



What a wonderful community we live and work in and how impressive the level of commitment is to help grow our wild kiwi population. Thank you for the many ways you help by:

- sponsoring the Radio 1XX Kiwiathon
- supporting us with professional services
- making a donation
- attending a kiwi chick release
- volunteering as a trapper
- helping at an event
- teaching a classroom about Kiwi
- winning an item at the Kiwiathon
- purchasing a kiwi footprint tile or a kiwi t-shirt
- participating in a kiwi listening walk
- subsidising our purchases and advertising.



Richard Ransfield, from Ngati Awa, blesses kiwi chicks held by Kiwiathon supporters (Front R to L) Wade Brown - McDonalds, Glenn Smith - Radio 1XX and Jenny Tait - White Island Tours. (Rear R to L) Lorraine Brill & Waaka Vercoe

In the 12 months from November 2009 to October 2010, volunteers gave 9,000 hours of service to the Whakatane Kiwi Project which, at \$20 per hour, equates to \$180,000! This is an impressive effort from our community and we commend all who have contributed. Without the help of volunteers our kiwi simply wouldn't survive.

The Whakatane Kiwi Trust is discussing with Whakatane Kiwi Project partners the possibility of the Trust managing pest control in the kiwi habitat reserves on public land. It is a huge commitment for the Trust, and for our kiwi and their habitat. We will keep you updated as this evolves.

On behalf of the Trust, partners and especially our kiwi, we thank you for your support and wish all a lovely festive season.

Lorraine Brill
Whakatane Kiwi Trust Chairperson

Spread the news!

Join the Whakatane Kiwi Trust in January for a kiwi chick release. The releases will be advertised on Radio 1XX and in the Whakatane Beacon - bring along your guests!

Aussie tourism interest in kiwi

Whakatane kiwi have caught the attention of Australian media and Tourism New Zealand (TNZ).

Journalists from various Australian publications, including the Australian Geographic, recently visited Whakatane as part of a TNZ promotional tour of 'things to do and see' within striking distance of the Rotorua International Airport. Accompanied by Kiwi Project manager, Bridget Evans, several English tourists and Mark Eagles from Radio 1XX, the Australian journalists enjoyed an action-packed kiwi listening tour.

Sydney-based journalist, Joanna Egan, said, "We were unbelievably lucky; we heard calls from both an adult and a sub-adult male, and one member in our group even saw a kiwi cross the track in front of him. It was very special."

2011 Kiwi Calendar on line

Visit www.whakatanekiwi.org.nz for full details of all Whakatane Kiwi Trust public events including kiwi chick releases, kiwi listening walks and kiwi aversion training for dogs.

Over summer, we need people who live near the reserves to be very vigilant about keeping dogs contained, and keeping cats in at night.



Kiwi pest control helps birds

The Whakatane Kiwi Project's pest control programme is essential to the long-term survival of kiwi, but has also benefited other vulnerable native bird species.

Dave Paine, Pest Control Officer for the Bay of Plenty Regional Council explains that, as animal pest numbers have declined in the Ohope and Whakatane bush reserves, and the kiwi population has grown, other bird and plant life has also flourished.

"As visitors to the bush reserves, the first thing we may notice is more birds calling and from a greater diversity of species. An example is the increasing tomtit count, as these small birds are particularly vulnerable to rats and possums," said Mr Paine.

Kākā have also been seen visiting in a small numbers. The kākā's boisterous squawks and swooping flight have interrupted more than a few outdoor conversations and BBQs in the Mokorua area. Kākā require large tracts of native forest and an absence of stoats, rats and possums, as their nests and young are extremely vulnerable to predators. Mr Paine said, "Survival of tomtit, kākā and kiwi in the Whakatane area will be an excellent indicator of the success of our pest control activities."

Students learn about kiwi and win awards

Edgecumbe College students, Samantha-Rae McVicker and Marie McCoy, recently assisted the Ohope "Bring Back the Birds" programme. The young women had to locate 140 rat baiting sites and then secure and record their positions using a GPS (Global Positioning System).



awards: one for best in-depth knowledge and display, and the second for best overall project for year ten students.

