

# THE REMU-TALKER

## Winter is coming...

Sean Gurr took these pictures recently - illustrating some of the challenges the wilder weather brings in the park to our team of trapline volunteers.



Logjams and slips can disturb traps and track markers as well as changing trapping routes.



The trap above was cleaned out, repositioned and re-baited ready for its next rodent visitors.

## Annual Transmitter Change

The annual kiwi transmitter changes are underway. There are some lovely pictures below of the feisty Lorenzo. His transmitter was successfully changed with Melody getting a few scratches for her trouble.



Melody is modelling one of our fantastic "Keep Kiwi Wild" T shirts.

Photos: Alwyn Rees

## Mohua Inspiration

DOC have recently released results of native bird monitoring in Landsborough Valley, South Westland.

The once rare mohua/yellowhead is now the most common native bird counted in the valley. Sustained predator control began in 1994 when just 14 of these birds were counted; the latest count was 444.

What a wonderful and inspiring example of the success that vigorous and ongoing predator-control programs have on native birds.



Photo: Sabine Bernert

## Its a Slug Life

Susan Ellis and visiting Canadian Nancy Covington were on the McKerrow Track deploying acoustic recorders and listening for kiwi calls, when they observed this fascinating creature. These nocturnal slugs (*Pseudaneitea* sp.) are found in native bush and forests and graze on fungi and algae on leaf surfaces. There are more than 23 native species of this family.



Photo: Nancy Covington

## Large Brown Vagrant Spider (*Uliodon albopunctatus*)

This impressive resident was uncovered after moving plant seedling trays in our nursery.

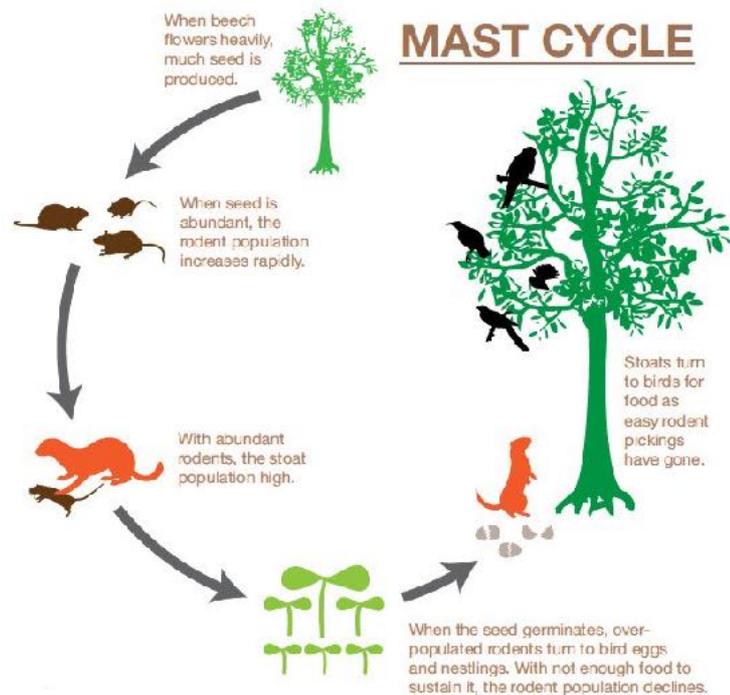


After posing for a couple of photos and featuring in an iNaturalistNZ observation, it was returned to guard the nursery once again.

Photo: Peter Cooper

## Trapping & the “Megamast”

2019 is a “mast” year - during which native forests flower prolifically followed by an abundance of seeds. These boom years are a double edged sword for our native birds as the boost in food also brings increased predator threat. The abundance of food drastically increases the numbers of rats and mice, and in turn stoat populations as they feed on the rodents. When the seeds rot or germinate, the predators turn to bird eggs and chicks.



To combat the predicted predator boom in the Park, we have increased our trapping efforts. Pest hot spots were in filled with DOC200 to reduce the space between traps to 50m. We are also concentrating on making sure all the traps are working and have volunteer trappers testing traps that haven't caught anything for a while. The testing team and fixit team are also concentrating on making sure all the traps are in good working order.

Forest and Bird have some further information on their website, [click](#) on the links below to read:

**[Largest seed mast in 45 years: \\$20m emergency pest control funding needed](#)**

**[Trapping through a Mast Year](#)**

### Volunteer Profile Alan Thompson



Alan joined the Trust way back in 2005 to help with the technical side of the Little Barrier Island kiwi release in 2006. Since then, Alan has provided a range of technical wizardry and practical support related to kiwi tracking and monitoring.



Alan also designed and made the bird call players that are fixed to the birds information panels at the start of the Orongorongo Track.

Many of you may recognise Alan as Rimu the Kiwi's chauffeur in the Wainuiomata Christmas parades.



## Nursery Working Bee

As organised by Mike Rees, on a rather damp and drizzly day, a group of cheerful, hard-working volunteers came to our native tree nursery down at the Catchpool to re-pot hundreds of kanuka and manuka seedlings. The transfer from root trainers to larger pots was aided by the welcome donation of several bags of potting mix and trowel-sized gardening scoops from PlaceMakers at Seaview.

Our expert nursery advisor, Jonathan Bussell, came along to give guidance to the newbies as well as to discuss 'next-steps' for our nursery plants management cycle.

Plant and equipment hygiene was emphasised and exercised, with hundreds of pots and root trainers washed thoroughly for recycling and reuse.



Photo: Peter Cooper

## Wild Kiwi Tees

Let the kids show their support with a "I'm a Wild Kiwi" T Shirt sponsored by Village Accommodation.



The T Shirts are great quality 100% cotton. Children's sizes (2-14 years) are \$20 each and all proceeds go to the Trust. Please email [sponsors@remutaka.nz](mailto:sponsors@remutaka.nz) to order.

# Catchpool Restoration

Regular visitors to the Park have been commenting on the regeneration of the native bush particularly in the Catchpool Valley. Peter Cooper has provided us with these dramatic comparison photos from 2006, 2011 and 2018 taken from the same area. He reports that the flax bush in the 2011 shot now towers way above head height. It is wonderful to see the dramatic progress Peter and the team of volunteers are making.

Catchpool Valley—100 m north of Catchpool Centre



August 2006



October 2011



2018

## Our Sponsors/Supporters

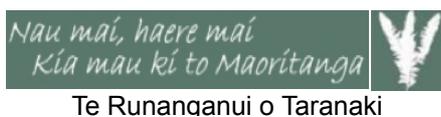
Thank you to the following businesses and organisations as well as all of our kiwi, transmitter, trap and tree sponsors for their new and continued annual support.

### PlaceMakers Seaview

Steve and his team are long time supporters of our efforts. They recently donated items for our nursery as well as batteries, screwdrivers and mesh for the traplines.

### Seven Electrical

Thank you also to new sponsor Seven Electrical, who supported the recent Kiwi Aversion Training in May.



Flyrite – Rimutaka Heli Services

