



## Media release

16th September 2014

### **Whakatane Kiwi Trust keen to continue the momentum towards success.**

Imagine seeing Tieke (saddleback) in your backyard, hearing their chatter from the Strand. This is the ambitious vision the Whakatane Kiwi Trust have set themselves.

Recently the Whakatane Kiwi Trust led the translocation of 40 North Island robins, also known as Toutouwai, from Mokoia Island in Lake Rotorua to the Ohope Scenic Reserve.

The translocation was part of the Whakatane Kiwi Trust's vision to restore and enhance biodiversity in Whakatane, expressed as 'Healthy Forest, Healthy Kiwi, Healthy Community'.

The Trust is keen to continue the momentum and work towards another significant milestone, one that needs buy-in from everyone in the community, a vision that could transform our urban areas and our households. Hence the need to initiate a strong community led project, Whakatane Halo.

Whakatane Kiwi Trust Executive Officer Lynda Walter said this is a new chapter for the Whakatane Kiwi Project. "Kiwi & other wildlife are already coming to town, but what are we doing in our urban environments to ensure their protection? We don't want a fence, but we do need to extend our protection zone". Ms Walter said.

The Whakatane Kiwi Trust would like to introduce the community to the 'Whakatane Halo' concept, with an invitation to attend a presentation on 27<sup>th</sup> September, during the Birds a Plenty festival.

Department of Conservation Partnership ranger, Bridget Palmer said "The Trust has great guest speakers from Hamilton who will talk about the Hamilton Halo project and how they managed to return tui and bellbirds to the city".

"We are incredibly lucky to already have these species and more, so why not go one better? Imagine Whakatane claiming the 'Teike Capital of New Zealand' title to add to our other claims to fame!" said Mrs Palmer.

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**Contacts**

Bridget Palmer, DOC Partnership Ranger. Ph (07) 307 0611 or  
(021) 166 4558 [bpalmer@doc.govt.nz](mailto:bpalmer@doc.govt.nz)

Lynda Walter, Whakatane Kiwi Trust. Ph (07) 304 6127  
[kylie.bop@clear.net.nz](mailto:kylie.bop@clear.net.nz)

**Background information**

Whakatane Kiwi Project website: [www.whakatanekiwi.org.nz](http://www.whakatanekiwi.org.nz)

**Photos attached:**

North Island Saddleback (Tieke)  
Whakatane Halo logo