



Jumping in head first!

When Sarah Afriyie-Agyemang asked to volunteer for the Whakatāne Kiwi Trust she had no idea she would be thrown in the deep end.

After achieving a BSc in Zoology, Conservation and Ecology, in Melbourne, Sarah wanted a career in wildlife conservation. She enrolled at Otago University and has recently completed a post graduate Wildlife Management course.

About to embark on a Masters degree, Sarah is investigating research options. "Part of the Masters programme involves a placement. I've always wanted to work with Kiwi, however everyone told me it is hard to get work with the iconic birds because everyone wants to do it," says Sarah. "My aunt told me about the Whakatāne Kiwi Project, and was able to get in contact with Bridget Palmer".

In August, when Sarah visited to talk to Bridget about research opportunities, she met Whakatāne Kiwi Trust volunteers Bob Boreham and Jost Siegfried. They were checking the transmitter signals of kiwi chicks at Kōhi Point and were very enthusiastic about the valuable role they play to support the kiwi project. Sarah registered as a volunteer and was immediately 'signed up'.

Thursday and Friday, Sarah was sharing her wisdom with 50 students from Ōhope Beach School, Saturday was retail and advocacy at the Ōhope Craft Market, and Sunday she boarded a boat to Moutohorā, to help health check kiwi chicks.



"I was attracted to the Kiwi Trust because it is heavily community orientated. The support network, local educational program and the desire to include as many people as possible is awesome."

Sarah holding Arikirangi on Moutohorā

Unfortunately one of the chicks needed a trip to Kiwi Encounter after suffering an injury, so Sarah was off to Rotorua, delivering the young patient to ICU for treatment!

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With this in mind Sarah will be looking into using supplementary feeding to support kiwi advocacy.

"I think advocacy is an important component of wildlife management as it increases awareness and can bring in financial support to projects and has the potential to change people's views and behaviour and help wildlife and the environment".



'Like' Whakatāne Kiwi Trust on Facebook and keep up to date with the latest news from the project

A project with five partners: Whakatāne Kiwi Trust, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, the Department of Conservation, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa and Whakatāne District Council.





New Kiwi Zone signs make an impact

Bridget Palmer (DOC) helps Kiwi Trust volunteers Duncan Smith and Terry Cass as they install the new signs at the entrance to Mokorua Scenic Reserve.

Kiwi Project partners Department of Conservation and Whakatāne District Council agree that the vibrant new Kiwi Zone Signs give dog owners no excuse to misunderstand their warning.

The signs, prepared with help from Kyla Saunders – Simple Designs, are not to the usual DOC or Council design, and include an image of a dog holding a kiwi, warn of the \$300 instant fine and inform people that surveillance cameras may be operating.

A similar format is used in Northland, with success; and Kiwi Management Team Leader Bridget Palmer said it was time for a change here in Whakatāne.

“The Kiwi Zone signage around our reserves was not only dated, it was being ignored”, said Bridget. “Kiwi Trust volunteers and reserve neighbours are continually reporting dogs in Kiwi Zones. Sadly these people are often abused by the dog owners if they attempt to inform them of the presence of kiwi” she said.

Council Dog Enforcement Manager, Graeme Lewer, said, “The new signs are great and my team will continue to prosecute anyone seen in No Dog areas, without hesitation. Five kiwi have been killed by dogs in the last 12 months and that is unacceptable.” “The council is a Kiwi Project partner and we need to ensure we remain the Kiwi Capital of the World™.”

Maggie Barry, Parliaments new “Trapinator”

Conservation Minister, the Honourable Maggie Barry has joined the virtual predator trapper’s team. Minister Barry was gifted a sponsored trap by Whakatāne West Rotary Club during her visit to Whakatāne last month.

Her trap, KF16, is one of 18 located within the core project area that are sponsored by individuals and businesses.

Being known as, “cabinets #1 pest controller” in parliament, Minister Barry was overjoyed to learn she could check her trap online to see what it catches.

With over 550 DOC 200 and 250 monitored stoat traps there are still plenty of opportunities to choose your own trap to sponsor, or gift to friends or family.

Follow the link to view the trap locations online and use the DONATE button to join the ‘Virtual Trapinator Team’!

www.whakatanekiwi.com/map.aspx



Conservation Minister Maggie Barry holds a personalised trap painted by Ōhope Beach School students during her visit to Whakatāne.



Proud Kiwi Parents become Grandparents

In 2015, the Whakatāne Kiwi Trust launched the Adopt-a-kiwi programme to raise funds for the annual cost of radio transmitters. Radio transmitters are worn by all the adult male kiwi and kiwi chicks the Whakatāne Kiwi Project looks after and are invaluable to kiwi management. The Trust is proud to announce that the 2015-2016 transmitter costs of \$10,000 have been completely met thanks to the amazing Whakatāne community!

Three local businesses that are proud to be 'kiwi parents' and renew their annual support are Chanelle James and Dylan Hayward of Diverse Graphics, Guilhem Salvy and Sam Clark of Apteryx Coffee Roasters, and Carol Lewis Owen and staff of Bay Vetz. These 'parents' had the opportunity to meet their adopted kiwi during its annual health check and were hooked.

