



Photo Heather White

Penny Olsen of Minginui (left) chatting to Janice and Huikakahu Kawe of Tauranga at Murumuranga marae, Te Whaiti, after the hui.

Undercover Camera

Engineer Stuart Park asked how the Trust knew what animals ate the baits, and on learning that no-one could be 100% sure he decided to build something to find out.

"I put together a device that basically detects the heat given off by moving animals, and takes a picture using a digital camera."

"The prototype got its first test during the toxin operation, and it answered my question straight away - both rats and possums ate the bait, but mostly possums. In fact at least five different possums visited the camera over two nights."

"I'm pleased with how well the design has worked, and I'm glad it's providing useful information as well as interesting photos. Using it to take pictures of a kiwi has been a real bonus!"

If you are interested in having a camera trap made contact Stuart 021 022 322 06

www.kiwitrust.org for more interesting night shots!



Maui heads for the burrow

Photo Stuart Park

Coastal Kiwi to head to the Hills

Kiwi from the far-off hills of Whirinaki Forest will soon be moving to the coast to live in the Otanewainuku forest.

This exciting prospect has come about through a collaboration between kiwi projects in Otanewainuku and Whirinaki. Both areas have projects in place which are run as partnerships between the local community and the Department of Conservation which manages the public land where kiwi live. North Island brown kiwi have a healthy population in Whirinaki forest, but this iconic bird is in danger of becoming locally extinct in the Western Bay of Plenty.

Iwi representatives from Tauranga and Te Puke accompanied by Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust board members travelled to Minginui recently as a first step in this process, and a very successful hui was held on Murumuranga marae at Te Whaiti. Ngati Whare hosted the hui, with DOC staff from Tauranga and Murupara who are responsible for the kiwi projects in attendance. Support and involvement of local iwi, both on the capture site and the release location, is vital for any translocation proposal and the Trust is very grateful to the kaumatua and other representatives who gave up their time to make this special journey, and to the people of Minginui who made us so welcome on our visit and supported the proposal.

(Continued on next page - Ed)

Volunteers BBQ

When: Sunday 22nd
November 12 noon

Where: Kulim Park, Matua

We will have a few lucky draw prizes, food and drink will be provided. Come in and celebrate all your hard work with us!

Open Day 8 November

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.

When: Sunday 8th November 2009 12.30pm

Where: 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

Stoat trapping

Winter is loosening it's cold and wet grip and spring is starting to emerge. Now is the time to give those traps a bit of care and attention and get them ready for the peak catch season. Maintenance info sheets are in the gear cabinet as a re-fresher. Trigger wires in particular need a look at, as they tend to rust or can come loose. If you have any traps which you think are past their use-by date or other questions please give me a call.

There has been a steady number of stoats caught over winter but it's hard to know if this will result in higher summer numbers. There is plenty of fruit on the ground, a result of previous years successful pest control, which would normally boost stoat's main food source, rats. But our annual bait station operation is going well so we should be able to keep a lid on pest numbers and give our feathered friends a chance to fledge their chicks.

Bait Trial

The semi dehydrated rabbit bait we have been trialing has not been giving the results we had hoped for, it's convenient but like most convenience food it's not as good as the real thing (salted rabbit). While it is a good idea to switch baits now and then there is not much doubt that fresh or salted rabbit is the top bait, unfortunately our previous source of rabbits is no longer available.

If anyone is keen on taking on the job of sourcing rabbits a few from a cocky here and there and preparing them for bait please give me a call.

Stoat Trapping Volunteers WANTED

We have a great team of around 20 people checking and resetting traps, they work independently of scheduled workdays generally in pairs at times that suit them we are looking for people interested in taking on a trap line or helping out when required, full training etc is given.

Thanks for you efforts, any questions or comments please give me a call Dave Edwards 544 0885

Workdays

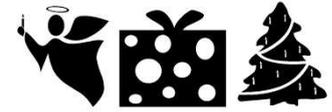
Next ones will be in November, dates to be set. Check out our website.

Continued from page 1...

This marks a huge step forward in the vision of establishing a viable breeding population of NI brown kiwi in our area. At present there is one pair nesting in the forest but they have yet to produce a viable egg.

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust (OKT) will fund capture of male kiwi in Whirinaki and these birds will be fitted with transmitters to monitor their incubation of eggs in winter and spring. Once the eggs reach a certain stage of development, usually 50 - 60 days into the 75 day incubation period, the eggs are lifted from the nest and transferred to Kiwi Encounter at Rainbow Springs in Rotorua to complete incubation. The chicks hatch in safety from being eaten by stoats and are raised until they reach over 1 kilogram in weight. This usually takes about six months and at that weight they can be released back into the wild with the capacity to fight off any stoat attacks. This process is proving very successful nationwide and is known as Operation Nest Egg (ONE).

