



Kokako - Songbird on Track

Translocation of at least five pairs of kokako into Otanewainuku is being planned for 2010. Martin Slimmin has done excellent work on preparing a translocation document and Hazel Speed, DOC kokako ranger from Waikato, gave a presentation to some of the team last week on the methods being used and the logistics involved. Tauranga Area office manager, Andrew Baucke, has given his full support to the proposal and we are fortunate to have experienced kokako handlers available and willing to help - John Heaphy, Carmel Richardson and Dave Wills. An exciting new technique is helping to keep the birds on site once they have been introduced to their new home. Acoustic sound anchoring is used, where the song dialect which is familiar to the birds is played over speakers for a settling in period.

The project is in the early stages of planning, but an encouraging note (*pardon the pun!*) is that another kokako was heard singing in the vicinity of Line 21 last month.

Poms Kiwi Ingenuity

"We'll bring you back a kiwi" was a favourite promise of ours to our friends in the UK just before we left on our 12 month New Zealand adventure. That was 11 months ago, and to date we haven't seen a kiwi let alone caught one. Of course our friendship with DOC and the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust over the last few months has taught us that the icon of New Zealand is not as common as you pom were led to believe, in fact we have learned that they are so endangered the only way to see one would be to go to Carole's house and look on top of her piano.

Something had to be done, the bird on the shoe polish tin I had grown up with had to be helped, and it's plight broadcast to the nation. Our secret weapon was Tom, 9 years and Anna, 6 years, our two children. After carefully washing off the bait poison they had been using earlier that day, they were thrown into the kitchen with their mum Ruth. Within an hour the room was full of biscuits and cakes, the plan of attack was discussed and the children loaded with goodies were sent out to spread the word. Motiti road didn't stand a chance, Tom and Anna went out and reminded the Kiwis about the kiwis and raised enough money to enable us to sponsor 2 hectares of forest pest control for one year.

When we return to the UK in a couple of months we will indeed have a tale to tell as well as a map to show our families and friends exactly where the kiwis we helped live. Although we could not bring a kiwi back home for our friends, we are proud of the fact that we, the Halberda family, have helped to bring the kiwi back from extinction, well at least for one more year.

Kind regards

Henryk, Ruth, Tomasz and Anna



Wanted - Major Kokako Sponsor

As with all our work, there will be a cost of around \$30,000 for the kokako translocation, and we are keen to find a sponsor who would assist.

All offers and suggestions most welcome!

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 15th February 2009

Time: 12pm

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

Volunteer Notice Board

2008 was another great year for the Trust and Otanewainuku forest. Community awareness and involvement in our project continues to grow as people discover what a very special place Otanewainuku is, and the work we do to turn around the decline in flora and fauna. I'm continually amazed at the enthusiasm and support volunteers are offering the Trust; thanks, your help is greatly appreciated and lessens the load all round. It also allows us to expand our initial and major role of building up a viable breeding population of kiwi at Otanewainuku and take on other major projects, like bait station operations, which benefit the whole ecosystem.



Photo Dave Edwards

The year was capped off with a well attended volunteer get together at Kulim park, Mother nature blessed us with a brilliant day, (pity she could not have been so kind on some of our workdays) and a good time was had by all. The spot prizes of T-shirts, caps and some family passes to kiwi encounter went down a treat. Thanks to a generous donation from Mike Payne of **Ace Embroidery** we had a few more items to give away than first thought.

Trap lines

With summer on its way (hurray), and of course holidays, if you are going to be away for an extended period could you please contact me and I will arrange for someone to fill in for you. With the warmer weather we will also switch back to checking trap lines every two weeks, we will continue with the trial alternating rabbit and eggs down each line during the summer then evaluate the data in April.

Possum and Rat control

The result of our previous pest control at Otanewainuku is clear for all to see. This year rata had the best flowering anyone can remember, it really was spectacular. The forest floor is littered in seedlings and small bird numbers (most noticeably robins) are making a dramatic come back.

