



Kaharoa Kokako Trust

December 2010, Newsletter

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This newsletter summarises the Trust's activities aimed at ensuring the long-term protection and survival of kokako at Kaharoa.

Thanks for your support

We wish to thank all of our volunteers who have helped out with work days this year, and all those who have generously supported us with funding or donations. The Trust has enjoyed a very successful year in 2010. We couldn't have done it without you!

Kokako Translocations

The Kaharoa Kokako Trust was delighted to see the return of kokako to Otanewainuku this year. The Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust translocated two kokako from Kaharoa and eight from Rotoehu Forest. More birds will be captured this summer to meet their target of 10 pairs for establishing a viable population.

Mount Otanewainuku is a prominent high point between Rotorua and Tauranga that is clearly visible from Kaharoa. The beautiful old-growth forest on the flanks of this mountain used to be home to kokako until the 1980s when the last remaining birds were taken to Little Barrier Island. Recent pest control efforts by the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust have made it possible to restore kokako into their forest. As a fellow community group working to protect New Zealand's precious environment, we applaud the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust for their success with this demanding operation. The photo above shows Carmel Richardson and Dave Wills (Otanewainuku) feeding a kokako before its release.



Our efforts at Kaharoa over the years have enabled us to grow a healthy population of kokako so it is pleasing that we can contribute to the national kokako recovery effort by supplying birds for other areas. A further two kokako were captured and transferred to Mount Bruce in the Wairarapa this Spring where they will help to bolster an existing population.

CSL training

The use of toxic baits is an integral part of our pest control operation at Kaharoa. Increasingly strict regulations mean that volunteers must have a Controlled Substance Licence (CSL) to handle many of the toxins we use. The Trust has about 20 licensed volunteers that we can call on when we are using restricted poisons, such as 1080, cyanide and pindone.

In September we ran a training course for a further eight volunteers to obtain their CSL. These volunteers were Margaret Horner, Tom Davies, Sue Williams, Ralph Price, Ian Rogerson, Roz Perry, Steve Wiedmer and Winston Fleming. This training is relatively expensive, so we are extremely grateful to The Southern Trust, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Department of Conservation for making it possible. Thanks also to Scion for providing the venue and AsureQuality for providing the training.



The Trust is committed to making sure all pesticides are used in a way that is safe to people and to the environment so we appreciate volunteers giving up their valuable time to complete the training.

KKT hosts special visitors

Environment Minister Nick Smith was a welcome visitor to Kaharoa this Spring. While passing through Rotorua briefly on other business, he opted to take time out with us in the bush.

After meeting the Minister earlier in the year at the Beehive when he presented us with the Green Ribbon Award, we were pleased to be able to host him on our own turf. He has a strong personal interest in conservation and says kokako are his favourite bird.

Photo shows (from left) Tom Davies (Trustee), Anne Managh (Chair), Greg Corbett (BOP Regional Council), Carmel Richardson (Trustee) and Nick Smith.



The Manawahe Kokako Trust is a group of volunteers dedicated to protecting kokako on private land north of Lake Rotoma. After many years of beavering away in our own patches we decided it was time to get together and compare notes. As a group working on crown land we face different challenges from the Manawahe group, but our pest control operations are very similar and our passion for kokako is the same.

The distinct pockets of kokako that we protect are among the few that remain of a large population that once covered the Bay of Plenty region. We hope that through our collective efforts, kokako will one day be plentiful again.

There's nothing quite like food and kokako to bring people together! Photo shows Margaret Horner (KKT secretary) and Murray Hays (MKT President) sharing brunch at the kokako shelter.

Goat control

Volunteers doing track maintenance and stoat control over the past year have noticed increasing signs of goat damage along the edge of the Onaia Gorge. The rugged terrain in this area made it difficult to control these animals so the Department of Conservation called in the professionals. A team of skilled hunters were able to kill 40 goats, making a significant impact on the feral population.

KKT was pleased to be able to contribute to this operation with funding from First Sovereign Trust.



Kokako Nest Egg on target

Donations continue to feed our Kokako Nest Egg fund, which is now over \$38,000. 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. Donations can be made directly through our website.



The Kaharoa Kokako Trust wishes all our supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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