Now that their adopted kiwi have successfully hatched chicks this year, Chanelle, Sam and Carol suddenly find themselves as grandparents! "When I got the call to say I had suddenly become a gran I was ecstatic!" said Chanelle.

The Trust would like to thank all the community members who have adopted kiwi and contributed to making Whakatāne the "Kiwi Capital of the World™".



Chanelle James and Dylan Hayward of Diverse Graphics with Aotearoa

Malcolm Whitaker hands over the reins

After leading the Whakatāne Kiwi Trust as Chair for six years, Malcolm Whitaker has passed the role to another strong leader.

At the Trust annual meeting in September Malcolm nominated John Pullar as Chair, which Trustees supported wholeheartedly.

John Pullar is no stranger to serving his community. The prominent Whakatāne builder has been an active volunteer, is a long-term Rotarian and has 'served time' as a Whakatāne District Councillor, becoming a strong advocate for the Kiwi Project.

A member of the Whakatāne West Rotary Club, John supported the decision to fund the education shelter in the Ōhope Scenic Reserve which is part of the 'Kiwi Tracker' programme.

John says he's looking forward to his new challenge and hopes that his years banging nails and pulling splinters from his thumb will help build a strong foundation for the Kiwi Project going forward.

Malcolm will remain as a trustee, continuing to help govern the Trust, a role he has been proud to serve since its inception in 2006.

Julian's Berry Farm and Cafe Toi's Challenge

Julian's Berry Farm and Cafe Toi's Challenge is this year supporting the Whakatāne Kiwi Trust. A portion of each entry for the race, held on November 20th, was donated to the Trust and entrants also had the opportunity to donate directly when they registered. Event organiser William Doney said "Whakatāne Kiwi Trust does such an excellent job of nurturing and protecting the kiwi in the area we run through that we wanted to support their work. We are proud of the fact that Whakatāne is known as the 'Kiwi Capital of the World'™."

The event follows a spectacular route, and most sections of the trail run through 'Kiwi Country'. For the last six years Trust volunteers have teamed up to run/walk the Toi's challenge to spread the kiwi word to fellow competitors. "Many people don't know they are running through kiwi habitat and end up strolling with us to learn more," says Trust volunteer coordinator, Bridget Palmer. "Our kiwi fact t-shirts help to start a conversation, especially the one that says, "Laying a kiwi egg is the equivalent of a 50kg lady giving birth to a 10kg sack of spuds".

The Trust really appreciates the generous support of the Whakatāne Athletic and Harrier Club who conduct the Toi's Challenge event, and plan to use the funds raised to assist with kiwi monitoring.



Volunteer Profile

Donna Wensor and Sophie Estell



When Bridget asked for help running the Kiwi Avoidance training, Donna and Sophie thought they would give it a shot. Nearly a year on, the duo are organising training days, recording data and educating dog owners on the importance of this method of training dogs to stay away from kiwi.

Donna is a school teacher and her interest in the Whakatāne Kiwi Project was ignited while teaching at Ōhope School where her classes became involved in the Kiwi Tracker programme. She helped with kiwi surveys and, with another teacher, took responsibility for looking after the education shelter in the Ōhope Scenic Reserve. Donna is a dog lover and has three dogs, so running avoidance training is a good fit for her interests.

Sophie is a relative newcomer to Whakatāne moving here in July last year with her partner Ritchie, a local lad. "Volunteering for the Whakatāne Kiwi Trust is a good way to meet people, learn about kiwi and other native birds and enjoy this unique environment we have on our backdoor", says Sophie.

On the day I visited in September avoidance training was happening at the start of the Nukuhou saltmarsh walk on the corner of Burke Rd, Wainui; and there was a good line up of dogs waiting their turn to be trained. Dogs can be trained to avoid different varieties of birds - kiwi, weka, whio (blue duck) and chickens; dog owners just need to tell Donna when they book.

"There seems to be a misconception that training a dog to avoid kiwi will make it chicken, duck, weka and pukeko averse too, but this is not the case. Kiwi have a distinctive smell, one with no similarity to these other species", said Donna. "But bring your chicken along, in a cage, and our trainer Guus Knopers will take your dog for a walk with a difference".

For more information on how to support the Whakatāne Kiwi Trust as a volunteer, visit www.whakataneikiwi.org.nz.

PROJECT PARTNERS



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CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

Gourmet Burger Kitchen
www.gbk.co.uk

The Southern Trust
www.southerntrust.org.nz

Kiwis for Kiwi
www.kiwisforkiwi.org

Rotary Club of Whakatāne West
<http://rotary9930.org/Page/clubs-whakatane-west>

The Lion Foundation
www.lionfoundation.org.nz



**Join us to celebrate our
New Year Kiwi Chick**
11am, Sunday 29 January 2017
at Ōhope Beach School

Healthy Forest, Healthy Kiwi, Healthy Community