



Kaharoa Kokako Trust

Autumn-Winter Newsletter – June 2016

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

Celebrating our Kokako Census Results

With 173 territorial kokako found in the Spring 2015 census, we can rightly feel pleased that we have a healthy population of kokako in the Kaharoa Conservation Area.

To help celebrate this good result and as part of Kaharoa Schools focus on art this term, children from Kaharoa have been making kokako masks. Sky Smale and Carmel Richardson ran a mask making workshop with Shannon Napier's class, with a very pleasing outcome (see pic below). Shannon's class are now showing the rest of the school how to make them, and the result will be a healthy flock of approx. 200 kokako! KKT will arrange for a photo shoot and newspaper article.



Kaharoa School class (Totara Team)
Flocked together beneath the Kokako Nest sculpture.
Photo by Shannon Napier



Keep your eyes peeled for the new \$50 note!
Once again featuring the kokako (*Callaeas wilsoni*)
and the blue mushroom (*Entoloma hochstetteri*)

Trust Members

- Sue Williams (Chairperson)
- Emma Bean (Secretary)
- Peter Williams (Treasurer)
- Carmel Richardson
- Dale Williams
- Graeme Young
- Roz Hensmen

For more information, visit our website:

www.kokako.org.nz

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Recent happenings:

Fundraising Day

In February a Fundraising day was held in memory of Anne Managh and Margaret Horner, KK Trustees who set up the Nest Egg Fund to help ensure the future of kokako in Kaharoa Conservation Area.

This event was thought-up and organised by Sue van Dorsser, hosted by Sue and Jaap van Dorsser on their property, helped out by many and well supported. People arrived at the van Dorsser's for morning tea, were then taken on a guided walk, they then enjoyed a beautiful wholesome lunch while relaxing, mingling and listening to some speakers. Delicious coffee was kindly supplied by Kokako Coffee, while Fat Dog Café provided some of the food for the morning tea. A number of raffles were also held at this time, with help and contributions from the Rotorua Bridge club and other lovely locals.

Approximately \$14,000.00 was made from this Fundraising effort which has been invested with the Geyserland Community foundation (<http://geysercf.org.nz>) This event was a huge success!

A **big** thank you to Sue van Dorsser for making it happen.

The Nature Conservancy

In early May KKT hosted a visit by some members of The Nature Conservancy organisation. The Nature Conservancy is a leading international conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people.

Two representatives were in NZ to look around, experience NZ and check out some of NZs successful conservation projects. The Nature Conservancy organisation are in the process of setting up a NZ office based in Wellington. To find out more about The Nature Conservancy visit <http://www.nature.org>



Carmel Richardson in Kaharoa Forest with Michael Looker and Lynne Zeitlin-Hale, representatives from The Nature Conservancy organisation. Photo by Sue Williams.

Logging of pines in Kaharoa

Logging of the Tombleson Family's pine trees has been completed and the road re-instated. Access into the Onaia West and the Aislabie Blocks will now be easier. It is not known at this stage what plans there are for this block of land, but the KKT would like to thank the Tombleson family for keeping us informed during logging process and enabling access when needed.



Kawa kawa (*Macropiper excelsum*) in fruit by the Kaharoa Shelter. Photo by Sky Smale.

Bay of Plenty Community Group Kokako Hui

On the 18th of May local DOC held an evening BBQ and meeting for this regions' community groups working with kokako – such as Nga Puke-ariki, Whirinaki, Manawahe, Rotoehu, Mokaihaha, Kaharoa and Otanewainuku. Not only was there a good turnout of people but there was plenty of interesting discussion too. Community groups presented updates on their projects and DOC staff gave presentations on a wide range of subjects including:

- The structure changes in DOC
- An update from the Kokako Specialist Group
- DOC advocacy, resources and support
- Professional management agreements with community groups
- Overview of kokako populations in the region
- Planning work and how resources can be managed.

Everyone seemed to agree that the meeting was valuable and that community groups and DOC could achieve more by working together as part of one integrated Regional Kokako Group, under the National Kokako Recovery umbrella. Especially as this region has more community groups involved with managing forests for kokako survival than any other region.

What's coming up?

Kokako Translocation

We know that the Kaharoa kokako population is in good health after the 2015 census found a total of 173 territorial kokako, comprising 77 pair and 19 single territory holding birds. As Kaharoa kokako are in such good numbers the Otanewainuku translocation, which was started in 2010-11, can be completed with birds being taken from Kaharoa. In 2010-11, 19 kokako were caught and released into Otanewainuku Forest from Rotoehu and Kaharoa Forests, most of these birds have settled into their new forest, have paired and are breeding. The Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust plans to catch 10 birds from Kaharoa in the first few weeks of August to complete their translocation. These birds will be released directly into Otanewainuku Forest to join the previously released birds.

Hans Prendergast and Dave Edwards of OKT recently met with KK Trustees at Kaharoa to talk through translocation planning. Both Kaharoa and Oropi Schools will be involved with this translocation in some way.

2016 Pest Control Operation

It's that time again! If we wish to continue saving the Kaharoa Conservation Area - with all the diverse native animals and plants that live there, including kokako - we need to start the 2 year bait-station based pest control pulse, after 2 years of no pest control.

This pest operation is due to start in September with 2 pre-feeds of non-toxic followed by toxic baits in the approx. 550 bait stations in the Kaharoa Conservation Area. The toxin 1080 (Sodium fluoroacetate) will be used in most of the bait stations, with pindone and cyanide used in some areas.

We will need volunteers to help with this operation – please get in touch if you're keen!

We're looking for volunteers to help with the non-toxic part of the operation – including helping to bag up the pre-feed, as well as distributing it into the forest. For the toxin baiting we will need volunteers who hold a current CSL (Controlled Substance licence – for 1080) and we'll also need plenty of volunteers without a CSL to pair up with CSL holders to help carry the toxin in.

Workdays

Workdays are being held to get our vehicle and walking tracks up to scratch before the kokako translocation in August followed by the pest control operation commencing in early September.

Any help will be greatly appreciated. We generally meet at the Kokako Shelter (end of Kapukapu Road) by 9am on workday mornings. Whichever Trustee is organising the workday will sort out people, work to do, maps etc. We then have a Health & Safety briefing before heading off. Work ends at approx. 12pm, we meet back at the Shelter for sign-out, debrief, hot drink and bite to eat. Remember you'll need to wear appropriate clothing and footwear, bring water, a snack, secateurs, loppers or both and a backpack.

Adopt-a-Trackers are doing a great job. The logging of Tombleson's Pine Block has finished so no big trucks going in and out to worry about now. If you are unable to complete work on your adopted track before August, please let someone in the Trust know, preferably Roz Hensman (phone 07 345 7273 or email kaharoakokako@gmail.com) so the track can be tidied up by others before the translocation and pest operation.

What's On?

26th June – Workday – track work – Kaharoa

17th July – Workday – track work (back-up day 24th July)

7th August – Workday – track work (back-up day 21st Aug)

3rd Sept – Workday – non-toxic pre feed filling of bait stations

17th Sept – Workday – non-toxic pre feed filling of bait stations

24th Sept – Workday – 1080 bait station filling

Kaharoa Kokako Trust is a registered charity - Thank you for your support



Rewarewa (*Knightia excels*) near the Kaharoa Shelter. Photo by Sky Smale