

Otanewainuku Bred Kiwi Chick

I was incredibly proud, and a bit emotional, to view Pistachio the day after he/she hatched. It was a poignant reminder of all the work that has gone into making Otanewainuku what it is today. The journey with our kiwi project has had some twists and turns but this is a real achievement we can all be proud of. This is the first viable egg we have had after 35 duds. The ever patient Nigel Veale and Dave Edwards, along with Aaron Smart (who is doing a video for the Trust), collected the egg on April 13. The fact that it was viable after all those duds really surprised them and it was quickly taken to Kiwi Encounter for incubation.

Pistachio hatched late in the evening of May 1st and needed some assistance to get out of the egg. At one point he sulked and waited to be hand fed by the caregivers at Kiwi Encounter.

A little overnight tough love saw him/her hungrily wolf down breakfast on it's own. Pistachio will stay at Kiwi Encounter to be raised to the release weight of 1000gms. Parents Maui and Whetu will be laying more eggs in the spring - whether they have finally "cracked the code" for successful breeding we don't know. It is possible that they will remain very hit and miss with fertility so we will have to wait and see.

Thanks to everyone at whatever level you have been involved with, this result is because of your input.

One of the outcomes of the work at Otanewainuku has been the increasing awareness of the wider work that we are involved in. While the objectives may have initially focussed on a single species, it soon became apparent that to succeed even in this objective the Trust needed to take a full ecology approach. This has led to a rebound in other bird species and in the overall forest health. This of course led to the kokako translocation which has bedded in really well. We will continue to monitor the success of this translocation over the next couple of years and are optimistic of its success.

I look forward to seeing you all at our AGM. Note the new date is **Thursday**, not Wednesday as originally stated. Jess's talk on bats will be fascinating I am sure.

Regards, Phil Wells | Chairman



Our Kiwi chick was nicknamed "Pistachio" - a hard nut to crack!

Photo: Kiwi Encounter



Jess Scrimgeour with Fruit Bats

Annual Public Meeting Thursday 20 June

Where: 7pm Coastguard Hall Sulphur Point, Tauranga.

Speaker: Jess Scrimgeour, DOC Turangi will give a talk on **bats**

All Welcome: Gold Coin Donation. www.kiwitrust.org for more information on our speaker see page 3 or call Carole Long 575 2662

Quick update on Pistachio as we go to print...

Pistachio is 25 days old today and 390grams. His weight graph looks good and he is doing well. We will probably micro-chip him in the next 2 days as he has passed his hatch weight.

Cheers, Carmel Richardson | Kiwi Encounter | via email 26 May 2013

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Maartje Houthuyzen Steps down as Trustee

Maartjes resignation as a Trustee was accepted at the April Trust meeting. Maartje began with Otanewainuku as a volunteer in 2002 taking on a stoat line - a role that she continues with today.

She became a Trustee in 2006 where her banking background soon had her in a finance role. Since then Maartje has done the treasurer's role (until 2012) and has been an integral part of the finance and fundraising committee. Our finances are in good heart and reflect the integral role that Maartje has played.

While Maartje may be stepping down from the trustees role she will continue with her stoat line and an involvement with the finance group. At the Trust level we will miss her input and wish her well in her 'retirement'.



Acorn Foundation Nest Egg Endowment Fund



The endowment fund is a critical part of the long-term strategy of the Otanewainuku Kiwi trust to become self funding.

The Acorn Foundation will manage this fund protecting the principal and distributing the income to us. If you have had a passion for conservation work and want to leave a lasting legacy then this is a wonderful way to pass your passion onto future generations.

The reality is that our work at Otanewainuku will be needed long after each of us have departed so we need to ensure that our work is not in vain.

If you want to discuss this in detail contact our chair Phil Wells at 544 9455 or chair@kiwitrust.org Or you can talk to your lawyer or financial adviser-they are all well aware of the Acorn Foundation

Volunteer Notice Board

It has been an exciting time for volunteers at OKT with all the hours of hard work being rewarded with the hatching of Pistachio. The forest is looking healthier than ever, which benefits all the other species (evident in the recent Kokako survey!) making Otanewainuku one of the most pristine areas of bush in the Bay of Plenty. This wouldn't be possible without all the hours of work put in by volunteers keeping the pests in check!

With new people coming into some of the roles a summary of who is doing what is outlined below:

Volunteer Co-ordinators

Harry Taylor and Kate Akers are sharing this role. One of the key roles is to run some volunteers days. If you have some good ideas then contact Harry and Kate through volunteer@kiwitrust.org.

