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Newsletter of the Taranaki Kiwi Trust

July 2006

To promote and facilitate the protection of sustainable populations of kiwi in Taranaki



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Hello there, Taranaki Kiwi Trust supporters

Your Board has been focusing recently on setting goals for the 'year' ahead — which runs from July 06 to June 07. We have set a target of a minimum of 10 kiwi chicks to be introduced onto Mt Taranaki over that time. Already work is underway to attach transmitters to the male kiwi we monitor to determine whether they are stationary and therefore likely to be incubating an egg; and yet we're still waiting for chicks to arrive back from Rainbow Springs from last year's breeding season.

The recent releases of chicks have seen iwi and several prominent people involved, as well as faithful supporters. We don't always have a lot of warning about the release time, but if we know that you, or a group, would like to be there, we could let you know.

Conservation Week is coming up: watch the happenings at Puke Ariki for a talk on 'Predators' by TKT ecologist Cees Bevers. Recent grants to help our work continue have been received from the Lotteries Environment & Heritage Fund and from the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust. We're very grateful for all the support received, large or small, and thank you for your support and interest.

Jan Fogg



TECHNICAL ADVISER'S REPORT

Since the last newsletter there have been some terrific developments with the Trust's projects. The most notable is the amount of funding that has come through. Thanks to the TKT's funding co-ordinator and trustee, Jenny Steven, we have been successful in getting projects for kiwi aversion dog training (from the Biodiversity Advice Fund), trap checking in Egmont National Park (Lotteries Environment & Heritage Fund and Pacific Development and Conservation Trust) and Operation Nest Egg (supported by the Bank of New Zealand Save the Kiwi Trust) fully funded for at least the next financial year.

The Operation Nest Egg (ONE) tally is now running high, with the release of a dozen chicks this last season. Counting last year's 'Tara' and 'Naki', we've released 14 chicks into Egmont National Park to date, with two still to come from Rainbow Springs! The new ONE season has just started, with our expert, Sid Marsh, already out there tracking male kiwi to see whether they're nesting.

The kiwi predator trapping in Egmont National Park is also in full swing. To have this fully funded by Trust fundraising and DOC funding for the next financial year is a level of security we've not had till now. We're able to add a small extension to the southern end of the block, extending the protection out all the way to Pembroke Road. The challenge remains to keep this vital work going. Without it, the ONE work would be a waste of time, as the chicks hatched by both the surviving kiwi in the park, and those that come from the juvenile kiwi we release (as part of ONE) will have a low chance of survival if no trapping took place. Hopefully we can secure new funds for long-term trap checking and expand the trapping over the entire kiwi range in ENP.

Cees Bevers



The Taranaki Electricity Trust generously supports the Taranaki Kiwi Trust

Donations are always welcome!

Donations help pay for checking an existing trap in ENP (annual donation \$55)

—or make a donation for a new trap box (\$65 each). See form on page 3 or contact a Trustee or Cees (see back page for details).

BEQUESTS

Help us to help save kiwi populations in Taranaki

If you would like to support our activities and make a positive, long-term difference to kiwi conservation and awareness of the plight of kiwi in Taranaki, you might consider making a bequest to Taranaki Kiwi Trust.

Please contact us for the details on how to make a bequest, or visit our website

by clicking here [Bequests](#)



AGM—9 October 2006

The AGM will be held in Stratford at 1pm on Monday 9th October, at the Methodist Centre, Regan Street. All are welcome to attend. A meeting of Trustees will follow.



Schools, teachers and children's groups:

How about doing a kiwi study to learn about kiwi and their plight today? Kiwi could easily fit into the areas of science or social studies, technology or environmental studies. We have a variety of resources (books, videos, a CD, list of websites, worksheets and more) which could assist you and we are keen to lend them. Carolyn Brough is our Volunteer Education Liaison person and she is able to assist with study ideas, units, arranging talks, delivery and collection of resources. Contact Carolyn at schools@taranakikiwi.org.nz or phone 758-2813 NP.

Urenui School's two senior classes are studying kiwi at the beginning of Term 3 thanks to an initial suggestion from one of their community members, Evelyn Mills. Evelyn is a keen supporter of kiwi and the TKT—thanks Evelyn. If you think your local school would be interested in kiwi studies, perhaps you could suggest it would be worthwhile seeing the Trust's resource kit, and give them Carolyn's contact details.



Trap box with ship rat (photo Barry Hartley)

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

We are always looking for opportunities to put up displays or give talks about kiwi, survival of Taranaki kiwi, the work of the Trust and what people can do to help. We would be pleased to hear of any opportunities for displays or talks anywhere in Taranaki. Please contact Carolyn about these.