Initially we targeted possums, then rats. It was a huge ask, to which volunteers responded to with great enthusiasm. Cholecalciferol was our chosen toxin for possums as it can be used by volunteers and poses minimal risk to non-target species such as invertebrates or birds. We achieved a result of 1% RTC (residual trap catch) for possums down from a pre operation 10%. This is nothing short of brilliant and equates to way less than 1 possum per hectare left at Otanewainuku. Achieving a result like this makes next year's possum control so much easier. Rats were and always are going to be more difficult to get under control. We managed to reduce rat numbers from 46% to a post operation 17%. While a lower number would have been nice, it's still a significant drop and will allow for a very real boost in successful bird breeding this season.

This year's operation was again an all-volunteer effort. We held a series of workdays to upgrade our bait station layout, then carry out the toxin operations. A special thank you to Barbara Rowe (in blue above) who came up specially to cook the barbeque and make volunteers cups of tea.

Sponsors

Thanks to our sponsors for the operation: **Waikato Forest and Bird** for bait station upgrade costs, **WBOP District Council** for possum monitoring costs, **Birdlife International** and **Pacific Development And Conservation Trust** for toxin and other associated costs. And of course thanks to you, our Sponsor A Hectare supporters, who have provided the balance of funds needed. Thanks again to all the volunteers and everyone who contributed to the success of the operation. As always your comments feedback and suggestions are welcome and thanks again for making your Trust a success -have a great summer!

Regards, *Dave Edwards*



Photo ©Miller/Greenpeace

The Pacific Development and Conservation Trust

This was established by Trust Deed by the New Zealand Government on 23 May 1989. The money for the Trust was received from France in recognition of events surrounding the destruction of the vessel The Rainbow Warrior in 1986. The Trust's net income is made available each year for groups in New Zealand and the South Pacific to use for charitable purposes.



New Trustee

We warmly welcome John Revington to the Trust Board: John has a Bachelor of Engineering, is a Director of international consultancy Beca Corporate Holdings Ltd and regional manager with responsibility for 200 Beca staff in the Bay of Plenty / Waikato regions. John is a keen supporter of Otanewainuku and his business and practical skills will benefit the Trust as we move forward.



Volunteer Profile: Ian Dench

Ian is part of the team doing the essential, but less than glamorous job of checking stoat lines. Ian has been doing volunteer work with the Trust for about 5 years. It takes him around 2 ½ hours to do lines 21 and 23 in the north block which is some of the more challenging country in Otanewainuku.

How did you get involved with the Trust?

I enquired at the local DoC office to see what volunteer work was available and they suggested I contact the Trust

How long have you been interested in conservation?

I think I inherited the conservation gene and have basically been involved in conservation all my life. My parents were very involved in conservation and my father still has a native garden in Wellington specializing in rare native plants. Forest and Bird provide some help with the garden as it is used by botanists. Our daughter Joanne has worked for DoC in the past. She now works as a co-ordinator with DoC and a local trust at the Paparoa coalmines doing kiwi monitoring work.

Why do you volunteer time at Otanewainuku and what keeps you motivated?

I get a great deal of reward from being in such a pristine piece of forest and support the Trust's work in the restoration of Otanewainuku. When you see things like the rata flowering and tui and bellbirds coming in to feed you know it's worthwhile.

What's your biggest frustration at Otanewainuku?

People dumping cats on the side of the road. It's cruel for both the cats and our native wildlife.

What other interests and hobbies do you have?

I'm a keen photographer and gardener, my wife and I really enjoy tramping, we love seeing different environments and enjoy the peace and solitude. Tramping in the South island also gives us a chance to catch up with our daughter.



Ian holding Maui for her 6 month checkup

National Bank lend a hand

A tired but satisfied group of **National Bank Rural Staff** got stuck in with their loppers earlier in the year, helping us clear tracks. Thanks everyone.

Annual Volunteers BBQ at Kulim Park

The Crane Clan Carboot Catering Company did a great job on organizing the food and drink, with around 60 people enjoying alfresco dining and fine food.

All the volunteers present were given a lucky number, and Ngaire Pendergrast who was celebrating her birthday, drew numbers out for spot prizes. These included shirts, caps, beanies, fleece jackets, kiwi toys and three special prizes of family passes to Rainbow Springs and Kiwi Encounter.

Mike Payne from **Ace Embroidery** brought along a selection of shirts and fleece jackets as a donation, and these made excellent prizes and will be used for future functions - thanks Mike!

Admin Angels appear!

