

# BIRD CALL



September 2018 Issue 41

## What's New at Orokonui

Siroccomania has hit Orokonui! The imminent arrival of the famous Ambassador Kākāpō is keeping us all very busy . . . a group of volunteers have made sure Sirocco's quarters have had a good Spring clean, our guiding team are training the escorts for Sirocco's night tours, the Conservation staff are checking traps and tracking tunnels and reception are flat out taking bookings. As with any rock star, Sirocco has a massive social media presence with more than 200,000 followers and we've felt the flow on effect on our own facebook page, receiving close to 70,000 views of our 'Sirocco's Coming' post! For details of up and coming Sirocco related events and offers keep an eye on the Orokonui facebook page. The good news is that while the weekend tours are close to full, there are still plenty of spaces on the weekday evening tours from September 9th to 29th - dont miss this opportunity to meet Aotearoa's Spokesbird for Conservation!

*Amanda Symon - General Manager*



*Yes I know - yet another photo of the world's most handsome parrot . . .*

## Conservation Matters

The first results of our poison experiment are in and the use of the more environmentally friendly toxin, Cholecalciferol, has helped reduce mouse tracking rates from 67% to 5%. This is a timely result as a paper presented at the latest Sanctuaries of NZ workshop showed growing mouse and rat resistance to the more toxic brodifacoum. Over the next two months we will endeavor to reduce mouse numbers even more for experience has shown us that it only takes about 3 months of no control for mice to become a problem again.

We have deployed the first of our Zealandia-designed kaka nest boxes which is just as well as some kaka have been observed being, hmm, amorous. We eventually aim to have around 25 kaka nest boxes in the sanctuary and will be recruiting volunteers to inspect them on a regular basis.

*Elton Smith - Conservation Manager*



*Ranger Geoff inspecting a new kaka nest box.*

# Forest of Knowledge

July and August have been very busy months, we have now worked with more than 4,500 students this year! The New Zealand International Science Festival was a huge highlight for the Education Dream Team. We hosted more than 20 public events that more than 6000 people attended. From turning Wall Street Mall back into a beautiful native forest to bringing Native Frogs to the Library - we loved it all!

In August we have enjoyed welcoming back schools to Orokonui after the holidays and working on our new Peripatus Power and Wai Waterways projects with local schools. We are very excited about Sirocco visiting us in September and hope many schools will share this unforgettable experience - there's even a Sirocco Sleepover Experience on offer!

*Tahu Mackenzie - Head Educator*



*Wall Street forest created thanks to the kind donation from Ribbonwood Nurseries*

## Volunteers' Voices

This has been a whirlwind of a month for me personally, settling into the role of Volunteer Coordinator. I have met many of our amazing volunteers and am beginning to get an understanding of the mammoth amount of work they do to keep this beautiful place thriving. This new role has freed up our previous coordinator Kelly to dedicate 100% of her time 'in the field' which she is excited about.

Volunteers have been very busy, with a variety of tasks, such as this week's Robin survey which has seen volunteers headed off all over the ecosanctuary to record how many pairs they can find. So far they have managed to confirm many pairs that had not before been seen at the ecosanctuary, which is encouraging news.

*Alice Macklow - Volunteer and Membership Coordinator*

## Wishlist

**A shout out for your unwanted whiteware this month**

**A fridge for the café - good working order, 370 litre capacity or greater**

**An upright freezer for the café - good working order, 370 litre capacity or greater**

**A small (bar sized) fridge for the Volunteers quarters**

## A big thanks to

The Southern Trust, the AJ and MC Begg Charitable Trust, and a private donor (who wishes to remain anonymous) for your generous donations towards the modified 40 foot container that will be our new staff and volunteer quarters! We are still actively fund raising for this - another \$14,000 needed - any donations very gratefully received!



*Rangers Kelly and Geoff check out their future office space*



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