

KAHAROA KOKAKO TRUST

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NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 1997

Chairman's Report:

I am very pleased to outline the activities of the Trust to date and at the outset I would like to thank all those of you who have given the Trust support in any way.

Initially 180 bait stations covering a 20Km line were collected from Rotoehu Forest in preparation for the poisoning operation in the Kaharoa area.

The pest management proposal the Trust put to the Department of Conservation was accepted by them, after which the work on the ground started for real.

At intervals of 125metres, 140 bait stations were secured in the Kaharoa bush, covering a total distance of 18 Km. Some pigs were removed from the area to ensure the bait stations came to as little harm as possible. Over three weekends, beginning the first weekend in October a pre-feed of cinnamon flavoured cereal pellets was laid into each bait station. The amount of this feed taken got to almost 100% at the end of this exercise. On the fourth weekend, Department of Conservation staff and Trust volunteers baited the stations with 1080 poison.

After the residual 1080 bait was removed a follow up opossum monitoring was done to establish the success of the poisoning. Over 3 nights 100 traps were set in areas that were considered accessways to the area that had been poisoned, and some close to baited areas. Not one opossum was trapped, that was almost unbelievable, a catch of up to 3 per night could have been expected. The rat monitoring showed a 7% presence, with an error factor of 2.5%, which is acceptable, but there will need to be a concerted effort on rat eradication again next year.

With the breeding season now in full swing as little disturbance of the birds as possible is desirable but we expect that there is to be a monitoring of the success of the breeding in the form of a juvenile survey to be carried out in the New Year.

The assistance we have received from the Department of Conservation needs a special mention. We couldn't have done what we have done without their support with the planning and supervision of the project, as well as the voluntary time given by some of their employees both for pre-feeding and baiting of the stations.

The Trust has been formally established, the members being Peter Davey, Anne Managh, David Moore, John Paterson, Carmel Richardson, Hazel Speed, Rachael Vellinga and Dale Williams. Thanks must go to Ian Blackman and Steven Hunt of East Brewster for their time advising on, and formalising the Trust Deed.

As a Trust we have approached some businesses and Companies for sponsorship and funding but as yet have not met with any success. We need to look to some fundraising to cover costs already incurred for pre-feed and bait, and then to the ongoing protection and predator control that will be needed. If any of you have some ideas to help us in this area we would be very interested to hear from you.

Again, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has helped in any way, from the hands on in the bush, the monetary donations, the moral support and encouragement. The outlook for the Kokako in our Kaharoa area is now much more promising.



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As an opportunity to say thank you to those of you who helped with the pre-feeding and baiting of the stations we have a barbeque planned for
5.00pm Saturday 13th December
at Rachael's and my property,
Penny Road, Kaharoa.

It is important that you let us know if you can attend by Thursday 11th December for catering purposes. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you then.

Please phone any me at 348-7359 (Business) and leave a message if I'm not there or at home 332-2299. My mobile number is 025 743-198