



Kaharoa Kokako Trust



About the Trust

The Kaharoa Kokako Trust was formed in 1997 by a group of local residents who wanted to save the few kokako that remained in the area.

By reducing the number of possums and ship rats in the Kaharoa Conservation Area, the Trust has enabled kokako numbers to grow.

As a result of the Trust's ever-expanding activities, the Kaharoa Conservation Area is now home to one of the largest and most significant kokako populations in New Zealand.

Background

The Kaharoa Conservation Area is a rugged piece of Crown land bounded by steep gorges and covered in native bush. It is home to a remnant population of kokako. The Kaharoa Kokako Trust works closely with the Department of Conservation to protect these endangered birds.

Trust Activities

Pest control carried out prior to the nesting season enables kokako to breed successfully. The main targets of pest control are possums and shiprats.

Toxic baits are used to control these animal pests, which they eat from bait stations. The Trust has established a large track network with around 550 bait stations located throughout the forest.

Up to 60 dedicated volunteers provide the manpower to maintain these tracks and fill the bait stations.

Stoats are also recognised as an important pest and these animals are trapped.

The Trust conducts regular monitoring to determine the size and spread of the kokako population. The results of monitoring shows that the kokako population has increased significantly since the Trust began pest control in 1997.

Where is the Kaharoa Conservation Area?



The Kaharoa Conservation Area is about 30 km by road, north-east of Rotorua City. Access is gained off the end of Kapukapu Road via Kaharoa Road, which runs off the Tauranga Direct Road.

Kaharoa contributes to the national recovery of kokako nationwide by providing birds for translocation to other protected areas. To help save kokako at Kaharoa, contact the Kaharoa Kokako Trust by phoning Sue Williams on (07) 332 3042.



Mission: To ensure the long-term protection and survival of kokako at Kaharoa through effective community leadership.

By improving the environment for kokako, we are improving the environment in general.

Who is on the Trust?

- Sue Williams (chair)
- Emma Bean (secretary)
- Peter Williams
- Carmel Richardson
- Graeme Young
- Dale Williams
- Roz Hensman

The work of the Kaharoa Kokako Trust is made possible through the help of our many volunteers and the generous support of funding providers, including our major sponsors:

Department of Conservation
PF Olsen
Bay of Plenty Regional Council
Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust
Integral

How can you help?

- Volunteer for work days (pest control and track maintenance).
- Adopt a track (track maintenance).
- Cash donations.

Our Success

The increasing number of kokako at Kaharoa is living proof of how the community can play a vital role in enhancing the environment.

In 1997 there were 26 kokako counted in the Kaharoa Forest, and the numbers were decreasing due to lack of pest control. When an adult census was conducted in 2015 there were 173 birds, comprising 77 breeding pairs and 19 territorial single birds.

On the strength of these results, the Kaharoa Kokako Trust is widely recognised as a successful model for other community conservation groups to follow.

The Trust has won several awards in recognition of its achievements.

Most importantly, the Kaharoa kokako population is now the fourth largest in New Zealand. It is seen as an important source of birds for restoring kokako numbers in other protected areas as part of a national kokako recovery programme.

About the Kaharoa Conservation Area

The Kaharoa Conservation Area is comprised of three distinct blocks: Kaharoa Forest, Onaia West and Onaia East. The total area under management is 819ha. The mandate for managing this public land lies with the Department of Conservation. The Kaharoa Kokako Trust recognises the role of community groups to help save endangered species.

