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ISSN 1177-0074

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Newsletter of the Taranaki Kiwi Trust

Volume 4, Number 4

October 2005

New Chair for the TKT

At the AGM in October long serving chairman Barry Hartley stood down from office. Barry was chair of the Trust since its inception in late 2001, and had warned over the last year that he'd be handing over the reigns to another at the 2005 AGM. Citing the lack of time to do everything he has on the go, even in retirement, Barry felt another could take on the job. Luckily for us Barry remains an active trustee of the TKT still, meaning years of institutional knowledge is still on tap.



Barry Hartley (Taranaki Newspapers)

All of us from TKT gratefully acknowledge Barry's good work over the last four years, and take this opportunity to publically thank Barry for his leadership of the TKT over that time. Thanks Barry!

The Trust's new chair is Jan Fogg from Stratford. Jan has served as the Trust's treasurer since she became a trustee in 2003.

Chairperson's Report

Dear friend of the Taranaki Kiwi Trust,
I am moving into the position of chairperson of the Trust, as from the AGM in October 2005. I'd like to acknowledge the great contribution that Barry Hartley has made over the past four years as chairman of TKT. My background: I was in practice as a veterinarian for many years, I am a member of Forest and Bird, and currently a minister of the Methodist Church. I have been treasurer for the Trust for two years.

The Trust board continues to change and be shaped by the personnel who make it up. We are well-guided by the Strategic Plan of the Trust, which has as its goal: *"To promote and facilitate the protection of sustainable populations of kiwi in Taranaki."*

We were pleased with the response to the programme we organised to train dogs in aversion to kiwi; likewise we're very enthusiastic about getting the TSB Community Trust supported Community Kiwi Programme underway. There is much to be done and a short window of opportunity in which to save kiwi in Taranaki.

Thank you all for your ongoing support of the Trust's work.

Jan Fogg



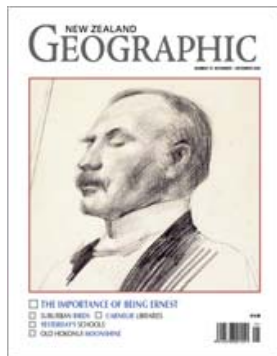
The Taranaki Electricity Trust generously supports the Taranaki Kiwi Trust.

AGM a success!

The recent Taranaki Kiwi Trust on October the 15th was a great success. A good sized crowd gathered in the education room at Puke Ariki to hear "Kiwi Hunter" Sid Marsh speak about the gritty details of dealing with Taranaki Kiwi in our back country as part of the Operation Nest Egg programme run in partnership with the Department of Conservation. Next up a "woe to go" run-down of kiwi egg hatching and chick rearing at Rainbow Spring Kiwi Encounter was given by Claire Travers. Following these two presentations by our excellent guest speakers the TKT's Cees Bevers gave an overview of what has been happening over the last financial year, with an illustrated annual report. This afternoon was a good opportunity for TKT supporters and Friends to learn more about the Trust's work, as well as meet people from the Trust. The Trust also appreciates use of the excellent venue at Puke Ariki.

Taranaki Kiwi in NZ Geographic Magazine

Check out the latest issue of New Zealand Geographic; this features a column article by the TKT's Cees Bevers on "Taranaki kiwi". You'll find a kiwi distribution map and an overview of what's happening in Taranaki in order to help save kiwi here.



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Go to page 24 to find "Taranaki kiwi" article.

For more information on NZ Geographic Magazine visit:

www.nzgeographic.co.nz

TKT making Taranaki history

The efforts of the Taranaki Kiwi Trust to help save kiwi in Taranaki has been deemed to be historical note. Senior Researcher Ron Lambert from Puke Ariki says that "The work of the Taranaki Kiwi Trust is to be included in the newly revamped Taranaki Naturally Gallery in Puke Ariki."

The updated gallery is due to open in late December.

Puke Ariki

Visit: www.pukeariki.com

NPDC backs mountain trapping again

The New Plymouth District Council's Community Partnership Fund has again been able to back the trapping efforts carried out in Egmont National Park to help kiwi chicks hatching in the trapping zone survive.



NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com

Website News: www.taranakikiwi.org.nz

The Taranaki Kiwi Trust aims to regularly update the website with colour photos – click on the "latest news" button to see them, or go to the page with News and Newsletters.

Heard or seen a kiwi or two? – let us know

If you have heard or sighted kiwi, please email, or phone Cees on 06 759 8005.

Dog Kiwi Aversion Training Day

The kiwi aversion training for dogs held in early October proved very successful. Approved avian aversion dog trainer Taranaki Jim Pottinger came to Taranaki to train a total of thirty-two dogs belonging to 21 hunters; both professional and recreational. The voluntary training proved a hit with Taranaki DeerStalker Association members from Central and South Taranaki. Thanks to branch president Brian Mapelsden, a TKT supporter, for getting his guys along. The event proved so popular the Trust is now preparing for more courses next year. Thanks also to volunteer Mark Caskey for helping Jim and the TKT on the day to process the dogs and hunters.



