



# THE RIMU-TALKER



*A newsletter of the Rimutaka Forest Park Charitable Trust Incorporated  
December 2016*



## **The Trust**

The Trust committee would like to wish you and your families a safe and peaceful Christmas and holiday season.

## **Volunteers**

We continue to have amazing support from people who give of their free time to help protect the RFP and all those critters that live there. Some of these people are behind the scenes and not always visible. One of these amazing people is John Cranefield, the Trust Treasurer. John, a Chartered Accountant, manages the finances of the Trust and ensures the committee is kept informed on the Trusts financial status. Without high quality audited accounts our ability to apply for and obtain funds would be that much harder and in some instances impossible, Thank you John.



John with his grandson Quin just before a kiwi release

## **International Visitors**

We had some visitors to the park over the last few months. The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks visited the Catchpool with Rob Stone, Department of Conservation. The team were here to understand just how important community conservation groups were as part of



The team from Los Angeles

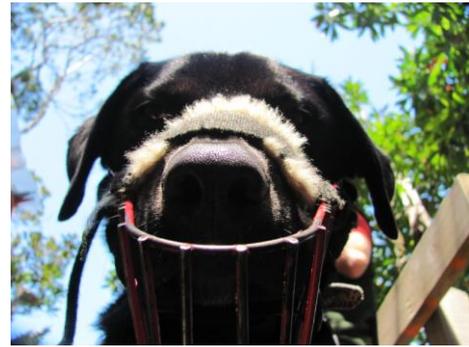


Tammy trying out the kiwi tracking equipment

park management in NZ. Also visiting was Tammy Duchesne, Superintendent Pu'uhoonua o Honaunau & Kaloko-Honokohau National historic Parks, accompanied by Laura McNeur from the American Embassy and Kurt from the Department of Conservation. Tammy was in New Zealand on a speaking tour as part of United States National Parks Centennial.

## **The kiwi**

The last few months have been busy with egg lifts and finding lost birds and chicks. Jo Sim, Dabchicks.co.nz e with her trained kiwi dog Rua found these two little beauties out the back of Camp Wainui. Mr Baggins, their dad had kicked off his transmitter and we were really keen to find him again. Jo was given a chilli-bin with hotties and sponges just in case he was on a nest with eggs and what a lovely surprise to find two healthy chicks. These two are now at Wairakei kiwi crèche piling on the weight.



## **Kiwi dispersing**

If you think you have heard kiwi in the back garden you could be right!

The two pictures below show kiwi footprints in the mud. This photo was taken by Doug Flux while leading a tramping group up around Mt Climie! Map shows the location of the footprints in relation to the Turere Valley, the main kiwi zone. This bird has done some serious mileage. Another 3k or so and it will be hanging out on the Rimutaka Hill Road!



## Operation Nest Egg O.N.E.

We currently have 7 chicks scattered around the country. These are from eggs removed from the nests during September/October. 4 chicks are at the kiwi crèche at Wairakei, 2 are at Pukaha in the Wairarapa and 1 at Rainbow Spring in Rotorua. 5 of these chicks have sponsors waiting for their return. They need to be 1000-1200 grams before we return them to the Rimutakas. The kiwis that we monitor are currently incubating their second clutch of the season.

AirNZ sponsored and arranged for eggs and carriers to travel free to Rotorua and even the eggs got a seat on the plane! The two young trappers carrying the eggs were thrilled to be a part of something quite special. Some of you would have seen the film clip developed by Monster Valley Ltd. AirNZ filmed the egg lifts and hope to do further filming when the chicks are returned to the park.



The kiwi eggs very own boarding pass



on arrival at Rainbow Springs the egg is candled<sup>1</sup> to check age of the wee chick inside. Photo Karl Sheridan, Monster Valley Ltd.

## Sunday Social Motorbike Club

Sunday Social Riders came up trumps for a third year running a sponsored ride to raise money for the kiwi. Check out Rimu the kiwi hanging loose on a motorbike☺. A big thank you to ScriptingIT for donating to the cause again this year, Matt from ScriptingIT always joins in the sponsored rides organised by the club.



<sup>1</sup> Egg Candling – using a torch to look inside the egg to check out whether it is live, how old and when it is likely to hatch.

## Village Accommodation

Village Accommodation based in Wellington provides serviced apartments and other excellent accommodation in the city. Check out their website. <http://www.villagegroup.co.nz/>

We have a 3 year agreement with Village sponsoring kiwi and other activities for the Trust. This is a marvellous opportunity and we thank Adam Cunningham and Shelley Ashton for their support.



