needed!

The increased bird numbers and improvements in forest health as a result of our two previous Bait Station operations in 2006 and 2007 made the decision to repeat it this winter an easy one. It will cover 925 hectares and be carried out from mid July to about mid September. Our target species are possums and rats, with rats arguably being the biggest threat to the forest ecosystem. Check out the rat info sheet on our website. This year we will be using Cholicalciferol and Ditrac, which are approved for use by volunteers and pose minimal risk to non-target species. Bait stations are used to further reduce any risk. Community support and volunteer input last year was brilliant so we will again carry out this year's operation using solely volunteers. If you are interested in helping out or want to know more please give me a call.

Dave Edwards

Ph 544 0885

djedwards@xtra.co.n

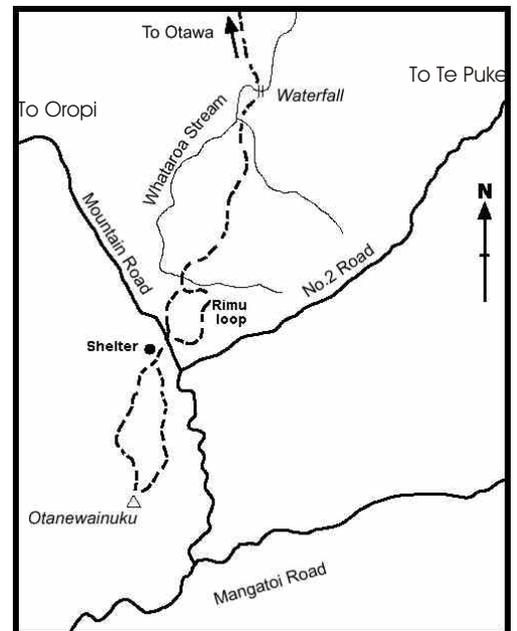
Bait Station Workdays

Sunday 20 July . Sunday 27 July . Sunday 10 August . Sunday 17 August

We will be working in groups of 3 or 4. The work is not too strenuous and we can generally tailor the tasks to suit the individual.

Meet: at the shelter by car park at Otanewainuku forest on Mountain Rd Oropi. Start 9am and finish approx 2pm.

Bring: small pack with lunch, drink, warm clothes, sturdy footwear and a raincoat. The Trust will provide a BBQ at the end of workday
If you can help or wish to know more please contact: Dave Edwards 544 0885 or Dave Wills 573 7322



Situations Vacant - Secretary

We are seeking a secretary to take on various admin tasks from our very special Trustee Carole Long so she can focus on the education and advocacy role she has so much passion for. The role includes minute taking, correspondence and keeping in touch via email. Like to know more? Contact Carole 542 0224 or email her on info@kiwitrust.org

Kohekohe in full bloom

Keep an eye out for one of our most spectacular flowering trees the kohekohe. Known to early settlers as NZ Cedar and botanically as *Dysoxylum spectabile*, flowers from May to July. Kohekohe is one of the easiest native trees to recognise when in flower as the flowers sprout from the trunk and branches and not from the leaf canopy. The clusters of flowers can be up to 30cm long with the individual greeny-white flowers about 3cm across. It takes 15 months for the seed to form and ripen. Because of this kohekohe tends to be biannual in its flowering. Possums also love this glossy-leaved unusual flowering native tree. It really is worthy of a little "time out" to admire when you next go bush.



Comvita: Our sponsor since 2002

Apologies: In last month's newsletter we missed printing Comvita's values. Do pop into their newly decorated store at Paengaroa. The coffee is fantastic!

Comvita's single organizing idea is "Natural Performance". It explains what the company must deliver and what people receive. This idea drives Comvita's vision and policies as reflected in one of their values below:

Respect: We care for the future of people and nature. We apply integrity and sustainable principles in everything we do.



Sponsorship

The perfect gift that makes a difference!

* Kiwi Creche Post \$950

* A Hectare \$25

* Membership \$10

Just email us and we'll send you a brochure

Info@kiwitrust.org

Or ph 07 542 0224



In Brief...

