

BIRD CALL

October 2016 Issue 29



oroikonui
ecosanctuary

Chris's Column

Thank you to all of our members who responded to my call for regular donations in response to DOC's cutback in funding. You've made a big difference and we need more people to sign up and help Orokonui to keep saving our precious wildlife and champion the cause of conservation in New Zealand! It's very easy to arrange regular payments on-line so if you haven't done so yet please join the team. Our bank details are on the Support page of our website.

Another way you can support us is by purchasing gifts from our shop. Fresh from the printer are our fantastic 2017 calendars which feature the year's best photographs of beautiful Orokonui flora and fauna. See the Venue page of our website for on-line purchasing or better still come and visit us!



The beautiful new 2017 Orokonui Calendar

We welcome to the wonderful Orokonui team; Colin Campbell-Hunt as chair of the Trust, Tony Stewart and Errol Nye as trustees and Brendan Gray as a director on the business board.

Chris Baillie - General Manager

*Our new Trust Chair
Colin Campbell-Hunt*



Elton's Army

We've had a bit of a takahe territorial dispute when the two pairs met for the first time recently - albeit separated by the kiwi crèche fence. As there was a threat of damaging the fence and breaking up pair bonds the family was transferred into their pen temporarily and all have now mellowed out.

All nine juvenile kiwi are now doing very well and putting on good weight. They should all be weaned within a month and then will start to leave us.

It appears that we are rat free again but we still have low levels of mice - this is really as good as it gets for a fenced sanctuary.

Elton Smith - Conservation Manager



The stand-off

Forest of Knowledge

September has been a busy month with 545 wonderful students visiting us! The arrival of spring has been a joy to witness, with blooming flowers and warmer walks. We enjoyed hosting Year 11 Geography students from Tokomariro High School who completed two assessments here and then loved their *Nature at Night* sleepover experience. The barbeque (kindly loaned by Cartridge World) sizzled while the kaka swooped and called at dusk. Clare Hagglund and Robyn West were our wonderful volunteer camp mums.

Our very successful programme for early childhood "Eco Warriors" has farewelled three children to school. This important occasion was marked by the planting of a native Mountain Cedar. Many thanks to Valerie Fay for this beautiful native "treasure".

Tahu Mackenzie -
Lead Educator



Tahu with Port Chalmers Kindy Eco Warriors.



Tokomariro High School students with Orokonui educators, Tahu and Michael.

Wishlist

**Large plastic salad bowl. 5L water dispenser.
Plastic buckets with lids.
Android mobile phones with camera, preferably waterproof.**

Volunteers' Voices

For the last couple of weeks bird feeding volunteers have been carrying out operation "Lure Kaka into Aviary". This has involved limiting food in the feeding stations around the walking tracks and putting all the kaka's favorite treats inside the open aviary. Pure bribery.

We are hoping to catch most, if not all, of the 10 unbanded young kaka (spotted during the kaka census surveys which took place

around June) so that we can band them for future identification. Five kaka have so far been captured - four were young unbanded (2 males & 2 females) and the fifth an older male called "Marcus" who just needed an old transmitter removed.

Kelly Gough - Head Ranger



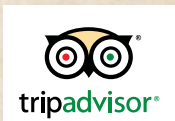
Volunteers Alyth Grant and Alister Robinson making the Aviary more appealing.

A big thanks to

- Donors of funds for skink research; Mike Hazel, Richard Child, Francie Begg, Len Cook, Ruth Houghton, Dr B Heenan and Lynette Attewell.
- Cartridge World for the loan of their huge bbq.
- Bruce Cathro for donation a power point slide changer.



Graeme Cochrane of Cartridge World with Tahu.



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