



Kaharoa Kokako Trust

July 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.

Volunteers required for pest control operation, starting 19 September 2009

KKT Annual Meeting

The Kaharoa Kokako Trust will be holding its AGM on **9 September 2009** followed by a public meeting at St Barnabas Hall in Ngongotaha at 7pm. **All of our volunteers and supporters are welcome to come along so please mark this date in your diary.**

Our guest speaker will be one of the DoC ecologists involved in the translocation operation, so this will be a great opportunity to hear the details of this fascinating programme.

Kokako heading South

A large translocation operation is being planned by the Department of Conservation (DoC) this winter. Up to five pairs of kokako will be captured at Kaharoa and released on Secretary Island down in Fiordland. A further five pairs will be moved from Rotoehu to the same southern location.

This is a significant project by DoC as it marks the return of kokako to the South Island, where they have previously become extinct. The Kaharoa Kokako Trust is excited to be part of this project and we are delighted to be in the position to contribute in meaningful ways to the national recovery of kokako.

A large team of DoC ecologists will be working in the Kaharoa Forest over coming weeks, capturing the birds using mist nets hung in the forest canopy. The birds will be transported to the South Island in specially-constructed boxes provided by the Trust. These boxes, which were built by Unicorn Joinery in Rotorua and sign-written by Trevor Robson signs, were generously funded by the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust. They will be returned to the Trust and used for future translocations.

Pest control planned for September 2009

Planning is now under way for pest control prior to the 2009 kokako nesting season. This year we will be using pindone, which is aimed at controlling rats, and Feratox, aimed at possums. Feratox is an encapsulated cyanide product which can only be handled by volunteers with their controlled substance license. Both toxins will be placed inside the bait stations.

Since this is a relatively new method for delivering the toxins, our pest control operation will be overseen by Environment Bay of Plenty. We are grateful to staff at the Regional Council for helping us to make this pest management option possible.

Work days coming up

Volunteers are required prior to pest control to assist with the establishment of a new bait station network in the area previously occupied by radiata pine trees. These trees were harvested last summer, leaving approximately three hectares for native forest regeneration. We wish to install and maintain a bait station over this area to protect the regenerating forest and provide a pest-control buffer area. This work is planned for some time in August. We will circulate a notice once dates are confirmed.

Work days for the pest control operation are as follows:

- **1st application – 19 September 2009**
- **2nd application (bait station top-up) – 26 September 2009**
- **Toxin removal – 31 October 2009**

Volunteers are required on all three days, particularly if you have a Controlled Substance Licence (CSL). Volunteers without a CSL can provide valuable assistance with pindone application.

If you are available to help, please meet at the Kokako Shelter on Kapukapu Road by 9am on the Saturday mornings. We look forward to seeing you there.

Operational support

The following organisations are providing valuable support for our pest control operation this year:



Adopt-a-track – A note from Graeme Young

“With rodents and possum baiting again this year plus a large number of DOC personnel moving around the bush netting birds for translocation it is important that we get all our tracks easily walkable.

Last Christmas break I walked many of the tracks in Aislabies and Onaia West and upgraded the track markings with pink triangles. It was clear that some tracks get more use and care than others, and this will be for a variety of reasons. For many of you who have a line allocated for general maintenance in our ‘adopt-a-track’ scheme it is some time since this has been reviewed. Some have left the area and others have new commitments which don’t allow them the time to put in to track maintenance several times a year.

It is time for a revamp. For those who are already part of the scheme can you contact me either by email (graeme.young@tenon.co.nz) or phone (07 349 0407 evenings) to confirm your continued interest (I may eventually change the track you have been allocated).

For newcomers, if you are interested, this idea is to give you ‘ownership’ of part of our bush area where you can continue meaningful work without having to wait for a planned Trust workday. Work includes general bush trimming, identification of damage or hazards (usually windblown) and track marking etc. Again contact me if you are keen.”

Vehicle access restricted in Kaharoa Forest

The vehicle access road has been closed at the end of Kapukapu Road to give the track time to settle after pine logging operations in the forest last summer.

New Trust members

The Kaharoa Kokako Trust is delighted to welcome Tom Davies and Peter Williams onto the Trust. Tom is a well-respected Rotorua businessman, and Peter is a long time volunteer for the Trust.

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 \$20,000, the fund remains on target to reach \$150,000. We are very grateful to all those who have contributed to our various fund raising activities over recent months. The Kokako Nest Egg is an investment fund set up by the Trust to enable financial self-sufficiency for future pest control.

Care needed in the Kaharoa Conservation Area this spring

Pindone and Feratox will be present in bait stations from 19 September, 2009. Cats and dogs are risk of secondary poisoning if they are allowed to scavenge possum or rat carcasses. Although all left-over toxins will be removed from the forest in October, some risk will remain until the warning signs are removed.

Dogs are not allowed in the Conservation Area, however if you suspect secondary poisoning by pindone, consult your vet immediately. Treatment is available for this toxin.

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

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