The agreement reached will see a proportion of the Whirinaki chicks raised through ONE released into Otanewainuku and the rest returned to the Whirinaki Forest. The process does come at a cost, probably just over \$3000 per kiwi for the complete package of tracking and capture, transmitters, monitoring, care of the eggs and chicks and translocation to the new site. OKT is very grateful for the generosity of members and sponsors in coming forward to support this project, and it makes the extra effort of pest control during the winter months seem all the more worthwhile.



Great Christmas Gift ideas!

Our own kiwi soft toy	\$20
OKT T-shirt	\$25
OKT baseball caps	\$15
OKT beanie	\$15

We have Tshirts for everyone, from Size 4 -14 or S to XXL

For the person who has everything...

Sponsor a Hectare	\$25
Membership only	\$10

To order ph Moana 07 543 1478 or email us at info@kiwitrust.org

For full trapping data check out our website

www.kiwitrust.org



Possums find a feed...

Photo Stuart Park





Volunteer Profile Melanie Weidmann

Melanie is part of the Trust's Operations Committee. She looks after our database and keeps in touch with members via email about upcoming events and work days. When the annual pest control work days roll round, Melanie and her partner Bryan are both actively involved: Line clearing, monitoring, baiting, and other odd jobs that come up from time to time.

Melanie is fascinated with science and nature and during her younger years this was expressed in a passion for the ocean, marine life and diving. In 1992, after her two children were packed off to school, Melanie became a DOC volunteer and joined Forest & Bird. Volunteering for DOC involved lots of interesting stuff, such as netting robins for translocation, hunting for giant weta in gorse at Mahoenui, helping in summer activity programmes and bird/vegetation surveys.

There followed a rapid learning curve on the special terrestrial flora and fauna of New Zealand. Melanie soaked up as much knowledge as she could about all things ecological from the people in local conservation circles and was surprised at how much she had learned in this fashion when she completed various extramural university papers on ecology. Melanie served on the Forest & Bird committee, was a Kiwi Conservation Club co-ordinator and worked part time for DOC.

In 2000 Melanie took a break from volunteer conservation to pursue business interests in the adventure tourism industry, but by 2005 she was looking for a way to help with a conservation project again. Via old friends Carole Long and Dave Wills this interest landed Melanie in the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust camp; an introduction she has not regretted and which provides her with periodic compulsory exercise.

In the course of their work in environmental monitoring, Melanie and Bryan see a broad range of native bush remnants around this area and Melanie is adamant that the Otanewainuku forest rates amongst the best for forest condition and bird-life. "All the hard work with pest control is definitely paying off" she reckons. Melanie remains passionate about New Zealand and doesn't believe that there is any better place on earth to live.

Gull supports Kiwi

Big thumbs up to Gull Mt Maunganui for giving us \$500 in petrol vouchers for our volunteers. Many km are driven in aid of our feathered bush friends! Do support Gull when you next fill up at the Mount.

Situations Vacant

Fundraising Committee: A great way to help if bush work isn't your strength.

Secretary: The Trust is looking for a new Secretary.

Fieldwork: People who would like to help out on trap lines and workdays. Like to know more? Contact Dave Edwards 544 0885



Trust Power Award

Congratulations to all our volunteers, and thanks to Mark Dean for nominating us. We came runner up in the Heritage and Environment section and received a juicy cheque for \$250.

Moving on...

Heather White (*photo right - Ed*) has resigned from the Trust Board, having made a very valuable contribution with her clear thinking, positive outlook and wide-ranging network of contacts. Heather will continue to work for the Trust on the fundraising committee.

Many thanks also to Barbara Rowe who took on the Trust's secretarial role, but has found other commitments do not leave time for this extra role - Barbara also will continue to support the Trust at workdays and other events.



Many groups talks about Otanewainuku

Trustees Carole, Heather, Des and Jim have been busy promoting the work of the Trust to many groups this year: Mystery Creek Fieldays OKT was promoted at the F&B site by Te Puke branch members. Jim spoke to Anglican Women's League, and Arthritis Foundation members, Te Puke. Carole spoke to Kiwicoast Lions Club, Te Puke. BoP Polytechnic students in Veterinary Nursing, Small Animal Care and Equine courses and also to residents at Carter House, Fairhaven School. Carole took Koro the kiwi to Bright Beginnings Daycare centre in Papamoa. Des attended the TCC water catchment meeting at Oropi. A meeting is planned to focus on buffer zone adjacent to Otanewainuku forest. Carole gave a presentation on kiwi, OKT and bird ID to University of Canterbury Tauranga campus third year students involved in Early Childhood Education doing a paper on sustainability.

