

Pistachio comes home at last!

Pistachio was the first fertile kiwi egg collected at Otanewainuku since the Trust began in 2002. She was hatched at Kiwi Encounter and needed help to get out of her egg, a tough nut (hence the name Pistachio). We would have released her sooner but her transmitter broke while in the Warrenheip crèche. It has taken two years and many attempts to find her, but a healthy 2.2kg Pistachio was begrudgingly caught by a dedicated team using specially trained and muzzled kiwi conservation dogs.

In late November we were thrilled to see over 300 people gather at the new Oropi Memorial Hall and Community Centre to meet and wish Pistachio and Granite well before they were released into Otanewainuku. A pōwhiri was led by Huikakahu Kawe and Lance Waaka and was followed by a kapa haka performance by Oropi School. Many patient people queued patiently for their first look at a kiwi. As Pistachio came out of her box Huikakahu was moved to step forward and say a karakia. Our kiwi handlers were Trustee Dave Wills and Emma Bean from operation ONE at Kiwi Encounter in Rotorua. More photos of the day are on our Facebook page and website.

A small group of people headed into the bush to release these two kiwi. Aaron Smart has videoed Pistachio's story from the beginning. You can view the first part of this story on www.kiwitrust.org/About/Video.aspx

Pistachio and Granite are now monitored twice weekly. They haven't moved far, staying in a range around 300m of where they were released. We have noted lots of interaction from other kiwi in amongst the territories. At present we are tracking 14 other kiwi usually once a week. This time of the year our priority is to check the males who are nesting as this is where the hope for the future is. Huge thanks to our kiwi team: David Brown, Harry Taylor, Sheryl Petersen, Steve Woolly and Jenny Meehan.

Hans Pendergrast | Chair



Photo: Suzanne Williams

Kokako boost

In August we translocated 11 more kokako to Otanewainuku from Kaharoa with support from the Kaharoa Kokako Trust, DOC and local iwi.

The jury is still out on exactly how many are male and how many are female. To determine sex there are three main measurements taken: leg, wing and head. A couple of feathers are taken from each bird for genetic work but that is also not 100% accurate in determining sex. Dave Bryden's translocation report records 3 female/s and 8 males.

The interaction between the resident established kokako and the new ones has been amusing as they sort themselves out. The established birds have been having quite a bit to say about this lot being dropped on their doorstep and they have been directing calls straight at new birds that are close by.

Lately I have noticed that a couple of the new birds are becoming more vocal when an established pair sing which is all good.

The next couple of months work is really to keep an eye on the birds, tracking their locations and building up a picture of their territories. As they establish territories we would do more tracking of the birds to gather information such as if they have they paired up with any Otanewainuku bred birds or nesting occurrences.

Please don't play kokako song to them as it messes with them settling into their territories. During breeding season there is always a standard recovery group ban on playing kokako song in the forest. Thank you.

Dave Edwards



Photos: Suzanne Williams



Photo: Moana Bianchin



Photo: David M Kooker

Hamish Dean

Hamish has decided to step down as a Trustee to focus more on the operations and other forest work. We are thankful that his vast experience and knowledge will continue to be poured into the Trust.

Thank you for your contribution. Your huge passion for Otanewainuku and knowledge and experience in ecological management has been and will continue to be of immense value to Otanewainuku Kiwi trust. We have much research to do and special ecological features within Otanewainuku that need to be studied.

Talks to groups

We've spoken to many groups in 2016 about Otanewainuku, including the Bernadette CHT Rest Home, Tauranga Probus Club, Lions Te Puke, Selwyn Ridge Primary, Papamoa Guides, Widows and Widowers Club, Te Puna Kindergarten, Bayswater Village, Tauranga Vision Club, Te Puke Lyceum Club, Greerton Scouts, BOP Birds of NZ, Tauranga Intermediate, Te Akau Ki Papamoa, Arataki Club, Mata-mata Over 60's Club, Matua School.

We've held a night walk in April and had an open day in March, with our biggest event the public meeting before Pistachio's release.

Thanks to Carole, Hans, Phil, Hamish and Nataalia for your time.

Email us on info@kiwitrust.org to book in a talk to your group or school.

