



Photo: Moana Bianchin

When the Forest Flourishes the People Flourish

As the team worked our way through the review of our strategic plan, we found that this proverb resonated well with the Trust. Since we wrote it down and established it as our Trust Tag line, it has become apparent that it applies to nearly all situations where people engage with the Otanewainuku Forest.

For volunteers and those actively involved in the Trust's work there is clear evidence that what we do is directly helping the forest to flourish. Sure much of that work is about killing rats, possums, stoats and cats but it also includes the kiwi and kokako restoration. I know that not every day is a good day but overall, every volunteer can know and feel that they have made a difference. In our time in history we have "stood up" and done what we can to make Otanewainuku a flourishing forest. All volunteers can feel a sense of achievement and know that they are contributing to the future of the forest.

In a recent conversation I had with a friend she mentioned that her family visited the forest and walked to the Whataroa waterfall. On the way they observed several robins on the track, some walking along the track in front of them, others on the track behind them catching insects disturbed by the visitors. She commented on the sheer joy and pleasure that she received from this friendly encounter. Her joy and delight is also a common reaction of the many people who experience this. The increased robin population is a sign of a flourishing forest and that has given flourishing people.

Last winter I hosted a visit to Otanewainuku from Kamatua Henare Morehu, representing the Ngati Rangiwewehi Iwi from Rotorua. He enjoyed his visit and expressed great gratitude for the forest and said that he regarded it as a privilege to walk among the magnificent rimu and tawa. The forest added value to his life.

When the forest flourishes the people flourish.

Hans Pendergrast | Chair

Annual Public Meeting

7pm Wednesday 22 June

Speaker: Carmel Richardson
Kaharoa Kokako Trust

Where: Balcony Room,
Tauranga Historic Village
17th Ave West

All Welcome



Kokako Update

In February the Kaharoa Kokako Trust generously agreed to our proposal to translocate kokako from Kaharoa to Otanewainuku. Since then Hamish Dean and I, with advice and assistance from Dave Edwards and Dave Wills, have worked to get the many "ducks in a row" that is required to achieve a successful transfer. It's a big task. We're dealing with an endangered bird that is protected under the Wildlife Act. It is essential we are compliant in all the things we plan to do.

Carmel Richardson from Kaharoa Kokako Trust is now an integral part of the team and the project is very much a collaborative effort. We are very fortunate to have Dave Bryden as our catching team leader. Dave is NZ's Number One Kokako Catcher and comes with a reputation of meticulous preparation, while at the same time integrating volunteers into the team. Dave and Sarah Wills are also key people on the team.

Both Oropi and Kaharoa primary schools have Kokako as their school emblem. We are working with the schools to involve them in this translocation.

We plan to catch up to ten birds over a two week period in early August. The birds will be transferred to Otanewainuku on the day they are captured and released in the vicinity of our resident population.

If you have the desire, time and commitment to be on the volunteer roster then please contact me.

Hans Pendergrast

P. 543 2147

E. chair@kiwitrust.org

Photo: Moana Bianchin

Stoat Trapping

A warm welcome to all our new stoat trappers and big thanks to those of you who have been on the stoat trapping lines for many seasons now. Your work makes a HUGE difference to all the birds in our forest.

In March we held a training course for our stoat trappers, with a great turnout. Bryan Norton enlightened us about the new Health and Safety at Work Act 2005 and how it applies to volunteers. The training course was followed by the release of two juvenile kiwi. David Brown and Dave Keeble explained the new line intensification numbering.

We also trialled the use of bite cards to determine the number of rats, mice and possums around. A bite card is a piece of corflute (old for sale signs) that has it's channels laden with a mixture of peanut butter and icing sugar. The pests can't resist it and leave their bite marks on the corflute as they try to chew it out. This gives us a good idea of what pests are in our forests and an indication of the distribution of pests.

