

THE REMU-TALKER

Hide n Seek

This Remutaka chick thinks that it has found a good hiding spot amongst the ferns.



From the Archives...

Yep, it's official folks we are now old enough to have archives!



The graphic above shows aerial tracking of wayward wild hatched kiwi chicks 2012

Rimutaka to Remutaka

As part of the Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua Treaty Settlement in 2017, the name Rimutaka was corrected to its correct spelling of Remutaka in relevant place names within the region.

Remutaka was named by a Rangitane ancestor - Haunui-a-Nanaia - who lived 25 generations ago. The kōrero (story) goes that it refers to the place where he sat down and gazed on the land below – “remu” means “to gaze about”, and “taka” means “to sit down”. “Rimutaka” has no meaning in te reo Maori.

Our Park was one of many places to benefit from the historic correction and was officially recognised as Remutaka Forest Park by The New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB) in October 2017.

Mike Kawana, of Rangitāne o Wairarapa, said the spelling was important because it changed the way the word was pronounced, and therefore its meaning.

"In terms of our desire to revitalise our culture, this is part of bringing back those stories. It's not just a name, it's part of the bigger story."

Our first recognition of the name Remutaka was when we had the bird interpretation panels designed and produced last year. Now we are excited to introduce the next chapter of our own story, our new operating name...

Remutaka Conservation Trust

The name more closely reflects the essential purpose of our activities and the primary direction of our volunteers' efforts in the forest park. We have recently launched our fantastic new logo, facebook page and website address (www.remutaka.nz). Thank you to the volunteers who made this possible.



Volunteer Profile Adrienne Nicholls

I was born and grew up in this wonderful country. Nowhere else in the world has an ecosystem like ours. I am so fortunate to live in such a special country. I love walking and tramping in the native bush, but over the years I have been saddened to see so much of it degraded by people's thoughtlessness and by the ravages of introduced predators.

An area of native forest such as the Remutaka Forest Park should be ringing with bird song, but because of the rats, stoats and possums it has been almost silent for many years. When the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust began setting up a programme for trapping rats and stoats, I was the first to volunteer to be involved, helping to get the first traps distributed and then by checking the traps ever since. It was very exciting when, due to the extensive network of traps, it was decided that kiwi could be introduced to the area, but without a predator-proof fence, trapping will need to be ongoing.

I intend to keep on with my small efforts to help for as long as I am able. *Photo credit: Leon Berard*

Nests not Pests!

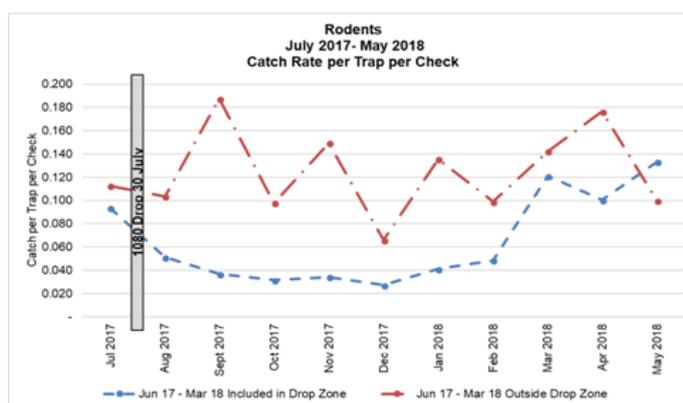
Four of our monitored male kiwi have commenced incubating. Usually Tahunahuna is the first off the rank but he hasn't started yet this year. We suspect this is due to him sitting on three nests last season.

Our battle against predators threatening the kiwi's ability to breed and thrive in the Park never stops! There is a dedicated group of volunteers installing, checking and maintaining our growing trapline network. We now maintain over 1300 traps in the park with an additional 840 traps maintained by MOA Conservation.

We had a great report back from the recent audit of a couple of our main trapping lines of DOC200 by Darren Peters, Technical Pest Advisor - DOC, with minimal changes recommended.

1080 - love it or hate it...

Some interesting results from the aerial 1080 operation that took place late last year. The red line in the graph below shows the rat-catch in our traps outside of the aerial operation and the blue line shows the rat-catch where the aerial operation took place. We were also checking and clearing every fortnight across all the traps.



Kiwi in the City

Wellington Mayor Justin Lester has launched a fantastic initiative called Capital Kiwi. The plan is to release kiwi into 20,000ha around the southwest Wellington area. Great to see the Remutaka Trust's mantra of 'Keeping kiwi Wild in Wellington' expanding into other areas in the Wellington region. What an amazing opportunity not just for Wellington City but for the whole Wellington region.