Coccidia

Coccidia is a protozoan intestinal parasite and was initially a big problem at our Warrenheip crèche but we now have it under control with a test and treat programme.

This photo (magnified x400) was taken as part of ongoing research into coccidia in kiwi and shows an oocysts from the *Eimeria apteryxii* species - one of four species of coccidia known to affect kiwi.



Sporulating coccidia oocyst

Photo: Harry Taylor



Photo: Supplied

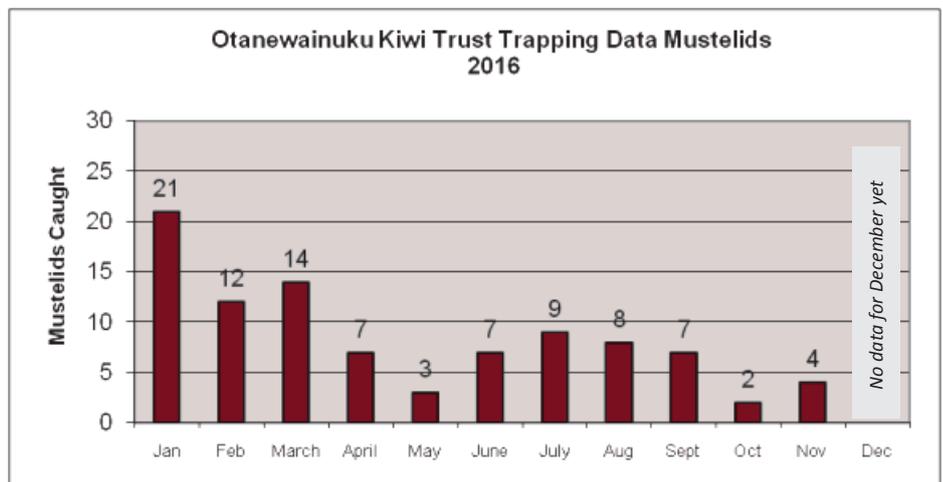
\$5000 Canon NZ Environmental Grant

In the spirit of their guiding philosophy of Kyosei (living and working together for the common good) Canon NZ make environmental grants, in-kind, to the total value of \$15 000. Every year a regional, educational and community project each receive \$5 000 worth of Canon products to help these organisations make a positive impact on the environment and community.

We were winners of the Regional Award for 2016 and received two pairs of Canon 10x42L IS WP binoculars to aid our Kokako project. This is a wonderful resource that will be shared with our friends at the Kaharoa and Rotoehu Trusts to benefit Kokako in our whole region.

Canon NZ Managing Director, Kim Conner, travelled to Otanewainuku in October to present the binoculars to our grateful Kiwi Trust Chairman, Hans Pendergrast. Dave Edwards, who leads our Kokako census team, took the products for a test drive in the forest and was very impressed with the performance of the Canon stabilisation technology which steadies the image. Accurately identifying Kokako leg tags will now be a far easier task than in previous censuses. The Canon binoculars are robust units that are water proof to 1m making them ideal for tracking birds in our rain forest.

Gavin Cherrie



1120 Mustelids trapped since 2002

We thought you might like to see how many mustelids (stoats, ferrets and weasels) we trap each year. So far this year we have trapped 94 mustelids, so we are on target to have the biggest annual catch since records began in October 2002. Or highest year was recorded in 2014 with 99 (75 stoats and 24 ferrets). We have trapped 1120 mustelids at Otanewainuku since October 2002. Think of the tens of thousands of birds saved!

As you can see from the graph January is the time when we catch the most mustelids. This is because the young leave the nest and strike out on their own. Female stoats are often impregnated while still in the nest with their mothers, meaning a single female stoat can begin a new population on her own. Every stoat caught matters.

I wish all of our stoat trappers a fruitful trapping summer.

Jenny Meehan E. stoatvolunteers@kiwitrust.org M. 027 710 0517

Volunteer Profile: Nataalia Lunson

How and when did you first get involved with the Trust? In 2015 I was studying Environmental Management and my classmate, Craig Montgomerie, invited me to get involved with the Trust's pest control management. I learned that there aren't that many people out there doing something and I want to be part of the solution rather than sit back and make uninformed judgements. When it comes to pest control there aren't many options without people to do the work.

