



Kaharoa Kokako Trust

June 2011, 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.

Work days coming up

Our next work days are 18 June, 30 July and 24 September. Notices will be sent to volunteers by email prior to these dates.

In addition, there are a few tracks that require new "owners" to keep up their maintenance. If you'd like to adopt a track, please contact Graeme Young at graeme.young@tenon.co.nz – we have options for different fitness levels.

Blacktop Construction delivers heaps of support

Blacktop Construction has made a major contribution towards improving access into Kaharoa Forest. The main road into the Aislabies block (OMD), which has been deteriorating in recent years, has now been upgraded.



The Department of Conservation enlisted a roading contractor to undertake the work and Auckland-based Blacktop Construction kindly donated all the metal required for the project. The gravel they supplied is worth over \$5000. The Trust is thrilled with this generous donation. The improvements of the road by DOC with the assistance of Blacktop have made access to the forest much easier and safer.

The business of protecting endangered species extends well beyond pest control. Track maintenance and translocations are also important operations for the Trust. Without good access, all of this work becomes extremely difficult. Fortunately for us, Blacktop was happy to help keep our main road drivable.

Simon Everett, CEO for Blacktop Construction, says his company values a healthy and sustainable environment. They select a number of environmental projects to support every year that contribute towards wider social, economic and conservation goals. KKT is pleased to be one of their recipients.



The Trust extends a big thank you to Blacktop Construction and DOC for enabling us to continue our work without getting bogged down on bad roads. Access will be restricted over winter to give the surface time to settle.





KKT creates kokako presence at Kaharoa School

Support from the Kaharoa community has always been an integral part of our success as a Trust. At the heart of our community is Kaharoa School. At the school's invitation, the Trust is constructing a "kokako display" that will help to raise awareness among students of the work that we do.

The centrepiece of the display, located in their newly opened school hall, the Kokako Centre, is a stylised tree holding up a giant kokako nest (pictured at left). The tree was constructed by Kaharoa parent Mike Cox, and trustee John Coleman. The next step is to build a nest out of branches collected by the children.

The Trust is hugely grateful to everyone who is helping with this ambitious project, and to the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust for supplying funds. *Watch this space for updates on progress!*



Kokako gets new lease on life

When birds are captured for translocation to different areas, there are risks involved. Despite the very best care taken by experienced handlers, some birds don't survive. In many cases, this is because the bird was already sick.

During the process of catching kokako for translocation to Otanewainuku last year, one bird didn't make it. This is always a cause for great sadness in the team, so the Kaharoa Kokako Trust was keen to give the bird an extended life. The Department of Conservation granted permission for us to taxidermy the kokako for educational purposes.

The taxidermy and mounting was kindly paid for by trustees Graeme Young and Margaret Horner (pictured at right with the bird). The kokako will be on permanent display at Kaharoa School (see above). The taxidermy was done by Noel Hyde of Rotorua.



Hone your bird watching skills

Forest & Bird, Landcare Trust and DOC are encouraging people to participate in the 5th annual Garden Bird Survey which is coming up soon (25 June - 3 July). This project involves one hour observing the birds in your garden, park or school anytime during that week.

KKT's ecologist, Carmel Richardson, says this exercise is a great way to develop bird observation and identification skills. For more information see the F&B website www.forestandbird.org.nz

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