



Te Puke Forest & Bird Chair, Cathy Reid, holding Merton



Our founder Jim Pendergrast holding Old Blue

Photos: Dave Edwards

Merton and Old Blue

On the 29th of October two juvenile kiwi, named in honour of the late Don Merton, were released into Otanewainuku. Last reported telemetry placed one of our juvenile kiwi in the North block and one in the South block, about 1 km apart. One of them wandered to near where Maui and Whetu are nesting and made a hurried exit, travelling 500m in a day!

From the Chair

The Trust is in good heart with an enthusiastic talented team. It was sad to see Carole Long and John Revington leave as Trustees. We welcomed Melanie Norton as treasurer and Suzanne Williams as secretary.

The Trustees started the year setting up a Strategic plan with short and long term goals through to 2016. This will establish a framework for ongoing management of the Trust. We are working towards the Operations Committee and the Fundraising Committee having sound structures and governance. Each committee has at least 2 Trustees as members to ensure we have good communication between the Trust and these important committees.

We are well on our way with our kokako transfer and successful pest control operation to establishing a base population of kokako. So many people are involved to make all this hard work a success.

We are also working hard establishing communication lines with other kiwi groups in the North Island so that we can work towards translocation of a significant number of kiwi during 2012.

The Trust had an important meeting with DOC to discuss our programme and strengthen the working relationship between the Trust and DOC. We have also had meetings with Environment BOP and local councils, keeping them informed of our work and thanking them for all their assistance. We are always looking for new keen, talented members to help out in various areas of the Trust which you will see in the Situations Vacant column below.

I hope you all have a great Christmas break and if you are looking for something to do with family or friends, do take them for a walk in our magnificent forests!

Peter Crane

Situations Vacant

Join a great group of people and make a difference to a forest that will out live you! We are looking for volunteers with skills in the following areas:

- Fundraising committee (applications)**
- Newsletter editing and folding**
- Potential Trustees**
- Stoat line coordinator**
- Social media coordinator**

Email: info@kiwitrust.org or Ph Suzanne on 543 1441 for details.

Volunteers BBQ February/March 2012

Due to the wet weather we've decided to hold our annual get together later in the summer, combining with Kaharoa Kokako Trust. Volunteers will be emailed or you can check out the website for details www.kiwitrust.org

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Summer walks

Rimu loop walk

45 min return | easy

The rimu loop walk starts on the carpark edge, on the opposite side of the road to the shelter. Not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs.

A gently graded walk that features some giant rimu trees, and finishes back at the road. Information panels are placed along the track to help identify native species. Ideal for school or family walks.

Whataroa waterfalls

2 hrs return | moderate

For the slightly more agile, a well marked route branches off the rimu loop track after 15 minutes or so and undulates through the forest to the Whataroa Falls.

Otanewainuku summit track

2 hrs return | moderate

The loop track to the summit (an extinct volcano) is steep in parts. It starts behind the shelter and the view from the top is worth the climb. A tower constructed on the summit (645 metres) offers panoramic views from East Cape to Mount Tarawera and Rotorua, and across the Mamaku Plateau to Mount Ruapehu.

Do send us your photos—flora, fauna and tramps, we love to see people enjoying our special forest.



2 North Is Robin spotted on the rimu walk

Volunteer Notice Board

Winter Bait Station Operation

Following on from our very successful bait station operation in 2010 the Trust carried out another winter bait station operation targeting possums and rats.

This year we used a mixture of Feratox and Pindone; all toxins were placed in bait stations to reduce risk to any non-target species. Once again we had a great volunteer effort to re-cut and mark lines, carry out rat monitoring and assist with the operation.

Animal Pest Monitoring

Animal Pest Monitoring is an important part of pest control: monitoring prior to an operation gives us information on possum and rat numbers which allows us to tailor toxin use accordingly. Post-operation monitoring tells us how successful we were and guides future operations.

I'm happy to report that the post-operation monitoring shows we have achieved the best ever results at Otanewainuku with possums at 1.7% and only 5% of our tracking tunnels indicated the presence of ship rats, pre-operation rats were at 36%. With results like these we can look forward to a great bird breeding season and continuing regeneration of our forest.

Last Saturday I came across two pairs of robins feeding chicks whilst walking along only 100 metres of trap line. Breeding is well underway!

The major funding for this years Bait station Operation was thanks to a donation from RPL services Oropi Quarry Mitigation Fund, with the balance of costs coming from the Sponsor a Hectare Scheme.

Rabbits

Salted rabbit has proved itself to be great bait in our stoat traps, if you are in a position to be able to supply skinned and gutted rabbits could you please call Stretch 543 4707.

