

BIRD CALL

July 2016

Issue 27



oroikonui
ecosanctuary

Chris's Column

All is well at Orokonui. Our accounts have been diligently audited and we're in a sound financial position. Thank you to all of our sponsors, funders, donors, volunteers and visitors for supporting us in getting to this position. Our Foundation Trust is slowly growing which will give us financial security in the long term.

We now have 2520 members and encourage you to join the Orokonui Team if you're not a member already. Membership is a great way of finding out what's happening here and supporting the Ecosanctuary. You also get invited to special events. Members will know that our AGM is next week and all are invited to attend.

*Kind Regards,
Chris - General
Manager*



Blokes in Sheds constructed this edible garden bed - the first stage in our new nature play area.

Elton's Army

Rodents have dominated recent operational staff and volunteer time. Ship rats are persisting in low levels and mice are on the increase. We've managed to keep well on top of mice for 4 years but recent trapping has revealed juvenile mice meaning that breeding is ongoing through this rather mild winter. Rodent poison was deployed for 3 weeks in June and another tracking tunnel pulse in August will reveal if it has had any effect.

The warmer winter is also doing unusual things to some of our birds too. Sparrows have been observed carrying nesting material, pigeons doing mating displays and our robins are particularly vocal at the moment establishing their breeding territories.

*Elton Smith - Conservation
Manager*

Forest of Knowledge

June has been a busy month with 566 students visiting us including East Taieri School whom we loved having to visit! They loved us too: "I just want to say on behalf of East Taieri school how much we all enjoyed and appreciated the programme you and your team run at Orokonui. Every single child, teacher and adult was blown away with the message you are delivering, and the passion you have for Orokonui and the environment. This passion definitely flows into the children while they are around you! You are a true kaitiaki! We will be back and would highly recommend you to any school or group that wants to come and visit a Dunedin gem!!"

We have a very busy school holiday programme ahead leading many amazing events in The New Zealand International Science Festival and Cadbury Chocolate Carnival. Please see our website for details.

Tahu Mackenzie - Lead Educator



We enjoyed hosting International exchange students from Columba College.

Volunteers' Voices

Over the last month all 4 conservation standard tasks have been taking place at Orokonui - Catching, Counting, Cutting and Killing. A big Thank You to all those who helped with the poison operation and mouse trapping.

With the poison operation now over the takahe at the valley floor have been released from their temporary pen. Before their release they were both given a quick health check and weigh. They both weighed in at around 2.7kgs and are in good health.

Valerie Fay's group has been able to do plenty of weeding and tidying as well as getting another 350 trees planted recently. We are always grateful for the work of these troopers!

Kelly Gough - Volunteer Coordinator



Volunteer Ross Curtis helps out with the takahe health check

Shop

DOC 200 stoat traps have arrived. Cost price is \$125.60 incl GST. If you're in the Orokonui halo area there is a 50% discount.

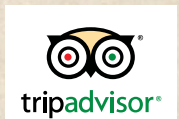
We have a new range of nature inspired cushion covers and tea towels.

A big thanks to

- Blokes in Sheds for constructing a herb garden container.
- Ministry of Education for their ongoing support of our Education Programme.
- Lottery Community for contributing to our Volunteer Coordinator salary
- Southern Victorian Charitable Trust for contributing to our Volunteer Coordinator salary
- Sargood Bequest for contributing to our Volunteer Coordinator salary
- The ACE Shacklock Trust for contributing to our supplementary feed for wildlife
- Adele Poulter for supporting our green skink re-introduction.

Wishlist

We are looking for a Computer similar to an Acer Aspire ES1-512-P8NA Pentium with Windows 7 or later operating system.



Open Daily 9.30am-4.30pm for Guided Tours and Self Guided Walks
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