



Kiwi Released !

On 14 March two very special kiwi flew, from one island to another, aided by a largish 747. The kiwi, named Whetu and Maui, were raised as part of a national captive rearing programme at Willowbank Wildlife Reserve in Christchurch.

They were the first North Island brown kiwi to be reintroduced into Otanewainuku forest and the culmination of five years and thousands of hours of work by the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust volunteers and the Department of Conservation.

Whetu and Maui will be monitored closely by DoC staff through small radio tracking devices attached to their ankles and will be encouraged to breed in order to repopulate the area.

Our latest tracking of the two kiwi show they have not moved very far from their release burrows, though they gave Dave Wills and Dave Edwards a fright one rainy day when they couldn't find them. Turned out they were taking shelter under a large wet log.

Kiwi Encounter in Rotorua have gifted us a further two female kiwi. These which will be released in April in celebration with volunteers who have been so vital in this work.

More photos on page 2 - Editor



Photo Moana Blanchin

Kiwi Crèche our next project

Kiwi are on the brink of extinction, with the Western Bay of Plenty population estimated to be home to less than 30 North Island Brown Kiwi. Operation Nest Egg (ONE) is a project to save kiwi chicks. It involves collecting wild kiwi eggs, hatching them at facilities such as Kiwi Encounter in Rotorua and raising them in predator free creche sites until they are big enough (about 1.2 kg) to defend themselves. Kiwi can then be returned to sites with predator control in place, boosting breeding populations.

To halt the decline of this special bird, and bring kiwi back to the Bay we need more creche sites. Our plan is to raise \$650,000 to build a 2 km long predator proof fence encircling 21 hectares of QEII covenanted land adjacent to Otanewainuku forest. Construction should start early in 2008, and the creche could raise up to 20 kiwi chicks each year for Bay of Plenty kiwi recovery projects including Otanewainuku, Omataroa, Whirinaki and Ohope.

Individuals, businesses and organisations are invited to sponsor a section of this special fence which keeps out all pests.

\$950 will pay for four metres of fence and a post - there are 500 available! \$50,000 is already raised.

Make your cheque out to "Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust"
PO Box 9311, Greerton, Tauranga.

For more details contact Mark Dean, phone 07 543 3235
email markdean@clear.net.nz



Photo Neale Blaymires

Volunteer Notice Board

The release of two kiwi on 14th March is a credit to all our volunteers, both those working in the field pulling yucky things out of traps and people working behind the scenes, we send you a very big thank you for the thousands of hours you have put in! Another adult female kiwi will be released mid April; this will be a special thank you day just for volunteers who have given time in the past year.

Trapping Tally in Otanewainuku

For the latest tally update see our website www.kiwitrust.org

Bait Trial

The jury is still out on the rabbit paste we have been trialling. At this stage we don't have enough data to evaluate the baits effectiveness. This summer catch rates have been low compared to the last couple of years. This is probably due to the secondary poisoning effect of the toxin operation carried out last winter, which knocked off resident stoats. We have started using a dehydrated version of the rabbit paste which has shown promise in the Coromandel, this is being used down a few lines to see how it goes.

Integrated Pest Control

As the Trust has grown in size and available expertise, we have been able to give more consideration to work that will benefit all flora and fauna in Otanewainuku. This began with a bait station operation targeting possums and rats last winter, the benefits of which are now plain to see. The kohekohe trees, which are a fairly good indicator of possum numbers, are looking really healthy, and the robin population has undergone a dramatic increase. The operation has given us a good idea of the level of pest control required at Otanewainuku to make a significant difference to both flora and fauna. Subject to final DoC approval the trust has decided to carry out another possum and rat operation this winter, most of the really hard work to establish new lines was carried out last winter. This year will be more a quick tidy up of lines then laying pre-feed and toxin.

To maintain better control of the operation we will not be using contractors to carry out part of the work. This will be an all volunteer effort, so naturally volunteer support will be critical to the operations success. Those interested in taking part or would like to know more please give me a call.

Thanks again for your hard work and as always your comments and feedback are welcome

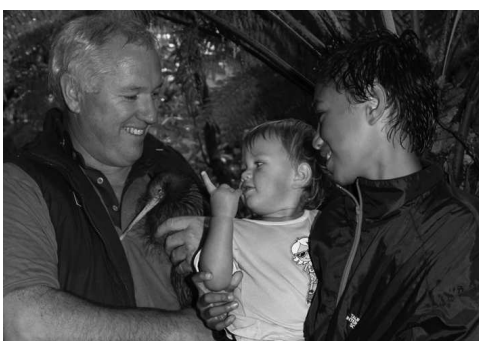
***Stoat Line Volunteers wanted!
Fill -ins or longer term - Call Dave Edwards***

*Dave Edwards
Ph 544 0885
djedwards@xtra.co.nz*



Kiwi Release
14 March 2007

Photos Moana Bianchin



Sustainable Backyard Walks - Many Robins in Otanewainuku

The bush robins of Otanewainuku were a feature of guided walks, hosted by the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust. About 50 people joined Trustees and volunteers for a gathering at the shelter on Mountain Road and chose to do the trek to the trig or a wander along the Rimu Walk.

All ages joined in from primary school age to senior citizens, and there was a short informative talk to begin the afternoon. This covered the Trust's work and aims, progress to date and an illustration of trapping methods used for stoats. Pamphlets and fact sheets were available to take away and there were also some kiwi chocolates by the donation box!

Trekkers to the trig were rewarded with great views and some expert botanising from Jim Pendergrast, while the rimu walkers enjoyed the company of several North Island bush robins. While the group had stopped admiring the lofty rimu trees, the small birds came down very close to inspect the visitors, really to see what grubs and insects had been disturbed by the passing feet. It was also very noticeable that there were lots of ripe tawa berries on the forest floor, a very good sign that our possum and rat control has been successful.

