



ŌTANEWAINUKU KIWI TRUST

Hi Dawn,

Welcome to the Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust Update for July 2021

Last month's work day saw 36 volunteers attend with 13 of them being first time volunteers. The tasks for the work day included bait line clearing, clearing and marking the road side entries into bait lines and making sure that bait stations in the toxin exclusion zones had no floors in them. It was a successful day with most tasks completed.

Thanks to all of our great volunteers for working so hard to keep Ōtanewainuku safe for our kiwi and all the wonderful birds!.

FOREST WORKDAY - SUNDAY 8 AUGUST 2021

When - Sunday 8 August 2021

What time - 9.00 am to whenever

Where - Ōtanewainuku Shelter - 667 Mountain Road, Oropi (about 7km from Oropi Road junction)

The work activities for the August workday will focus on the commencement of the annual toxin programme for pest control. Teams will be carrying bait (diphacinone) along bait lines and placing a block of bait in each bait station. It should be noted that each block weighs 450 grams, and each team member will be carrying approximately 7 kilos of bait. A large backpack would be useful but carry bags, disposable gloves and face masks will be available to use.

- 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 the first aid kit i.e. wasp sting.
- A reasonable level of fitness is required as you need to be aware of changes in the terrain, however, there is the option of line clearing.
- Whilst the type of bait is safe when handled correctly it is recommended that children **are not** brought along to this workday.
- We have had tremendous attendance of volunteers at our last two workdays and similar support for this workday would ensure we get as much bait as possible out into our bait lines.
- Sausage Sizzle and a cuppa provided afterward for you.

Please remember to check Facebook and email for cancellations.

KIWI NEWS



We have some very sad news from Ōtanewainuku.

Two of our radio tagged mature female kiwi were killed as a result of predation. Although both birds were in different parts of the forest it is suspected a single predator may be to blame. Puncture wounds indicate stoat or ferret predation. This is the first time a predation event of this nature has happened within the trapped area

of the forest. DNA analysis is being conducted on the kiwi puncture wounds and this can be compared with DNA from trapped animals. The size of the birds suggests a ferret was the culprit but the style of attack suggests a stoat.

Thanks to our kiwi team for springing into action and heading into the bush on a rainy, windy day to install capture traps to try to catch the culprit and protect the other kiwi. If you are in the forest please stay on tracks and do not wander off track or between lines. These unfortunate events further underline the importance of the wonderful work undertaken by our volunteers in maintaining traps in the bush to give kiwi, kōkako and other species a fighting chance out there.

In other news...the kiwi team have been very busy over the last couple of months. Whetu has been incubating but has abandoned his nest. Myfie is still incubating and Smokey and Chunukbair have also recently started. The volunteers have been expecting Tahi to switch but he's still teasing us. Kaiarahi has had two more trips abroad and been returned. Our three other teenagers have not been troublesome thank goodness. Warrenheip babies are continuing to grow well and play in their swamp.

Several kiwi dog handlers with their dogs as guests visited Warrenheip (a 16 hectare restored bush area in the central Waikato) to be assessed and get their dogs certification up to date. Our volunteers, Martin and Sheryl, were also assessed to see if they can be certified to be able to train kiwi handlers. This would give Ōtanewainuku a big boost in building the number of certified kiwi handlers.

KŌKAKO NEWS



Photo courtesy of Paul Jansen

Back in August 2020, a census of the kōkako population was undertaken. The results of 69 territorial birds (31 pairs and 7 singles) was an encouraging result. The Ōtanewainuku population continues to grow, albeit at a relatively slow rate. The census recommended that the Trust translocate 30 more birds into Ōtanewainuku to increase the genetic diversity. This recommendation was the cornerstone of the work that has since been undertaken to prepare a translocation proposal.

With a huge effort from the kōkako team the Trust has now submitted stage 1 of a translocation proposal. The preferred location to source birds from is Te Hauturu-o-Toi (Little Barrier Island nature reserve). The Trust is now 'in the queue' for the Department of Conservation's permissions team to assess the proposal. If accepted the real work of a full scale translocation proposal will need to be prepared.

Thank you to all our volunteers who have supported the kōkako recovery project for the year 2020/2021. It has been a team effort. Knowledge and skills around kōkako living in our forest have increased. The Trust's capability in this project has increased and with more volunteers directly involved in kōkako work, the Trust is well placed to achieve the necessary translocation to enhance the genetic diversity of the kōkako population.

Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust is part of what is becoming one of the great species recovery projects of our time.