Trust Power National Community Awards

Carole Long and Peter Crane did us proud in Wanaka at the National Trust Power Community awards. They gave a lively presentation which stood out to the judges. However on the night a group of volunteers from Palmerston North took top honours for their commitment to a wide range of social work in the city, including volunteers in vans patrolling city streets on Friday and Saturday nights, keeping people out of trouble and dispensing hot drinks and food and good advice. Bike Taupo was awarded second prize, and everyone else came third equal.

Our team has been invited to give their presentation locally at two more events - assisted by the charming stuffed kiwi!

Trustpower were generous hosts and all 23 teams and their accompanying Mayors and Mayoresses had a wonderful weekend of true Central Otago hospitality - even coaxed into dancing the Gay Gordons in true Scottish fashion. Because of some delays in a chartered flight from Wanaka to Christchurch, Air New Zealand refunded the cost of the charter and Trustpower has disbursed this amount to all the groups taking part - thanks again

Inaugural Weta Walk

In late March Te Puke Forest and Bird held the first evening weta walk up at the Forest. Around 100 people attended, including many families. After eating a picnic tea we listened to a wee talk and took part in an insect hunt at the shelter led by Dr Peter Maddison, entomologist and President of Forest & Bird. Dr Maddison is shown (at right) with his insect gathering high-tech equipment (white sail and bomi-knocker).

Ann Graeme, who works for F&B organising KCC and writing the Kiwi Conservation Club magazine, lead our group of torch bearing "explorers" into the forest. We found many fungi, a native snail and all sorts of 6 legged wee creatures. It was very special being in the forest at dusk and an event sure to be repeated in the summer months.

Evening Kiwi Survey close encounter

Two of our listeners were thrilled whilst out listening for kiwi in our winter kiwi call surveying. Just metres away was one of our kiwi - quiet, but close enough to see!

Our AGM

The Trust held it's 5th AGM on the 29th May. Thanks to huge support from various agencies, volunteers and the local community we have achieved a tremendous amount in our first 6 years. *Watch this space there is much more to come!* Our guest speaker was Carmel Richardson from the "Kaharoa Kokako Trust" who earlier this year celebrated their 10th birthday. They began with just 12 pairs of kokako and through extensive pest control have boosted the numbers to around 130 birds.

Kokako a step closer

Kokako were removed from Otanewainuku in the mid 1980's to Little Barrier Is for safekeeping. One lone kokako is occasionally still heard. Several Trust members attended the annual kokako recovery group meeting and put forward a case for having the birds reintroduced, our case was well supported and we have been given this group's preliminary approval to release kokako at Otanewainuku. There is still much work to be done and we estimate that in years to come we too will hear the magical calls of the kokako that once rang in our forest. The hard yards our volunteers put in are paying off, thanks everyone!

Comvita -day off to lend us a hand

As part of the Comvita "Helping Hands" initiative seven Comvita staff gathered at the Otanewainuku car park to build an edging fence. Dave Edwards and Jim Pendergrast helped in this complete change for the usually "desk bound" people. There was lots of banter on the best way to build a fence, especially when obstacles such as a large chunk of buried concrete were discovered. Despite all post holes being hand dug with garden spades the fence was complete in record time, and the car park now has a finished look.

Many, many thanks to Comvita and the seven staff members who helped.

Black Beanies with the OKT logo now available

Thanks to the folks at Ace Embroidery we have beanies for the winter chills, plus with T-shirts and kiwi toys.



Thank-you very much!

Kiwi Creche

\$100 000 from Western Bay of Plenty District Council. See cover story for more details.