We placed bite cards at every bait station on every fourth line to give us a snapshot of the forest. Of the 460 or so cards placed in the forest around 40 had bite marks from rats, 40 from mice and 100 or so from possums. We think that a single possum will bite several cards 75 m apart along a line, whereas a rat or mouse will bite only one. More interesting data to come!

We are still using a combination of egg and salted rabbit meat in our traps to ensure we get the maximum number of these incredibly wily creatures.

If you are interested in joining our stoat trapping team do call me. Relievers and new trappers are always welcome.

Jenny Black

E. jennyblack@xtra.co.nz
P. 544 8100 evenings
M. 027 710 0517



Training day with our Stoat Trappers



Craig Montgomerie sets a stoat trap

Photos: Chad Cottle

Kiwi Fence - can we keep them in?!

We release our kiwi back into Otago once they have got to around 1700g and are at the sub-adult stage. Problem is this: Our kiwi sub-adults walk. It is natural behaviour for sub-adults to disperse. Since we began in 2002 there has been an enormous amount of work done by our kiwi tracking teams. Not just tracking them, but often bringing them back from beyond the safe trapping area the Trust looks after. The Trust is extremely grateful for their tireless work monitoring our kiwi.

As our kiwi numbers grow this becomes an ever increasing workload on the monitoring teams. Having a fence would help us immensely to keep them in the area and curtail their wandering.

In March we met with kiwi ecologist Dr John McLennan and discussed our situation. John has been involved in three fences that involve kiwi in New Zealand: Waikaremoana, Cape Kidnappers and Kaipara harbour. At the meeting John endorsed and gave his backing for the concept of a kiwi fence at Otago. Many points were raised at the meeting, including the type of fence that would suit our needs. Around half would be along existing farm fence lines. Areas near roads and streams and areas of rough terrain will pose challenges.

Kiwi will look for ways to get past the fence, especially streams and roadways. Fences can be made of galvanised mesh or windbreak cloth. **NOTE:** This will be a kiwi-proof fence not a predator proof fence about 1m high. Electric fence wire is another cost as an outrigger to protect mesh/cloth from stock on farmland. A walking track the full length of fence is needed on both sides of fence for maintenance.

There is still much to discuss and many interested parties to consult with. Watch this space or contact me. [David Brown](mailto:David.Brown@kiwitrust.org.nz).

E. brownsnursery@slingshot.co.nz



Sator—our kiwi chick hatched in 2015

Wild Kiwi Clothing Sponsorship

Wild Kiwi Clothing are based in Tauriko and provide a range of quality clothing and accessories to tourist outlets throughout New Zealand and internationally. Wild Kiwi have supported the activities of the Otago Kiwi Trust for several years including cash sponsorship, in-kind donations of prizes for our volunteer days and being naming rights sponsors for WK, a chick hatched at Kiwi Encounter and raised at Warrenhiop.

Recently Trevor Connelly (CEO of Wild Kiwi) met with OKT chairman Hans Pendergrast and me and we agreed an upgraded sponsorship package. Wild Kiwi have doubled the size of their annual cash donation to the Trust. In addition Wild Kiwi are launching a new range of multi-scarves. The packaging includes information about OKT and a donation is made to the Trust for every unit sold. Volunteer organizations such as our Trust are always on the lookout for funds so to have such committed supporters as Trevor and his team is a real blessing. Please show your support for this great local company and check out Wild Kiwi's range of beautiful New Zealand inspired designs.

Gavin Cherrie

www.wildkiwiclothing.co.nz



Earth star fungi

Photo: Pauline Brown

Volunteer Profile: Harry Taylor

How long have you been interested in conservation? I grew up glued to David Attenborough documentaries, so I have been interested in conservation since I was a kid.

How and when did you first get involved with the Trust? When I moved to Te Puke in 2012 I got involved in the Trust at work days before becoming a Trustee later that year.