Harry is contemplating a trip through to see Pistachio-let him know if you are interested

in going as a group. Txt or Ph **0272 477 823**

Stoat-line Co-ordinators

Jenny Black and Keith McLeod are sharing this role. Jenny looks after the "consumables"-i.e. the salted rabbit and eggs so contact her if these are getting low: Jenny Black **573 4434**

Keith manages the lines themselves - so any issues with traps and windfalls etc contact Keith: keith.mcleod@xtra.co.nz

Database Co-ordinator

Garry Bones looks after the database and sends out e-mails and newsletters to everyone.

The newsletter is sent both by mail and by e-mail. However most of our internal correspondence-chairs reports, notices for work-days, birth notices for Pistachio etc are sent solely by e-mail. If you want these can you contact Garry and give him your e-mail: database@kiwitrust.org

Drought impacted our Kiwi Chicks in Crèche

We were notified in March that the drought was impacting on our eight juvenile kiwis that are crèched down at Cape Kidnappers. At one stage it appeared likely that we may have to bring them up here early. However the rains arrived just in time and the situation has now stabilised.

As a result of the drought their growth rates have been slower than usual and the juveniles are not yet up to release weight. As part of our planning for the possibility of taking the birds earlier than usual we did do some investigations of alternate places to hold our birds.

This is something that the Trust is still investigating and we hope to have an update at the annual public meeting.

Founding Trustee John Mullany Passes Away

We acknowledge John Mullany, our first Treasurer and original Trustee, who passed away New Year's eve, 2012.

Our condolences to Mary and the rest of John's family. We would like express our gratitude for his years of service to the Trust.

Trustee Profile: Harry Taylor

Harry lives in Te Puke and is a production animal vet at the local clinic where he has worked for the past 2 years. Having grown up in Tauranga, he spent a lot of time in the Kaimais where he discovered his appreciation of New Zealand native flora and fauna.

During his time studying at Massey University in Palmerston North, Harry worked part time at the Wildlife Health Centre (Wildbase) and spent some of his holidays volunteering at Kiwi Encounter in Rotorua. In his spare time Harry plays rugby for Eastern Districts and tries to get out fishing when the weather allows.

Harry will be taking on the role of Volunteer Co-ordinator for the Trust. He looks forward to getting to know all the volunteers and helping to make volunteering an enjoyable way to help out.

Harry is pictured here holding a critically endangered Archey's frog.

If you have any feedback on how volunteering for OKT could be improved please feel free to contact Harry or Kate at volunteer@kiwitrust.org Harry's phone no is 0272 477 823

Chair's report

Last year we released seven juvenile kiwis at Otanewainuku following four we released in 2011. The Trust became concerned last year at the high losses of juveniles kiwis. We seemed to be having real problems getting them through to adulthood. This led the Trust to request DOC to review our operation to ensure that we were doing everything appropriately.

Jess Scrimgeour from DOC Turangi undertook that review. Her extensive report was tabled at the February Trust meeting. Her key findings were:

1. We were doing all our required work at a standard above what is required. Our predator and pest control is seen as excellent and our monitoring program of the kiwis was of a high standard.
2. We have had what is seen as most probably a series of bad luck. Our losses are higher than similar sized kiwi projects elsewhere but the numbers of birds we have released is still too low to draw conclusions on whether we do have a long-term problem
3. Otanewainuku is a great environment for kiwis and we should continue with releases.
4. We need to find adult birds to translocate; it's believed they play a role in anchoring juveniles.
5. The Trust is to develop a five year translocation plan and implementation strategy.

We were happy (and somewhat relieved) with Jess's report as it supported what we and DOC in Tauranga had suspected. The writing of the five year plan is underway but we have been active in getting some of the recommendations underway:

We have submitted a new translocation plan to the Kiwi Recovery Group. This has yet to be approved and will allow us to access adults within the area that we can get kiwi from.

An area of DOC land adjoining the Mangatanewha block (behind Whirinaki) has been identified as an area that we can obtain adult kiwi.

We are looking at several options that may allow us to crèche our juveniles longer so that we can release them at a "safer" age. The present 1000gm size is used as the juveniles are seen as stoat resistant at this size-however they remain very active and prone to wandering until around 1.5 years of age. We are exploring options to hold them to this older age.

Nigel Veale has done some modelling that indicates that we need to take a comprehensive approach if we were to get to what is seen as the required numbers of 30 founding kiwis. This means that we need to be putting both adults and juveniles into Otanewainuku to become ultimately successful. We have the support of both DOC and the Kiwi recovery group so hope that with increased opportunities and some well earned good luck we will start to make some real progress.