EVENTS AND EDUCATION NEWS



The Trust has had a busy and rewarding year so far with its education programme. A core team of volunteers coordinate the programme and give an enormous amount of time in educating different groups about the forest and its inhabitants.

The Trust's kiwi and kereru specimens are treasures and are a great bonus for our talks. Having specimens of pests (rat, stoat, weasel) is also an added bonus and it is interesting to get the reaction from adults especially about pest control. Interest in our education programme has included kindergartens, schools, community groups

and senior citizens, with students learning English as a second language included as well.

There are numerous requests for guided walks in Ōtanewainuku forest for school groups. A pre field trip talk is usually held in the classroom, with the kiwi and pest specimens on display. The talk focuses on explaining the physical characteristics of the kiwi, their breeding habits and the work being done to save the chicks. Bird calls are played on tape which give the audience an idea of the range and volume of kiwi calls, with kokako song as a bonus as well. Community groups and senior citizens are also interested in the field trips. We normally prefer to take school and community groups on the [Rimu track](#) as it has a great variety of plants to learn about and normally some very friendly robins flitting about.

If you would like further information about the Trust's education programme please email info@kiwitrust.org

Our membership of [Bay Conservation Alliance \(BCA\)](#) continues to provide us with strong advocacy for conservation in the Bay, access to a wider knowledge bank and participation in events such as the session on iwi engagement and the launch of the [cadets programme](#). Recent discussions included the ongoing cooperation between BCA and the Trust on the education about Ōtanewainuku and its wildlife treasures. The BCA staff are focused on educating senior primary, intermediate and college students, and they are also using Ōtanewainuku forest as a special site for their conservation cadets.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2021



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Trust was held on 13 July 2021 to discuss performance for the year end 31 March 2021. Here are some key points from the AGM:

- Trustees continue to work well together collaborating on achieving the Trust goals and there is strong board management in place.

- The Trust's activities are funded by donations, sponsorship, grants from charitable organisations, grants from Government Departments and from Local Government Agencies.
- The Trust currently relies heavily on volunteer time & expertise to complete work in most essential roles, including Trustees, committee/team members and casual volunteers. Expertise not available from volunteers is contracted using funds raised.
- The Trust Board met 11 times and the Operations Committee met 7 times during the year. Governance emphasis this year was on policy documents and iwi liaison.
- Over 10,000 volunteer hours were recorded with over 300 active volunteers. The chair of the Board, Bruce Fraser, thanked the wonderful group of volunteers - from those out monitoring their own trap lines, to the people attending workdays, to the operations team, and to all those backroom volunteers working in finance, communications, planning, organising, database management and coordination who contribute in a myriad of ways.
- Operation Nest Egg (ONE) & intensive management of North Island Brown Kiwi: At year end, 9 chicks had hatched, 6 were at the National Kiwi Hatchery in Rotorua & 3 were transferred to Warrenheip creche (additional 19 eggs infertile, damaged or did not hatch); 8 juveniles are growing-on in Warrenhelp. Two sub-adult kiwis were released in the forest. At year end 21 kiwi were being monitored, including 8 bonded pairs.
- Management of North Island Kōkako: An adult census of kōkako was undertaken & recorded 69 territorial kōkako, comprising 31 pairs & 7 single birds. Subsequently a walk-through survey to determine presence of birds was conducted in forested areas immediately adjacent to the Otanewainuku Forest; 5 kōkako were recorded on land administered by the Tauranga City Council.
- An integrated plan to use best-practice trapping methods, along with targeted toxin use, is being used to manage 1200 ha of forest.

VACANT POSITION - VOLUNTEER MEETING MINUTE SECRETARY



Do you want to know more about how the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust operates?

The Trust needs a volunteer minute secretary to attend Board meetings and capture the essential information of a meeting – key points of discussions, decisions and assigned actions.

If you are interested in finding out more about the position, check out [Volunteering Bay of Plenty's website](#) or contact Barbara-Ann at oktvolunteers@volbop.org.nz

SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDING

The Trust was successful in its application for funding from Western Bay of Plenty District Council's Long Term Plan (2021-2031) for its pest control programme. Funding through the Long Term Plan has been provided to help fund a project coordinator to assist in the delivery of the Trust's proposal to build a kiwi inclusion fence and annual funding towards the toxin programme for the next three years.

Zespri have also recently confirmed its funding for a further three years.

We are also continually overwhelmed by the support we receive from locally owned businesses such as Shape Razors. For every sale of refill packs Shape Razors will be donating .50c to the Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust.