DOC Conservation Week

A bird identification course with a practical component of field ID based in Otanewainuku forest saw Dave Wills, Keith Owen and Carole Long guide 20 participants with good results, particularly in rimu walk area. Seven different bird species identified on a rainy Saturday afternoon!

Thank-you very much!

Sponsor a Hectare & new Members

Jon Foxon of Tauranga, H Cameron of Pongakawa, Robyn Brooks of Pyes Pa, A & M McIntosh of Omokoroa, Bob Meale of Omokoroa, **BNZ Whakatane**, **BNZ Mt Maunganui**, Bev Nairn of Te Puke, DJ Wright of Whakamaru, Rita Carter of Matua, Ted Santi of Tauranga, Eila Ellis of Tauranga, Doug and Ruth Espin of Te Puke, Max Toy & Suzanne Williams of Oropi, J Morris of Papamoa Beach, Robert Brewster of Rotorua, Val Yates of Te Puke, Allan Fleming of Te Puke, Don Merton of Tauranga, Jean Bowden of Lower Hutt, T Spikermann of Te Puke, W Couper of Te Puke, Kate Cosgriff & Diane Prince of Oropi, John & Mary Sich of Pyes Pa, H Rhodes, Evelyn Chapman of Pukehina, Peter Densem of Tauranga, Kerry & Eve Lay of Mt Maunganui, Garry Bones of Hairini, Barbara Bianchin of Mt Maunganui, Barbara Rowe of Tauranga, Muriel Santi of Tauranga, Neville Loury & Sue Drummond of Omanawa, Pete Entwhistle of Tauranga, Dave & Annette Woolerton of Pyes Pa, Billie Carpenter of Oropi, Robin Hodge of Oropi, H Corrigan of Hairini, M & P Sidwell of Pyes Pa, Dianne Green of Gate Pa, Raye Catran of Tauriko, Lance Budd of Tauranga, John & Margaret Rountree of Matua, Anita Flavell of Te Puke, E Lawton of Katikati, T & M Parker of Papamoa, Oropi Rural Women, Ian & Paula Cross, K & M Kyle of Katikati, Graeme Bryant of Papamoa, Pat Kelly of Te Aroha, Jan & Martin Edwards of Papamoa, W Moultrie & J Bout of Mt Maunganui, Watchman Family, Ian & Rhonda Ritchie of Te Puke, Libby Wichman of New Plymouth, Shane & Michelle Dowling of **Plant Connections**, Te Puke, Selwyn Hutchings of Welcome Bay, Jan & Jim Aldersley of Tauranga, E Mayo of Te Puke, Joyce Bates of Papamoa, **Ag & Mower Services** of Greerton, BG Bennet of Te Puke, Dulcie Bayliss of Te Puke, Patricia Skelly of Te Aroha, Pauline Taft of Te Puke and a direct deposit to our account from Buchanan.

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!

Donations

Port of Tauranga \$250, **Arborcare** of Tauranga \$250, **Harmer Parr**, Investment Specialists and Financial Advisors of Tauranga \$1250, **Comvita** \$240, **Te Puke Association of Anglican Women Fellowship** \$50, **Lions Club** of Te Puke \$ 125. We were also thrilled to receive a cheque for \$1000 from **Kindercare Learning Centres!**

We are grateful to these sponsors for transferring their crèche donations to our kiwi transfer fund: A & P Thorpe, Brewsters, Leo Whittle, **Tauranga Rotary**, **Tauranga Forest and Bird**, Maartje Houthuyzen, Max Toy & Suzanne Williams, and B McKee.

Environment BOP award. This year we were highly commended for our work in the community and received a cheque for \$300.

Big thanks to these **Comvita** staff members who have been generously donating a portion of their salaries/wages each month to us: Sharon Seagar and Elizabeth Andrew, and Brett Hewlett.

Thanks to Neale Blaymires for making his workshop available and giving up his time to help build trap tunnels which will be used to upgrade part of our stoat trapping operation.



Join us!

Name _____

Address _____

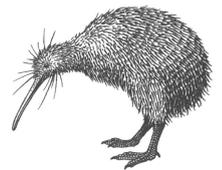
Phone _____

Email _____

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

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

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



Save a tree!

Get your OKT newsletter in colour via gmail

Email: moana@cloudnine.co.nz

Otago Kiwi Trust Contacts

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