Why did you want to get involved? I am passionate about conservation and caring for Papatūānuku and the children of Tāne-mahuta, Otanewainuku is 30-40mins from where I live. I have grown up knowing a legend of this mighty maunga.

Can you tell us about the first volunteer activity you took part in? I was following Craig, Chad and Jenny to learn do's and don'ts on a challenging bait station line. The line had the most magnificent views and we had to 'abseil' through a fallen tree trunk to get down one part.

What role do you now have within the Trust? I am a proud stoatie. This involves a monthly check, change and clear of my line for most of the year and fortnightly over summer. I enjoy having the responsibility of a line, looking after an area of bush and doing a good job. When I catch something it satisfies the importance of doing a good job!! Just because you haven't caught anything doesn't mean there isn't anything out there. One of my pleasures is to play my Karanga Manu Koauau (bird flute) to the forest. Toutouwai and tiwaiwaka often come down while I am checking my traps. Sometimes a tui or kereru flies overhead and riroriro tunefully fill the soundscape. Just before exiting my line a miromiro makes himself known.

How do you keep yourself busy when not volunteering for the Trust? I'm self employed, a Pilates instructor, musician, student, mother, wife, what more can I say other than if you have good time management... then do it!! I love singing, being outdoors in water and on land and spending time with my family, if I can blend everything I will.

What have been the highlights of your involvement so far? There are so many! Volunteering for the kokako translocation from Kaharoa. Going to Warrenheip and learning about telemetry and how to track kiwi. One magical moment was being part of the team to release Meccano in the dark. I am grateful for all the support I've received from those working hard at OKT.

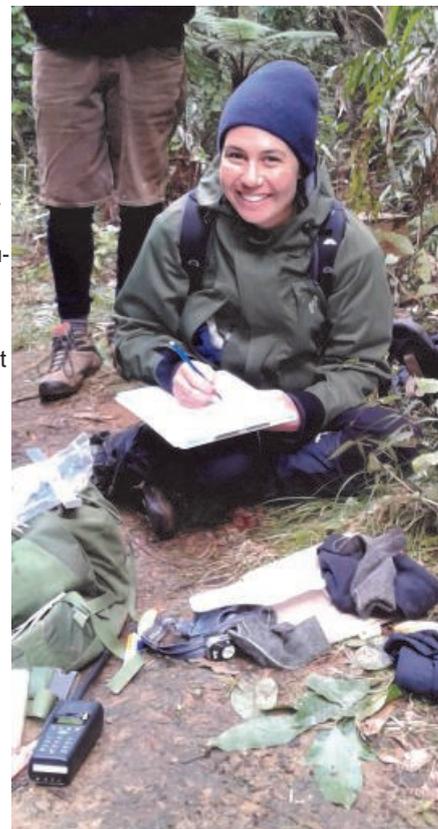


Photo: Supplied



Photo: David M Kooker

Volunteers get ready to release Pistachio and Granite (above) into Otanewainuku



Photo: David M Kooker

Kiwi Manager David Brown, happy to have Pistachio back home in Otanewainuku



Long time volunteer Sheryl Petersen checking the kiwi transmitters



Photos: Dave Edwards

Kokako Update

This kokako is #30 male (you can tell from his leg bands - inset). He's feeding on supplejack berries. He was released into Otanewainuku in August. This photo was taken during routine monitoring to see if he had paired up with any of our resident kokako... which he hasn't (yet).

Dave Edwards

Kiwi Update

The present number of known kiwi at Otanewainuku is 16 plus a couple on walkabout. In October two healthy eggs were collected from Kaha. Kaha abandoned his nest several times last year so we were stoked he toughed it out this year to give us two more baby kiwi. Kaha is presently sitting on eggs again which we will lift in January. Smokey's first attempt at nesting has been unsuccessful, but this is quite normal for juvenile kiwi.

The bad news of 2016 is that we lost three males kiwi to mustelids, leaving us skewed to the females at Otanewainuku: The two younger kiwi were found just outside our trapping area near farm boundaries. Sadly 11 year old Kowhai who came from Nga Manu Nature reserve in Waikanae was found within 5m of the trapping boundary on the North block near the waterfall. The good news is that four potentially five pairs have bonded. Just before Christmas we lifted eggs from Ngairē's new partner Chunuk Bair. We have seven more kiwi (two male, five female) at the Warrenheip crèche almost ready to be released and 10 chicks are waiting in the wings in Kiwi Encounter. We know that six are female and two male from Whirinaki. The last two from Kaha (ours) haven't been sexed yet. We hope to have a few more blokes!

