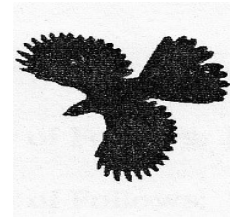
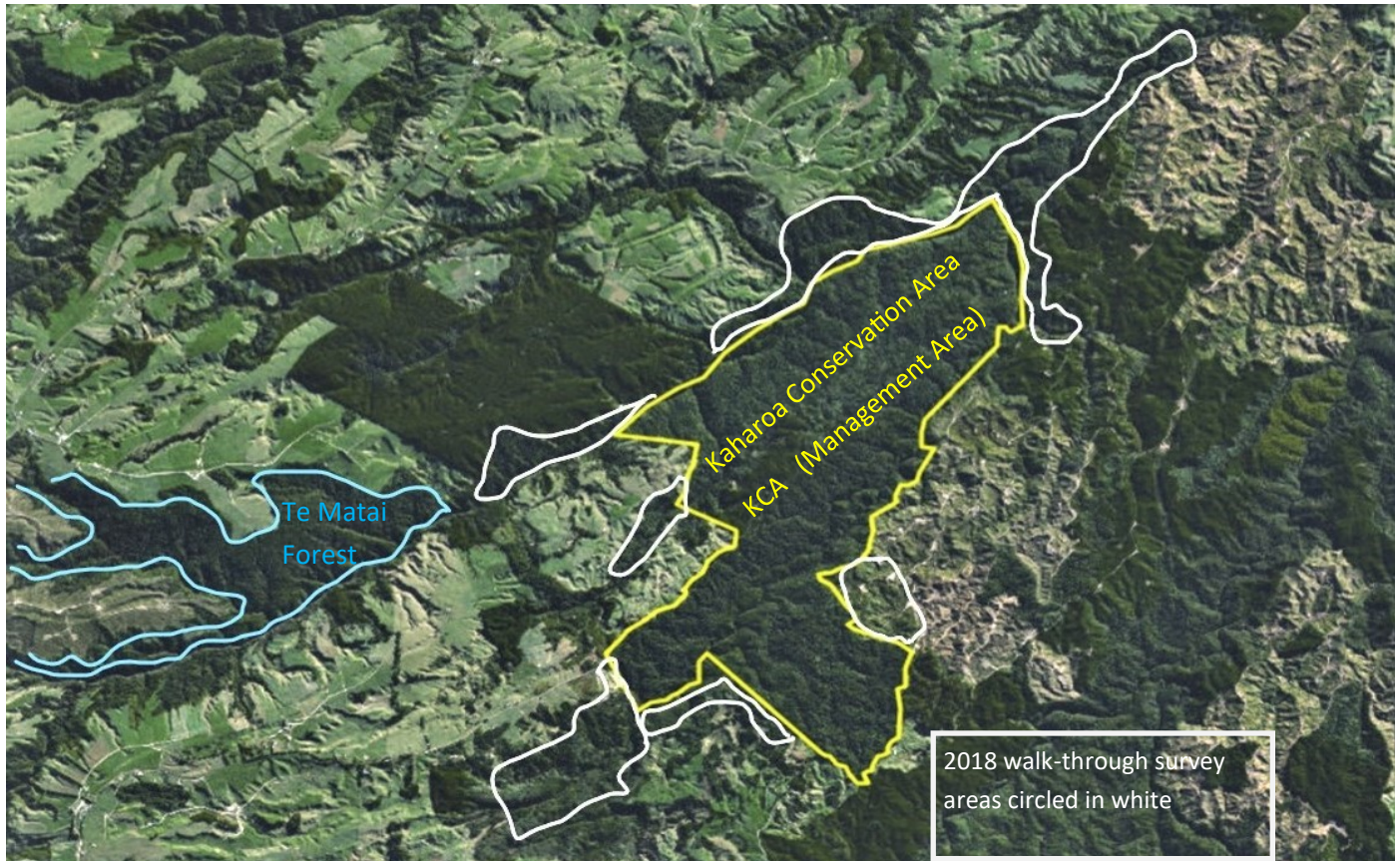




# Kaharoa Kōkako Trust - KKT



Winter Newsletter – June 2019



## Kaharoa Kōkako Update:

- A translocation of kōkako is planned for this Spring. Six kōkako (3 pairs) are to go from Kaharoa to Manawahe - hopefully to help by genetically boosting the small population there. The Manawahe Kōkako Trust manage this population.
- In 2018 a walk-through survey of areas outside the KCA found 29 kōkako.... see map.
- In 2018 a walk-through survey of Te Matai Forest found no kōkako.

### **Contact the Trust:**

- email – [kaharoakokako@gmail.com](mailto:kaharoakokako@gmail.com)
- website - [www.kokako.org.nz](http://www.kokako.org.nz)
- KKT, PO Box 190 Rotorua 3040
- Chairperson ph 07 3323042



North Island kōkako (*Callaeas wilsoni*)



## **Pest Management Update:**

**Pest Animals** - This year the Trust will be undertaking pest control throughout the whole KCA. We are working towards doing annual pest control, as recommended by the National Kōkako Specialist Group to increase kōkako numbers & hold onto genetics. Toxins will go into bait stations late winter/spring - targeting possums & rats. With approximately 670 bait stations now in the KCA network we should achieve good coverage & control. More adjoining neighbours are carrying out pest control, some with traps from the KKT Trap Library. If you are one of these please keep a record of trap caught animals. Port Blakely Ltd have installed bait stations in their Pinnacles Forest along the western boundary nearest KCA & will carry-out pest control at the same time as Kaharoa. All this added pest control effort will benefit kokako as well as other fauna & flora.

