

BIRD CALL

February 2017 Issue 31



oroikonui
ecosanctuary

Chris's Column

We've had great visitor numbers this summer and it's not over yet! Last Sunday we had a very busy morning with Cooke Howlison Toyota's *Wild Day*. This was the launch of Orokonui as a *Kiwi Guardians* site. *Kiwi Guardians* is a trail of activities for which families can find a map online. At the completion of the trail a keyword can be found for input online then a badge given. Toyota and DOC sponsor the *Kiwi Guardians* programme. Cooke Howlison has been a long term sponsor of Orokonui by providing us with a valuable ute, so a good fit all round.

Days like Sunday make me so proud of the team at Orokonui who worked so well together on the day. We welcomed more than 350 visitors in the space of 2 hours! With most of the Ecosanctuary being human free, and a number of tracks to accommodate visitors, there was no impact on wildlife. Even the takahe chicks were unperturbed by the numbers.

With our visitor numbers increasing we're getting closer to financial self-sufficiency. We thank new sponsors; Emerson's Brewery, Van Brandenburg architects, Cutlers Real Estate and Spark Givealittle, who help us along this path.

Chris Baillie - General Manager



Takahe family unperturbed by visitors.

Elton's Army

Our latest cohort of kiwi were 'harvested' in late January bringing the total number of Haast tokoeka chicks raised at Orokonui to 34 in two seasons.

The safe tree zone was completed recently by local Treeman Gary McFarlane and his team. We now have very few large exotic trees within striking distance of our precious fence.

The takahe family are thriving and continue to be one of our star wildlife attractions. They will be named and banded in late March. Unfortunately the second pair failed to hatch an egg for the second time this season but this is almost expected of very young birds. They have both relocated to the Valley Floor again.

Elton Smith -
Conservation Manager



The Safe Tree Zone project at the lower end of the Ecosanctuary.



The inaugural
**Orokonui
Challenge**

A beautiful 18.5km run that includes the Ecosanctuary forest, Doctor's Point beach and the McKessar track.
For walkers a scenic 11km walk through the Ecosanctuary and around Orokonui Estuary.

7.30am Saturday 22 April 2017
Earth Day

For more information and booking see
oroikonui.nz/About/Orokonui-Challenge/Event-Information

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Orokonui Ecosanctuary
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Cutlers

Volunteers' Voices

It has been a super start for 2017 with January volunteer hours surpassing all previous January records... I hope we are starting as we mean to continue!

Recently a little celebration was held for all the volunteers who have worked on the culvert upgrades. It has taken 5 years, but as of last week a whopping 46 of 50 culverts are complete. This leaves just a few very large, active water gates to be completed at a future date. (For now we are taking a break!)

To those of you who couldn't make the celebration - we would like to extend a huge Thank You. We know a lot of effort went into that project.

Kelly Gough - Head Ranger



The last culvert getting upgraded. From left: David Smith, Geoff Clarke & Jeff Cleugh.

Forest of Knowledge



Students identifying moths

2017 has been busy so far with 200 students visiting us including for several Hands On Otago programmes through the University of Otago. Our team also undertook outreach events with another 500 attending.

We are very fortunate to again receive generous donations from Oceana Gold and AWF which will allow us to bring low decile school students in Dunedin out to Orokonui at no cost to the school. I am very much looking forward to their visits.

We have been working with Landcare Research, Ngai Tahu, Te Tumu and Te Kura Kaupapa o Otepoti to produce four bilingual moth identification guides for the South Island. The students from the Kura have the amazing opportunity to attend WIPCE, an Indigenous Science conference in Canada, to present their Moth Conservation project and promote the work carried out at Orokonui. We have been fundraising to get them there, including hosting a stall at Otakou Marae for the Waitangi Day celebrations.

Tahu Mackenzie - Lead Educator

A big thanks to

- To all the volunteers who helped with the Wild Day
- Spark for adding us to their Payroll Giving scheme
- Emerson's Brewery for becoming a new sponsor

Wishlist

- Someone with IT/networking expertise for a couple of hours per month.
- More large waterproof and/or fleece jackets.



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