"Samantha-Rae and Marie did a great job and I'm sure that they learnt quite a bit about pest control, how to use a GPS, local history, and the great variety of native birds in the area," said trustee Ron Russell, who assisted with the project.

The young women created a display and presentation about their study and won two school

Kiwi Trust charts new path

As kiwi populations expanded and local biodiversity began to flourish, the Whakatane Kiwi Trust felt it timely to revisit its visions and goals for the future. Trustees participated in a facilitated one-day strategic planning workshop to consider the many opportunities and challenges ahead.

As a result of this workshop, the Whakatane Kiwi Trust's vision may be expanded to encompass:

- preservation and enhancement of native ecosystems in the Whakatane and Ohope Reserves
- provision for environmental and kiwi-related tourism and education.

This decision will have implications, not least of which is resourcing the proposed expanded vision. However, trustees felt that expanding the vision allowed for greater access to partnerships, funding and other forms of assistance that would contribute to the long-term survival of the Trust. Watch this space!

Resident watchdog protects kiwi

Not all dogs are bad for kiwi. Mokorua resident, Dave Sparrow, has been playing 'watch-dog' for kiwi ever since he moved into his White Horse Drive property.

Mr Sparrow said, "If I see someone going in or coming out of the reserves with a dog, I'll always have a friendly word with them to remind them that kiwi live nearby. I'll tell them about the threat that their dog poses to kiwi and about the \$300 instant fine they can receive if they take their dog into the kiwi zone." Mr Sparrow adds. "I have been known to exaggerate the fine occasionally!"

Kiwi chicks breed in the wild

This summer a small number of kiwi eggs will hatch and be raised 'in situ' in the Whakatane and Ohope bush reserves. This exciting development has been made possible by more than a decade of animal pest control in the reserves.

Whakatane Kiwi Project manager, Bridget Evans, said that the first chick, called Cariad, had hatched already and was now being carefully monitored by a team of volunteers.



Tiny kiwi chick, Cariad, with his volunteer carers.

"We put a tiny transmitter on Cariad when he was just 10-15 days old, so that we can track his whereabouts and well-being without being intrusive. He weighs just 470 grams, and so is extremely vulnerable to predators," she said.

Miss Evans said that, despite the intensive pest control programme, in-situ breeding still had its risks. "The biggest threat to Cariad and the other kiwi is

dogs and cats. It only takes one stray dog or cat to decimate a kiwi population. Owners of family pets find it hard to believe that their pet would kill anything, but even well fed domestic cats and dogs will kill birds for entertainment," said Ms Evans.

Volunteers keep Trust ticking

Volunteers have been extremely busy during the Spring and early Summer months doing administration, education, kiwi aversion training, data gathering, trap checking and replacement, and GPS positioning of trap locations.

Pest contractor, Jamie Rhodes, who oversees the volunteer trapping programme, said that the 250 new DoC 200 traps will make it easier for the trappers and harder for the predators.

"The volunteer trappers are just amazing. We've had some guys tending the same trap lines every two weeks for the last three years – that's a huge commitment and, thanks to people like them, our data collection is showing some excellent trends," said Mr Rhodes.

Mr Rhodes explained that, over the past few years, new trap lines had been established further away from the core bush-areas. Stoat captures within the core areas had dropped, indicating the outer trap-lines were stopping the stoats getting into the kiwi zone.

Cassie, meet Cassie

A young kiwi woman will receive her 'key to the world' in December, while another young kiwi will receive its 'key to the Ohope bush reserves'. Kiwi chick, Cassie, will be released in December in honour of the 21st birthday of its namesake, Cassie Hastie.

Cassie Hastie's parents, Nigel and Loris, bought their daughter a 'Kiwi Egg to Release Experience' at the Radio 1XX Kiwiathon in August. The novel birthday present involved the couple going in to the bush to uplift a kiwi egg and taking it to Kiwi Encounter in Rotorua to be incubated and hatched.

