



Kaharoa Kokako Trust

August 2011, Newsletter

PO Box 78 NGONGOTAHA 3041 - www.kokako.org.nz

This newsletter summarises the Trust's activities aimed at ensuring the long-term protection and survival of kokako at Kaharoa.

Coming up...

Wednesday 31 August is our Annual Public Meeting at Kaharoa School – starting 7pm. See details over page.

Saturday 1 October is our next work day is (changed from 24 Sept). A notice will be sent to volunteers by email prior to this date.

Trust welcomes support from forestry sponsor

Rotorua-based forest management company, PF Olsen Ltd, has recently become a major sponsor of the Kaharoa Kokako Trust.



Over the next three years, PF Olsen will make cash contributions to help us build our

'Kokako Nest Egg', an investment fund set up to ensure ongoing pest control at Kaharoa. This sponsorship is an important milestone for the Trust as it marks the first sizeable funding contribution from a commercial business. Most of our previous support has come from the Department of Conservation and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, so it is exciting for us to attract revenue from another source.

PF Olsen Chief Executive, Peter Clark says it is fitting for the company to support the continued protection of this endangered bird.

"As a significant land and forest manager throughout New Zealand we have a strong commitment to environmental values," he says. "We applaud and admire the work of the volunteers who have put so much effort into predator control to protect the birds at Kaharoa and want to see this put onto a sustainable footing."

Pine forests and kokako

Although plantation forests are home to many native birds, kokako favour mature native forest habitat. As specialised forest birds, they have the ability to fly, but prefer to run around in the branches using their powerful legs. Feeding on berries, leaves and insects, they occupy a similar ecological niche to squirrels in the northern hemisphere.

Trust ecologist Carmel Richardson says although kokako are not known to live in pine forests, they potentially benefit from plantation forest growing adjacent to their territory, as occurs at Kaharoa.

"For kokako, plantation forests are valuable not so much for the trees, but for the food that grows underneath them. The type of native species that emerge in the understorey of commercial forests are generally very good food sources," she says. "Any forest is valuable in terms of providing habitat for birds."



Kokako take centre stage at Kaharoa School

Members of the Kaharoa Kokako Trust were joined by Kaharoa families and artist, Bruno Schlatter, to build a giant kokako nest at the school. Although none of the participants could claim any prior nest-building experience, the helpers took inspiration from our feathered friends and succeeded in the task, using sticks collected at the school.

The nest sits atop a metal tree which forms the centrepiece of the kokako display located in the school hall. The purpose of the display, which was funded by the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust (RECT), is to increase awareness of the conservation work carried out by the Trust.

The next step of the project is for the students to build a kokako family to place in the nest.



Kaharoa School students Lily Dixon and Constance Jefferson help to build a giant kokako nest, the focal point of the kokako display.



The completed kokako display was blessed by Henari Mohi of Ngati Rangiwewehi at an official opening. This special event was attended by the school students, representatives of RECT, Ngati Rangiwewehi, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Department of Conservation.

The Call of the Kokako

A new book released by New Zealand children's author Maria Gill was officially launched at the blessing of the kokako display.

The beautifully illustrated book, entitled "The Call of the Kokako", brings information and stories about kokako to children of all ages. This book is available through book stores so please watch for it!



Carmel Richardson (at left) and Trust Chair, Anne Managh (at right) with author Maria Gill.

Come along to our Annual Public Meeting and see the kokako display!

The Kaharoa Kokako Trust will be holding our annual public meeting in the Kokako Centre at Kaharoa School.

When? Wednesday 31 August – 7pm

Where? Kaharoa School on Kaharoa Road, off Tauranga Direct Rd

Come along to help us celebrate our achievements of the past year and to learn more about the ecology of Kaharoa Forest.

Our **guest speaker** will be **Greg Steward**, a scientist from Scion who specialises in native forestry. He will share his knowledge and insights about the dynamics of regenerating forests following logging (as occurred at Kaharoa).

www.kokako.org.nz