



August 2015

The Kiwi

One of the highlights of recent months has been the discovery of two previously unknown wild female kiwi. One was found cohabitating with Mr Baggins; Mr Baggins is an 18-month old wild hatched chick who has since commenced incubation! Another female was picked up by the kiwi dogs during a survey of the Turere. Five additional monitored males have also commenced incubation with chicks due to hatch out at the end September/October. We hope to employ a contractor again this year to transmitter and monitor the survival of chicks on a weekly basis.

We received an email from a member of the public who had walked up from Sunny Grove to the Boys Brigade turnoff and was delighted to see kiwi prints in the snow, and in more than one location too.



Dog Survey

We recently employed Jo Sim, Ecologist, to work her trained kiwi dogs through set areas

in the kiwi zone, to identify the presence of birds in that area. We intentionally targeted areas where we knew or there was a high probability that kiwi were present. This greatly helps us to 'calibrate' the effectiveness of using the dogs for find kiwi.

The Restoration Project

Work on the restoration project continues under the guidance of Nursery Manager Jonathan Bussell, Peter Cooper and the Catchpool Nursery Group. A large number of Toetoe and Manuka seeds collected from the park by Jonathan have been transplanted into root trainers.

The project also received a grant from Project Crimson that included 350 Northern Rata (*metrosideros robusta*) transplants.

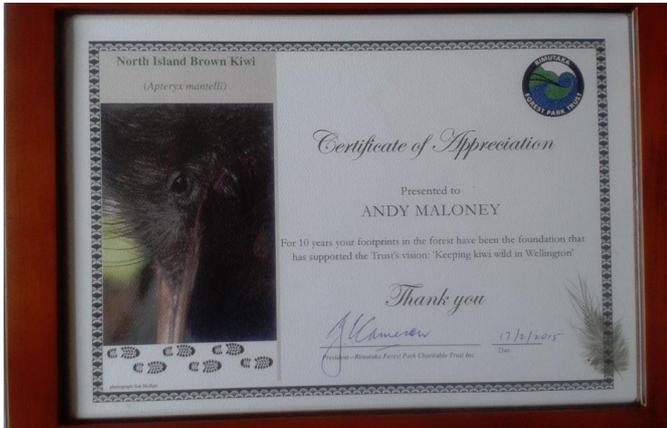
In June, a United States Embassy Community Team, including Ambassador Mark Gilbert, visited the park to plant Northern Rata and despite the rain they did manage to get quite a few trees planted. All enjoyed the day and had a lot of fun.



Photo courtesy of US Embassy Photographer

Volunteers

We know all our volunteers are amazing, awesome and special people who give of their time freely. Some of these volunteers have been with the Trust for more than 10 years, so we thought it appropriate that all 26 volunteers were acknowledged in some small way so we came up with this certificate to say – thank you very much for your generous help!



The inscription reads

For 10 years your footprints in the forest have been the foundation that has supported the Trust's vision: 'Keeping kiwi wild in Wellington'

Thank you to all our volunteers for making the Joining the Dots, Kiwi, Restore the Dawn Chorus and the Restoration projects a reality.

To put into perspective what this really means if all the volunteers were paid \$15 an hour the cost would be \$84,740 over six months. This includes, trappers, trackers, fixit team, monitoring of pests, committee, steering groups and much much more.

We also recognise that:

- Volunteers are not 'free'.
- "Volunteer" does not mean "amateur".

Karearea – NZ Bush Falcon



The New Zealand bush falcon is rarer than kiwi in the Wellington Region and we are so lucky to have them present in the Rimutakas. Endemic to New Zealand, like the kiwi, the female is bigger than the male and they are vulnerable to stoats, cats, ferrets and dogs as they often nest on the ground or in sheltered ledges. Not to be confused with the Australasian Harrier Hawk that is often seen cruising and eating dead road kill, Falcon very rarely feed on carrion.

Out and about with Rimu

In May Rimu attended the Imagine Childcare family day out and picnic at the park.



Rimu's Calendar

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| September 18 th | Volunteer Pub Night |
| November 15 th | Catchpool BBQ |
| November 5 th | Westfield Mall |
| December ? | Xmas Parade |

Joining the Dots, Phase One & Two

Joining the Dots, Phase One was about extending our stoat control to protect the kiwi as they disperse out of the main kiwi zone. New trap-lines were introduced north, south, east and west of the 3,000 ha already intensively trapped. The core zone utilises DOC200 and DOC250 traps and the outer buffers utilise the A24 self re-setting traps. Additional A24's have been purchased to deploy along the Whakanui stream.

Thank you to the Orongorongo Club, the Bush Fire Force, the Jackson and Randall families for re-baiting and maintaining the new trap-lines.