Recently the Trust was privileged to be the only community group invited to have a display at the Puke Ariki Storylines Festival. The theme this year was birds and it is great to see how many NZ native bird books for children are being published and promoted. We enjoyed talking to the people who stopped by our display. Our thanks to Puke Ariki for the opportunity to promote conservation and awareness of kiwi.

We are always looking for volunteers who would like to help with community displays. Creating a display, setting up or staffing a display are all aspects we would welcome help with. Once again, you could contact Carolyn if you'd like to volunteer for any of these activities.

CONSERVATION WEEK 7-13 AUGUST

The theme this year is 'Conservation is everybody's responsibility' and TKT is kicking off the week's programme in Discover It! (the downstairs section of Puke Ariki) with a **talk and display on Sunday 6 August**, starting at 2pm. We'll also be promoting a children's activity, 'Make a kiwi conservation poster' (based on the theme) and participants will receive a personal CD about kiwi.

Lastly, is there anybody in the South Taranaki area who would like to undertake a similar role to Carolyn's in that area, i.e. liaising with schools and promoting kiwi education on behalf of the TKT? Contact Elise Smith at secretary@taranakikiwi.org.nz

TSB Community Trust



The TSB Community Trust generously supports the Taranaki Kiwi Trust



TKT COMMUNITY KIWI PROGRAMME

The Community Kiwi Programme (CKP) has taken delivery of 250 single set DOC 200 stoat traps made by Stoatbusters of Inglewood. Our TSB Community Trust funding allows us to get 1000 traps all up. Currently we are working with the South Taranaki Branch of Forest and Bird and local landowners, who are controlling predators in a 400ha block of private land just east of Eltham which has kiwi on it. The TKT is helping by supplying at least 90 traps to help this project complete the trapping grid between adjacent properties. In the future we hope to install a "buffer zone" of traps around the block, which is needed in these relatively small trapping projects. This is because the predators we are controlling have large home ranges, and to effectively control them means we have to work at their scale.

It's a big commitment to take on effective kiwi predator control, and we're often limited by people power. The traps need to be checked about 18 times per year — so, any volunteers who may be able to assist with even one day of trap-checking every few months — please contact us. We have several potential projects around Taranaki. We appreciate the keen individuals and groups who are already helping kiwi through the Community Kiwi Programme.

ENP TRAPPING SUMMARY

Since August 2002 we have trapped:

Stoats	883
Ferrets	39
Weasels	103
Feral cats	12
Rats	3713
Hedgehogs	82



NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com

The NPDC generously supports the Taranaki Kiwi Trust



YES! I'D LOVE TO HELP BY...

VOLUNTEERING MY TIME

DONATING SOME MONEY

Name/s: _____ Email: _____

Postal Address: _____ Phone Number: () _____

Town: _____

Please phone me to discuss volunteering opportunities YES NO

Yes! I/we would like to help pay for checking traps in Egmont National Park (one year \$55, two years \$110, or other) \$ _____

Yes! I/we would like to donate a trap-box for predator control to protect kiwi in Taranaki (trap-box(es) at \$65 each) \$ _____

Yes! I/we would like to donate money to be used where it's most needed to save kiwi in Taranaki \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ Donations over \$20 are tax-deductible

Please send to: Taranaki Kiwi Trust, PO Box 867, New Plymouth 4340



BNZ OPERATION NEST EGG

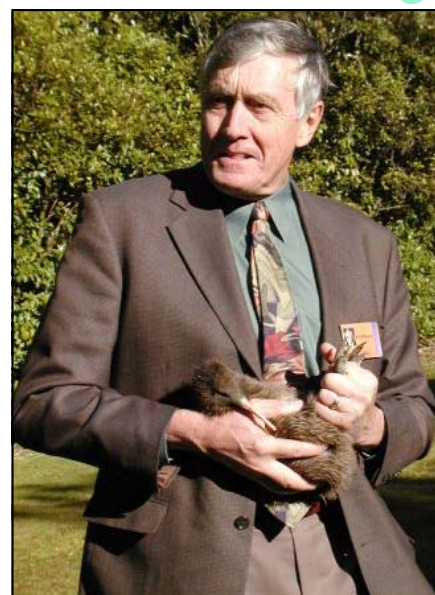


The last few months have been busy on the kiwi front. We completed the baseline kiwi call survey on the eastern flanks of the mountain so in the coming years we can assess the changes in the kiwi population as a result of Operation Nest Egg (ONE) coupled with the predator control area.