**Mustelids (stoats, ferrets & weasels)** – Trapping for mustelids is ongoing through the KCA using kill traps which are set along the main vehicle tracks & checked twice a month. Between Jan & May this year - 9 stoats, 91 rats, 20 hedgehogs & 4 cats were caught. If you would like to help with trap checking contact Sue - 3323042.

**Other Pest Animals** - If you are working or walking in the forest & see fresh **goat, pig or deer** sign, please contact the KKT asap; along with possums, these animals eat vast amounts of forest vegetation. They eat, damage, break & root up the forest!

## **Health & Safety:**

**Work Signs** - Thanks for using the work-signs at entrances into the KCA, (at the Kapukapu & Kaharoa Road ends). They are for the safety of everyone working in the forest, so please lift up the sign whenever you are working there, write your initials & time in on the back, then when leaving rub out your initials & if you're the last or only one coming out close the sign down. There is a pen at each sign. : )



New Zealand Forest Gecko

*An adult male NZ forest Gecko (Hoplodactylus Granulatus) explores his new home in Kaharoa Forest after months of rehabilitation. He changed colour within minutes of release ....luckily!*

## Other Happenings:

- **Bat Survey** - A Bat survey was carried out over 4 weeks from mid Feb using bat detector tubes (loaned from DoC), which were placed & moved along vehicle tracks in KCA & some neighbouring properties. Long-tailed bats were detected in numerous places!
- **Gecko and Kereru release.** A rehabilitated kereru & forest gecko and were released into the Onaia East in late summer. Hopefully they went forth, settled and are alive!
- **Tapuika Iwi** - Are now recognised owners of areas of the KCA since their Treaty settlements in 2016. They are working with the Trust and we all look forward to developing this relationship. Tapuika and Ngati Rangiwewehi are the recognised Iwi for the Kaharoa area.
- **Interpretative Panels** - Proposed for near the Shelter & on the Kōkako Track, to inform & highlight aspects of native forests, kōkako, the KKT & it's work, pest animals & some of the geological & cultural history of the KCA area. Still in early development.
- **Tombleson Lease Block** - The Tombleson family are generously allowing the 30ha lease land that was harvested of pines in 2016, to regenerate to native forest. This area joins the Aislabie & Onaia West Blocks & is busting away with native species like rewarewa, wineberry & coprosma & tree fushia. Bait stations are being installed for pest control.
- **Vehicle Track Mowing** - The Trust have arranged for the main vehicle track through the KCA from Kapukapu road to be mown. No more scratched volunteer vehicles!
- **Trap Library** - The last traps given to the Trust for loan to neighbours for pest control on adjoining land have gone out. Thank you everyone prepared to do pest control, or more of it. If you are having problems with anything contact the KKT. There is excellent info on pests & trapping methods, tips, etc on the Predator Free NZ & DoC websites.



### A bit about bats -

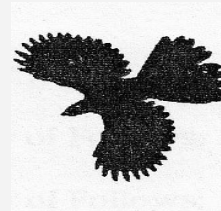
Bats are New Zealand's only NATIVE land mammals. The New Zealand long-tailed bat (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*), or pekapeka-tou-roa is the most common of our bats -though not that common, as they are classified as Nationally critical (meaning their existence is reliant on conservation efforts). Long-tailed bats are small (smaller than a mouse) & active in summer during the evening & night - when they hunt for insects 'on-the-wing' using echolocation. They live in colonies, roost in small groups in small cavities in large old trees & hibernate through winter. They have home ranges of about 100ha & are very vulnerable due to habitat loss (trees cut down), and predation by rats, stoats, cats & possums.

## Helpful things you might like to do:

- Adopt-a-Track - Involves looking after your own track; trimming, checking, informing, maintaining & enjoying. Training given.
- Help at workdays - usually a weekend half day of varied work.
- Help with our pest operations - putting out &/or clearing non or toxic baits from bait stations, rodent monitoring. Making teas!
- Join the trapping team - learning about it & joining the roster .
- Be a responsible cat owner - desex, keep close, attach a bellcollar.

### UPCOMING KKT WORKDAYS

- Saturday 29th June
- Sunday 28th July
- Saturday 24th August
- Friday 15th & Saturday 16th November—post pest op rodent monitoring



*In flower at present ....Northern rata . Metrosiderous robusta - Atracting native & honey bees, birds like tui, bellbird, waxeyes, & hopefully some forest geckos.*

Farewell to Joe Jurd who is leaving Kaharoa after many years farming, he has helped the Trust over the years & we thank him & wish him well for the future. Thanks Joe!

Thank you volunteers for your generosity; for giving your time, energy, resources, skills, donations, company & much much more to this conservation project.

Thank you sponsors:



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