Jim Pottinger and Mark Caskey observe as Mark's professional hunting dog "Snoopy", an Hungarian Vizsla, inspects one of the kiwi carcasses on the training course. Note electric dog trainer collar. (TKT)

Go and see kiwi chicks at Kiwi Encounter!

Ever wondered exactly what's involved with hatching kiwi eggs and rearing the chicks? Well, you go and see for yourself! The world's leading "kiwi hatchery" is open to the public at Kiwi Encounter, Rainbow Springs Rotorua.



To find out more visit:
www.kiwiencounter.co.nz
or call **0800 724 626**

The new facility is purpose built to allow guided tours to pass through without disturbing the whole process, using a unique lay-out of a viewing room surrounded by the incubator and brooder facilities used to hatch hundreds of kiwi chicks from throughout New Zealand. Subtle lighting and double glass minimise disturbance to the kiwi chicks and Kiwi Encounter staff. Kiwi eggs and chicks can be seen, and if you're lucky one may be hatching out when you're there. A top quality nocturnal house is just next door, and allows people of all ages to encounter kiwi close up, with no glass in between the birds and people. There is also an excellent modern display area detailing much of what there is to know about kiwi.

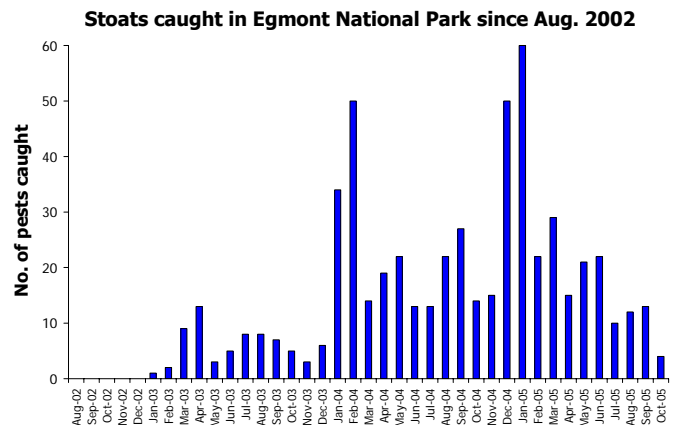
Egmont National Park Kiwi predator trapping

Trapping on the mountain continues to control kiwi predators successfully. Our running tally since late 2002 is:

- 571 stoats
- 29 ferrets
- 98 weasels
- 9 feral cats
- 2,601 rats
- 59 hedgehogs

An impressive total of 3,371 pests!

DOC has added more traps for Blue Duck protection work, and the total pool of traps is now 900 double set trap-boxes along 90km of trap-line, covering 6,000ha. We also now have a total of 78 trap-boxes sponsored off on the Community Trap-line trap boxes. Thanks to those of you who have sponsored these traps.



This project is a partnership between the Taranaki Kiwi Trust and the Department of Conservation. We rely on DOC operational funding, generous support for the NPDC Community Fund and donations from TKT supporters to help protect the remnant kiwi population on the mountain.

Operation Nest Egg chicks hatch!



First egg from Titoko, Purangi. (DOC)

To date a total of eight chicks have hatched. This puts us in very good stead to reach our target of releasing ten chicks this season, as we have second clutch eggs still to go. Unfortunately one had a severe bill deformity and had to be euthanized; the first ever at Rainbow Springs.

We still have another three eggs in the incubators; the remaining four eggs were either infertile, dead embryo's, or died during incubation.

Once the chicks reach over 1kg in weight they are "stoat-proof" and ready for release. We may hold releases as early as January. These may continue until April.



TaKT's first chick, from Aotuhia. (Rainbow Springs)

Still fundraising

The TKT is still actively seeking to raise funds to be able to carry on trapping with Egmont National Park. We're in need of another \$6,000 at the moment to see the trap checking contract work through to the end of this current financial year. If anyone has any potential leads on funding source, the TKT would love to hear from you.

Electronic vs. paper?

If you'd rather have your newsletter electronically, then we can add you to our email list and send you a PDF version of the newsletter. If you don't think you've given us your email address, or have changed your email address, email us at info@taranakikiwi.org.nz and let us know.



Kimball's second chick (Rainbow springs)



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The Newsletter of the Taranaki Kiwi Trust

Get in touch for more information on:

- ◆ Controlling kiwi predators
- ◆ TKT Talks to clubs, interest groups and community organisations.
- ◆ How to arrange a education programme visit to a school

Donations always welcome!

The Trust appreciates financial assistance to get traps checked in Egmont National Park. On average, it costs about \$3 each time a trap-box is checked by trappers. Traps are checked 18 times a year; every 2 weeks from October to April, and every four weeks for the rest of the year. You can help check traps with a tax-deductible donation of \$55, or by donating a new trap-box for predator control protecting Taranaki kiwi, at \$65 each.

Please send your donation with your contact details so we can keep you informed about the projects.

Feel like volunteering?

The Trust would like to hear from you. We will have projects this year which range from deploying traps and locating kiwi, to folding newsletters, entering data or assisting with our education programme.

Please contact us, and give us your details if you wish to be on the mailing list, or visit our website.

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