Why did you want to get involved? The massive loss of biodiversity we are seeing worldwide is undoubtedly human caused and I think we all have a responsibility to try to slow or even reverse this decline. Otherwise we will reach the point of no return within our lifetimes. I'm passionate about the potential Otago has to return to the flourishing forest it once would have been.

Can you tell us about the first volunteer activity you took part in? The first volunteer activity I experienced for OKT was being led by Dave Brown into the bush to retrieve left over toxin. I distinctly remember carrying all the toxin while Dave cruised along chewing my ear off before realizing he had lead us astray and we were lost. Luckily we managed to find our way back to the shelter just in time for the last of the sausages, which of course Dave claimed to have planned perfectly.

What role do you now have within the Trust? I am currently a Trustee for the Trust and do a bit of the kiwi work, especially at our crèche in Warrenheip.

Can you tell us a bit about what it involves? We have had a lot of issues with *Coccidia* which requires regular testing and treating of our juvenile birds. I help out with the Facebook page too – make sure you Like us!

How do you keep yourself busy when not volunteering for the Trust?

I spent most of last year travelling through south America, Europe and then Africa where my partner Michelle and I bought a car and drove from Uganda down to south Africa and back. I was lucky enough to see some of the rarest wildlife on the planet, including 3 of the last 4 northern white rhino, mountain gorillas, chimpanzee and a lot of other big African game, which spurred me on to deciding to go back to Uni when I got home and study towards a masters in conservation biology. I am also working part time back at Te Puke Vet Center as a production animal vet, where I spent 4 years before heading overseas.

What have been the highlights of your involvement so far?

Highlights of working with OKT are the great diversity of people I get to work alongside and the passion many of them exude. Also seeing (and hopefully helping!) the kiwi programme get off the ground has been amazing – we finally have a breeding population of kiwi resident in Otago and the momentum is building.



Photo: Supplies

Harry Taylor with 'Sudan' the last surviving male northern white rhino at Ol Pejeta in Kenya.



Kiwi Update

The present number of known kiwi at Otago is 14: Four bonded pairs and six single birds, made up of four females and two males. We had a young male die just recently who seemed to be paired. There are several kiwi on our missing in action group.

With the breeding season not far away it has been a busy time renewing male transmitters and swapping transmitters on the females legs. It is one of the few times we get to handle and check on the health of our "wild kiwi" and in general all of our birds are in very good condition. The crèche at Warrenheip has nine kiwi, one of which is the elusive Pistachio. There have been several attempts to catch her but due to the number of kiwi present it has been difficult to single her out. The new batch of chicks at Warrenheip are gaining weight and being well cared for by the monitoring team.

A dozen keen OKT members made the trip to Whirinaki recently to do kiwi listening in the hope of adding to the five males we presently collect eggs from. The initial search with a day time kiwi tracking dog was unsuccessful and we are looking to get a specialist night dog in before the end of June. Fingers crossed for a good number of viable eggs this season from both Otago and Whirinaki.

David Brown | Kiwi Manager



Photo: Pauline Brown

David Brown checking kiwi transmitters

Talks to groups

Our team of Carole Long, Hans Pendergrast, Phil Wells and Ruth and Trevor Hughes have been busy talking to various groups about the Trust's work. Carole has spoken at the Otago shelter to Matua School, BOP Polytechnic students, and members of the public at the Sustainable Backyards Open Day. She has also spoken to groups in their own venues including the Bernadette CHT Rest Home, Tauranga Probus Club, Lions Te Puke Branch and the Phoenix Probus club. Other and more besides.

We have upcoming bookings for other schools and clubs so do email us on info@kiwitrust.org to book in a talk to your group or school.



Photos: Chad Cattle

Tomtit

Thank you!

The Trust would like to thank all our sponsors, large and small, for your part in helping us to ensure Otanewainuku becomes a flourishing forest.

Thanks to the Tauranga Rotary Club for \$1855 towards GoodNature traps for stoats and rats.