The walks were part of the Sustainable Backyard programme, and aimed to encourage more people to support the Trust in its work to keep pests and predators at a minimum in the forest. This is even more vital now that more kiwi have been introduced to the forest from the captive breeding programme.



Photo Moana Bianchin

Evening Kiwi Survey - Listeners needed

It's that time again! We had our initial training session to set up the 2007 Kiwi Survey Team at the DOC office on Wednesday 28 March. 12 of the 18 sites which are monitored annually have been allocated to survey teams who brushed up on their survey skills and caught up with the latest news on the two kiwi released on 14 March. **More listeners are needed!** You can go out with someone who has done the surveys before to get an idea of what is involved. Kiwi call tapes are provided and compasses if you need them, with detailed instructions and site maps.

Surveys are done during April, May and June on fine nights with not much wind, and listening takes three hours, with tapes of male and female kiwi calls played at half hour intervals for the last two hours. Each site needs a minimum of three visits and survey teams are at least two people, who need plenty of warm clothes, patience and a wish to help the kiwi recovery effort.

Contact Dave Wills Ph 578 7677 (work) or 573 7322 (home) or Dave Edwards Ph 544 0885

Why No Dogs?

Great things are happening in the Bay of Plenty for kiwi and other native species, but dogs threaten to undo hours of volunteer work and compromise breeding success of already troubled native birds. "Even the most docile dog can be a threat to kiwi, we need people to take their dogs elsewhere." says Trust secretary Carole Long.

All dogs, regardless of size, breeding or training are potential kiwi killers. Dogs find the strong distinctive scent of kiwi irresistible and easy to track. "Kiwi in particular are easily crushed - they have no breast bone or wing muscles to protect their chest cavity" says Carole. "Your dog could catch and kill a kiwi in seconds - before you have a chance to intervene".

DoC Ranger, Dave Wills shares Carole's concern; "We understand that people need places to exercise their dogs, but it's not appropriate in the Otanewainuku kiwi zone or any other wildlife refuges such as those at Matakana, Maketu Spit, Omokoroa Peninsula and Kaituna wetland. Your dog doesn't have to be a hunter to cause harm to our ground-nesting birds; kiwi are easily crushed by a curious paw, and dotterels disturbed by a dog running through their nest sites won't return." says Dave.

Local dog owners - do your bit for conservation:

- Keep your dog out of kiwi-zones and other conservation areas
- Keep your dog tied up or indoors at night and under control at all times

www.doc.govt.nz

For more information contact Department of Conservation, Tauranga Area Office ph: 07 578 7677

Thank-you very much!

Donations

Arataki Primary School, Avo Systems Ltd of Greerton, K Summerhayes of Tauranga, Nita Flavell of Te Puke, and Maartje Houthuyzen of Ohauti.

Sponsor a Hectare

A & H Cumming of Tauranga, Rural Women Oropi Branch, B & J Nairn of Te Puke, Margo & Fred Greenville of Papamoa, Sue De Caigney of Rotorua, T L & M J Parker of Papamoa, Joyce Bates of Tauranga, P & V Sale of Tauranga, Judy O'Sullivan of Te Puke, Roger Brewster of Rotorua, Pua Westhead of Oropi, P O'Callaghan of Pyes Pa, Oldham Family of Tauranga, Valma Sinclair of Tauranga, Jenny & Graeme Treloar of Takaka, T & E Spikerman of Te Puke, Eva & John M Townsend of Wellington, Mrs Carolyn Swayne of Papamoa, Mark Hinton of Mt Maunganui, Robyn Brooks of Tauranga, John Foxon of Tauranga, Ian Cross of Tauranga, Barbara Bianchin of Mt Maunganui, Ted Santi of Tauranga, E D Brooks of Tauranga, WE Geddes of Mt Maunganui, KV & ER Lay of Mt Maunganui, Barry Waite of Te Puke, Lindsay Park of Wellington, Rose Webber & Dennis Mathews of Greerton, Sherrie Royal of Oropi.

Do check out our website 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 and we'll send you a brochure.



Dogs kill kiwi
Leave them at home

Changes

After 5 years John Mullany is stepping down as a Trustee. He has been our Treasurer since the Trust was set up. John has generously offered to continue supporting the OKT by auditing our accounts each year. Many thanks John and Mary for all your work.

A warm welcome to new Trustee Maartje Houthuyzen who takes over as our Treasurer. Maartje is a rural banking consultant and has been a volunteer for many years.

I am stepping down from putting this newsletter together and will focus my energies on the website and board and other commitments. Thanks to the Copyman in Greerton for your generosity over the years and the many contributors. A big welcome to Dave Black who is taking over from me.

Moana Hodge



Trustees beaming at the first kiwi release: Back Jim Pendergrast, Dave Edwards, Mark Dean, Sharon Seager. Front: Dave wills, Carole Long, Moana Hodge, Des Heke-Kaiawha. Inset: Maartje Houthuyzen.

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust Contacts

Chair	Mark Dean	07 543 3021	markdean@clear.net.nz
Volunteers	Dave Edwards	07 544 0885	djedwards@xtra.co.nz
Secretary	Carole Long	07 542 0224	carolelong@xtra.co.nz
Finances	Maartje Houthuyzen	07 577 9123	mhouthuyzen@hotmail.com
Website	Moana Hodge	07 543 1478	moana.oropi@clear.net.nz

Please send photos, comments and other newsletter contributions to:

Dave Black
PO Box 3194
Greerton, Tauranga
Ph 07 573 4434

Or preferably by email to:
mail@thebeegardens.com