



## International Help to Boost Whakatane Kiwi

The Trust's website [www.whakatanekiwi.org.nz](http://www.whakatanekiwi.org.nz) is proving a powerful ally in the support of our kiwi recovery project. Last November, the Trust received an email with the following message –

*“Hello – We are a NZ founded restaurant chain – Gourmet Burger Kitchen – here in the UK. We’d love to help you e.g. donate a portion from each Kiwiburger sold – we sell about 2000 per week. We can promote this on our website which re-launches soon. Is this of interest?”*



GBK Managing Director David Sykes

What a surprise to be their “Charity of Choice”. It has taken a while as we both needed to work through the legal systems of both countries to receive the donation. On 26 April the partnership was launched with a special release and the chick was blessed and named “Aotearoa” by Ngati Awa Kaumatua

Richard Ransfield. If you are in the UK why not try a Kiwiburger at one of the many “posh” Gourmet Burger Kitchens and mention you support the Whakatane Kiwi Trust.

We have had emails from people from Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and the U.S.A. wanting to volunteer their services while visiting New Zealand. The Stanford University, California, USA, Women’s Rugby team of 32 members have offered a day of volunteering during their visit to N.Z. at the end of June..

A special chick from Omataroa, released into the Ohope Scenic Reserve to assist the genetic pool, was televised by CBS Television for inclusion in their “Environmental” programme sometime this year.

July is the month chosen for 2010 Kiwi Week and the Radio 1XX Kiwiathon and we thank Radio 1XX and the supportive businesses, organisations and community for offering to participate with goods and donations.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**Lorraine Brill – Whakatane Kiwi Trust Chairperson**

## Kiwi Week and Kiwiathon

**26 July – 1 August 2010**

During 2010 Kiwi Week, the Whakatane Kiwi Trust will promote **Coins for Kiwi**. Collection buckets will be placed at various locations through the district for customers, clients and staff to place a gold coin donation. We are encouraging businesses to challenge each other.

In September 2009 Radio 1XX in Whakatane held the first ever live ‘Kiwiathon’ and raised over \$3000 for the Whakatane Kiwi Trust.



The weekend of 31 July and 1 August will see the 2010 Kiwiathon hosted again by Radio 1XX from 10am to 2pm both days. An auction on radio will be held with sponsored goods from many businesses in our district. Items can be previewed on [www.1XX.co.nz](http://www.1XX.co.nz) from 1 July.

Sunday afternoon will conclude, with a live auction of extra goods, a BBQ, the live draw of our major prize of 2 return flights to Sydney from Harvey World Travel (conditions apply) and a Kiwi release, all at Radio 1XX.

**Major prize of 2 return flights to Sydney from Harvey World Travel**  
(conditions apply)



During the week there will be displays including Whakatane District Council in the Esplanade Mall (old Briscoe’s building, BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust at BNZ Whakatane and Kiwi Encounter educational display in the Info Centre.

A kiwi aversion training for dogs is on the Sunday.

Most of the work undertaken by the Whakatane Kiwi Trust and Project including predator control, kiwi aversion training for dogs, kiwi management, education, “Kiwi Call Listening Tours”, kiwi releases, fund raising and publicity, is undertaken by volunteers. Helping the Trust to support volunteers and to provide equipment, directly contributes to the wellbeing of kiwi.



## From our Project Manager...

Crickey, there is not enough space to let you know what Tai and I have been up to in the last six months. The young chicks keep coming from Kiwi Encounter and their continual monitoring keeps us busy. We do not have the same worries as our friends in Northland, with the dry weather. The reserves where our babes are have plenty of streams and creeks to help keep the ground relatively moist. Which means our young kiwi are able to put on weight and remain 'stoat proof', which is a relief.



Kaputerangi  
- 100<sup>th</sup> Chick.

We are now undertaking the 2010 Kiwi Call Survey and this is becoming more exciting with lots of calls heard, it is great to know that the kiwi we have released are still hanging around.

A couple of highlights that I have had this

season were releasing Koru into Mokorua after her time at Kiwi Encounter. She is the chick that I found while undertaking a 'routine' egg lift from our young lad Pouraiti. She had gained weight at her last health check, but I hope she is coping with all the rain and flooding in Mokorua! Koru's brother, Punga, was released into Ohope SR in April.

Laura, Ron & I were very lucky to meet Shazza, Mika's mate in April. We peered into the burrow to retrieve Mika for his annual health check and she was in the burrow with Mika! Check out the photo of Laura with Shazza.



It continues to amaze me the support that the Whakatane Kiwi Project receives from the local community. People

frequently stop me to ask how the chick is that they saw at a kiwi release and neighbouring landowners (including children) are 'self appointed' dog rangers, stopping people with dogs from entering Kiwi Zones. With the new education kits produced by the Trust to distribute to schools, to be included in their curriculum, we will definitely have more young Kiwi Rangers in our midst.

**Bridget Evans, Kiwi Project Manager**

## Releases

### A successful 6 months of chick releases

The last six months have seen 16 releases. At Easter, 230 people including 36 children attended a public release at Ohope Beach School. Many were visitors delighted to get the opportunity to see a kiwi for the first time. Other releases have included ceremonies at James Street and Paroa Schools, Environment Bay of Plenty, Whakatane District Council, and a special release for Gourmet Burger Kitchen at Kohi Point.



The record crowd at Ohope 06 January 2010



Bridget fitting transmitter



Pupils at James Street School up close and personal with a chick



Hawea release with Waaka Vercoe and CBS Journalist Josh Landis  
Photo Troy Baker

'That was one of the best experiences I have had in my life. Thanks for the opportunity.'