We used this year's funds to produce some lovely tee-shirts, check them out. There is a Village logo and Rimutaka logo on each sleeve and nothing on the back. Anyone interested in purchasing a tee-shirt contact Rosemary - [rosemary@thompsonfamily.nz](mailto:rosemary@thompsonfamily.nz). The kiwi on the ladies v neck Tee is made up of map topography of the Turere Valley, the original release site for the kiwi.

What a star and an amazing young man. Bryn saved a third of his pocket money all year and then got to decide who he would give it to. It was a toss up between kittens and kiwi and kiwi won! Thank you Bryn. Here he is with Rimu the kiwi handing over his hard earned money.



### **Sponsor a wild kiwi this Christmas**

Sponsorship packs include:

- \* A photo of your kiwi
- \* Information about your kiwi
- \* A personalised certificate
- \* Updates on your kiwi
- \* Subscription to our newsletter

[sponsors@rimutakatrust.org.nz](mailto:sponsors@rimutakatrust.org.nz)  
Phone Rosemary on 04 569 4764

See our website to see how you can help us  
keep kiwi wild in Wellington

[www.rimutakatrust.org.nz](http://www.rimutakatrust.org.nz)  
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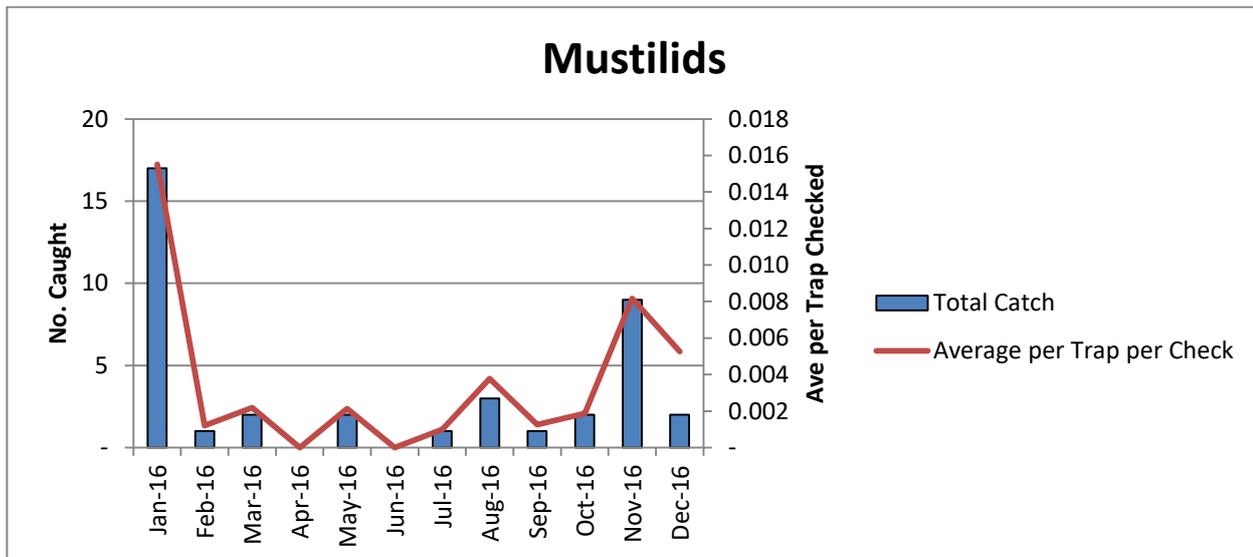
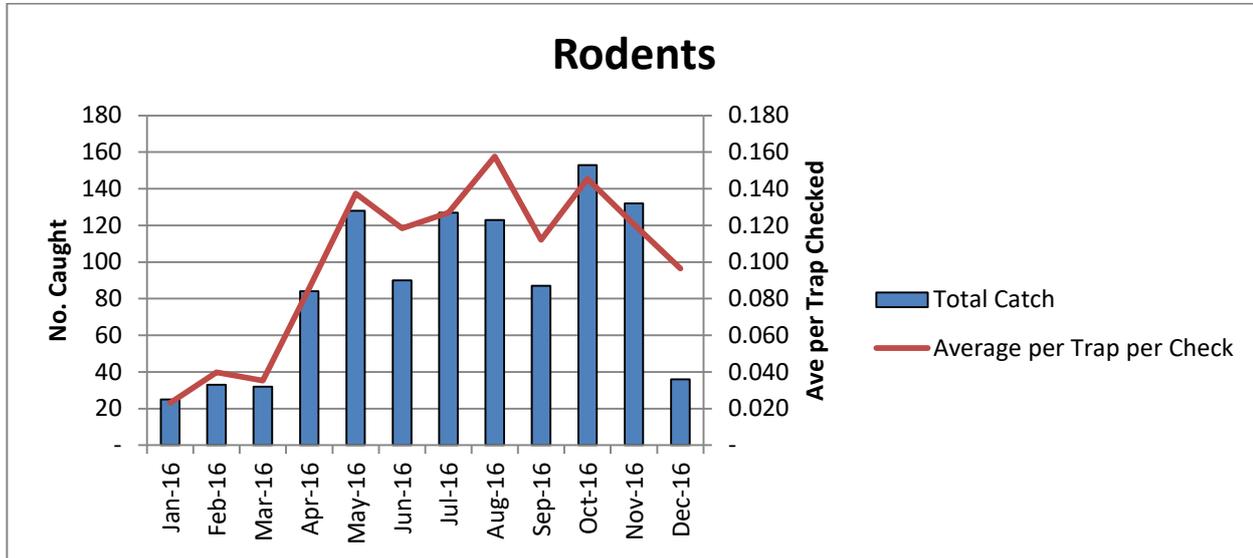


