

KAHAROA KOKAKO TRUST



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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 1998

Again it is time to touch base with our supporters and give you an update on the outcome of last year's poisoning and this year's plans.

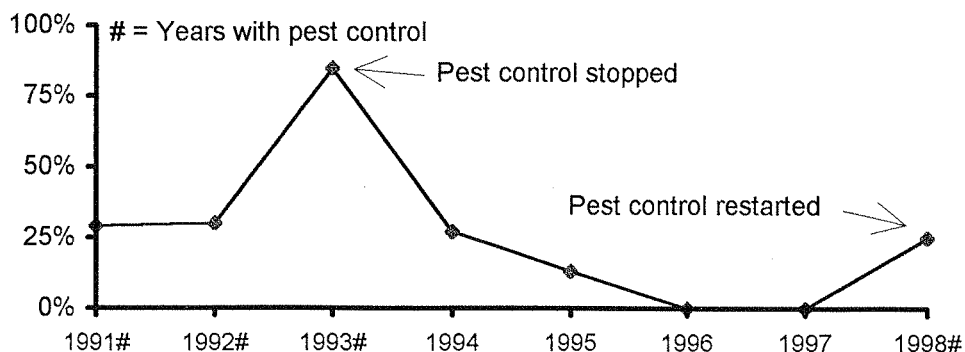
To start out, Chairman, Peter Davey wishes to acknowledge the willingness and great support for last year's bait application and funding, a remarkable Community effort. It is pleasing to report that recognition of the interest and effort by local people to "save the kokako" has been given by DoC and State Insurance also.

DoC, again, did not have funds this year for work in Kaharoa but Mr Keith Owen, from DoC Conservancy Office advocated that part of the State Insurance funding pool be allocated to our area. This was successful to the extent of having funds allocated to cover the cost of survey work and the bait required for this year's programme, which is excellent news. The Trust intends to gradually extend its pest control area, as funds permit, therefore ongoing financial support is required and any further donations will be gratefully accepted.

Prior to the pest control regime last year when Carmel Richardson carried out a 'census' of adult kokako, she located 12 pairs and 2 single kokako. During the latter end of the breeding season Carmel observed that of the 12 pairs, 3 or 25% had 'fledged' young. One pair raised two chicks, and another two pairs raised one each - thereby increasing the population by 4 birds.

Given that kokako have not bred successfully in this area over the last two years, this is an excellent result. We are hopeful that the trend will follow that shown between 1991 - 1993 when a pest control regime was last carried out in the area.

Percentage of kokako pairs successfully fledging young at "Aislabies Block" Kaharoa.



A recent survey by Dale Williams on the number of possums and rats in 'the block', has established that rats should be our main target this year. The method of pest control will be similar to last year, but using Talon* bait (containing brodifacoum) instead of 1080. Talon* is particularly effective on rats and its main advantage is that it is slow acting therefore pests are less likely to develop 'bait shyness', and no 'pre-feeding' is required.

The bait stations will be filled at monthly intervals with the first 'feed' planned for Saturday 26th September. The subsequent 'feeds' will be at approximately one month intervals. The numbers of 'feeds' done will be dependant on the 'bait take' and the results of further possum and rat monitoring.

HELP REQUIRED:

Peter Davey is again co-ordinating the 'baiting' of stations and would appreciate an early indication of people available to help. There has been interest expressed from many who were involved last year and confirmation to Peter as soon as possible would be appreciated. If you were not available last year and would like to become involved, please register your interest pronto.

REPORT AVAILABLE:

A comprehensive report on the background, formation and progress to date of the Trust has been compiled by Dale Williams, and is available should anyone wish to have a copy.

TO SUMMARISE:

Last year's poisoning programme enabled some successful breeding by the Kokako. Some funding from State Insurance has been secured to continue with predator control and bird surveys for this season.

The first filling of bait stations will be Saturday 26th September, followed by a second round on 31 October.

Donations to assist the Trust to continue this work are always very much appreciated, and are tax deductible.

A full report of the programme to date is available, on request.

Return Slip

Name.....

Address.....

Contact No.....

1. Available to help with baiting operation:

September 26	YES/NO	October 31	YES/NO
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2. Donation to support ongoing work and continue to receive information about the Trust:

\$.....

3. Please forward me a full report on the Trust's activities to date: YES/NO

(If yes please enclose a self addressed envelope or donation.)

Please return this slip to: The Kokako Trust
C/- Anne Managh
318 Kapukapu Road
RD 2 ROTORUA

Phone enquiries to Peter Davey: 07.348.7359 (Bus)
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