



Newsletter

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Kiwi Update: Sandy & Robin Toy

The exciting development since the October update is that pairing has become much more apparent and some of the pairs appear to be hanging out in very restricted locales. We cannot be sure whether they are using exactly the same burrows without risking disturbing them, but we think Totaranui and Parapara, Aorere and Rakopi, Rameka and Waiharakeke are settled pairs. We're not so certain about Anaweka and Anatori or Pakawau and Pikopiko who sometimes hang out as pairs and sometimes are some way apart. Patoto remains a bachelor male, which is interesting because he was translocated with a sub-adult male assumed to be his son (Rakopi), but no mate.

With all this pairing up going on, it is a bit disappointing that the birds' activity patterns are not showing any sign of incubation. However, this may be a result of translocation or a response to the late snow. We understand GSK breeding is quite patchy elsewhere this year, so we shouldn't be disheartened.

Of the pairs translocated, two have remained together although Totaranui and Parapara required human intervention to help them find each other after they wandered in different directions after release. The other three are mix-and-match of the original pairs, with the absence of Rototai (see below) and the addition of Rakopi the 'sub-adult' male (hopefully not so 'sub').

Rototai remains missing, it is four months since he was last detected. He may have wandered well outside the monitored area, although extensive tracking outside the core area has not found him, or he may have fallen in a tomo from which no signal can emerge or his transmitter may have failed. We will probably never know although we continue to search for him.

Many thanks to all the trackers – you're all doing a great job!

Dogs and kiwi don't mix:

Since the kiwis have been put in to the Flora, we have had numerous reports of people taking dogs into the park. This is a real worry not only for the kiwi, but also weka and nesting whio. It is illegal to take a dog into a national park, unless authorised to do so. The penalty is up to \$10,000, or one year imprisonment. Although we have 'no dog' signage for all to see, it's either not being seen, or people are ignoring it. We have changed these signs with one which stands out more, due to its colouring, so as to eliminate the problem of not seeing it! We hope this works. We recently put an article in the local papers, so as to inform and educate the public on this issue. The hope is if any

Footprint Tracking

This month we started our footprint tracking for rodents. Up until now we have only been measuring the stoat activity, of which we started doing 3 times a year, but after 2 years of very low activity (1 stoat tracked), it was decided we would only require doing this annually. February is the month when stoat activity in the Flora is highest, so that's when we do our FTT's. We will be doing the rodent tracking twice a year Nov/Feb. When checking for stoat, we have 5 tracking tunnels on each line, 100 metres apart. We put an inkpad in the centre of the tunnel, with a piece of meat to attract it, and on running through it leaves its footprints on the card attached. They are left out for 3 nights before collection. The same regimen is used for rodents except we use 10 tunnels 50 metres apart and they are left out for one night only. **No rodents were tracked this month.** We can't be complacent with this though, as we have just come out of a winter so the numbers will be naturally low. We will be tracking both stoats and rodents in February. This is a time when the young of both species are on the move – so our results may be quite different then. It should also be noted, our traps only control rats in an approximate 100 metre radius from each trap. Rats live in small, confined areas of approx. 100 square metres, so most will never come across one of our traps. Unlike the stoat which travels long distances.

September Results:

Stoats 3, Rats 9, Mice 1 and Possums 1

Upcoming Events:

Annual Whio Survey will be in early December

Laying out traps on D line

2010 Tasman Nelson Environment Awards

Monthly trap checking

What's that plant?

Ranunculus insignis

This beautiful buttercup can be found in areas above the bushline, within our trapping area. If you the P (Gordon's Pyramid) plant with its bright green bright yellow flowers, can best, crouching down a shelter from the harsh ridge. Its distribution is central North Island, down Thumbs Range in one of our largest native Ranunculus, second only to R. lyallii (wrongly often referred to as the Mt Cook lily).



are monitoring Line, this 'flashy' leaves and shiny be found at its tomo hole to winds on the from about as far as the Two Canterbury. It is

Until next time...

Maryann and Bill

On behalf of the Friends of Flora Team