



Kaharoa Kokako Trust

Spring Newsletter - October 2014

www.kokako.org.nz

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

PF Olsen continued sponsorship

PF Olsen has been a strong supporter of the Kaharoa Kokako Trust (KKT) in recent years and has provided valuable sponsorship to the Trust since 2012. KKT is very excited that PF Olsen has just confirmed this sponsorship is set to continue for another 3 years extending the relationship between the two organisations. The funding provided by PF Olsen contributes to the Trust's "Kōkako Nest Egg".

The work of the Trust aligns well with PF Olsen's management of the surrounding exotic forest and there are synergies in each organisations work. In recent years, PF Olsen provided expertise and manpower to control wildling pines over 50 hectares within the Kaharoa Conservation Area which has greatly reduced the pine issue within the Kōkako management area.

As well as pine control, PF Olsen has provided access for KKT through their forests into the Conservation Area during animal pest control operations. KKT's control of animal pests within the conservation area (goats, possum and rats) compliments similar work undertaken within PF Olsen managed forests which lie adjacent to the Conservation Area. The net result is a greatly reduced animal pest presence which benefits the objectives of both organisations.

Great synergies have been developed between both organisations which have focused on protecting and enhancing Kōkako in the Kaharoa area. In 2008 a survey undertaken by KKT showed a pair of kokako living in a patch of bush in forest estate managed by PF Olsen.

KKT looks forward to continuing their work with PF Olsen for the coming 3 years and greatly appreciate this support.



Successful funding bid

The Trust has been successful in its funding application to the 2014 Community Conservation partnership fund run through the Department of Conservation. A total of \$46,200 of funding has been granted to the Trust to assist in the following tasks over the next 3 years:

- A full Kōkako census in the managed area in 2015
- Infilling of the existing bait station network with additional bait stations to maximise our animal pest operations
- Assistance with toxin and contractor costs for planned animal pest control operations in 2016 and 2017.

In addition to these tasks, the Trust will also undertake a review of the pest management undertaken to date and look for any improvements we can make to maximise our efforts during pest control years. The full Kōkako census is also critical to indicate the current population within the managed area. We will keep you posted on progress with planning for these activities and how you could be involved. The Trust is grateful to the fund for this support.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Changes in the Trust

Anne Managh has stood down as KKT Chair at our recent KKT AGM. Anne has given wonderful leadership as Chair to the Trust since 2008 as well as having been a Trustee since the Trust's inception in 1997. Anne will continue on as a Trustee in the meantime and support our new Chair to settle into the role.

We welcome Sue Williams as our new Chair and are pleased to have Sue on board. Sue lives near Kaharoa and has been actively involved with the Trust in many ways since the Trust began in 1997. Roz Hensman has also joined KKT as a new Trustee and has accepted the role of Secretary. We welcome both Sue and Roz and look forward to working with them both during exciting times for the Trust.

Graeme Young has recently resigned as a Trustee. Graeme has been a driving force in the Trust and although no longer a Trustee we look forward to many more cups of tea at the shelter with Graeme. Tom Davies has also stood down from the Trust at the end of his Trustee term and will also be continuing to assist in the capacity as a volunteer. Thank you to both Graeme and Tom for their contributions to the Trust and their ongoing support.

Conservation week activities

The spotlight is on Kōkako for Conservation week this year as part of the focus of activities in the Rotorua District. The Trust will be part of displays at the Rotorua Library and listen out for Trustee Tim Day on the MoreFM breakfast programme talking about KKT. Listen in or come along and support us if you can.



<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/events-and-awards/conservation-week/>

Animal Pest control

Although we have no animal pest control toxin operation this year, there has been some activity in the area. DOC had a contract goat hunter in the Conservation Area at the beginning of July. 16 goats were shot in one day in the general Onaia west area. More goat control is planned by the Department in May/June 2015. This ongoing control helps keep goat numbers in check in the block. We are currently collating stoat trap catch data and hope to be able to report on results sometime soon.

Other bits and pieces

- The Trust is preparing to contract Bill Rigney to undertake some maintenance on the main access track. This work will fix some of the “well worn” areas and improve water management so the track remains accessible and in good condition for all our planned work over the next few years. Funding for this has been provided by the Department of Conservation – thank you.
- There will be no more workdays for 2014 as we focus on preparing and planning for a busy 2015-2017. We will send out key dates and activities for volunteers in early 2015.
- We will be updating our volunteer and support database soon so you may be contacted to confirm or update your details in the near future.

Kōkako Nest Egg on target

The Kōkako Nest Egg is an investment fund set up by the Trust to enable financial self-sufficiency for future pest control. The fund now sits at over \$100,000 and is growing steadily.

If you wish to make a donation post us a cheque or use your credit card through our website. We are a charitable trust so your donation will be tax deductible