



Kiwi Eggs incubating at Otanewainuku!

Though it is early days yet, one of our kiwi boys is incubating eggs. The prospective parents, Whetu and Maui, are the flying kiwi from Willowbank Wildlife Park in Christchurch. Whetu's transmitter is indicating that he is about 30 days into incubation but we don't know how many eggs yet.

This is Whetu's first attempt at breeding (he is only 3 years old), so we don't know how successful he will be. We will be monitoring him closely and won't be taking any chances with these eggs. We are planning to remove the eggs after 50 days, and take them to Kiwi Encounter to be hatched and raised through Operation Nest Egg and then returned to Otanewainuku Forest once the chicks are big enough to defend themselves against stoats. So everyone keep your fingers crossed that this young couple get it right the first time round!

As you may know Rainbow Springs is close to capacity in their kiwi creche. If you'd like to sponsor a post for our kiwi creche, the sooner the better! Maybe get a "Sponsor-a-Post" group together and spread the cost. All donations gratefully received.

North Is robins are also nesting successfully. This robin wisely built a nest right beside a bait station and was very calm about our photographer climbing up a ladder on an adjoining tree to get these photos. If you look closely at the photo on the right you may spot one of her chicks. They all safely fledged in late October.



Photos Dave Edwards

Matariki's big OE (Otanewainuku Experience)

Matariki was reared at Rotorua's Rainbow Springs and released into Otanewainuku in April, aged 11 months, as cute as a button. After a couple of months checking out her big new home she established a territory, about 500m long in an ideal spot.

While she is still too young to breed, a male had previously been heard in the general area. All was going well, then in August she disappeared off our radar. After days of us searching with radio tracking equipment she could not be found. Sub Adult females do tend to do a big OE but this was puzzling. Even Tutaki (featured in the BOP Times for her escapades) was not this hard to track down. The question was raised: Had technology let us down and her transmitter failed?

We continued to regularly scan her frequency and late October a faint signal was picked up in a direction north of the Whataroa. It's an area so rugged I will only go there under loud protest.

She was not in any immediate danger from the likes of dogs so we left her to do her own thing and just monitored her from a distance. Early in November she made her way back to the Mountain, no doubt checking out the sights on the way. Dave Wills and I caught up with her in the middle of November for her belated 6 month transmitter inspection. We checked and weighed her and had a few quiet words with her. (See photo at right -Ed)

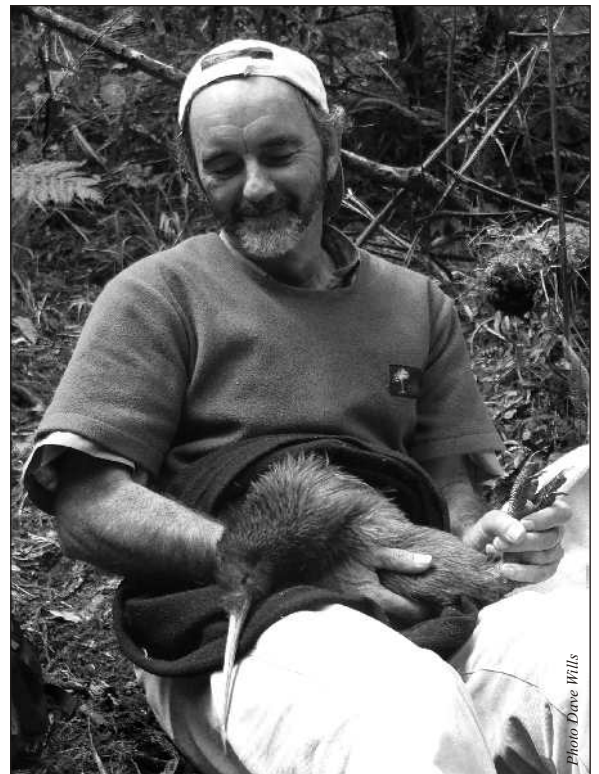


Photo Dave Wills

Where Matariki has been only she knows. It's easy to forget that these are wild creatures doing what they want to do, I'm just happy she's alive and back. Now hopefully she's got it out of her system and can settle down and raise a family!

Volunteer Notice Board

Fortnightly checks resume

Summer is just around the corner (hurray!) so it's time for the stoat trapping operation to switch back to checking lines every two weeks. Indicators from monitoring point to the chance of having *more* stoats than normal around this summer so the quicker we can get on top of them the better! We will be using a combination of eggs and a new rabbit bait on all lines; Eggs will be used on all even numbered tunnels and rabbit on all odd numbered tunnels. If you are going to be away on holiday please let me know and I can arrange for a fill in to do your lines.