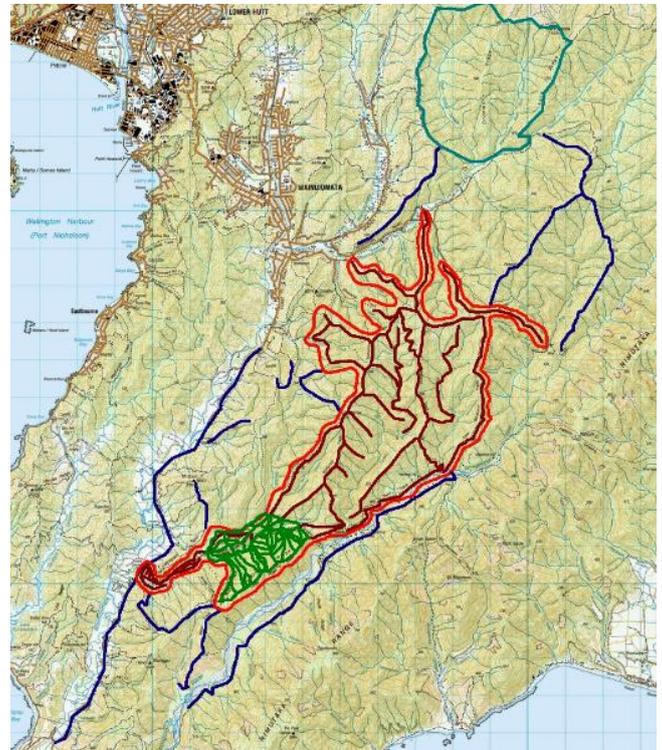
Phase Two is about focusing on more intensified pest control within a smaller Eco Hotspot. The ultimate objectives are to have two main Eco Hot spots with an intensified buffer between the two. However as we are a voluntary organisation we will focus on one dot at a time. The Trust has also been talking with other Conservation groups in the area to see how we can help each other and collectively make some leaps forward in pest

For the kiwi Motorbike Team

Del and Kelly and two amazing people who were going to race their motorbike at Bonneville Salt Flats this August. As part of their challenge they have been raising money for the Rimutaka kiwi as they are amazed at what we have achieved. Unfortunately the salt flats are not in a good condition and the racing has been cancelled for

control. MIRO and Friends of Baring Head in particular along with GWRC Mainland Island have been doing some amazing stuff seeing to the beasties in their respective areas.

Red line encompasses the core kiwi zone. The light green circle at the top is GWRC Mainland Island. Dark blue are the A24 trap-lines, except the coats road line, yet to be installed, will be DOC250s. The green spaghetti at the bottom on the map is the proposed Catchpool Eco Hotspot.



the second year running. This has not stopped Del and Kelly from continuing to support the Rimutaka kiwi by making these beautiful collection boxes and placing them around their home town in Kaikoura. In addition, they have started a 'GiveALittle' page for people to drop their odd money into. Thanks guys, here's looking forward to seeing you racing next year and catching up when you come to the Mainland.... !



Mr Holmes - a film fundraiser for the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust.



A good time was had by all at a recent fund raiser at the Lighthouse Theatre in Petone. A big thank you for the spot prizes kindly donated by Department of Conservation, (One night in a DOC hut) Interislander Ferries (\$250 travel voucher) and Hutt City Council (A12 Self –re-setting possum trap) were won by some lucky recipients. A big thank you to the Lighthouse Theatre for the marvellous opportunity they offer organisations to raise additional funds for different causes and to Petone Pak 'n Save and Wainuiomata Countdown for supplying the wine and nibbles.



Picture is taken from the East Whakanui Trap-line, looking north – stunning...

