

January 2010

Our projects depend heavily on the landowners supporting us. It is with sadness we acknowledge the passing of Graeme Corkill. We started our project in 2005, and soon after we received a call from Graeme saying he wanted to save kiwi at his place like we were doing, and when would we be doing the bush next to him. Well it took us a few years to get there, but we started at his place in 2008. Graeme was always a strong supporter in our work which we greatly appreciated.

Our condolences to his family.

Volunteers too, are an important part of our work. Without the support of people we would not be achieving what we have to date. Recently we have been donated surplus walkway ladders from DOC. These are being used to upgrade a track where we plan to have guided walks for the public to experience our project.

The Inglewood Lions Club kindly had a working bee to dismantle the ladders for us. The National Bank Rural team has also been involved. Like many organisations they have a day which is a volunteer day for the community and we were the lucky recipients this year. The track needs the edges cleared and they used their volunteer day to help. There are plenty of farm guys in the team and they were very good on the end of scrub bars.

So too does the blue duck project rely on volunteers for the monthly check.

To you all a big thank you from our Trust, you are all making a difference.

We have put together a volunteer calendar for the year. Although a lot of the events need a high level of fitness, some are more people friendly. We are mindful that we do not want to have to call in the rescue helicopter. The calendar will be on our web site shortly. In the meantime the first three months details are in this newsletter. Contact us for further information.

Stoats

Some interesting facts:

- Introduced to NZ in 1884
- They can have delayed implantation with most females (99%) are in the inactive phase of pregnancy between November – August.

- The number of young born is dependant on spring food supplies
- Large litters potentially up to 20 kits but usually 4-8.
- Only have litter once a year
- Juvenile dispersal is December – January
- They are excellent climbers and swimmers
- They are very active hunters
- They use sight, hearing and scent when hunting
- They will tackle prey much larger than themselves
- They often kill and cache prey for future feeding
- Their diet birds, invertebrates, rats, mouse, rabbits, and possum
- Their home range can be between 79 and 147 ha.

Kiwi

Things have settled to a routine, with the weather providing the odd hiccup. Our trap catch has been very good in the heart of the new block. In October we caught 16 adult males, November 6, and December 10. This must be having a good impact on the resident population. In comparison the Purangi block caught 3 in October, 0 in November, and 8 in December.

As noted above we are developing a walking track. It was great on the second day of the track work to have kiwi poo on the new track.

The ground possum work has finished in the Purangi area, and will now focus on the Pouiatua block. This has been held up by the weather.



Inglewood Lions Club members working bee

Whio (Blue Duck)

Dean Caskey has advised he has a number of female blue duck with failed transmitters. Please be ware they may be on the rivers down in the farmland area. If you notice any, contact Dean or us.

There have been 9 eggs lifted and taken to Mt Bruce for hatching. Once the ducklings are big enough they will be returned and released. The delay in the aerial drop on the mountain has meant a higher risk to the female blue duck. In the October stoat box checks in the Park 80 stoats were caught. The area outside the Park where we have the boxes another 2 were caught. To put that in perspective our kiwi project caught a total of 19 in 1300 boxes in the same month. It's no wonder our native species are struggling in the National Park.

Volunteer Calendar Jan to March 2010

Administration support:

At times we need help from people who have good computer skills especially with microsoft office: for brochures and web/media type work. Contact us if you can help.

January

Bird Count Survey.

Four teams will be doing a 5 minute bird count survey. This involves a walk through the track with a listen at set points for bird calls. This will give a base line of bird type and density.

Fitness: medium

Number required: 4 – 6

When: mid to late January.

Track work

Track clearing and building for the new annual guided walk. Help develop view shafts, and assist track builder.

Fitness: medium

Number required: 10-20

When: Jan 11th to month end.

Possum Control

Join our contractors as they do ground possum control. Help carry gear in and possum skins out.

Fitness: high

Number required: 1 or 2 per trip

When: second week of month onwards weather dependent.

Monthly stoat box check

Join our contractors as they do monthly stoat box checks or maintenance checks. Help carry the eggs and check the trap lines or carry gear for maintenance checks of the boxes.

Fitness: High

Number required: 1 or 2 per trip

When: stoat box checks first week of month; maintenance checks throughout month.

February

Track work

Track clearing and building for the new annual guided walk. Help develop view shafts, and assist track builder.

Fitness: medium

Number required: 10-20

When: During month.

Re-number stoat boxes

The blue duck stoat box lines need to be renumbered. These are on the road side and we have 9 lines to be done.

Fitness: Low

Number required: 2 per line

When: Anytime in fine weather.

Possum Control

Join our contractors as they do ground possum control. Help carry gear in and possum skins out.

Fitness: high

Number required: 1 or 2 per trip

When: second week of month onwards weather dependent.

Monthly stoat box check

Join our contractors as they do monthly stoat box checks or maintenance checks. Help carry the eggs and check the trap lines or carry gear for maintenance checks of the boxes.

Fitness: High

Number required: 1 or 2 per trip

When: stoat box checks first week of month; maintenance checks throughout month.



National Bank Rural team at work

March

Weed control

The boxes on the road side need spraying to keep the entrance clear. Very important as stoats will not enter boxes if overgrown. This is for both the blue duck lines and kiwi road side lines.

Fitness: Low

Number required: 2 per line

When: Anytime in fine weather.

Possum Control

Join our contractors as they do ground possum control. Help carry gear in and possum skins out.

Fitness: high

Number required: 1 or 2 per trip

When: second week of month onwards weather dependent.

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