Volunteers get together

The Trust will be hosting a volunteer's get together in late February or early March. Other community groups like "Kaharoa Kokako Trust" are keen to have a combined function so volunteers get a chance to meet and see what each other are up to. I will send out an email flyer once details are finalised.

Stoat Trapping

Summer is finally here and with it unfortunately comes an increase in breeding rates of animal pests, with our kokako population now established comes an added incentive to get out and check those trap lines as stoats have now been identified as a significant predator of Kokako.

We will switch over to checking trap lines every two weeks from early December and continue through until the end of March.

If anyone is interested in getting involved with the trapping operation please give me a call. We are always on the lookout for keen people to help.

Workdays

There will be several workdays in the second half of January and possibly early February. Details and dates will be notified by email and the website www.kiwitrust.org once finalised.

Thanks to Volunteers

The Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust is a community trust with everyone involved being a volunteer, the roles are many and varied: from pulling yucky things out of traps and filling bait stations,

"Rat numbers drop from 36% to 5%"

teaching kids about the forest to keeping the finances in order and finding enough money to carry on the work of restoring this very special piece of New Zealand. A very special thanks to all our volunteers who have given up so much time in this and previous years. The significant increase in bird numbers and lush condition of flora are something we can all be very proud of.

Wishing you and your Families a very merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year. Hope to catch up with you all at the volunteers function.

Regards

Dave Edwards | Volunteer Co-ordinator

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Fungi spotted by Pyes Pa School Kids

Volunteer Profile

John & Margaret Rountree

We have been interested in bush walking since our children were little when we did walks in the Waitakeres while living in Auckland and the Orongorongos while in Wellington. My mother got us interested in multi-day walks with a family group taking on the Heaphy Track in 1995. This trip was a real education in all sorts of ways; how to travel light, how fit we needed to be and how wonderful our country is, especially in the National Parks. Since then we have worn out boots on many other tracks around the country.



I became interested in the work of the OKT after hearing about it from Sheryl, a member of the Mid-week Tramping Group which I had joined. She does a trap line and took me with her several times. I was impressed by her stories of how the bush was regenerating since the numbers of rats and possums were being kept down. The presence of so much more birdlife than in other areas that I walked in made me want to become involved. I helped in a couple of work days and decided I would like to become involved in a more permanent way. When John retired he showed an interest too so he came with me to the work days in the spring of 2008.

When we heard Trevor and Janet Page were looking for someone to share their trap line we decided that was for us. For the past two years we have taken turns doing the lines and I think the partnership is working well. Doing a trap line is much more exciting than a walk in the bush; you never know what will be in the next trap or around the next corner. We have encountered a pig, deer, and someone tracking kiwi. When John is really good I let him deal with the dead beasts -which is most of the time. I have developed skills in scrambling over tree falls and sliding down banks out of control.

I enjoy work days when we see a different part of the forest and we negotiate steeper banks. Before the kokako were released we were sure we heard one. I am thrilled that this is not unusual now. We appreciate that so many people put in many hours in different ways getting OKT started and keeping it going.

News in Brief

Kokako Update

In September the Trust caught a further eight kokako. Seven came from Kaharoa and one from Rotoehu. Dave Wills led his team of volunteers and his time was kindly paid for by DOC. The Trust paid for a contractor to assist him along with other costs including accommodation etc. Tauranga branch of Forest and Bird Forest and Bird gave the Trust \$3000 towards the relocation costs. People walking in the OKT have reported seeing a pair of kokako living around the Whataroa falls. Many people have reported seeing and hearing kokako on their walks at Otanewainuku. At the end of November we placed extra bait stations through the area where most of the kokako pairs are resident, to give them the best chance of successful nesting. Ten of our volunteers are now licensed operators to do this skilled work.



Our treasurer Melanie Norton helping change the transmitter on one of our juvenile kiwi in September.

Rotorua's Kiwi Encounter - less room at the crèche

Rainbow Springs Management have decided to reduce crèche facilities at Kiwi Encounter as they build additional tourist facilities. The Trust has come to an arrangement with the crèche owners at Cape Kidnappers who are generously raising our chicks from Whirinaki Forest at a minimal charge. At present we have two chicks in their crèche and hope to release them in February 2012. Whirinaki iwi have generously gifted seven kiwi to us under our partnership agreement.

Pear of a Kiwi!

"This photos is of my grandson Theo making kiwis out of pears. I thought this might be a fun idea to share with other children. The eyes are raisins and the legs are rosemary plant stems but you can use toothpicks or something similar.