Mrs Hastie was able to hold the egg, and said, "We could hear the kiwi chick peeping and rocking inside the egg - it was very exciting!"

The surprise birthday experience will culminate in a naming ceremony for the kiwi chick and a traditional Māori blessing. The family will then accompany the kiwi chick into the bush for its release to freedom.



Cassie Hastie holds her treasured present; the shell from 'Cassie', the kiwi chick named in honour of her 21st birthday.



CORPORATE SUPPORTERS



Radio 1XX Kiwiathon raises \$8,000

The Whakatane Kiwi Trust's second Kiwi Week was held through late July and early August, culminating in the Radio 1XX Kiwiathon and live auction.

The Kiwi Week involved displays, talks, radio and newspaper promotions, 'Coins for Kiwi' and a competition to win flights to Sydney, donated by Harvey World Travel. The hottest items for sale at the Kiwiathon included the three 'Kiwi egg to release' and the family 'Kiwi listening' experiences.

Trustee and Kiwi Week organiser, Marguerite Timbs, said, "Our special thanks go to 1XX for all of the work that they put in. And of course we want to thank the wonderful community, businesses and organisations of the Eastern Bay for their generous on-going support, and for putting their hands in their pockets to make this Kiwi Week so successful."



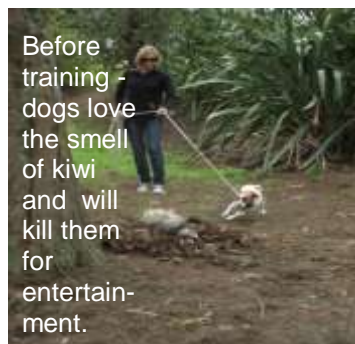
Wendy Johnson, winner of the two return airfares from Auckland to Sydney donated by Harvey World Travel, with Radio 1XX's Mark Eagles.

Kiwi listening walks take off!

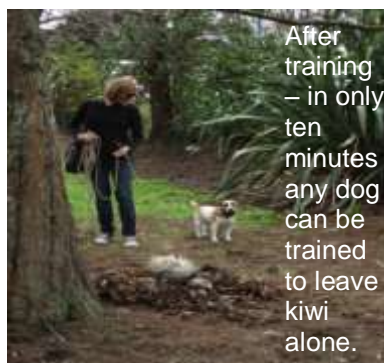
Testing the tourism and commercial potential of night-time kiwi listening walks has been the mission of Whakatane Kiwi Trust volunteer, Russell Ingram-Seal. Mr Ingram-Seal generously donated his time to host one hundred and eleven visitors on seventeen kiwi listening walks held during September and October.

Kiwi were heard on all of the walks, as were moreporks and a long-tailed cuckoo. Participants' feedback was excellent and so the Trust will compile and run a schedule of walks during the main 2011 calling season, between March and June.

Kiwi aversion training for dogs



Before training - dogs love the smell of kiwi and will kill them for entertainment.



After training - in only ten minutes any dog can be trained to leave kiwi alone.

The Whakatane Kiwi Trust runs six kiwi aversion training days each year in Whakatane, Ohope and Wainui. These training sessions take just 10 minutes and are imperative for all dogs living near bush reserves or going hunting in the bush. To find out about the next kiwi aversion training for dogs, check the website or contact Louiese Mules on (07) 3084890.

PROJECT PARTNERS



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Department of Conservation -
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Whakatane District Council
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CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

Gourmet Burger Kitchen
www.gbk.co.uk

Harvey World Travel
www.harveyworld.co.nz

Radio 1XX - www.1xx.co.nz

Beacon - www.whakatanebeacon.co.nz

Kiwi Encounter
www.kiwiencounter.co.nz

BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust -
www.savethekiwi.org.nz

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BNZ Whakatane - www.bnz.co.nz

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