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Newsletter of the Taranaki Kiwi Trust

January 2006

Chairperson's Report

Dear friends and sponsors,

It's great to be starting the New Year with a kiwi chick release into Egmont National Park. The chicks of course are from eggs sourced in Eastern Taranaki, and will be the first of several releases from the 05/06 breeding season. A big thank you to the many of you who are supporting the provision and maintenance of traps in ENP. We had some concern before the release of the first chicks due to the high stoat-catch count in December in ENP, but it's good to catch them of course! A peak in the catch rate is expected at this time of the year and we hope to see a drop in numbers, indicating we're getting on top of the pests. Fortunately the latest pest count was down a bit, enabling us to safely release the chicks.

At the Trust meeting in January we juggled with the prioritising of tasks and the money available to do what is needed. But we're also very dependent on you, the on-the-ground folks. Big funders enable us to get our dreams off the ground, but it's surprising how often we're searching around for some dollars here, and more dollars there, for a myriad of smaller tasks that keep us out there focused on saving kiwi in Taranaki.

Part of our plan for this year is an update of our website – have you checked it out recently? We'd like to send this newsletter out by email to more of you if possible; if we don't have your email address do zap it off to us.

Thanks for your interest and support; enjoy the newsletter.

Jan Fogg



Murray & Matt Sulzberger about to release Monty into his new burrow. (TKT)

Technical Advisor's Report

I'm competing for space in this newsletter with some great stories!

On pg 2 we have some good photos of "Monty" and "Dawson" being released as part of the BNZKRT ONE programme. This month also marks the launch of our new Community Kiwi Programme, we have over 1,200 traps, funded by the TSB Community Trust to help kiwi on private land. See pg 3.

Cees Bevers

The Taranaki Electricity Trust and TSB Community Trust
generously support the Taranaki Kiwi Trust.

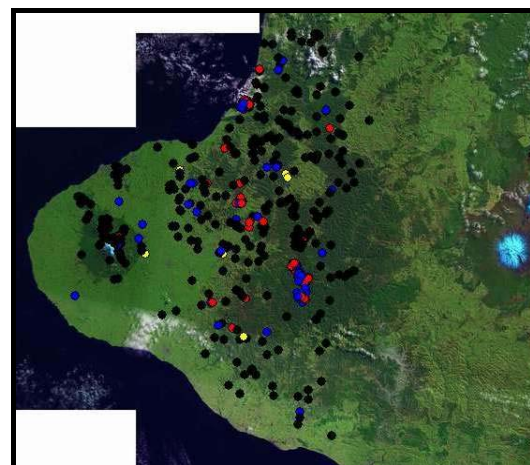


TSB Community Trust 

Distribution of kiwi around Taranaki

Since the TKT began in 2001 a database of kiwi sightings has been collated from both the public and surveys carried out by organisations such as the TKT and DOC. There are 622 records which we've sorted into decades since the 1970's, and then plotted them onto maps of Taranaki. We can see that over time it appears the kiwi population in Taranaki has shrunk in its range, particularly in South Taranaki and the ring plain; despite the number of records increasing overtime. This increase in kiwi records does not necessarily mean that the number of kiwi has increased. In fact it is more likely that the number of kiwi has decreased, and that the recollection of kiwi calls and sign by the general public is better for more recent times. All this information helps us get an overall picture of the state of the kiwi population in Taranaki.

So if you see or hear any kiwi in Taranaki let us know and try to remember as much information as you can, particularly on locations and dates where kiwi were seen or heard.



All 622 kiwi records from TKT database. (Blue = male kiwi; red = female; yellow = juvenile; black = unknown). (TKT)

New kiwi resource for schools

The BNZ Kiwi Recovery Trust has come up with a new **free education pack** for use in kiwi conservation education in schools. This resource aims to build an understanding of the significance of the kiwi and its importance to us as a people, by providing a framework to help teachers plan activities and lessons based around New Zealand's national icon.

The pack is aimed for use in mainstream, bilingual and immersion classrooms and focuses on weaving together environmental education and science with links to Tikanga Maori, people and kiwi.



For more information or to request a free BNZ pack, visit:

www.kiwirecovery.org.nz

The TKT also has kiwi education resources available to schools with a Taranaki focus which is complimentary to the BNZKRT pack.

If you'd like one of our packs, don't hesitate to contact us.



Barry Hartley and Monty (TKT)

First ONE chicks released!



Sid Marsh and Matt Sulzberger releasing Dawson (TKT)

On the 10th of January our first two chicks for the season were released in Egmont National Park. The brother and sister "Monty" and "Dawson" traveled down from Rainbow Springs Kiwi Encounter on Tuesday morning to be met by an enthusiastic welcoming committee, made up of TKT trustees and volunteers, DOC staff, and local iwi.

The two kiwi, along with three young blue ducks also being released, were blessed by Ngati Ruanui's Sandy Parata and then carried about 4km into the bush to be released in a purpose built burrow. Monty has a radio transmitter on to allow him to be monitored over the coming few months so we will be able to report on their progress in the coming months! Rainbow Springs is currently looking after another 7 of our chicks, two of which hatched earlier this week, as well as incubating one egg.

