



# Newsletter

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## Chair's Report

*Peter Adams*

This has been another busy year for FoF, with a lot of action on the kiwi front (see below), the Battle for our Birds Campaign with accompanying 1080 applications, and ongoing work on trapping lines and other biodiversity management activities. A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes in terms of financial matters, grant applications, community engagement, data management and database updates etc. The planning process for the Salisbury "Biodiversity Management Unit" (BMU) is proceeding, albeit slowly. A group of DoC scientists will be discussing the key values, threats and actions required in a meeting next February. Several key FoF people (including Bill, Maryann and Sandy) will be attending, and there will be subsequent opportunities for FoF volunteers to be involved in finalising the draft plan.

The FoF committee would like to thank all those people who have worked so hard on a variety of activities this year. We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and successful New Year.

## Kiwi Report

*Sandy Toy*

The spring weather has kept us on our toes – trudging through the snow in late November?! But it's been a very exciting time on the kiwi front.

There have been so many starts to incubation and some subsequent abandonments that it's been hard to keep track. But the latest stats are:

- 13 incubation attempts
- 7 incubation failures, although 4 of them started again
- 2 chicks hatched
- 4 nests still incubating

The nest cams are providing amazing footage some of which we've posted on the Friends of Flora Facebook page. You don't have to sign up to see the footage – just go to the FOF web site [www.fof.org.nz](http://www.fof.org.nz) and click on the Facebook link. Some of the kiwi videos are: kiwi in the snow; kiwi house keeping; 'Wallie the Weka' pestering a kiwi and most recently 'chicky' – this year's first kiwi chick looking very cute and some very touching footage of a female kiwi grooming her partner! We've never seen anything like this before. All this is a tribute to the effort put in by all FOF volunteers over the years.

The good news is that there has been only one video clip of a stoat at a kiwi nest so far – fingers crossed. The other exciting news is that all 3 of the wandering females that we brought back to the Flora last year have settled and bred this year. On the down side, the 2 bachelor boys have both headed off to Barron's Flat – what is so attractive about that place??

The Kiwi Recovery Group have advised that if possible we should bring more kiwi into the Flora to ensure a genetically sustainable population. As a first step towards this we have discussed potential source sites with DOC and have undertaken a kiwi call count survey at South Gouland. Thanks to

the DOC Community Conservation Partnership Fund for funding the survey\* and to Toby of Reid Helicopters for supporting the trip. We had a great survey team in Paul, Lesley and Ruedi and recorded lots of kiwi. We're wading through a mass of data and will produce a report of the survey for further discussion and consultation. We took the opportunity as part of the survey to check out the soil invertebrates as an indicator of kiwi food availability and while patchy, the results we obtained from the Flora last year compare very favourably. Thanks to Ruedi Mossiman for the photos.

\* Note that information gained with the assistance of this fund is available on request.



### FoF work day on Adele Island

*Ivan Rogers*



For something a bit different, Friends of Flora had a work day on Adele Island in the Abel Tasman National Park on Friday, 12 December. DoC kindly transported 10 FoFers and 2 DoC rangers to Adele on the "Otuwhero". We landed on the eastern side of the island, and followed the main track around to a turnoff to some rock outcrops where we visited a large gecko colony. where we observed about 15 common geckos crammed into a granite fissure.

After that the group split up to trim the interior traplines used for those rare occasions when there is a pest incursion onto the pest free island. During this time nine South Island saddlebacks were observed, out of the 39 recently translocated onto Adele. The birds proved hard to photograph so readers will have to make do with this picture of a little blue penguin that emerged amidst the group as we were waiting for the boat trip back (see above). Also of note were the constant presence of South Island robins and a sighting of a pair of bellbirds visiting their brood of chicks in a nest conveniently at eye level. FoF would like to thank DoC Motueka and the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust for making this trip possible.

### Whio Thriving

*Ivan Rogers*



Saturday 13 December saw the first of Friends of Flora's walk-through whio survey take place. Walking the river from the Flora Hut to Upper Junction the group came across three family groups, two juveniles and several single birds. The three family groups had 14 ducklings between them. In all 25 whio were counted, the best survey result to date.

A further survey will take place later this summer to see if the ducklings have fledged successfully. The four little darlings in Ruedi Mosimann's delightful photograph were seen with their parents at the Hodge Creek bridge. Photo above courtesy of Chris Freyberg. Thanks to those who volunteered - Paul Ewers, Chris Freyburg, Ruedi and Jasmine Mosimann, Chris Potter, Birgit Klingebiel and Ivan Rogers.



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