Annual Sponsorships

Thank you to our kiwi, trap and tree sponsors who have renewed annual sponsorships some have been sponsoring since 2010. This was the first year we have used our CIVI database for renewals. Thank you for your support and patience sorting a few discrepancies.

Corporate Sponsors

A special thanks goes to:

- ▶ Village Accommodation provided adult and kids kiwi T shirts with new logo.
- ▶ Placemakers Seaview supplied batteries for our acoustic recorders.
- ▶ Pharazyn Trust funded traps that have been deployed in the Whakanui Stream and also support the ONE programme 2017/18.

Press Family

Ruth Press, family and friends donated generously in memory of Malcolm who passed away recently. He had a special connection with the park due to tramping years ago so was very interested in, and appreciative of, all the conservation work of the Trust. Their grandchildren are also involved with conservation through a wonderful science teacher at their school in Stokes Valley. They have rat traps in their back yard and are very proud of their catches.

Catchpool Eco Hotspot

The Trust is currently building and intensifying the pest control in a small area of the Catchpool to create The Catchpool Eco Hotspot. The current boundaries for the Eco Hotspot is Graces Stream to the West, Orongorongo Track to the East and Catchpool stream/Catchpool loop track at the southern end with Middle Ridge track through the middle. Mapping and marking of the lines is almost complete and there will soon be a call out for volunteers to help deploy the traps.

Call of the wild...kiwi

Susan Ellis created the cool graphic below as a "snapshot" of acoustic recorder kiwi data showing the presence/absence of kiwi calls at sites measured in 2017.



- ▶ White dots = no kiwi detected (but site measured)
- ▶ Yellow pins = males or females present
- ▶ Green pins = duets as well as male and female calls

The green pins are definitely under-sampling kiwi pairs but do give some indication of spread of "home ranges" rather than just singles males or females roaming around.

We are currently expanding our measured sites to account for the spread of kiwi through time. Greater Wellington are undertaking a survey of their area in August using our recorders, and MIRO have purchased some acoustic recorders and are checking for kiwi calls in their region (East Harbour Regional Park).

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have been helping collect data over the past few years. A report showing the spread of kiwi calls from 2011-present is in preparation.

AGM - 10th October

Mark this date to come and help us celebrate 30 years of conservation work and fun in the Remutaka Forest Park.

Strategy & Vision

The Remutaka Conservation Trust (that's us!) along with other interested parties will be getting together later in the year to agree a shared vision and strategy for the Park. We will keep you updated on how this progresses.

Comms Plan

Nic Jackson, Vicki Wogan and a small subcommittee have put a lot of work into developing a Communication plan for the Trust. Hayden Cox from Comms Collective met with the sub committee and provided invaluable advice. Comms Collective is a group of fantastic communication experts who provide advice to volunteer groups at no cost.

Check them out here:
www.communitycomms.org.nz

Find us on Facebook



We regularly share interesting information, articles and videos about our work and others. Search for our name, hit the LIKE button and we'll appear in your newsfeed.



Kiwi Avoidance Training

We had a great turn out in April with 97 dogs run through the course by our wonderful trainer Jim Pottinger. Thank you to all the folks who took the time to put their dogs through the training to help protect our wild kiwi. We have had a recent report of a kiwi killed in Whiteman's Valley by a dog. Most of the clever doggos doing their refresher training remembered to avoid kiwi by smell and sight – great work!



You can help us by booking your dog(s) in for the next session in November and encouraging other dog owners to join you. Email kat@remutaka.nz

New Name, New Logo

Natalie Slack came across the opportunity to help us out when she took her dog, Bear for Kiwi Aversion Training. Natalie heard about the branding changes to incorporate the Remutaka name and she instantly offered her skills as a designer.

Natalie says "I've always been passionate about conservation, being lucky enough to have parents and grandparents that brought me up surrounded by nature, native birds and animals. Eventually, I'd love to use my design skills to educate and inform people about these sorts of issues as a full-time job. Helping out the Trust was a great way to start because of the fantastic work the team does with kiwi monitoring and park restoration. Being part of a bunch of people who are so passionate about making a difference is the biggest reward of all and I feel so lucky to be a part of the journey."

Thank you to all those like-minded people and organisations who have sponsored a trap, kiwi or tree through the Remutaka Conservation Trust's sponsorship programme



Flyrite – Rimutaka Heli Services