Bev Nairn and Nic Geary have offered to do the secretarial/administration work for the Trust Board. Bev has been Minutes Secretary for the past few meetings, and Nic attended the most recent Board meeting. Great to have these efficient and enthusiastic people on the team! Grateful thanks from Carole.

Fundraising Committee -Members wanted

We are looking for people to join our fundraising committee. It's a fun group to be part of and a great way to help out if bush work isn't your strength. Like to know more? Contact Carole 542 0224 or email her on info@kiwitrust.org

Update on our kiwi

Maui and Whetu have been nesting again. A group of us were thrilled to hear Whetu call to Maui as he hopped off their eggs in search of his dinner. We managed to retrieve the two eggs and get them safely to Rainbow Springs the next morning. Whetu had been sitting on them for 59 days, and with only 2 weeks til hatching, our hopes were high. Unfortunately both eggs were infertile and we are hoping an embryologist from Massey University will be able to shed some light on why the eggs have failed to develop. So Whetu, do keep your pecker up (!)- we're looking for the kiwi equivalent of oysters!

Matariki has been on walkabout again and keeping us fit keeping an eye on her.



Thank-you very much!

Sponsor a Hectare & new Members

Debashis Dutta of Tauranga, DJ Wright of Mangakino, Robyn & Doug Roan of Omokoroa, Barry Waite of Te Puke, J & G Treloar of Takaka, P & M Hodge of Oropi, Rowe Family of Te Puke, Dennis & Judith McFetridge of Omanawa, J Morris of Papamoa, Raewynn Menzies of Papamoa, Anita Flavell of Pukehina, Anna & Tomasz Haldeberda of Papamoa, Te Puke Kiwicoast Lions, E Mayo of Te Puke, A & R McDonald of Omanawa, SM Hall of Christchurch, Dr M Haitsma, Ruth Underwood & Charles Tomlinson of Mt Maunganui, Brian Humbke & Carolyn Pittams (**Tilt Up Solutions Ltd**) of Tauranga, Alicia Taylor & Brad Smith of Oropi, Phillis Graham of Tauranga, Matthew Carden of Pyes Pa and Gaye Dunlop of Pyes Pa.

Donations

It's wonderful to see the ongoing support of schools- great stuff kids and teachers!! Thanks to **Oropi School** for their donation of \$100, and **Otumoetai Primary School** \$75. Thanks to the Carole Oliver and girls of Oropi who prepared our newsletter mail out.

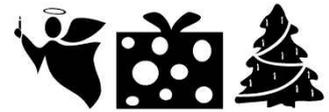
Thanks also to T & M Pakes of Papamoa \$50, DJ Wright of Mangakino \$250, **Te Puke Kiwicoast Lions** \$100, **NZ Institute of Landscape Architects - Central North Island Branch** \$50, Barbara Rowe of Greerton \$50, Julian Fitter & Jayne Ivimey of Te Puke \$50, **Lionesses Club - Mt Maunganui branch** \$225. Big thanks to **Peter Densem** for his donation of \$1000 towards pest control. And to **Air New Zealand** \$406.40 for flights to the Trust Power Volunteers awards in Queenstown earlier this year, and **Trust Power** for our volunteers award \$250.

Tauranga Round Table donated \$5000, being \$4000 towards the creche fence, \$800 for purchase of kiwi tracking equipment and \$200 for pest control.

Pacific Development and Conservation Fund granted \$12,800 for integrated pest control. **WBOP District Council** \$400 towards safe use of toxins training of volunteers.

Thanks to **Vern Percival** who donated the new springs needed for our rat traps; he also rode his motorbike to Hawkes Bay to pick up the parts!

Thanks to **Boffa Miskell** who gave a very generous discount on their fee for producing a feasibility study for the kiwi creche project. The study was requested by NZ Lottery Grants Board and was a vital factor in the success of our application for funding. It is heartening to have support, both in cash and kind, from local businesses.



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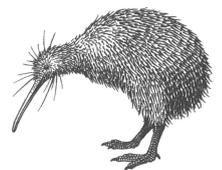
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- Membership - 1 year \$10
- Sponsorship - 1 hectare for 1 year \$25
- Sponsorship - hectares for years \$ _____
- Make a donation \$ _____

Make your cheque out to Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust
PO Box 9311 Greerton Tauranga info@kiwitrust.org

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



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