

Keeping you informed about Ōtānewainuku Kiwi Trust January
2021 Update

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ŌTANEWAINUKU KIWI TRUST

Hi Dawn,



Welcome to 2021!

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a safe & Happy New Year and are ready to launch yourself into your volunteering effort for 2021.

You can kick this off by coming along to our next workday and help other volunteers do the work required in the forest.

This year we want to tell your stories and know a bit more about you! If you would like to share your volunteering experience with the rest of the OKT family, and the general public, email Gaylene, volunteers@volbop.org.nz, she would love to hear from you!

Also, if you would like to be involved in other areas of OKT, sign up with Chris (see below) to maintain your own trapline or let us know what other things you can do. We have other areas such as the cat trapping team, that need to be created/built and enhanced. As the saying goes, many hands make light work!

We are looking forward to working with all our volunteers and supporters in 2021.

FROM THE CHAIR

What a year it's been! But, despite the setbacks with lockdown preventing any forest work for a few weeks, there has been plenty to celebrate too: the kōkako survey result with 69 birds recorded was a real highlight, the kiwi programme continues strongly, volunteer numbers are up, attendance at workdays has been great and we're doing ok financially despite the struggles of our sponsors. We registered over 10,000 volunteer hours in the year so a massive thanks to all those who contributed in whatever way you could to ensure that the forest continues to thrive.

We launched our new range of corporate clothing, extended the carpark (and even that is often full!), added Māori pronunciation guides on the website for bird and bush names and enjoyed a successful workday at Warrenheip. We continue to benefit from our membership of the Bay Conservation Alliance, an umbrella conservation organisation for the BOP and we have worked on developing positive relationships with local landowners and iwi groups who have connections with Ōtanewainuku.

The health and safety of volunteers has been a major focus for us this year and the Trust has been working through and updating our policies to ensure that people are safe and that we comply with all requirements.

Sponsors play a large role in ensuring that we are able to keep doing our work. Thanks to all of you who have contributed financially to our efforts this year. We know that you have faced your own challenges associated with COVID19 and we fully appreciate your ongoing support.

On behalf of the Trust, I wish you a safe and relaxing break over Christmas and thank you for your interest in the conservation of our wonderful piece of forest.

Nga mihi

Bruce Fraser

Ōtanewainuki Kiwi Trust Chair

FOREST WORKDAY - SUNDAY 10th JANUARY 2021

When - Sunday 10th January 2021

What time - 9.00 am to whenever

Where - Ōtanewainuku Shelter - Mountain road, Oropi

The work for this day will be primarily for replacing bait stations, line clearing and general work.

- The workday will start at 9 am. Please arrive at **8.45 am** to ensure everyone is present at the briefing and H&S Induction.
- New volunteers - once the briefing is completed you will be assigned to an experienced volunteer. Please make yourself known to the person in charge of the day. Assemble where required.
- 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 as you need to be aware of changes in the terrain, however, there is the option of line clearing.
- Sausage Sizzle and a cuppa provided afterward for you.

Please remember to check Facebook and email for cancellations.

TRAPPERS WANTED!

We are after more keen volunteers to join the trapping team.

If you are keen and able to get out in the forest on a regular basis to check, clear and rebait stoat and possum traps we need you!

Traplines take a few hours to complete and regular checks are required (fortnightly from November to May and monthly for the rest of the year - many trappers choose to share lines so they can alternate visits).

If you're interested and want to find out more please contact Chris Pronk, pronky55@hotmail.com, 020 4116 2959.

THE KIWI RUNDOWN

Kiwi are being kiwi.

After 3 weeks of on-again-off-again, (mainly off again) contact with Kaiarahi in the 2A block Steve pinged her west of Mt Otanewainuku. A seven-hour day of dodging up and down what felt like every drive on Mangatoī Rd finally located her 3km west of the trig. Steve was more than pleased to nab her by the ankles and tell her what a pain she has been. I released her back at Whataroa falls (3 km the other side of the trig where she started from a few months back)

I then pinged Cosmos who is supposed to be her boyfriend, to find his TX in mortality. TOOO much. After a bit of a tantrum aimed at the kiwi gods, a few deep breaths, and some running around I decided that the north side of the falls was the most likely location. Found the TX and broken leg band in kiekie on a very slippery slope below 3A64/6. So very relieved that we didn't have another dead boy.

Kaiarahi is still milling around in the area so maybe my December minor miracle will be them getting together.

Our second round of egg lift is about to start. Cross everything for a few more healthy chicks.

Sheryl

Tourism BOP has used donations from cruise ship passengers to Tauranga during the 2020/21 season to fund the hatching and raising of a kiwi chick. The donations funded the cost of incubating and hatching the egg from an Ōtanewainuku bird at the National Hatchery in Rotorua. Once the new chick has reached about 1 kilogram in weight, it will be taken to a predator-proof creche near Cambridge. From there, it will be taken back to the Ōtanewainuku forest when it is six months old and is more able to defend itself against predators like stoats and rats.

We are very grateful to Tourism BOP for this generous contribution to help increase the numbers of kiwi that continue to decline, from the millions that were once present, to about 70,000 in NZ today.

Check out Tourism BOP's Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/bayofplentynz1>

(taken from a piece written in the Pyes Pa newsletter by Bruce Fraser, Chair)

FOR THE KIDS



Hi kids!

We hope you are all having a great time during your holidays.

Now is the time for you, and your family, to take some time to rest and relax, and how better to do it than take time out in nature.

Have you ever heard the birds around your home and wondered what breed they were? What calls they make and why?

Grab some binoculars and see what birds are around you. Take some photos!

Use this DOC guide to help you identify some of our native birds,

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-activities/experiencing-birds/>

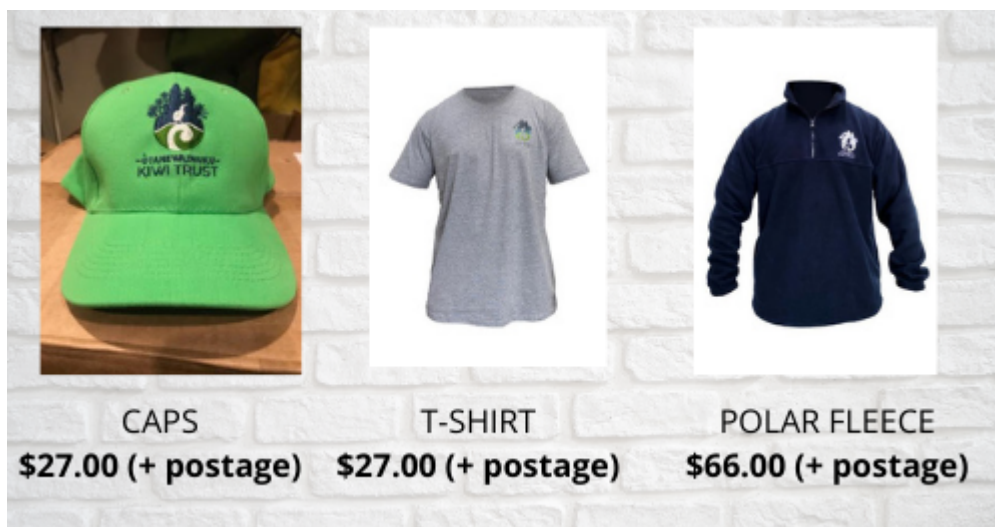
We hope you have fun!



GEAR FOR SALE!

Our T-shirts, Polar Fleece and Caps are now on sale with purchasing via our website.

For more information go to <https://kiwitrust.org/store/>



[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.



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