We have had two more chicks successfully hatch in mid January. This is especially good news as one of these chicks is from Titoko, an adult male from Purangi, and was the first egg to hatch successfully from this area! We are also expecting more second clutch eggs to be lifted off nests sometime in the next few months. So we may yet exceed our goal of ten chicks to be released on the mountain each year.



"Monty" one of the two chicks released into ENP (TKT)

Egmont National Park Kiwi predator trapping

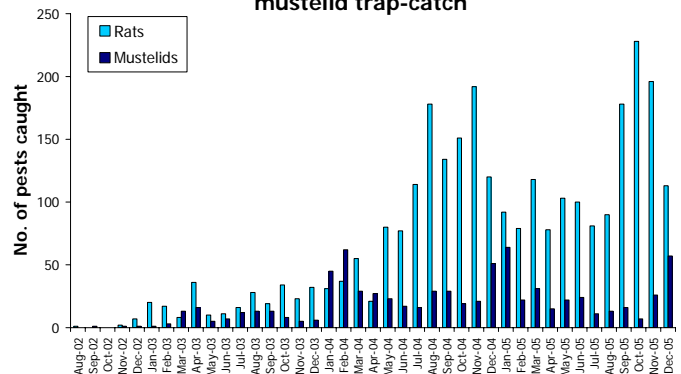
Trapping on the mountain continues to control kiwi predators successfully. Our running tally since late 2002 is:

649 stoats	9 feral cats
31 ferrets	2,910 rats
101 weasels	68 hedgehogs

An impressive total of 3,708 pests!

This project is vital to the protection of kiwi and our other native wildlife that's found in ENP and we would like to say a big "thank-you" to all those who have sponsored trap boxes, DOC and to the NPDC Community Fund for helping keeping this project running.

ENP kiwi predator control programme rodent & mustelid trap-catch



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com

Please send us your email!

We are trying to reduce newsletter costs, and have this newsletter available electronically.

If we do not already have your email address, please drop us a line on info@taranakikiwi.org.nz

For those of you already receiving an electronic copy, we will stop sending the hard copy out unless you'd like to continue receiving that, again please email us and let us know your preference.



Community Kiwi Programme

"Helping Taranaki Kiwis to help Taranaki Kiwi"

The Taranaki Kiwi Trust has 1,250 predator traps available **FREE** to the public for use on private land where there are kiwi; the programme is funded by TSB Community Trust and Taranaki Electricity Trust

We want locals to get in behind Taranaki kiwi and control kiwi predators such as stoats, ferrets, weasels and feral cats.



(Photo: TKT)



Do you have **TARANAKI KIWI** on your land?

- Are **YOU** keen and motivated and want to control kiwi predators effectively?
- Do you think you could eventually trap a minimum of trap 250ha, perhaps working together with your neighbours?

(Photo: Sheila Connell)

The **TKT** can provide all the traps, advice on running an effective trapping regime, and give on the ground help to set up the project.

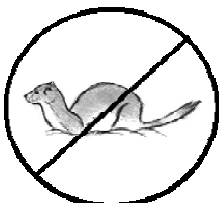
YOUR JOB will be to check, clear and re-bait the traps 18 times a year (every two weeks October-March, and every month April-September).

If this sounds like you, contact us and together we can help save our Taranaki Kiwi!

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Taranaki Kiwi Trust
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TSB Community Trust



All project stoat traps are proudly supplied by **STOAT BUSTERS**, Inglewood.
For your own traps, contact **Jeff Dixon** on 027 318 6269 or dixonville@xtra.co.nz

STOP PRESS: O.N.E. kiwi chick target reached!

We've just had word in from Rainbow Springs Kiwi Encounter that **our 10th chick for the season has just hatched!** The chick's father is Titoko from Purangi and it hatched successfully despite having the membrane in its egg collapse in the later stages of development. Also two **more eggs** were lifted from the wild on Wednesday the 18th at 1.15am at Aotuhia. Sid Marsh and Puke Ariki's Sorrell Hoskins lifted the second clutch eggs from our namesake male called TaKT. The eggs have been aged at 65 and 50 days; so if all goes well they will hatch in February.



TaKT's two eggs
(Sorrell Hoskins, Puke Ariki)

Moving? New Contact Details? If so, please print your name and new address below and return it to us

Name.....

New Address.....

Address effective from/...../..... Phone Email

Get in touch for more information on:

- Helping kiwi by controlling predators
- Public TKT talks
- School visits (education programme)



Monty (TKT)

Donations are always welcome!

Donations can be made to help pay for checking of your existing trap in ENP with an annual donation of \$55. Or make a donation for a new trap box for \$65 each.

Feel like volunteering?

We have projects which range from deploying traps and locating kiwi, to folding newsletters, entering data or assisting with our education programme. Contact us if you'd like to help.

Get your TKT polo shirt!

Navy blue polo shirts with the TKT logo embroidered on are available from the **Kiwi Outdoors** store on Ariki St in New Plymouth. Childrens and adults sizes available.

Childrens	\$35
Adults	\$45



"Nice shirt buddy!" (TKT)

The Newsletter of the Taranaki Kiwi Trust

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