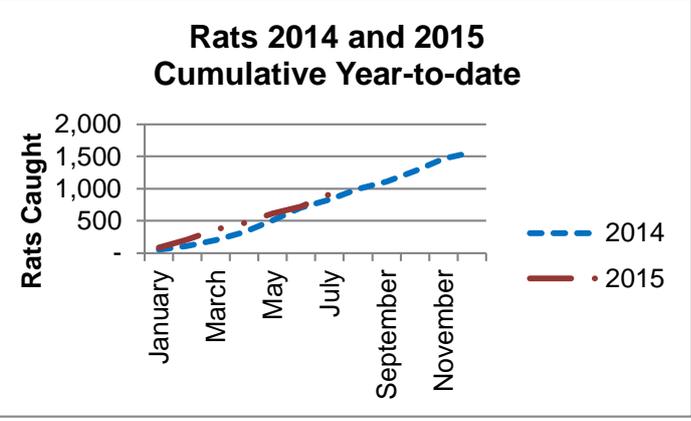
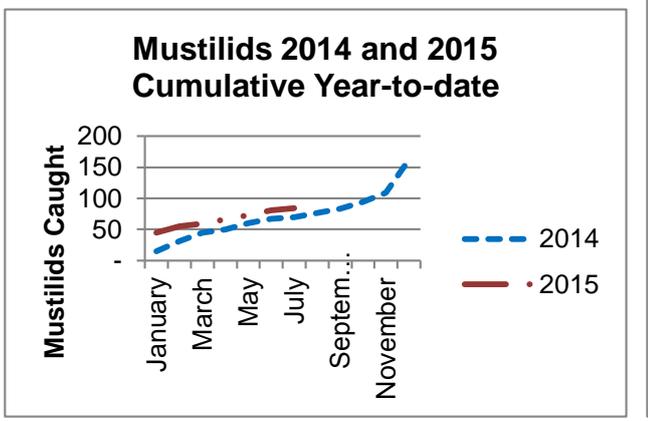
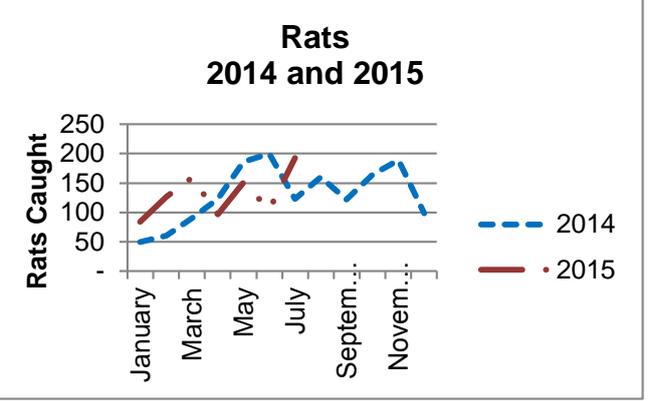
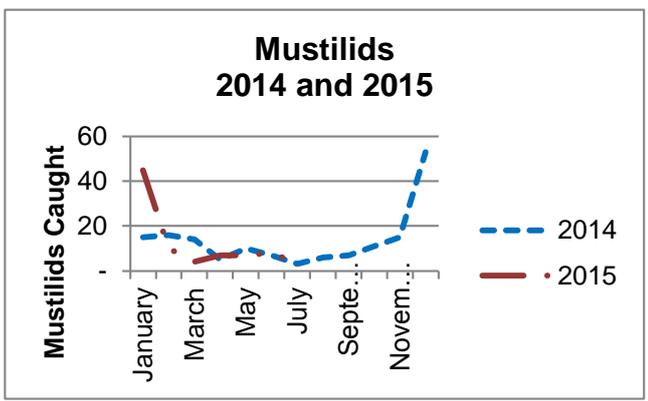
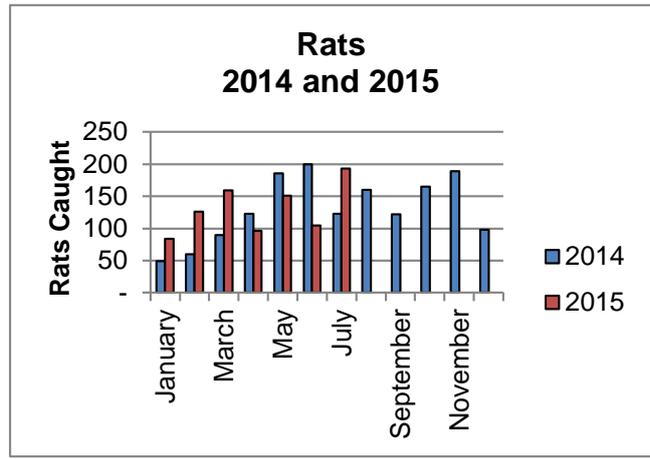
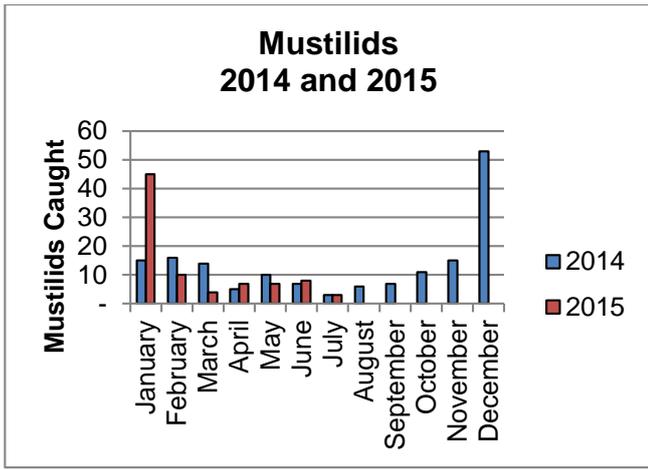
Tracking tunnel Monitoring is conducted by the Trust four times each year.



These are footprints we definitely would like to see in our tracking tunnels – any idea what animal they belong too?

Comparison Between 2014 and 2015 YTD rat and stoat catch

Given last years' mast seeding of beech trees and the large numbers of rats and stoats we were curious to view a comparison between the two years so far to see how the catch rates were trending.



Sponsors and Supporters

As much as we would like to, we cannot operate without financial backing and these organizations have been instrumental in providing the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust with the financial or in kind support to enable us to develop and deliver the projects we have today. Thank you.



Pharazyn Trust

RON and EDNA GREENWOOD ENVIRONMENT TRUST



Flyrite – Rimutaka Heli Services

COLIN WEBSTER WATSON TRUST



Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui

Lottery Grants
Ngā Takuhe Rota

*All those like minded people who have sponsored a kiwi, a trap, a tree –
thank you*