We had a very large turnout for the release of kiwi chicks, Orite and Valentine, at York Road. The associate Minister of Conservation, Mahara Okeroa, was present, along with representatives from Ngati Ruanui, Ngati Maru and Nga Ruahine, making the day very special for iwi involvement in the kiwi programme. We also had school children from Toko and Matau schools come along with their teachers to learn about the trapping programme and the threats to the kiwi, and to attend the release.

Next up, Toko was released at Mangaoraka in a lower-key affair, bringing the tally to 12 chicks released this season. We have another two chicks growing up at Rainbow Springs in Rotorua; they should be ready for release in the coming weeks. Finally, Sid Marsh has joined the Department of Conservation in Stratford as a Kiwi Ranger. His job will be to monitor our breeding pairs at Purangi and Aotuhia.

Tristan Rawlence (DOC Ranger)



NPDC Councillor Alex Matheson with Toko



Hine and Toko



FUNDING SUCCESSES

TKT has been successful in getting almost \$10,000 in grant funding to run more dog training courses this region. This grant is from the Government's **Biodiversity Advice Fund**. We plan to run kiwi awareness training courses for dogs and their owners in an effort to reduce the risk of dogs chasing and attacking kiwi. Up to eight courses will be run over the coming 12 months. Courses will be held in a number of locations around Taranaki so it will be easy for dog owners to attend, without a lot of travelling. So, if you have hunting dogs, farm dogs, or pet dogs that go walking in the bush (with or without you), please come on one of the training courses. Dates and times will be publicised soon—check the website for information.

We have been granted \$30,000 of funding support from the **BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust** for Operation Nest Egg, which includes the recovery of kiwi eggs from Aotuhia and Purangi for hand rearing of chicks before releasing into Egmont National Park.

Lotteries Environment & Heritage funding of \$50,000 (spread over 2 years), combined with a grant from the **Pacific Development and Conservation Trust**, will allow continuation and expansion of predator trapping in Egmont National Park. This will help ensure survival of the growing kiwi population on Mt Taranaki. We are very grateful for the support from these national organisations, and from the New Plymouth District Council's Community Funding Partnerships for recent funding that has been crucial to the joint DOC-TKT Kiwi Conservation Programme in ENP. We are continuing to raise funds to cover all the programme's costs and the community trapline still needs your support.

A big challenge for TKT now is to develop secure long-term funding for kiwi conservation, so we can uphold the benefits from past and current conservation efforts. If you have ideas on how we might achieve this, please contact Jenny at funding@taranakikiwi.org.nz



VOLUNTEERS' DAY OUT

The TKT held a very interesting field day on 10 June with guest speakers, displays and a guided tour of Lake Rotokare Scenic Reserve. It was great to meet other enthusiasts and hear about future plans for saving the kiwi. Cees showed us several types of traps and Brian Law spoke about Kiwi Encounter's activities from the time the egg is received until the chick is ready for release. Check out Kiwi Encounter's website on <http://www.kiwiencounter.co.nz/>



Cees demonstrates the 'Stoatbusters' trapbox (photo B. Hartley)

I hadn't been to Lake Rotokare (the 'rippling lake') so it was a real treat to see how beautiful it was. A huge amount of work is being done thanks to a dedicated bunch of people. Do help out with time or money if you are able. *Wendy*



TKT Fundraiser

Navy blue polo shirts with an embroidered TKT logo are available from **Kiwi Outdoors** on Ariki Street, New Plymouth. In children and adult sizes.

- Children \$35
- Adult \$45

CONTACTING THE TARANAKI KIWI TRUST

Trustees and roles		Website: www.taranakikiwi.org.nz	
Chairperson, volunteers' contact person	Jan Fogg	(06) 765-6862	jan.fogg@clear.net.nz
Treasurer	Brian Milham	(06) 345-1052	brian.minzi@xtra.co.nz
Secretary and supporters' contact person	Elise Smith	(06) 753-5443	secretary@taranakikiwi.org.nz
Funding adviser	Jenny Steven	(06) 752-4478	funding@taranakikiwi.org.nz
Kiwi call records/sightings	Barry Hartley	(06) 757-8644	barry_hartley@clear.net.nz
Community Kiwi Programme	Murray Sulzberger	(06) 764-8561	md.am.sulzberger@xtra.co.nz
Advisers and volunteers			
Technical Adviser	Cees Bevers	Ph: (06) 759-8005 Fax: (06) 759-8006 Mob: 027 660 4041	info@taranakikiwi.org.nz
Schools contact	Carolyn Brough and Rene Duncan		schools@taranakikiwi.org.nz
Newsletter	Wendy Bailey		news@taranakikiwi.org.nz