Regards Lorraine Ryan"



Advocacy—School visits to the Forest

The Trust continues to promote the work of the Trust to Community groups and School groups alike with presentations and guided walks at the forest given by Carole Long, Heather White, Ruth and Trevor Hughes, Phill Wells and Moana Bianchin. If you'd like a talk to your group email in-fo@kiwitrust.org or ph 543 1441.

Thanks for your Support

Corporate Donations:

Big thank you to the Tauranga branch of **Forest and Bird** for their \$3000 donation towards kokako translocation this year in Otanewainuku.

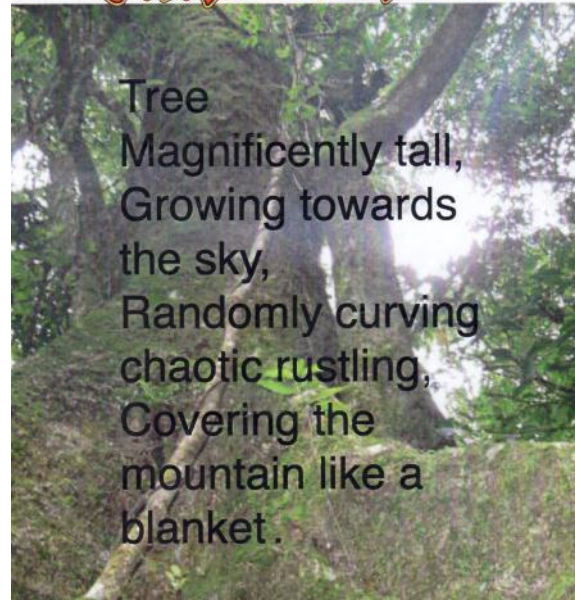
Thanks also to these groups for your generous donations:
 Port of Tauranga, Pyes Pa School, Te Puke Primary School, Oropi Rural Women, Harmer Parr, Whangamata Vintage Club, Whangamata Ramblers, Oropi Ladies Social Club, Arbor Care Ltd, Comvita, Te Puke Kiwi Coast Lions and KPMG Social Club.



Pyes Pa School children measure the giant rimu.

Sponsor a Hectare, donations and new members:

Barbara Rowe, D & E Walpole, Pete Entwistle, Jocelyn Bates, Robin Hodge, WA Couper, Pat & Valerie Sale, DJ Wright, Val Yates, Bill Murphy, Max Toy, Suzanne Williams, Jocelyn Buchanan, Kate Steeds, Margaret & John Rountree, David & Gulie Dowrick, Robyn Brooks, Warren & Cindy Taylor, Ian Borrie, Val Sinclair, Robyn Skelton, Evelyn Chapman, Romola & Laurie Bailey, Barry McKey, Andrew Thorpe, Jones Family, Graeme Bryant, Ian Galley, Myrta & Thoams Sutter, Isaac Toi, John & Mary Sich, Barry Waite, CG Capill, P Mochan, Elizabeth Mayo, Peter Densem, Lesley Mochan, Juliet Rice, J & P Martin, E Speak, Stephen White, L Collins, I & M Shaw, Debbie Bowman, Ruth & Trevor Hughes, Ian Cross, Joelene Morris, Don & Diane Scurr, TL & MJ Parker, J & S Foxon, Ian & Kay Taylor, Diane Paton, Rita Carter, Ray Cole, Ted Santi, Don & Janet Young, Chris Robertson & Daryl Avery, Carole Long, Anderson Family, Barbara Bianchin, May & Maurice Jenkins, Forest & Bird Waikato, Doug & Ruth Espin, Eila Lawton, Trevor Rutledge, Sue Drummond, Oldman Family, Jens Wulff, M & E Dean, R Underwood, Max Auld, Roger Brewster & Judy O'Sullivan, Bevan Mead, Lea & Wayne Smith, Kym Eagleson, Port of Tauranga, Lisa Lambertson, G & K Pyle, Don Hamilton, RS Smith, Mike & Paula Sidwell, Mike & Jan Scadden, Apopo Trust, E D Brooks, Patricia Ward, Van Taylor, Mary Long, Woolly family, Ann & John Oldridge, Julia Sich, Rod Aikin, Janet Houston, Mary McChesney, Gerard Eager, Keith McLeod, Dianne Green, Diane Prince & Kate Cosgriff, Rod Ham, Alan Fleming, Comvita NZ, D C McCutcheon, Liz Southey, David Lee, Heather White and MA & ML Lloyd.



Tauranga Intermediate

Join us!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership - 1 year **\$10**

Sponsorship - 1 hectare for 1 year **\$25**

Sponsorship - hectares for years \$ _____

Make a donation \$ _____

I'd like to be a volunteer, please contact me.

Send me information on Corporate Sponsorship.

Send me information on making a bequest in my will.



OTANEWAINUKU KIWI TRUST

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