Volunteer Training Day

This was held on 28th October, rounded off with a lunchtime BBQ. It was well attended with enthusiastic participation by volunteers. Great to see everyone sharing their knowledge and experiences. I'm sure we all came away wiser. Donna will write up her notes and these will be circulated and used as guide lines for our stoat trapping operation. For those who couldn't make the Training day please give me a call to arrange when we can get together to check a few traps: there is a bit to catch up on.

Integrated Pest Control 2007

Last years bait station operation was a major success: Small birds, particularly North Is robins, had a great breeding season and our Kohekohe had it's first major fruiting in years. We decided to carry out a further bait station operation this winter, covering 925 hectares. Environment BOP generously provided the bulk of funding and the balance came from the Trust's "Sponsor a Hectare" scheme.

With increasing community support for Otanewainuku we decided to run the operation with volunteer labour. We used Decal (colicalciferol) as a toxin because it can be used by volunteers and poses minimal risk to non target species such as invertebrates and birds. Toxin was placed in bait stations. The operation targeted rats and possums. Rats are arguably the greatest threat to the health of our forest ecosystem (see the rat info sheet on our website) while stoats are the number one problem for kiwi. Two rounds of pre-feed were used to encourage pests to feed from the bait stations. Then the pre-feed was followed by one round of toxin. All uneaten bait was removed at the end of the operation.

Results of the operation were mixed: Given our bait station layout we achieved a good reduction in possum numbers, taking them down from a pre operation level of 16% to a post operation 5.8%. This equates to just over one possum per hectare left. Rats were a different story with monitoring results showing persistent high percentages but fortunately NOT high densities. I shudder to think what rat densities would be like if we had not done the bait station operation. Discussions are currently underway with other groups who have used Decal or other toxins this year to see what we all can learn.

While rat numbers are higher than we would have liked it's still shaping up to be a great spring, a search in the leaf litter shows numerous seedlings shooting away, kohekohe are already about 20mm tall and the robin featured in this newsletter successfully fledged her chicks at the end of October.

Community support for the project was outstanding with 82 volunteers contributing in excess of 1,500 hours and countless kms of travelling. People made a huge effort in the sometimes not so great conditions which lessened the load all round. Thanks again your efforts are greatly appreciated. We also welcome back Ian Harvey to the stoat trapping team after a year away. Our thanks also to Eion Harwood who after a couple of years working on stoat and rat lines has moved on to other interests.

Anyone who would like to contribute time on a more regular basis checking trap lines please give me a call, summer is a busy time and we can generally use a few extra hands. If we are successful with our funding application we will be having a summer workday programme to upgrade our bait station layout to give better rat and possum control.

As always your comments, feedback and suggestions are welcomed.



Volunteers Stoat Trapping Training Day



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

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djedwards@xtra.co.nz



In Brief...

Four of our keen volunteers attended a kiwi handling training workshop at Whakatane. (*See photos at right - Ed*). Topics covered include kiwi handling, monitoring, data collection and storage, fitting transmitters and using telemetry gear. Two more volunteers who will take an active part in work day teams are attending an Outdoor First Aid course.

School Visit

All the pupils from **Te Ranga School** on Te Matai Rd visited the forest last week, the senior school on Wednesday and the juniors on Thursday. **Te Ranga School** is our nearest neighbour school to the east, and are keen to help with our projects. With our close association with **Oropi School** proving very rewarding, we are delighted to have another country school interested in Otanewainuku.

Car Park Upgrade

Good news **DOC** has approved work being done to upgrade the car parking area opposite the shelter on Mountain Road, doubling the number of car spaces. We have had offers of help from **Fulton Hogan** to do the work as a donation. We are having discussions with **DOC** and **Western Bay District Council** to get the necessary materials for the job watch this space!

Dog Control

With summer days coming along, please remember that our kiwi are totally at risk from dogs visiting the forest. **LEAVE YOUR PETS AT HOME!** If you notice any animals (piglets, cats, dogs...) being dumped, please pick them up if you can and take them to the SPCA. Otherwise ring DOC 07 578 7677 as soon as you can. Thanks!

Kiwi Crèche Update

Fundraising for the creche has gone into top gear with the news that our kiwi are incubating eggs. Applications have been made to national, regional and local trusts and businesses. We have had good results locally and mixed results at the regional and national level.

