



Kaharoa Kokako Trust

June 2008, 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.

Our next work day is on Saturday 28 June at 9am, meeting at Kapukapu Road

Kokako are on the move!

After 10 years of pest management in the Kaharoa Forest, we recently achieved a major milestone. A walk-through survey of properties adjacent to the Kaharoa Conservation Area has revealed that kokako have now begun to spread into new areas.

This exciting result is a real credit to the many volunteers and funders who have helped us over the years to increase the local kokako population. This population has now grown to such an extent that birds are dispersing outwards and creating territories on neighbouring properties.

The walk-through survey conducted last month by Carmel Richardson and fellow ecologist, Sid Marsh, identified five territorial pairs outside the Conservation Area. These birds have taken up residence in remnant bush on farmland across the Mangorewa Gorge and on forestry land across the Onaia Gorge. Some pairs have also moved south onto reserve land recently acquired by the Department of Conservation near Kapukapu Road. This is a tremendous result that exceeds our expectations.

The next challenge for the Trust is to work with property owners who are keen to protect the kokako on their land. We are very pleased that our neighbours have expressed willingness to step up their pest control to enable the kokako to breed and, hopefully, spread even further afield.

The walk-through survey was kindly funded by the Biodiversity Advisory Fund and PF Olsen and Company Ltd who represent the forest owners, OTPP NZ Forest Investments Ltd. One of the bird pairs found on neighbouring land is living in a native bush reserve adjacent to their forest.

Pest control:

We are now gearing up to apply 1080 in our bait stations throughout the Kaharoa Conservation Area. In previous years 1080 has proven to be the most effective toxin against possums and rats. This 1080 operation will involve two pre-feeds, with the toxins being applied a week later. We intend to begin pre-feeding in September. The cost of our pest control operation will be covered this year by Environment Bay of Plenty as part of our Care Group funding.

We have been fortunate to win funding from the Lion Foundation to pay for a contractor to work in the Onaia East block. Those of you who have battled the terrain in this area will know how difficult it is, especially when carrying a lot of heavy bait, so we are grateful for this extra support.

Next volunteer work day:

The next volunteer work day is scheduled for Saturday, 28 June at the KKT shelter on Kapukapu Road, starting at 9am. This will involve track maintenance along the main vehicle track, so bring large tools: hedge-trimmers and slashers. Thanks to the help of many volunteers on previous workdays, this is the last track left to clear. Once pest control starts in a couple of months, we can get our vehicles through without scratching. *Please note: There will be no work day on Sunday.*

If we decide to cancel workdays due to bad weather, cancellations will be notified on our local radio stations – Classic Hits and More FM.

If you have any questions about the work day, please let Graeme Young know:

Contact details: 332-2626 or graeme.young@tenon.co.nz

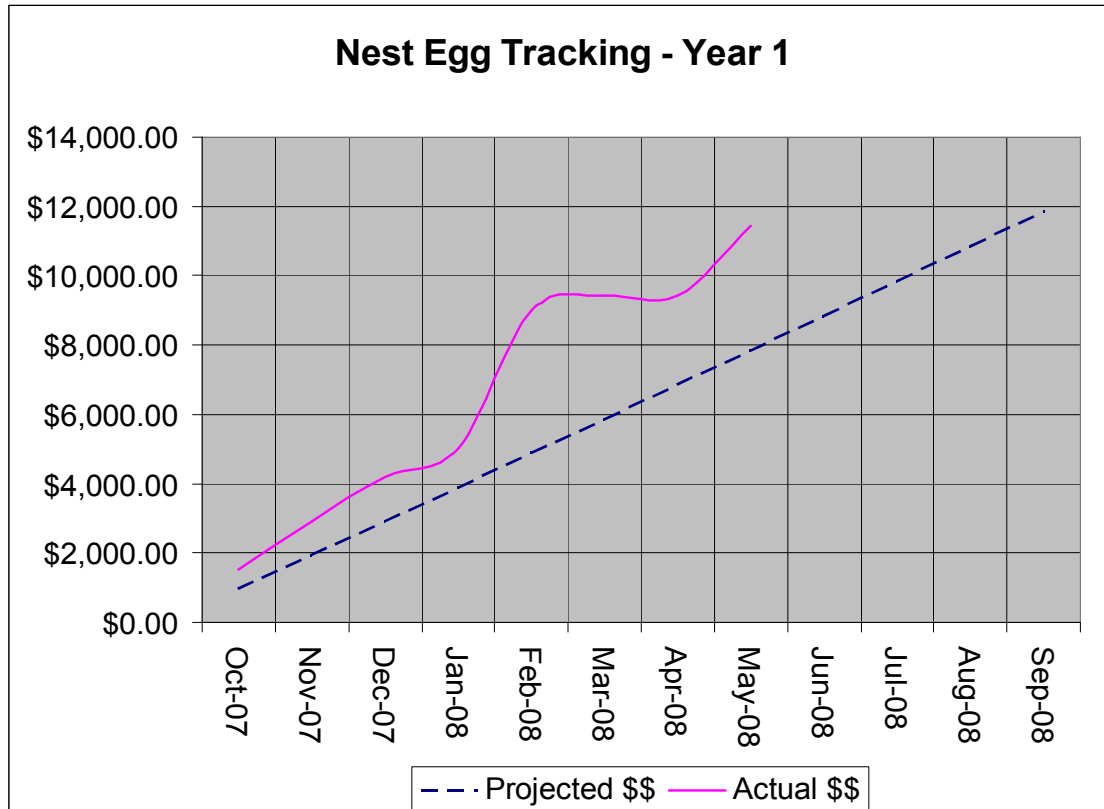
Track Clearing - Thank you all:

A big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped out with track maintenance over the past few months. We are now in a good position to conduct pest control prior to the 2008 nesting season.

Kokako Nest Egg:

The Kokako Nest Egg is an investment fund set up by the Trust to enable financial self-sufficiency for future pest control. We are delighted by the generous response of people in the community who have made donations to our Nest Egg. Within our first year of setting up the fund, we are already well ahead of our target, having achieved a total of \$12 000.

We are very grateful to all those who have contributed so far. The Trust will continue with our various fund-raising activities to continue building the Nest Egg. Our aim is to raise \$150 000 within 10 years.



Vegemin:

A fertiliser product known as Vegemin has been donated by Essential Nutrition Ltd (Nigel van Dorrser). Vegemin contains trace elements to ensure healthy vegetables in your garden. Each 2.5kg bag covers about 10 sq m of garden.

The cost of Vegemin is \$9.00 for 1 Bag or \$15.00 for 2 Bags. The proceeds of all bags sold will go to the Kokako Nest Egg fund. We sold several bags at the Rotorua Craft Market in May, where we set up the KKT gazebo and display and attracted lots of public interest. If you would like to purchase some VEGEMIN, please contact Sue and Jaap van Dorrser on 332-3860.

Four wheeler:

In our last newsletter we mentioned that the Department of Conservation had kindly gifted a quad bike to the Trust. In fact, this is a loan arrangement only, with the quad bike still being owned by DoC. It is available for our use when we need it, for which the Trust is very grateful.

Members/Volunteers Contacts:

If you have an email address and you would be happy to receive communication electronically, please let us know. Send an email to our Trust Secretary Anne Managh at manacre@clear.net.nz including your name address and telephone number. We like to keep in regular touch with all our members and volunteers, so email can help to save on postage costs.

Your interest in the Kaharoa Kokako Trust is valued, and we would like to keep you informed of our activities in the way that best suits you!

www.kokako.org.nz