The Trust has engaged the services of Joel Herder, a fourth year engineering student from Waikato University, to do an in depth investigation on the feasibility of our proposed kiwi fence. Note this is not a predator fence, but it will reduce the chances of kiwi wandering out of the protected area.

David Brown | Kiwi Manager E. brownsnursery@slingshot.co.nz

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 **Wild Kiwi Clothing** who are donating 50c for the sale of each of their multi-use scarves to the Trust (see photo at right). Perfect for the bush! They have donated \$1 500 to the Trust this year. We are glad you could make it to the kiwi release in November. Check them out at www.wildkiwiclothing.co.nz and add one to your Christmas stocking.

Current funding from the **DoC Community Fund** is for animal pest control and also for the 2016 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.

Thanks to **Te Puna Kindergarten** who raised \$35.50 in their kiwi coin trail and to **Kaharoa School** who raised \$50 in their kiwi coin trail. Also to **Selwyn Ridge School** \$60 and a big thanks to **Dave Church** for your donation of \$500. Also to **Comvita** staff members who donate a portion of their salary each month to the Trust. Massive thanks to **Legacy Trust** who donated \$5 000 for the 2016 kokako work.

Thanks to the **Probus Club** members who have donated \$180. **Te Puke Kiwi Coast Lions** club for your SAH donation of \$140. Thanks to **BOP Vintage Car Club** who sponsored a hectare and the **Oropi Rural Women's Branch** for your donation of \$50. Thanks to all our sponsor a hectare sponsors and other donors. Your donation makes a difference!

Private or Business sponsorship is always welcome! Give Hans a call on 543 2147 or email chair@kiwitrust.org



We were regional winners of the **Trust Power's** Heritage and Environment award, in recognition of the voluntary effort in Otanewainuku, with particular reference to the kiwi recovery. The \$500 will be used to fund a workday BBQ for our volunteers. You are the lifeblood of this Trust!



www.facebook.com/otanewainuku



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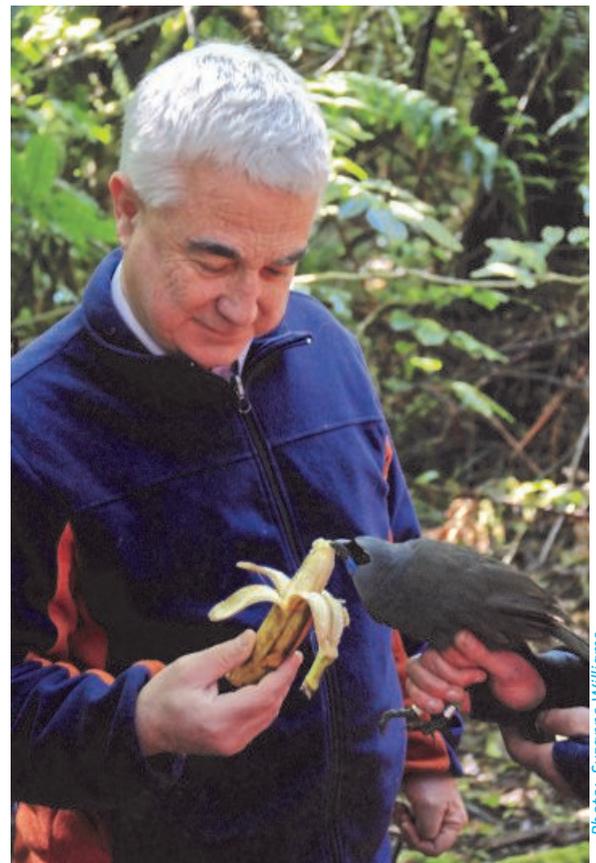


Photo: Suzanne Williams

Legacy Trust founder and (now) Tauranga City Mayor Greg Brownless gives this Kaharoa kokako it's last feed of banana before releasing it into Otanewainuku in August.



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