Current funding from the DoC Community Fund is for animal pest control and also for the upcoming Kokako Translocations. Thanks to WWF and Kiwis for Kiwi for your donations which support kiwi work. Western BOP District Council continue their three-year support for monitoring.

\$2000 has been banked on behalf of Wild Kiwi Clothing.

Thanks to Mark & Esme Dean \$687 to cover power at the stoat gear and bait lock-up.

Thank to J Bowden for your donation of \$500. Also to Comvita staff members who donate a portion of their salary each month to the Trust.

Thanks to staff at the WBOPDC who had a fundraiser and raised \$278.50.

Thanks to Matua School for your donation of \$105

Thanks to Forest and Bird Te Puke Branch for your donation of \$1000.

Thanks to Hans and Jan Pendergrast for your donation of \$500.

Our ongoing gratitude for the tireless work done by Te Puke Vets at David and Juliet Wallace's Warrenheip crèche. David and Juliet, we couldn't be raising our kiwi chicks to sub-adult stage without the use of your wonderful crèche. Thank you for your generosity of spirit.

Thanks also to the unsung heroes who have worked behind the scenes:

Garry and Anna Bones for all your years on the database and mailing out the paper copies of the newsletters.

Thanks to Nigel Veal who has given many years volunteering for the Trust in several key areas, including kiwi work. He is stepping back to focus on other ventures.

Our ex-Chair Phil Wells has officially retired as a trustee. Your legacy of wonderful work done for the Trust and the forest will continue to flourish for many decades to come. Thank you.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Western Bay of Plenty
District Council



Forest & Bird
GIVING NATURE
A VOICE



www.facebook.com/otanewainuku



Join us!

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Send me information on making a bequest in my will.

Yes, I need a Tax Receipt

Support-a-hectare for 1 year \$35

Support hectares for 1 year \$ _____

Make a donation \$ _____

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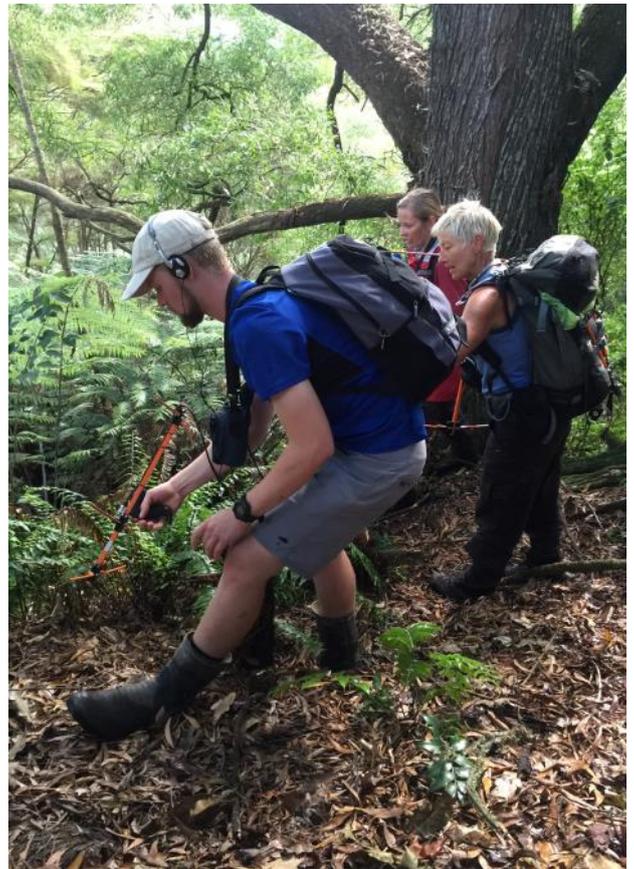


Photo: Pauline Brown

Polytech students, Chad Cottle and Roanne Sutherland, on a kiwi monitoring training day with Sheryl Peterson



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