



New Zealand Conservation Trust

May 2010

Kiwi Report

Well, the past season and summer in the kiwi breeding centre have been intense! The bustling centre has been a hive of activity and has been home to a record number of kiwi chicks.

We have seen 96 eggs and 10 wild chicks brought in this season which has kept the team on their toes. Part way through the season we proudly saw our 100th Rowi chick leave for the wild. This is a great achievement, and one which showcases the important work the centre contributes to Kiwi conservation!

Since 2005 we have sent back an impressive 234 kiwi chicks to the wild, including Rowi, Haast Tokoeka, and Great Spotted Kiwi chicks. Another highlight this season was receiving our first three Great Spotted kiwi eggs from the Goulard Downs which were released at the end of March into the Nelson Lakes area.

One of our celebrity chicks "Button" a Haast Tokoeka chick made news when he survived an intensive assist hatch after it was found that he was malpositioned inside the egg. It was the most complicated assist hatch the staff have had to attempt and the team members involved in the procedure, which took a few hours, shared hugs and sighs of relief as the chick breathed air for the first time! It is also great news to know that he is doing well since his release onto the predator free island. This will be home until he is released back to the wild at the end of the year once he has reached his stoat safe weight of 1kg.

Amazing to think that we saved a chick that would not have hatched in the wild even if he managed to avoid the predators that claim 95% of his fellow eggs and chicks.

We are currently busy preparing for the next season which is expected to be bigger and busier!

Kind regards,
Your kiwi team.



Final Kiwi stats for the 2009/10 season are:

- Okarito Rowi 45
- Haast Tokoeka 26
- GSK Papanoa 6
- GSK Hurunui 7
- GSK Nelson Lakes 3

Total chicks raised since 2005 is 234

Volunteers and Working Bees

Over the year we have had a number of individual volunteers, working bees by organizations and volunteers who work on our Construction Sub-committee. Your generosity of time and energy is appreciated - without you the work we do is that much more difficult. Thank you for your time over this past season and we look forward to continuing to work with you all.

Education Report

From Primary to Secondary Schools, Kindergartens to Health Camps and Brownies to Country Women's Institute; the educational team have gone far and wide this year to cater for the varying groups who have enlisted our help to spread the word on conservation in New Zealand.

Each year relationships are formed with some of the groups we meet, which in some cases explode into a supportive conservation project or the slow growing catalyst which matures into the next generation of guardians of our native fauna and flora; each catalyst is a reminder of the importance of educating young and old of the significance of our fragile eco system and that in some small way we can all have a huge impact.

This past year saw some barriers overcome, which have in the past limited the schools we visit and the children we meet. With the generous support of the Sargood Bequest the education team have been able to offer free Kiwi and Tuatara visits to some lower decile schools in Canterbury; visits which have informed students and teachers alike, visits that in some cases have touched students and teachers as they experience the magic of intimately watching the successful hatch of a Kiwi chick in our purpose built viewing area.

This project has shown the boundless opportunities we can offer through generous support like that of the Sargood Bequest, support which in a small way affects so many.

As we continue to raise our educational profile we raise awareness, awareness that leads to a united step forward to a positive future for the conservation of Aotearoa and our wildlife.

Shaun Horan



Chairman's Report

The Trust has been busy over the past year with the launching of a long term funding feasibility study, ongoing efforts to secure funding to meet the Trust's outgoings, working bees at Willowbank and Craigieburn, monthly management meetings, educational school visits, ongoing negotiations with a number of parties for Canterbury based Kiwi Creche sites, discussions with Solid Energy relating to affected Great Spotted Kiwi from a new mine development, the release of juvenile Kiwi into Riccarton Bush, negotiations with DoC over the Craigieburn Concession application and of course not the least – the processing of over 100 eggs and chicks during the breeding season.

This success represented another record year for the Trust and again this success is down to the dedication of staff and volunteers, who have toiled tirelessly.

It is planned to make the next breeding season starting in July yet another record year for breeding new Kiwi. It is also planned to increase the number of school visits relating to education and advocacy for Tuatara and Kiwi.

Modifications are underway in the Willowbank breeding centre which will assist in safeguarding the centre against introduced diseases, and make the centre easier and more efficient to operate.

The Craigieburn predator trapping program continues to be effective with significant numbers of predators caught over the last few months.

The Trust is busy gearing up for the start of the new breeding season and with the new breeding centre viewing gallery open and associated advocacy displays an increasing number of visitors will enjoy this amazing and never to be forgotten experience.

Richard Moore, Chair of Trustees.

Royal Society of New Zealand-Gabby Nuthall

I was fortunate to be awarded a Primary Teacher fellowship with the Royal Society of New Zealand, in effect releasing me from the classroom for six months, to work in an environment where science is used on a daily basis.

After reading an article about the Rowi Recovery programme, I was thrilled to be able to take up the opportunity to work with the New Zealand Conservation Trust as my host organisation, learning about the care and conservation of our iconic bird, the kiwi.

I began in February 2010 and was immediately thrust into the world of kiwi care. Over the weeks since, I learned much about the kiwi ecology and conservation and have gained a greater appreciation of how many people are actively involved in this extremely worthwhile project. Daily routines of weighing, feeding and caring for the many chicks in our care have been extended to include trips to the vet when needed, the opportunity to see other breeding facilities in New Zealand and also the chance to attend the national Kiwi Hui in Queenstown with three other staff members.

It has been a privilege to be a part of this programme over this time. I hope I can impart some of my newly acquired knowledge, and much of my interest and enthusiasm for kiwi, to the children that I teach in the future.

White-Flipped Penguin Trust

It was with a great deal of pleasure and interest that a number of us on two different trips were taken out to see the work done by the White-Flipped Penguin Trust. It was a wonderful experience and we really appreciated this opportunity to see Canterbury's endemic penguin species. It is always interesting to see the dedication and results achieved by another conservation trust.



2010 Kiwi Hui

Kiwi practitioners, community groups, DoC staff and various interested parties took part in the annual Kiwi Hui in April which highlighted the South Island kiwi species.

Topics covered over the two day period were varied and thought provoking. A range of topics were covered such as new technology, highlights of successes in kiwi recovery, research and dog aversion projects.

There are a number of groups involved in the recovery of the Great Spotted Kiwi with still a lot unknown about the species, although the general consensus is that this species is declining at a rate of at least 2% p.a.

Riccarton Bush in Christchurch remains unique as it is the only crèche site to be found in the centre of a city. The N.Z. Conservation Trust is currently in discussions with various parties with regards to securing further mainland crèche sites in Canterbury.

Overall the feeling at the end of the Hui was the strength of dedication that exists within numerous organisations to save our national icon from extinction.

Without the support of the wider community we are unable to undertake the critical conservation and education work we do. We would like to thank the following for their valuable support over the past year:

Canterbury Community Trust
Lion Foundation
Pub Charity
Southern Trust
First Sovereign Trust
Sargood Trust
Ceres Foundation
Graham Hirst Kitney Charitable Trust

C. Kennedy - Kiwi
North Loburn School - Kiwi
C. Van der Velden - Conservation
G.L. Quirke - Conservation
J. Venning - Ruru
KIPCC - Kiwi
P.T. Robinson - NZ Brown Teal
Marco & Campbell Shepherd - Kea & Kiwi
Yates - Peat Moss for kiwi

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