

Kaharoa Kokako Trust

September 2003, Newsletter.

Peter Davey, (*Chairman*) Penny Road R.D.2 Rotorua Ph 07.332-2299 (H) or 027.4743 445

In Dale's absence, who usually compiles our annual newsletter, this is a fairly brief summary of events and highlights for the past twelve months and information about the pest control programme planned for October this year.

Adult Census - Good News - Increasing Kokako Numbers:

The census was completed September to November 2002 showed there were 23 pair and 1 single bird in the Aislabie Block and 17 pair and 4 singles in the Onaia Blocks - a total of 85 kokako, an increase of 21 from the previous census.

Since the 2001 census accessibility to the Onaia East Block has been greatly improved with the new track system allowing for easier identification of kokako present.

These results are excellent, congratulations everybody for helping make this happen.

Pest Control - last year's summary:

1080 in bait stations was used in all blocks. Two prefeeds were put into bait stations in Aislabie and Onaia West Blocks in September 2002 using intensive volunteer labour, from our community. Again, thank you very much everyone. The newest extension of our control programme, the Onaia East Block was targeted simultaneously by Bruce Bancroft, an experienced contractor. As 1080 application is regulated and can not be done with the usual community volunteer help, the toxic bait was dispatched in all areas beginning 5 October using the professional contractor, DOC staff and selected, directly supervised volunteers. All bait stations were emptied of residue bait 23 November 2002 and follow up monitoring showed low pest levels. Previous experience shows that pest levels recover markedly over a relatively short period, therefore we need to reduce pests to protect the birds as much as possible each year immediately prior to nesting when they are most vulnerable.

Juvenile Survey 2003:

Between February and April 2003 in the Onaia Blocks all 17 pair were found, 10 with juveniles showing a 59% success fledging. The Aislabie Block was not surveyed this year.

Shelter & Interpretation Panels:

An impressive structure has been built at the end of Kapukapu Road where the Kaharoa Forest Block begins to provide a focal point for the display of public information panels and shelter for visitors and community volunteers helping in the Block.

After many months of discussion, consultation, and several drafts three interpretation panels were commissioned and completed. This all took time but the end result is one to be very proud of.

On Saturday 24 May 2003 Kokako Trust Chairman, Peter Davey, welcomed approximately 170 invited guests, sponsors and volunteers to a most successful opening of the shelter and "unveiling" of Interpretation Panels, by the Minister of Conservation, the Hon Chris Carter, despite the inclement weather.

Other speakers included Mr Trevor Maxwell (Rotorua District Deputy Mayor) & Mr Mita Mohi, representing Ngati Rangiwewehi, Mr John Cronin, Chairman of Environment BOP, Mr Jeff Hudson, Kokako Recovery Group Leader, Mr Bruce Hanson, Acting Conservator of BOP Department of Conservation, and Mr Greg Hayes, representing the Land Rover Enthusiasts Club, Rotorua Region, who handed over keys to a Landrover the Club has restored for use by the Trust for survey and promotional work.

The Landrover is appropriately signwritten with the logos of our valued sponsors as well as the Kokako Trust's common seal.

Funding & Thank You:

Again this year the Environment BOP Environment Enhancement Fund has been our major funding source for which the Trust is extremely grateful. Without such solid support it would not have been possible to continue the work as we have done, and the Interpretation Panels which are so informative, would not have been commissioned.

Our thanks too, to the Department of Conservation for funding the construction of the shelter and the ongoing liaison and support to the Trust from its staff in Rotorua.

Fletcher Challenge Forests annual grant is also acknowledged as is the monetary and "on hands" donations from each and every one of the volunteers who continue to support the trust so well in many ways.

Our sincere thanks also to the Land Rover Enthusiasts Club, Rotorua Region, members who collectively spent many hour restoring the Landrover beautifully presented to the Trust for use during survey and promotional work.

This Year's Pest Control Programme:

Before the pest control is undertaken there needs to be some track clearance and maintenance done. This is scheduled for Saturday 20 September commencing 9.00am. If you are able to assist please phone John Paterson, 332.2093 to let him know you will be coming (if there is no reply - please wait for the answer phone to engage and record a message). There will be some lopers available, if you have your own, or secateurs you wish to bring please do so.

For this season's pest control Feratox Block Baits with Cholecalciferol will be used.

Volunteers will be required to fill stations in the 'Aislabie' and 'Onaia West' blocks for a once only pre-feed on Saturday 11th of October, with the toxic application on the following Saturday 18th of October.

To meet the conditions of the Pesticides Act, neighbouring landowners will be contacted by DoC, however if you have any queries feel free to contact the DoC Area Manager, Phil Alley at (07) 3483 610.

Again, if you can help the Trust with track clearing please contact John Paterson, ph 332-2093

or pre-feed or baiting operation please contact Peter Davey ph 332-2299, wk 348-7359, mob 025.743-198 and let them know when you are available.

Track Clearing:	Saturday 20 September -	9.00am
Pre Feed:	Saturday 11 October -	9.00am
Toxic Bait:	Saturday 18 October -	9.00am

Or return the attached slip if more convenient:

-----CUT HERE-----

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Number of helpers available to help with:

track clearing	-	20 September
pre-feed	-	11 October
toxic	-	18 October

If you usually travel out with a companion/or wish to be grouped with friend/s while assisting with this work please include their names here too. Thank you.

Please return this "Return slip" to

Kaharoa Kokako Trust c/- Anne Managh,

Kapukapu Road, R.D.2, Rotorua