*Pam Morrison, Wainui - who attended a special kiwi release that was won on the Radio 1XX Kiwiathon auction in 2009.*



## Trapper Notes...

Well the latest spell of weather has caused extensive damage in the reserves, particularly in the streams, however slips on the Ngati Awa farm and Burma Road have also caused access issues. We have quite a few traps on the lines that have been washed away or filled with silt.

The old MK6 Fenn traps are being phased out and this was being done on an as required basis. However Ian Scown, with the help of his son packed in over 20 new DOC 200s onto his line one weekend, well done Ian.

We have a good group of a dozen volunteers working 8 of the trap lines in the Ohope, Mokorua, Kohi Point reserves. This year to date we have killed 30 stoats (25 in Jan/Feb when they disperse from nests), 9 weasels, 9 cats and 1 ferret. The ferret is only the third ever caught in the Ohope Reserve since 2001 when trapping started. They are a large predator that can take on adult kiwi, and have been known to kill significant numbers in local populations. We are extremely fortunate there are few in our neighbourhood.

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## Kiwi Call Listening Walks

The Whakatane Kiwi Trust "Kiwi Call Listening Walks" in Ohope Scenic Reserve have been going well with 43 people guided up in the bush in 8 trips over May. In all cases, kiwi were heard calling to proclaim their territory and to their mate. In two instances, groups heard both male and female birds calling to each other as a duet.



Many of the people have expressed their thanks for a great night out and enjoyed the tramp, calls and being in the bush at night. For many, it enabled them to positively identify Kiwi calls from Morepork calls. Encouragingly people coming were mostly local, female and were a mix of adults, youth and children. A third of the people have expressed an interest in helping the Whakatane Kiwi Trust carry out conservation work as volunteers. Such a commitment is greatly appreciated.

The volunteers taking the walks: Laura, Ian, Louiese, Jessica, Jamie, Liz and I have all enjoyed the experience. We are extremely lucky to have Laura, Ian, Jamie and Louiese helping in our midst, all of whom have either conservation experience, knowledge of kiwi or experience in guiding. A special mention must be made about our Liz, who at the start of May did the Rotorua marathon to raise a large donation for the Whakatane Kiwi Trust. Well done Liz and a fantastic effort.

Thank you everybody who came out and for your time and efforts.

**Russell Ingram-Seal - Kiwi Listening Walk  
Volunteer Leader**

## Volunteer - Russell Ingram-Seal

Russell Ingram-Seal has always been interested in conservation and NZ native fauna, with a keen interest in entomology. Russell, since coming to live in Whakatane, has been involved in helping out as a volunteer - clearing tracks, looking after trap lines and taking people into the bush at night... to listen to kiwi!



Four years ago, Russell started organising friends, work colleagues at Whakatane Hospital and overseas visitors to come and hear the call of Whakatane kiwi. This interest and demand led to establishing the Whakatane Kiwi Trust's Kiwi Listening Walks with the help of members of the Trust and volunteers.

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## Meet a Trustee - Marguerite Timbs



Marguerite's background is in business. For 25 years she and her late husband Graham owned and operated Awakeri Hot Springs. The maintenance and development of the native trees and bush in and around the property was ongoing.

Since selling the Springs and moving to Ohope she has had a continuing business involvement in property development and investment including the purchase of a farm property in Manawahe with her partner Don which is being redeveloped to farmland from forestry and is surrounded by a native reserve.

Semi-retirement has given her the opportunity to become more involved in community based organisations including Quota International of Whakatane and the Awakeri Events Centre where fundraising is an ongoing project.

'The Whakatane Kiwi Trust was an organisation completely new to me but since becoming a Trustee I have been impressed by the total commitment of all involved in their attempts to protect and increase the Kiwi population in our district.'



## Letter

Hello Whakatane Kiwi Trust Members and Volunteers,

I have recently read that you have secured funding from GBK through donations from the sales of their 'Kiwi Burgers'. I would like to congratulate you on this achievement which will help secure the future of Kiwi in the Whakatane Area.

When I first started the Whakatane Kiwi Project in early 2000 by identifying and catching the last remaining four resident males, collecting their eggs and taking them to Kiwi Encounter for incubation, it was entirely based on a passionate belief the Whakatane Kiwi population was worth saving from local extinction.

After many years of input and effort by many people and organisations it is so good to hear of this latest success in what has been, and will continue to be, the long road in securing the future of these wonderful birds.

*Rod Warne -*

Former Whakatane Ranger Department of Conservation

## Volunteer – Vicky Kelly

I immigrated to New Zealand with my husband, who teaches at Ohope Beach Primary, last September. I have always been interested in environmental issues and I was working in environmental education in the UK. When we moved here, I emailed the Whakatane Kiwi Trust and they made me feel at home. Kiwi are a whole new world to me, and being fantastic creatures I am hooked. It has been a joy speaking to everyone who has wanted to come on the Kiwi Listening Tours.



## Upcoming Events

### Kiwi Week and Kiwiathon

Kiwi Week starts on Monday 26 July and finishes with the Kiwiathon run by 1XX on Saturday 31 July and Sunday 1 August.

### Dog Avian Aversion Training

Watch for dates by heading to [www.whakatanekiwi.org.nz](http://www.whakatanekiwi.org.nz) or check on our new BlogSpot at [www.whakatanekiwi.blogspot.com](http://www.whakatanekiwi.blogspot.com)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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