Phil Wells | Chairman

News in Brief

Volunteer Paul Rickett will be missed

It was with regret that we heard Paul Rickett passed away unexpectedly on 16 April this year. Paul worked for Zespri and was an active volunteer, helping out at workdays and with the Kokako translocation project. Paul's family chose to acknowledge his love of the forest by asking for donations to our Trust in lieu of flowers. We offer our thanks and our sympathy to Paul's family and friends.

"Paul was a great bloke and helped us at Kaharoa catching kokako. He had a great sense of humour and got stuck into all the dirty parts of mist net set up with a smile. I remember at the time thinking it was a shame he couldn't spend longer with us." Dave Willis

Jim Pendergrast Short Film

Check out a slice of Otanewainuku history <http://vimeo.com/channels/smartasproductions>

Carole talks to Otumoetai Primary Pupils

Still sharing her knowledge with our newest generation, Carole and others from the Kiwi Trust continue to educate young and old alike. Contact info@kiwitrust.org to book in your talk on our Forest.

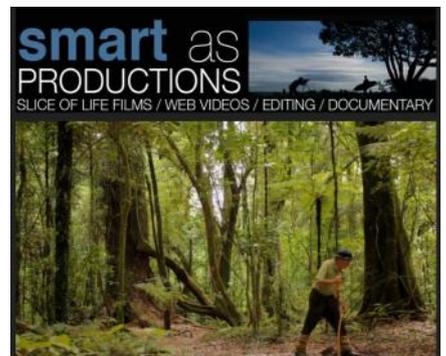


Photo: Supplied

Trustee Harry Taylor holding an Archey's native NZ frog



Carole Long talks to Otumoetai Primary



Short film on Jim Pendergrast



Photo: Arthur Fulton

Paul Rickett catching kokako - Kaharoa

Kokako Survey

We released two lots of kokako in 2009 and 2010 it was agreed that the OKT would conduct a survey this year to determine the success of the release. This survey was completed by Conor Quinn and Carmel Richardson over March. The formal report will be tabled at the June Trust meeting.

Initially the survey got off to a rocky start due to the drought. The kokako were muted in their responses to calls and difficult to locate. However once the rains returned responses were noted and birds were able to be located. 16 birds were identified including several juveniles. There were several sources of calls where birds were not identified indicating that there were some other birds around. The birds tend to be located in the centre of the block and towards the north end along the Whataroa ridge. At least one pair is across on the North side of the Whataroa Ridge. As a consequence we will be extending our predator control into those areas -initially on a more extensive scale than we do in the present control area.

The survey is positive and has shown that the population has settled in. Interestingly the two sources of birds (Kaharoa and Rotoehu) remain separate with their distinctive call dialects still noticeable. It will take several generations for the offspring to start to interbreed and it is not know which dialect they will adopt. Kokako Surveys will be conducted over the next couple of years to ensure that the population is succeeding.



Photo: Moana Bianchin

One of the Kokako we released in 2010

Thank you for your Support

Thanks to **Tauranga Primary School** and **Otumoetai Primary School** for your fundraising efforts. Also to the **EnviroHub**, **Oropi Rural Women**, **University of Canterbury** for your donation. Thank you to Paul Rickett's family and friends for the donations we have received in his memory. We have received our annual mitigation funding from **RPL Services Ltd**.

Comvita continues to sponsor our newsletter printing and postage. Plus some of their staff regularly contribute a portion of their salary to us. Ask us how your business can do this too. Thanks Comvita! Pukeko Printing, opposite the Girls College, have given us a good price to print this newsletter. Cheers!

Many thanks to the **Department of Conservation** for \$10,000 towards our operations for the 2013/14 financial year. "Thanks also to the **WBOPDC** for their funding of 2x TR4 radio receivers and aerials for our kiwi monitoring" and also to the **WBOPDC Staff Fundraising Committee** for their donation.

Sponsor a Hectare, donations and membership:

Thanks to all our donors, both long time and new supporters. The list is getting too long to mention you all here. Your on-going support makes a huge difference to our bush.

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- Membership - 1 year \$10
- Sponsorship - 1 hectare for 1 year \$25
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- Send me information on making a bequest in my will.

Renewal of Membership & Sponsor a Hectare

If you are receiving this newsletter by snail mail, then you may also have a renewal form in your envelope. We are very appreciative of your support. Without our sponsors, big a small alike, there would be no caretakers of this magnificent Forest and her treasure trove of flora and fauna.

Where possible we would like to email our newsletter to you. This saves us time, postage and our planet too! Email database@kiwitrust.org



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