

Taranaki Kohanga Kiwi at Rotokare

Issue 3

December 2013



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Stakeholders Update

Welcome to the third newsletter for Taranaki's newest kiwi project. "Taranaki Kohanga Kiwi at Rotokare", a joint project between Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust and Taranaki Kiwi Trust.

More kiwi arrive at Rotokare

Captive-bred sub-adult "Muggeridge" was released at Rotokare July 2013 and her sibling Frizzell was released on Mt Taranaki. Since then six other egg lifts have been carried out for this breeding season. From these egg lifts chicks from Glen Nui, Ahoroa Road, Makino Forest north, Omahina Road and Mt Messenger have arrived and been released at Rotokare.

A chick from Whangamomona Saddle is still at Kiwi Encounter, due to arrive soon. And let's not forget the "second egg" chicks are still at Kiwi Encounter too, awaiting destinations elsewhere in Taranaki, once they have reached a 'stoat-proof' weight.

Sue Hardwick-Smith and Kevin Stokes of Taranaki Kiwi Trust and Simon Collins and Jenny Kerrisk from Rotokare attended an Egg Candling Course at Kiwi Encounter. Knowledge of what is going on inside the eggs has raised egg lifts to a whole new level of excitement! While no further egg lifts are due

right now, we are monitoring further three males, awaiting signs of incubation: Hutiwai Valley, Waverley area and at Huiroa. Hopefully they will breed this season.

We intend to catch 4 more males from various sites around Taranaki, the chicks from which will ensure we reach at least the minimum target of 30 founders at the Kohanga.



"Mironui" Released October 2013, at Rotokare. Sponsored by Izzy

Not far to go!

Currently 25 kiwi have been released into Rotokare, with 1 more due soon, the project is achieving at a high rate. It is a good time to reflect on the short time-frame from when the first of the founder population arrived, only last year!

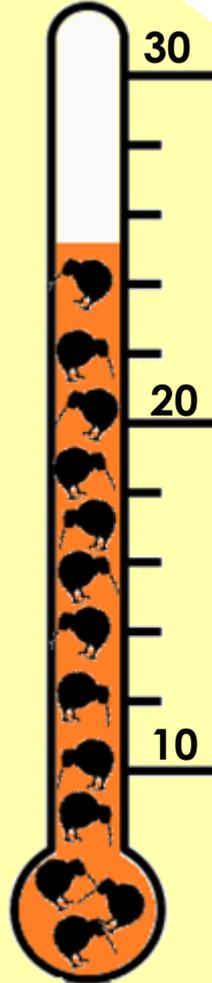


Sponsor a kiwi chick

With only a handful of kiwi releases left, both into the Kohanga, and other areas around Taranaki, give some serious thought to sponsoring a chick for \$500 for a family or \$1500 for a business. Sponsors get photos of themselves and "the little guy" at release, a certificate and of course serious bragging rights for having been up-close to a real live kiwi.

Kiwi at Rotokare aren't hiding!

On a night walk in early October, kiwi were not only heard calling but one was seen (by a volunteer) running along the track around the east arm of the lake! Also a kiwi was seen on a Ridge track at dusk (again by a volunteer), this one not in much of a hurry at all. Kiwi poo has been seen in several places on tracks in the bush and even on the driveway up to the buildings!



Top: The Francis Family releasing Glen....

Middle: Close up of Turuki

Bottom: Cheree Menzies and others, releasing Turuki in October

Kiwi experiences auctioned off

BNZ Kiwis for Kiwi and TradeMe sold off "kiwi experience" opportunities on-line as part of a national initiative for Save the Kiwi Week, with many conservation organisations putting up experiences for auction. Rotokare and Taranaki Kiwi Trust both offered experiences for auction, raising over \$1,000 for the Kohanga kiwi project.

Thank you to our funding sponsors



Thank you to our recent release sponsors

Francis Family, Taranaki Feats, Izzy, Jack and Karen Christian, Marilyn and Jim Finer