**RIMUTAKA**  
FOREST PARK TRUST

Regenerating  
our natural  
habitat

## Pest Control

The tables below show the rat and stoat numbers by month for the year. The stoat catches are starting to increase as we move into that busy time of year. This year we have tried alternating different baits, infilling with additional traps some identified pest hotspots while maintaining the fortnightly rather than monthly checks through the winter. Increased temperatures and the forecast mast<sup>2</sup> events



<sup>2</sup> Mast event – increased seeding of the forest, increases rats population which then increases stoats. Seeds disappear the rats disappear then the stoats look elsewhere for food

## Catchpool Restoration Project



**TREES THAT COUNT**  
TE RAHI O TĀNE

### **Trees That Count:**

Corporate Volunteer teams from BNZ, NZ Treasury, BNP Paribas, IAG and Contact Energy planted well over a thousand native trees in a number of restoration planting zones throughout the Catchpool Valley during August, September and October. Most

were seedlings of native plants capable of growing to more than 5m height in their lifetime. (i.e. *Metrosideros robusta* (Northern rata), *Kunzea robusta* (Kanuka), *Cordyline Australis* (Cabbage Tree), *Podocarpus totara* (Totara), *Beilschmiedia tawa* (Tawa), *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* (Kahikatea), *Hedycarya arborea* (Pigeonwood), *Knightia excelsa* (Rewarewa), *Aristolelia serrata* (Wineberry), etc., all of which meet the criteria for inclusion in the Trees That Count nationwide effort to plant trees to offset the greenhouse gases produced by New Zealanders going about their daily business. <http://projectcrimson.org.nz/projects/trees-that-count/>



The BNZ 'Closed For Good' Team did an outstanding job of planting trees and clearing gorse throughout several restoration zones.



Lunch break for the BNZ team and Victoria University/Rimutaka Forest Park Trust helpers.



Girls from Chilton St James School after they'd planted about 260 native trees.



The energetic team from NZ Govt. Treasury got through an amazing amount of work on the day.

A wonderful team of senior students from Chilton St James School gave up a precious day of their weekend to plant 260 trees for us too.

Hundreds of other smaller plants (e.g. *Leptospermum scoparium* (Manuka), *Austroderia fulvida*/toetoe (Toetoe), *Phormium tenax* (Flax) etc., were dug in during these volunteer days as well, mixed up with the larger trees, inserted into appropriate microhabitat zones.



**WBS Field Trip -**  
Following up on the  
July 2016 field trip  
to the  
OFM/Orongorongo

and Catchpool Loop Tracks, the Wellington Botanical Society conducted a further field trip to 'botanise' the Nature Trail/ Nga Taonga Tracks in the Catchpool.

Members of the BotSoc were pleasantly surprised at the rich in botanical interest. Some of the highlights was the amazing display of *Pterostylis banksii*, Greenwood Orchid or Tutukiwi, the swamp mahoe, Northern Rata and Rimu. 35 plants were added to the species list for the Catchpool.

For more information check out the Wellington Botanical Society website

<http://www.wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz>

The Plant Lists generated following these visits since 2009 have become valuable observational inputs to our Catchpool Eco-



Hotspot and Catchpool Restoration Project Plans.

None of this would be possible without the support from Sponsors, donors and in kind support from many. Thank you



## William Noel Pharazyn Charitable Trust

## RON & EDNA GREENWOOD ENVIRONMENT TRUST



Wainuiomata



## Flyrite – Rimutaka Heli Services



NIKAU FOUNDATION



Lottery Grants  
Ngā Takuhe Rota



## COLIN WEBSTER WATSON TRUST

Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui

Thank you to all those like minded people who have sponsored a trap, kiwi or tree through the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust's sponsorship programme.