

May 2023 newsletter

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Greetings

Thank you for your continued support of the Rotoehu Ecological Trust (RET). RET is celebrating 10 years this year and has achieved so much in this time.

Rotoehu is now considered the premier kōkako location in the country!

We currently manage 1367 ha of prime kōkako habitat with about 160 km of track. We plan to add another 600 ha this year.

In 2023 the Department of Conservation is undertaking an aerial rat control operation. Rats predate kōkako while they are sitting on their nest. We have had great success with previous aerial and ground based operations and see rat numbers drop significantly for a period afterward to allow our kōkako raise the next generation.

This aerial operation is undertaken every three years, with the Trust undertaking a ground based operations in the other two. The aerial operation leaves a buffer zone along Rotoehu Road and Otari Block. Our workdays this year will primarily be around supporting this operation. Checkout the results of our 2022 operation below!

We hope you will continue to support the Rotoehu kōkako population.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

The RET Team.

[View this email in your browser](#)

Upcoming workday - Saturday 13th of May

Note: new meeting location for this workday

Meeting at 9am at the Otari Skid location. Drive approximately three kilometers up Pukehangi Road from Rotoehu Road and then turn left onto Hannons Road, we will be based approximately 200 m along Hannons Road. Our usual Kokako signs will be out to help you if you are not sure.

Google Map Pin Drop <https://goo.gl/maps/ZuppfrJZJ27MswAHA>

We will spend approximately 3 hours clearing tracks within our Otari Block for the upcoming DOC operation.

Please [let us know](#) if you are available as we aim to send out taskings prior to the workday to help speed things up on the day.

RET will be providing:

- handwashing facilities
- boot washing facilities (to help prevent Avian Influenza)
- most of the equipment below, but spares are always good
- snacks and nibbles
- [Kokako Organic coffee and hot chocolate](#)/tea

Workday – what to bring:

- sturdy footwear
- weatherproof clothing
- day pack
- shears/loppers
- hammer
- water bottle snack food
- thermos of hot water
- enthusiasm!

Kōkako Population Survey Results

THE FINAL RESULTS ARE IN!



We are so happy to announce that the number of kōkako



in and around the Rotoehu Forest

is a whopping 578 birds! That's up 318 birds from three years ago





In the 2450 ha of Rotoehu Forest surveyed, 268 pairs were counted, with another 21 pairs on adjacent unmanaged land but as ecologist and kōkako surveyor, [@amandaliarogers](#) said, there are likely many more pairs beyond these 289 known ones, spilling out from our area into private land and



beyond!

Once again we say a HUGE thank you to all our supporters and volunteers. This result could not have been possible without you!