Sponsor a Hectare

M McChesney of Mt Maunganui, Carol Jones of Omokoroa, John Brown of Te Puna, Robyn Brooks of Pyes Pa, Mrs E Krause of Omokoroa, Jon & Sharon Foxon of Tauranga, Roger & Elaine Brewster Charitable Trust, Tom & Anne Boyd of Omokoroa, J & M Rountree of Matua, Patricia Skelly of Te Aroha, Garry Bones of Ohauti, Peter Crane of Tauranga, M J Canter, Neville Lowry & Sue Drummond of Omanawa, Barbara Bianchin of Mt Maunganui, Ian Cross of Tauranga, D M Phillips of Plummers Point, Sue Decaigney of Rotorua, P Jones of Tauranga, Michael Owen of Welcome Bay, Mrs J Tushingham of Omokoroa, KD & H K Norton, Image Painters of Tauranga, Doug & Ruth Espin of Te Puke, H E Rhodes of Oropi, Mrs Robin Hodge of Oropi, Bob Meale of Tauranga, J Rice of Oropi, Keri McGarva of Oropi, M & M J McIntosh of Plummers Point, Dave & Annette Woolerton of Ohauti, Jens Wulff of Pyes Pa, P Faulkner of omokoroa, Rita Carter of Matua, E D Brooks of Tauranga, Billie Carpenter of Oropi, Paul & Maryanne Washer of Ohauti, Mike & Paula Sidwell of Pyes Pa, Verne Burmester of Oropi, E L & T Spikermann of Te Puke, Nathan Anderson & Christine Christianson of Papamoa, Oldman Family of Tauranga, Peter Cosnahan & Elizabeth Cole of Tauranga, Eila Ellis of Tauranga, Sara Friedman of Virginia, USA, Val Sinclair of Te Puna and Jean Bowden of Lower Hutt.

Thanks to the Tauranga's R.D.3 Mail Contractors who did a brochure mail drop for us - the increase in our sponsorship is significant. Thanks too to **Tauranga Quality Roofing** for sponsoring a hectare for 10 years!

A very special thanks to the **Harmer Parr Charitable Trust** who at our recent AGM announced that they would make a substantial contribution to our integrated pest control program through the "sponsor a hectare" scheme. They will sponsor 50 hectares of pest control at \$1,250 per year for the next 5 years. This is a big boost to planning future pest control work.

Donations

Thanks to **Nova LPG** in Newton Rd at the Mount for donating a brand new cooker and gas bottle for our BBQ's at our Work Days and Open Days at the forest. (*Dates on page 2 -Ed*) This is perfect timing, as we plan our winter pest control operation, with some work days taking place shortly to upgrade and maintain the bait station lines. Then a full muster of volunteers will be needed to pre-feed the pests and put out the bait over July and August.

We would also like to acknowledge the generosity of local businesses **Holdaway Trust** (run by Hobec Lawyers) \$1500 donation, **Ice Construction** of Papamoa \$1000 donation and **Arbor Care** of Pyes Pa \$1000 donation. The funds will be spent on Pest Control. Do support these local businesses- their generosity makes the world of difference to us!

Big thanks as well to **Will and Karen Robinson** who raised \$500 at the Open Day they held at their Oropi "Off the Grid" property - a Sustainable Backyards event.



Photo: Jane White

New Trustee

We warmly welcome Heather White to the Trust Board: A retired judge and former teacher at Mt Maunganui College, Heather brings with her a keen interest in Otanewainuku, a wealth of knowledge and a broad range of skills. She will have much to contribute to the Trust's bright future.



For the latest news see our website www.kiwitrust.org



Dogs kill kiwi
Leave them at home

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust Contacts

Secretary	Carole Long	07 542 0224	carolelong@xtra.co.nz
Volunteers	Dave Edwards	07 544 0885	djedwards@xtra.co.nz
Kiwi Creche	Dave Wills	07 573 7322	dwills@clear.net.nz
Finances	Maartje Houthuyzen	07 577 9123	alidah@ihug.co.nz
Website/Newsletter	Moana Hodge	07 543 1478	moana@cloudnine.co.nz

For a brochure:

**PO Box 9311
Greerton Tauranga**

info@kiwitrust.org

www.kiwitrust.org