



Kaharoa Kokako Trust

December 2009, 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.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the translocation and pest control operations this year

Kaharoa kokako head south

The Trust enjoyed a major milestone this year with the translocation of seven kokako from Kaharoa to Secretary Island in Fiordland. A specialised catching team from the Department of Conservation (DoC) worked in Kaharoa for several weeks over winter, with the help of volunteers, to capture the birds using mist nets set high in the tree canopy.

The kokako were escorted during the 6 hour journey from Rotorua to Secretary Island by Trust ecologist, Carmel Richardson, Department of Conservation staff and representatives of local iwi, Ngati Rangiwewehi.

The establishment of kokako on Secretary Island is significant because it marks the return of kokako to the South Island, where they had previously become extinct. The Trust is excited to be contributing to national kokako recovery by boosting populations in other protected areas. As part of the nationwide Kokako Recovery Plan, DoC aims to increase the population of kokako to 1000 pairs by 2020. There are currently only 681 known pairs of kokako in existence.

Our success has seen the local kokako population grow so much that we have plenty of birds to spare (thanks to our volunteers and supporters!).

Right: Carmel Richardson and Trust chair Anne Managh check in the birds at Rotorua Airport for their flight to Queenstown. The birds were transported on a passenger flight in specially made boxes funded by the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust.



Above: View from the helicopter, heading to Secretary Island in Southern Fiordland.



Left: The kokako receive a blessing on arrival at their new home on Secretary Island. They will be joined by several kokako from other areas in the North Island.



Above: The kokako are fed before their release back into the wild.



Care still needed in the Kaharoa Conservation Area

All bait stations were emptied of remaining toxins on 15 November, 2009. Although the risks associated with this operation are very low, you are urged not to let dogs scavenge any possum or rat carcasses lying around the block. The presence of warning signs indicates that pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals. If you suspect your pet has eaten poisoned carcasses, consult your vet immediately for treatment. Antidotes for pindone poisoning are available.

The caution period is likely to last until June 2010. If you have any further questions, please contact Margaret Horner on 07 332 2684 or look on our website for more information: www.kokako.org.nz

Pest Control

Thanks to the efforts of our hard-working volunteers, the kokako at Kaharoa are safe for another nesting season. Over 30 volunteers enabled us to apply two toxin applications using pindone and Feratox (encapsulated cyanide) during September.

This year, the Trust also enabled pest control to be conducted on private land adjacent to the Kaharoa Conservation Area. This work has been generously funded by DoC's Biodiversity Condition Fund. Watch out for more news on this extended pest control operation in our next newsletter.

Operational support

The Trust extends an enormous vote of thanks to the many sponsors who supported our pest control this year:

Environment Bay of Plenty provided baits, replacement bait stations, protective clothing, and quad bikes. They also supplied operational supervision, expertise and sausages for the barbeque.

The **Department of Conservation** supplied technical advice, Signage, pest monitoring and a Biodiversity Condition Fund grant.

First Sovereign Trust funded local contractor Paul Chapman to do bait application in the rugged East Onaia block.

Epro Ltd, a pest control company based in Taupo, is disposing of our left-over toxins.

We also thank Bob Adler – Rural Delivery, for his kind assistance with distributing our public notices.



Kokako Nest Egg on target

Our Kokako Nest Egg fund is growing steadily thanks to donations received from our many supporters. Now sitting at over \$32,000, our fund is on target for the second year. We are very grateful to all those who have contributed so far, including generous personal donations from Trust Chair, Anne Managh, and businessman, Sir Michael Fay.

The Kokako Nest Egg is an investment fund set up by the Trust to enable financial self-sufficiency for future pest control. The Trust will continue with our various fund-raising activities to continue building the Nest Egg. Our aim is to raise \$150,000 and we thank everyone who is helping us to achieve this target.

Well known botanist, Dr David Bellamy, was a welcome visitor to Kaharoa Forest this year. He is pictured 2nd from left with Steve Brightwell (DoC), Carmel Richardson and Anne Managh.



The Kaharoa Kokako Trust wishes all our valued friends and supporters a Happy Christmas and restful holiday.

www.kokako.org.nz