A great deal of legal work had to be done to secure the creche site and meet the requirements of funding organisations. With the generous assistance of **Bruce Brown of Manning, Gibbs and Brown** this is all complete, our applications are in place, and now we wait for results. All 3 landowners have signed an easement document allowing us to build the predator proof fence and raise kiwi chicks. The landowners have also changed the protection on the site to QEII Open Space Covenants so that this area will always be protected. We are now full on raising funds to build the Crèche.

To Date, **Fulton Hogan BOP** have pledged to carry out all the earth works for the fence and access tracks. This is a tremendous boost to our fundraising as it would cost in excess of \$50,000 for this part of the construction. **Farmlands Te Puke** has agreed to supply some of the construction materials for the fence. We are still working through Farmlands level of contribution but it is great that local businesses are coming on board.

Make a donation and you'll be helping rear our feathered fellow kiwi to a size where they can survive in our bush against those cunning stoats!

Wanted - Fridge in Good working order

To store stoat baits. Please contact Dave Edwards 544 0885

Volunteers End of Year Trip -

Reminder to Volunteers: Have you booked for the visit to the Kaharoa Forest on **Saturday 1 December**? Numbers essential for catering. Ph Carole 542 0224

Bird Aversion Training for Dogs

We have an initial date of Saturday 8 December for bird aversion training with Tiki Hutchings from Whakatane. It is possible that he may be available on Sunday 9 December. Costs \$10 per dog, with the balance subsidised by the Trust. To register interest contact Carole 542 0224



Dave & Peter weighing kiwi



Nigel safely holding a kiwi

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Thank-you very much!

Kiwi Creche Sponsor a Post

Roger Brewster of Rotorua, Andrew & Pam Thorpe of Welcome Bay, Leo Whittle of Te Puke, Rotary Club of Tauranga (two posts!), Forest and Bird Tauranga Branch.

Sponsor a Hectare. (includes membership)

Ian & Rhonda Richie of Te Puke, P Entwistle & Miriam du Feu of Tauranga, Watchman Family of Tauranga, Stella Jones of Oropi, Aquascope (N Frederickson & J A Keen) of Tauranga, N Flavell of Te Puke, Michael Payne of Tauranga, Barbara Rowe of Tauranga, Susan Jones of Tauranga, Peter Cosnahan of Tauranga, Lea & Wayne Smith of Oropi, G & G Barnett of Te Puke, Kate Steeds of Greerton, C & E Fulton of Ohauti, R Couper of Te Puke, Janice Todd of Tauranga, Ken Spence of Papamoa, Jane Jones of Papamoa, P C Wells of Ohauti, Peter Maddison of Titirangi, Mrs M D Mutton of Te Puke, Don Merton of Tauranga, A & P Thorpe of Welcome Bay, Deb Stewart of Mt Maunganui, Dianne Green of Gate Pa, Mrs Joyce Bates of Papamoa, Basil & Ann Graeme of Tauranga, Elizabeth Trevelyan of Te Puke, Debbie Pattie of Pukehina, Donna Geldenhuis of Welcome Bay.

Membership

Jonathan White of Te Puke, Eila Lawton of Katikati, Leo Whittle of Te Puke, Paul Cuming of Tauranga.

Donations

Thank you to Zeagold for providing our eggs for stoat trapping free of charge. Oropi School for raising \$100 at their OKT Sausage sizzle.

Thank you also to Rita Carter of Tauranga, R & E de Vries of Pyes Pa, Jonathan White of Te Puke for your generous donations

Thanks to Western Bay District Council

Big thanks to WBOPDC for their generous donation of \$2,000 towards a set of tracking equipment (\$2500 per set). Joe Proctor (below) tests out the radio receiver used to track signals from the transmitters fitted to the kiwi released earlier this year and also for use in the creche when kiwi chicks are released.



Future Plans

All the Trust's future plans revolve around fundraising. We are looking for expressions of interest from people experienced in fundraising to support our fundraising group. Contact Mark Dean for further information

Operations Committee

We welcome Dianne Paton and Dave Brown to the operations group. Both have been checking trap lines and attending workdays for some time and have decided to give more time to the restoration of Otanewainuku. They bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust Contacts

Chair	Mark Dean	07 543 3021	markdean@clear.net.nz
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R.D.3 Tauranga
Ph 07 543 1478

Or preferably by email to:
moana.oropi@clear.net.nz



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