You can find Shape Razors at [PAK'n SAVE Tauriko](#), [New World Brookfield](#), New World Mount Maunganui or on their website at www.shaperazors.com



SHAPE. razors - For Every Body - www.shaperazors.com

Our new SHAPE. razor brand is now being sold in Pak'n Save Tauriko, New World Brookfield and New World Mt Maunganui.

They can also be ordered online at www.shaperazors.com

For every sale of SHAPE. razor refill packs we will be donating .50c towards the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust.



FOR THE KIDS (and maybe the big kids too!)



Here's a fun creative activity for the kids! Design a reusable beeswax food wrap to raise funds to help save kiwi.

Simply design a kiwi bird-themed wrap, or colour-in the wrap design provided, and your work could be made into a limited edition fundraising wrap. The winner will also get to name a kiwi chick and win a lunch shout for their class.

The winning design will be featured on the billboard at Crombie Lockwood's central Auckland office. There are also ten kiwi-themed spot prizes up for grabs.

Download the entry pack from the Crombie Lockwood website

Entries close 6pm, 19 August 2021

<http://www.crombielockwood.co.nz/about/community-and-sponsorship/kiwis-for-kiwi/beeswax-competition/>

ŌTANEWAINUKU: THE NUMBERS

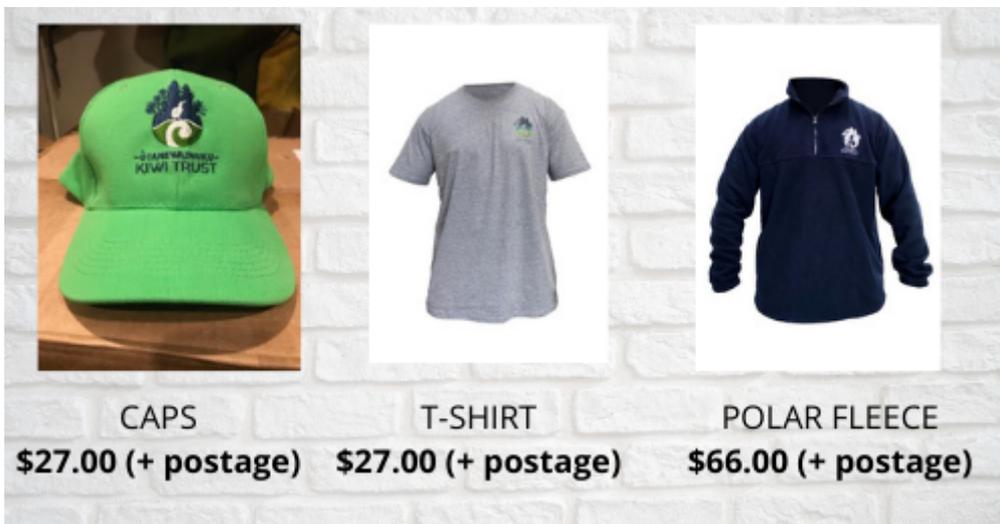
- The Trust has over 180 km of trap and bait station lines
- 330 stoat trap tunnels
- 2142 bait stations within 1200ha of the Ōtanewainuku Conservation Area
- Monthly work days with an average of 25 volunteers attending
- Over 10,000 hours each year of volunteer time

- Originally estimated to be around 30 million Kiwi in NZ. Now around 70,000
- North Island Brown Eastern Taxon kiwi estimated to be about 7,000
- Kiwi eggs and chicks get eaten by predators where there is no protection. Out of every 100 kiwi eggs laid only five kiwi chicks will make it to adulthood
- An average of 27 kiwi are killed by predators EVERY WEEK. That's a population decline of around 1,400 kiwi every year (or 2%)
- Kiwi may disappear from the mainland in our lifetime. Just one hundred years ago, kiwi numbered in the millions
- In areas where predators are controlled, 50-60% of chicks survive. When areas are not under management 95% of kiwi die before reaching breeding age
- Over 5000 predators trapped since the start of the Trust's work
- Over 600 possums removed from the bush in the past year

ORDER YOUR ŌTANEWAINUKU KIWI TRUST GEAR!

Our T-shirts, Polar Fleece and Caps are now on sale with purchasing via our website. The Polar Fleece would be great in the cooler weather!

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



ŌTANEWAINUKU & 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/>

Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust Handbook

This handbook gives an insight into the background of the Trust, its 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 for those helping behind the scenes.

The handbook is sent to all new volunteer registrations but if you have not received a copy please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Barbara-Ann Overwater at oktvolunteers@volbop.org.nz or on 07 571 3714

When the Forest Flourishes, the People Flourish.



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