

# Kaharoa Kokako Trust

## May 2006, Newsletter

PO Box 78 NGONGOTAHA

Welcome to our annual newsletter with a summary of events and highlights for the past twelve months and information about the track clearing, pest control programme and other activities planned for this year.

### **New Trust Members:**

Three original Trust members, David Moore, Hazel Speed and Dale Williams, who now live well outside the Rotorua area, have agreed to become "Associate/Advisory Members of the Trust". This enabled the Trust to appoint three new members from within our district. Graham Jackson, Margaret Richardson and Graeme Young accepted the invitation to serve as Trust members and were formally welcomed at a recent Trust meeting. They will serve the Trust and community well.

### **Awards:**

**Rotorua District Council Community Award:** Peter Davey and Rachael Dixon-Davey received a Community Award from the Rotorua Mayor for their outstanding initiative in establishing the Kaharoa Kokako Trust. If Peter and Rachael had not recognised the plight of the kokako population in our district and taken steps to save it, the remnant population would surely have died out.

**Trustpower Spirit of Rotorua Awards 2005:** To recognise volunteers these Awards are held annually. In recognition of the work of all volunteers for the Kokako Trust, a nomination was made last year in the Heritage and Environment section. Competition was strong and we were pleased to receive a Commendation for work done, to salute our volunteers and supporters. Thank you one and all.

**Green Ribbon Award:** In recognition of the Trust's efforts Adrienne Grant, from Dept of Conservation has submitted a nomination for the Kaharoa Kokako Trust to be considered for one of these awards. Again to receive recognition in this way salutes the efforts of volunteers and highlights the profile of the Kaharoa Kokako Trust, especially when we will forever be in the business of securing funding to continue the work being done.

### **2005's Pest Control Programme:**

With volunteers assisting the Trust we again targeted possum and rats in both the Aislabie and Onaia West Blocks with 1080 toxin following two pre-feeds into the bait stations. Access to the Aislabie Block was greatly assisted by both Greg Hayes and Alan vander Heuvel from the Landrover Club as there had been a lot of rain and the tracks were very slippery. Thanks to all those volunteers who so enthusiastically assisted us, not only for the pre-feeds but to place and remove the 1080 bait.

Post control pest monitoring showed possum numbers were very low and rat numbers were well down, but we would always hope for better.

The stoat trapping network is now well established and proving useful in the catches reported so support for the birds is well in place to help with the viability of nests and fledglings.

### **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.

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

While the Trust does receive funding from larger organisations, the "hands on help" and monetary donations from supporters are very important for the continued wellbeing of the Trust's programme. Thank you to each and every one who continues to support the Trust in so many ways. It is truly appreciated.

Our grateful thanks also go to the Land-Rover Enthusiasts Club (Rotorua Region) who have generously supported us with the Landrover/Birdmobile which continues to be used for publicity, during pest control operations, track maintenance, survey work, nest finding and for transportation of visitors into the Block.

## Upcoming Activities

### Translocation of kokako to Mokoia Island:

Our efforts to save the kokako population at Kaharoa have proven so successful that we are able to gift breeding pairs to other areas. Up to five pairs of kokako will be transferred to Mokoia Island on Saturday, 27 May 2006 in a bid to expand the local territory of the bird. The Department of Conservation are hosting a special event to celebrate the translocation.

### Adult Census:

The first complete adult census of the whole area is planned to be completed during September to early November this year. We know kokako numbers have mushroomed over recent years and this will give us a very good indication of numbers in the area rather than the estimate we are using now.

### Track Clearing - "Adopt a Track":

A Track Clearing & Maintenance Day is planned for Saturday 17 June starting at 9.00am. We would appreciate the help of as many volunteers as possible with this project. Maintenance will include trimming with secateurs, and hand pruning saws, maintaining track markers and replacement of ribbons where needed. No slashers or heavy equipment is required. Secateurs will be available to borrow should you not have them.

Thank you to all those who expressed interest in "Adopt a Track" last year. Unfortunately this scheme did not get off the ground last year, but we are now ready and organised to implement it starting with the Track Clearing & Maintenance Day on Saturday 17 June.

As outlined last year a track will be allocated to be maintained for a twelve-month period when revision of the scheme will be undertaken. Volunteers will be given a full briefing, along with a map and safety documentation when the track is allocated. After that, the volunteer can follow up in their own time.

Maintenance would include trimming with secateurs, and hand pruning saws, maintaining track markers and replacement of ribbons where needed. The location of any work to be done with chainsaws would be recorded and reported back. The Department of Conservation will undertake any chainsaw work required. Anyone interested in finding out more about and/or participating in Project Adopt a Track please contact Graeme Young, (numbers below,) or return the reply at the end of this newsletter.

### Pest Control 2006:

This year we are going to undertake pest control over the whole area using Pindone Possum Pellets - which also target rats - in bait stations. No pre-feed is necessary but to obtain maximum kill, three or four fills of the bait stations will be required.

This year we are starting the operation much earlier, when rat numbers traditionally are at their lowest, again to optimise the pest control result.

Pest Operation Dates are: 15 July for the initial fill, 5 August, 2 September, for top ups and 7 October, if a 4th top up is required. Removal of untaken bait will be one month following the last fill - probably 7 October, or 4 November.

If you are able to assist please phone **Graeme Young 332.2626** (evenings) or **0274.527168**, **John Paterson 332 2093** (evenings) or **John Coleman 332 3313**, or return the slip below.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

### Available to help:

Track Maintenance:	Saturday 17 June	9.00am	Yes / No	Number .....
Pindone Bait Feed:	Saturday 15 July	9.00am	Yes / No	Number .....
Pindone Bait Feed:	Saturday 05 Aug	9.00am	Yes / No	Number .....
Pindone Bait Feed:	Saturday 02 Sept	9.00am	Yes / No	Number .....
Pindone Bait Feed:	Saturday 07 Oct	9.00am	Yes / No	Number .....

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.

Interested to "Adopt a Track"                      Yes              No

Please return this slip to: Kaharoa Kokako              Trust, PO Box 78, Ngongotaha.