



Kaharoa Kokako Trust

November 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.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with our 1080 pest control operation

Kaharoa safe for kokako chicks

Thanks to the pest control efforts of our hard-working volunteers and contractors, the Kaharoa Conservation Area is a safe place for kokako pairs to fledge their next generation of chicks. This pest control operation represents an important milestone for the Trust, because it is the first time we have been fully responsible for managing the process ourselves. Over 40 volunteers enabled us to conduct two ground-based pre-feeds and a 1080 application through September and October. This operation has allowed the kokako to enter their nesting season with minimum predation from possums and rats.

Care still needed in the Kaharoa Conservation Area

All bait stations were emptied of remaining 1080 pellets on 11 October, 2008. However, the risk of secondary poisoning remains within the forest. Dogs are particularly at risk through scavenging possum or rat carcasses so they must not be taken into the Conservation Area at this time. If it is necessary for you to bring dogs near the area, keep them on a lead or use a muzzle for their protection. This risk will remain until the warning signs are removed.

The caution period is likely to last until February 2009. If you have any further questions, please contact Anne Managh on 07 345 9952 or look on our website for more information: www.kokako.org.nz



Above: Greg Corbett (Environment Bay of Plenty) heads the 1080 briefing as Peter Williams and John Coleman listen on. Volunteers at this briefing were serenaded by a juvenile kokako in the trees above.

Upper left: Hugh Caulton and John Brinkler.

Lower left: Greg and Brody Brown enjoy lunch at John Paterson's bistro.

Below: Laurence Kirk and Ralph Price were among the dedicated volunteers who attended all our work days.



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 valuable advice, expertise and sausages for the barbeque.

The **Department of Conservation** supplied technical advice, quad bike, signage and pest monitoring.

The **Lion Foundation** and **First Sovereign Trust** funded Wildlife Contracting Ltd to do track maintenance and bait application in the rugged East Onaia block – saving our volunteers from weeks of back-breaking work.

Epro Ltd, a pest control company based in Taupo, disposed of our left-over toxins, saving us considerable expense.

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



Above: Newly qualified volunteer, Margaret Dick, fills bait station with 1080.

Safe handling of toxins

Regulations concerned with handling toxins become tighter all the time. For this reason, we wish to acknowledge those volunteers who obtained their Controlled Substances Licence (CSL) over the past year. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would not have enough suitably qualified people to conduct our operations. Our thanks also goes to the Department of Conservation for sponsoring this training.

More CSL training will be offered next year. If you are a regular volunteer who is interested in obtaining a licence, please contact Graeme Young on 332-2626 or graeme.young@tenon.co.nz.

Trust AGM

Following our AGM in August, the Trust invited members to a public meeting at St Barnabas Church in Ngongotaha. We were joined by many of our volunteers and several new faces from the community. Greg Corbett from Environment Bay of Plenty gave an interesting talk that compared 1080 with other toxins and allayed fears frequently overstated by the media.

At the AGM, the Trust appointed Anne Managh as our new Chair, and Margaret Richardson as secretary. We are pleased to welcome Stephen Hall and Guy Irwin onto the Trust committee, which still includes long-time members John Paterson, Carmel Richardson, John Coleman and Graeme Young.

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 \$12,000, the fund is on target for the first year. We are very grateful to all those who have contributed so far. 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 within 10 years.

Conservation Minister visits Kaharoa

Trust members hosted a special bush walk and barbeque to celebrate 10 years of kokako success. Guests included Minister of Conservation, Steve Chadwick, DOC conservator, Henry Weston and Environment BOP Chief Executive, Bill Bayfield.

Photo: Hon Steve Chadwick with Jack and Paddy Weston

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