



Kaharoa Kōkako Trust - KKT

Spring Newsletter - October 2018



Next Workday:

Saturday Nov 17th

email info will be sent out

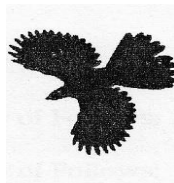
Photo by David Kooker – Kaharoa kokako eating banana, post catch and pre-release.

The KAHAROA KŌKAKO TRUST is 20 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR!

Trustees:

- Sue Williams (Chairperson)
- Dianne Kirk (Secretary)
- Laurence Kirk (Treasurer)

- Dale Williams
- Neil Goodwin
- Graeme Young
- Peter Williams
- Carmel Richardson



Contact the Trust:

- email – kaharoakokako@gmail.com
- website - www.kokako.org.nz
- KKT, PO Box 190 Rotorua 3040
- Chairperson ph 07 3323042

Kōkako Update:

Kaharoa Kōkako Numbers: The most recent census of the population was in 2015 when 173 territorial kōkako were found, comprising 77 pairs and 19 single territory holders. The previous census was in 2006 when 121 territorial kōkako were found. The next census is due in 2021. Over 40 kōkako have been gifted to other areas since 2008 and with no more translocations planned, we can concentrate on growing our population and working at expanding the habitat they can live in, use, or move through by increasing pest control within and surrounding the main management area.

Kōkako Walk-through Survey - outside of the KCA (management area)

Results = 31 kōkako found (10 pairs, 7 singles, 4 juveniles)

A walk-through survey was undertaken in May-June this year, looking for kōkako in forested areas just outside the Kaharoa Conservation Area (KCA) - our management area.

Walk-through surveys determine presence or absence of birds and differ from a census, which locates bird territories and determines the actual number of territorial birds present. Thirty-one kōkako were found and most of these birds seem to be based in the KCA but using forested areas outside the management area to extend their territories.

Kōkako Translocation to Otanewainuku

Outcome = 10 kōkako caught in the KCA and released into Otanewainuku Forest - in 3 days! (4 male/female pairs, 1 single male and 1 juvenile caught). Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust (OKT) ran this very successful translocation in August and these 10 birds will join the at least 42 kōkako already in Otanewainuku (previously translocated birds from Kaharoa and Rotoehu and their offspring) and concludes the OKT kōkako translocation. We know our Kaharoa birds are in good hands as they are in a big beautiful forest with excellent pest animal control and will be monitored regularly. No transmitters were attached to these birds, so monitoring will be by regular census surveys.

Thank you to all involved and to everyone who helps KKT and OKT in any way – your efforts make specialised projects like translocations possible.



Photo by David Kooker – Kaharoa kokako being released into Otanewainuku Forest - August

Kōkako Specialist Group Meeting: This annual national kōkako gathering was held at Pirongia Forest Park in August. Interesting presentations and discussions around what different groups are doing and dealing with, translocations, genetics and where to from here. Kōkako on Hauturu (Little Barrier Island) can now be translocated as their genetics have been proven healthy. Browsing pest animals (goats, deer), but also pigs, need to be included in pest control programmes as increasing numbers of plant species are disappearing from our forests due to browsing; having a very negative effect on bird life (also bats, invertebrates and reptiles) and forest health. KKT is being encouraged to plan for translocations - returning some species we have lost, once annual rat control commences ..

lots of work, but we think rifleman or titipounamu as a start. Also, practising correct pronunciation of kōkako, a good way to remember is to practise saying 'caw car core'.

Pest control Update:

Pest Animals - 2016 & 2017 were our last pest control 'on' years when the whole of the KCA had toxins applied via bait-stations in late winter/early spring to reduce the number of possums and rats. This 'pulsed' pest control regime of two years on/two years off has been our standard practice for years and has enabled kōkako to do well. In line with recommendations from the Kōkako Specialist Group however, and based on genetic research, we are now looking to increase pest control and trial annual rat control. This should give kōkako a real boost to their breeding success and hopefully increase their numbers significantly. It may take a bit of set-up time to prepare for annual rodent control though, so we'll keep you informed.

More infill bait station lines have been established, more stoat traps along the vehicle tracks have been added and increased culling of pigs and goats is occurring. Also, more neighbours are increasing the amount of pest control they carry-out on their properties. All these actions will benefit kōkako and the health of the whole forest ecosystem.

Possums & rats – There are now 670 bait-stations throughout the KCA, with more infill lines still to be established in the Aislabie & Onaia West Blocks to improve coverage.

Mustalids (stoats, ferrets & weasels) – Trapping for mustalids is ongoing through the three blocks, using DOC 200 and DOC 250 kill traps. These are set along the main vehicle tracks and checked regularly (once a fortnight through the spring & summer months). If you think you might like to join a roster to help check and set traps, please call Sue Williams.

Goats & Pigs If you are working or recreating in the KCA and see goats, pigs, deer, or fresh sign of them, please call Sue Williams or any other Trustee to inform them.

Pest Plants:



WANTED! Any sightings of this plant in the KCA.

Name: Mexican Daisy or *Erigeron karvinskianus*.

Status: 'Unwanted' introduced garden plant that 'escaped' out of gardens into the environment.

This means it is illegal to propagate, sell or to knowingly spread it. This little daisy was brought to NZ from Mexico in the 1940s as a tough, spreading, pretty-flowering, easy to grow garden plant.

Unfortunately, it IS tough, grows almost anywhere, seeds prolifically and the tiny seeds travel easily by wind, water, on shoes etc. and bits of plant stem grow easily also. If allowed to grow, this invasive daisy forms dense mats which stop other (native) seedlings from growing. **What you can do:** Take care not to take it with you – anywhere! If you see it growing in the Kaharoa Conservation Area please let a KKTrustee know where, asap.

Thanks!

Health & Safety:

Work Signs - Signs have been installed at the entrance gates into the Conservation Area – Kapukapu road end and Kaharoa Road end. These are for the safety of anyone working in the forest, so please lift up / open the appropriate sign whenever you work up there.



Photo by Shannon Napier – Health & safety sign for volunteers to use.

Trap Library – Most of the Predator Free NZ sponsored ‘Library’ of traps that KKT received have been distributed to interested neighbours whose land adjoins the KCA. More pest control near the KCA and around Kaharoa will help create a ‘buffer zone’ and benefit all. The KKT hope to have more traps available soon for other landowners, with practical trapping advice offered.

Fundraising - Cocktails Ball

Kaharoa Kōkako Trust were selected to be the charity supported by this social event held at the Blue Baths on September 8th. The Cocktails Ball is an annual event for the pheasant and clay bird shooting fraternity. Four trustees attended the enjoyable evening which included a dinner followed by a charity auction.

Money raised will be used on projects like future pest control, development of tracks and the bait station network in the Aislabie and Onaia West Blocks.

Many thanks to the Cocktails Ball organisers

Thank you all for your generosity by supporting us with your time, energy, resources, skills, donations, company & much more 😊

Thank you sponsors:

