



Kaharoa Kokako Trust

Autumn Newsletter - May 2015

www.kokako.org.nz

This newsletter summarises recent Trust activities aimed at ensuring the long-term protection and survival of kōkako at Kaharoa.

Support from Integral

The software solutions company, Integral Limited, have kindly provided support to the Trust through the hosting of our website and maintenance of our domain name. The Trust appreciates this commitment and means our website is in good hands and we can continue to get the best benefit we can from using the web as communication tool.

Check out the scope of Integral's work on their website below.



<http://www.integral.co.nz/>

Supporters board – Kapukapu shelter



The Trust thought it was a good opportunity to acknowledge the key organisations which support us in our activities. We have erected a supporters board at the shelter so take a look the next time you are up at the block.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank our many individual supporters (volunteers and contributors) which make our Trust and the work we do possible

Facebook



Our facebook page has not had much attention in recent times however we now have a new administrator – Sky Smale – who has kindly volunteered to administer and keep the page current. Look out for new updates and information as Sky begins updates in May.

Upcoming priorities for the Trust

The Kaharoa Kokako Trust's focus for 2015 is undertaking a full census of kōkako in the Kaharoa Conservation Area. The Trust is excited about this project as a full census has not been completed since 2006 when there were approximately 64 territorial pairs. This was an increase from 12 known pairs in 1997 when the Trust began its work in the Kaharoa Conservation Area.

The census is a difficult job as it requires tracking birds to confirm they are territorial pairs across random transects on variable and steep terrain. You quickly discover that a straight line as the crow flies is a lot

of hard meandering and up-and-down work on the forest floor. We will likely have three experienced contractors working in the block gathering data along with support from Department of Conservation staff.

A well maintained track network helps to make the job easier for the contractors who will complete the survey. Our volunteers will be focused on clearing the spring and summer growth and any wind falls from the tracks over the next 4-6 months.

Once the census is complete, the Trust will be undertaking a review of past animal control operations and success of these operations at increasing the kōkako population at Kaharoa. We will be looking at “infilling” some of the bait line networks to plug some of the holes in the animal pest control delivery network. We will also begin planning for the 2016 and 2017 animal pest control operations based on the outcome of this review.

Although the census will be contracted to external providers there is much work to be done to prepare for both the census, infilling and animal pest control. If you are able to help with work either via workdays, adopt a track or any other activities please make contact via our website if you are not currently on our network of contacts.

Workdays

The Trust is back in the swing of workdays this year as we move into a busy 2-3 years of work at Kaharoa. Our priority focus is maintenance of the access track and bait lines in preparation for a full Kōkako census in August/September 2015 and animal pest control in 2016 and 2017.

The first workday of the year was held on March 28th 2015. There was a small but enthusiastic turnout of volunteers, a big thank you to those who helped, and the many who did reply unable to attend for various reasons, and who indicated support/interest in assisting in future workdays.

The highlight of our morning at Kaharoa was that all parties heard kōkako song while clearing tracks. Dale Williams was fortunate to see a pair of Kōkako with a juvenile in tow in Onaia West. This is good news as the birds obviously continue to breed successfully even in times when there is no pest control.

Unfortunately the 18th April workday had to be cancelled due to wet weather.

Our next workday will be on Sunday 24th May. This will be at Onaia East again, clearing the tracks in this area. Details will be emailed closer to the time.

Other scheduled workdays for the first half of the year to pop in your diary are 27 June 2015 and 18 July 2015. All workdays will run from 9am – midday (ish). The Trust will send out a reminder prior to each workday. These emails will include the type of work planned and any equipment required as well as where to meet.

Other bits and bobs

- John Paterson and Johlene Kelly have recently stood down from the Trust. John was on the Trust from inception and has been an enormous contributor to the success of the organisation. Johlene also added much value during her two years as a Trustee. We thank them both for their assistance.
- We are currently redesigning our brochure with a new look to be more consistent with our website. We have enlisted the help of a graphic design graduate from Rotorua who is currently working on the layout and text. The brochure should be printed by July and will contain this wonderful drawing by our designer.

