



# Newsletter

Issue: 64

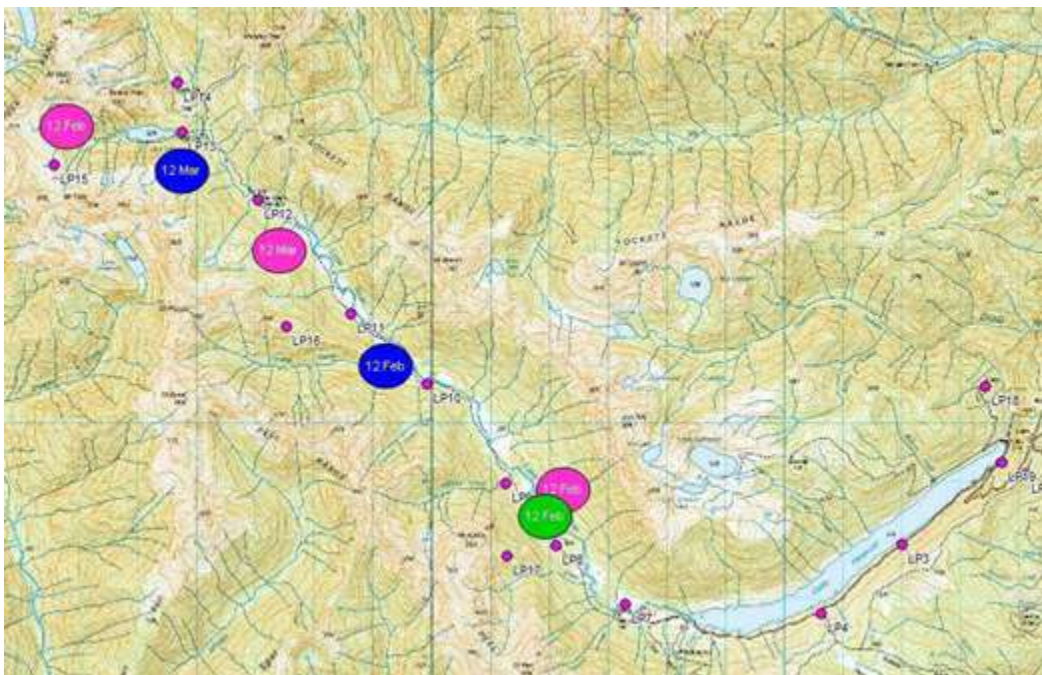
March 2011

## Kiwi Update – Sandy and Robin Toy

All the Flora Valley kiwi with functioning transmitters have had new transmitters fitted over the last 7 weeks. Ten changes went pretty smoothly, but Anaweka proved elusive – a kiwi that doesn't use burrows, doesn't sleep, runs at the slightest noise and inhabits the densest, thickest, most impenetrable terrain in the Flora catchment. Well done Chris Golding for finally running her down!

Meanwhile, kiwi call counts were completed on February 12<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup> in the Cobb Valley. Both nights were calm, mild and moonlit. Volunteers from Friends of Cobb with assistance from Friends of Flora were assigned to 15 listening stations along the Cobb Valley for synchronised kiwi call counts, starting 45 minutes after sunset and continuing for 2 hours.

Based on counts for which there was a high degree of confidence, the combined results of the two counts (see map) suggest there are at least 3 pairs of kiwi in the valley (pink ovals), 2 males (blue ovals) and another female (green oval) although she could be the female of the adjacent pair. In addition, there was a report of another pair being heard near the Cobb Dam on 19<sup>th</sup> February. There were additional reports of 'possible' kiwi calls on February 12<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup> from other locations.



It certainly seems there are numbers of kiwi in the Cobb Valley. Might there be others in the area between the Cobb and Flora? We plan on doing some counts around Deep Creek and Balloon Creek late in 2011 to get some idea. Watch this space to get involved!

## Seed Rain – a drizzle or a deluge in 2011?

The annual collection of beech seeds – ‘seed rain’ – is under way again. The 8 large funnels spaced up the side of Mt Lodestone have been straightened up after last September’s heavy snowfall and are again collecting the stuff falling from the canopy high above. Each month from March to May the stockings suspended under the funnels are replaced and the full ones – duly labelled – are sent off for the beech seeds inside to be counted. This will tell us whether this is a heavy-seeding or mast year for beeches in the Flora, ringing alarm bells for a probably rapid increase in mouse, rat and eventually stoat numbers. We can only hope for the best – and be prepared for the worst.

## Catch results

### January

Stoats = 9

Rats = 7

Possums = 5

### February

Stoats = 2

Rats = 8

Possums = 1

## FoF’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations



Further to our announcement last month on our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations coming up later in the year – August, we thought it a good idea to throw it out to everyone on ideas for this. So... if you think you have an idea you’d like to put forward for perusal from the anniversary sub-committee, please email this to [fof@fof.org.nz](mailto:fof@fof.org.nz), we would love to hear from you.

## Special Meeting for all FOF Volunteers:

**‘A discussion evening about pest control - why it is necessary, and the toolkit available’**

We have invited Harry Broad – DOC’s Pest Control Advocacy Coordinator; Southern Regional Office and Graeme Elliot – DOC scientist Nelson, to have a discussion with FOF volunteers on the many tools available for pest eradication, including 1080. This will be a Q&A evening, so all who are interested are invited to the Community House (Decks Reserve) in Motueka, at 7 pm on April 19.

This will be a very interesting evening.

## Exciting news on the who front in the Flora!

After thinking we didn't have any young hatch in the catchment this summer, 3 juveniles were spotted with their mother at Saddle Creek recently, which flows into the upper reaches of the Flora. The mother is 'Talo', which is one of our original young born to 'Maryann and 'Bill' in 2007.

## Compliance Training

With the recent spat of dog sightings in the park, it was decided some 'training' for FoF volunteers would be a good idea. DOC Motueka's compliance officer, Simon Bayly gave a group of FoFers, some good hands on advice/training, in what to do if encountering a dog and its owner in the park. We talked over all the pointers which were in our January newsletter. If possible; get the owners name, dog licence number, number plate of owners car (or all cars in car park), a description of owner and dog, a photo of dog & owner, ring the DOC Hotline: **0800 362 468**

## What's that Plant?

### Sundew's - *Drosera* species

Carnivorous plants occur on every continent except Antarctica. They like wet conditions for at least part of the year. They grow where the soils do not have enough nutrients for more conventional plants. Their carnivorous nature offsets the lack of nutrients.

The most obvious sundews. New Zealand have sticky gland tipped These hairs are sensitive to escape the sticky inflex, carrying the victim where it is digested by



carnivorous plants are the has 7 *Drosera* species. All hairs which trap insects. to touch. An insect struggling mucilage stimulates them to to the centre of the 'leaf' enzymes.

Although small and easy to overlook, their bright red colouring is characteristic when you get your eye in. The open ridge at the top of little B line is a good place to find them. They are spectacular when viewed through a magnifying glass!

Until next time...

Maryann  
On behalf of the Friends of Flora Team

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