

Keeping you informed about Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust.
July 2020 Update

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ŌTANEWAINUKU KIWI TRUST

Hi Bruce,

National Volunteer Week was held 21st-27th June 2020 and we want to thank all our wonderful volunteers who help out at Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust. From 1st July 2019 - 30th June 2020, volunteers contributed **10,142.25** hours to the Trust.

That is truly amazing, thank you!! Without the efforts of our volunteers, we would not be able to do the work that we are doing and achieve the results that we are seeing.

You are all wonderful!

The Trust recently held it's AGM and the following appointments were made:

Chair: Bruce Fraser

Treasurer: Chris Rogers

Secretary: Suzanne Williams

Trustees: Melanie Norton, Hans Pendergrast, Gavin Cherrie, Peter Crane, Dave Brown, Bruce Fraser, Piri McMath

FOREST WORKDAY - SUNDAY 12th JULY 2020

When - Sunday 12th July 2020

What time - 9.00 am to whenever

Where - Ōtanewainuku Shelter - Mountain road, Oropi

We need many volunteers to help on our workdays so please come and support us.

- We will start at 9 am. Please arrive a little earlier to ensure everyone is present at the briefing and H&S Induction.

- Sturdy walking shoes or boots will be required, as well as warm gear, raincoat, drink, and snacks if going out in the bush.
- Hi-Viz vest and personal first aid kit are recommended. Allergy medications need to be in first aid kit i.e. wasp sting.
- A reasonable level of fitness required.

Please remember to check Facebook and email for cancellations.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL FOREST WORKDAY LOOK LIKE?

A typical forest workday starts with everyone attending assembling at the shelter at 9.00 am (people need to arrive before) where a safety briefing is held and a description of the work required.

For the new volunteers, in particular, a brief description of what OKT does is given.

Work is allocated with new members matched with more experienced volunteers who will help and guide them when out in the forest.

Generally, the work involves clearing the bait lines of vegetation to make it easier when the baits are being placed (we have experienced volunteers going out independently to maintain the trap lines), checking that the bait stations don't have holes in them (rats chew through the plastic) and can be opened easily, putting up track markers where they are missing or have become difficult to see (mould grows on the markers), re-routing tracks around tree falls and noting where the tree falls require a chainsaw.

Heading off about 9:30 am, teams generally get back to the shelter from between 12:00 to preferably 2:00, where there is usually a nice hot cuppa and a sausage to enjoy. (so long as we don't have a pandemic, in which case we wouldn't be out in the forest anyway!)

Other workdays can involve carrying baits into the bush for the contractors to access, or carrying the new DOC200 traps into the bush and then placing them (this is more for the fitter volunteers as some of the terrain can be steep!) and the assembly of the DOC200 traps. These workdays are usually advertised as being slightly different from a general forest workday.

Outside of the forest workdays, we also have our Salted Rabbit Processing days, usually held during the week, whereby volunteers get to prepare bait for some of the traps. This involves cutting up dead rabbits and salting them. Not for the faint-hearted but this work is very important to the Trust so if it sounds like something you would like to be involved in, let us know. Mac and the team would like some more volunteers, and maybe some more rabbits in the near future, so if you can supply some bunnies then let us know.

Then there are box making days, bait feeding days, and any other days that the Trust may need help with.

So, if you haven't already come along to one of our workdays come and give it a try. Many hands make light work!

Thanks to Anne & Graham Cox for the insight!

EDUCATION TEAM

Recently I spoke to two classes at Selwyn Ridge school on 16 June 2020. 48 students and two teachers. They were studying pests and wildlife and were very interested in the specimens I had of weasel, stoat, and rat, as well as Koro Kiwi of course.

On Wednesday 24 June, I spoke to a group of 52 residents at Greenwood Park retirement village at their morning gathering. They gave a donation of \$30 and are interested in visiting the Otanewainuku forest in the summer and have asked me to guide them.

Carole Long

P.S If you have any groups who would be interested in knowing more about OKT and the forest then please get in touch with us.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Anne and Graham Cox have been volunteering for Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust for many years, since 2012 to be exact.

They started out mainly clearing bait lines, checking the bait stations, and installing/replacing track markers. They have also assisted with the placing and collection of the poison baits with Graham having obtained his Controlled Substance Licence (CSL) through OKT.

Anne and Graham regularly attend the workdays held the 2nd Sunday of the month, but you can also find them clearing lines and collecting bait outside of the organised workdays. At one workday, which was assembling the DOC200 traps, they realised there was a lot to do so they kindly took on the job of completing the assembled traps at home. Dave Brown cuts the timber to size for them.

More recently, they have taken on the job of helping Dave Edwards to renovate, assemble and place the Sentinel traps, cutting out and drilling holes in the plastic.

They now also attend the Operations Team meetings which are held every month.

Thank you Anne & Graham for all the hard work you do for OKT - we really appreciate it!

Do you know of someone who does great work for us - maybe they would like to share what they do - email [Gaylene volunteers@volbop.org.nz](mailto:Gaylene_volunteers@volbop.org.nz)



Anne & Graham hard at work in the forest.

FOR THE KIDS



Okay kids (and adults), have a go at these.....

- (1) What goes down but never goes up?
- (2) In all months in a year which month has 28 days or more?
- (3) If you drop a yellow hat in the red sea what does it become?
- (4) Which word is spelled wrong in every dictionary?
- (5) What animal can run the fastest: an elephant, squirrel, or a mouse?

Answers below....no cheating!!

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust is working on merchandise for sale. T-Shirts, jackets, and caps will be for sale, with the caps being the first available.

We will let you know when we have other items.

Going for \$20 each, these caps will be perfect for keeping the sun off your face.

If you are interested, please contact volunteers@volbop.org.nz to arrange payment (cash only) and pickup.



OKT & SOCIAL MEDIA

Check us out on Facebook and Instagram and, if you take any photos at Ōtanewainuku that you're happy to share, please tag us in. We love seeing people enjoying the great walks there.

<https://www.facebook.com/otanewainuku/>

<https://www.instagram.com/otanewainukukiwitrust/>

The Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust (OKT) Handbook

This handbook gives an insight into the background of the trust, it's purpose and vision and how you as a volunteer can help achieve that vision. This is not only for those working actively in the forest but also to those helping behind the scenes.

If you would like a copy of the volunteer handbook emailed to you

please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Gaylene Street
volunteers@volbop.org.nz or on **07 571 3714**.



When the Forest Flourishes, the People Flourish.

ANSWERS:

(1) Rain, (2) All months in a year have 28 days and more, (3) It will not become red. But rather the hat will become wet, (4) Wrong, what else could it be, (5) Actually it is an elephant because it can reach a speed of 40km/hr(25 mph), while the squirrel can reach a speed of 20 mph and a mouse can reach till 7 mph.



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