

KERERU NEWS No. 46 (27 January 2005)

News about kereru

1. Kereru Awhina Project - James Willoughby

In late August 2004 Warehouse Stationery together with Kaipatiki Project announced their support of the Kereru Awhina Project. The Project aims to highlight the plight facing New Zealand's only endemic native woodpigeon and promoting conservation methodologies to reverse this plight.

The Project is now very pleased to announce that its official website is up and running and this site will continue to evolve. The website provides an essential communication tool between groups, societies, researchers and individuals on the present position of kereru and what they can do to improve the situation.

The Project would also like to officially introduce the kereru experts which have been engaged to be part of an "advisory panel". It is their expertise which will provide the Project with its direction to really make a difference. The "advisory panel" members are:

- Mick Clout - University of Auckland
- Stephanie May - PhD candidate, University of Auckland
- Colin Meurk - Landcare Research
- Shona Myers - Auckland Regional Council
- Ralph Powlesland - Department of Conservation
- Kevin Prime - Conservationist and Commissioner with the Environment Court
- Tim Lovegrove - Auckland Regional Council
- Astrid van Meeuwen-Dijkgraaf - Department of Conservation

To find out more about the project, our advisory panel and how you can help kereru please visit our website <http://www.kereru.org.nz>

2. Another kereru paper

M. Thorsen, J. Innes, G. Nugent & K. Prime. 2004. Parental care and growth rates of New Zealand pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) nestlings. *Notornis* 51: 136-140.

Abstract: Parental and nestling behaviour of New Zealand pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) was observed from August 1998 to March 1999 at Motatau Forest, Northland, New Zealand. Four successful nests from three pairs were monitored using infra-red cameras and direct observation. Incubation was shared (female: dusk till 0643-1106 hrs; male: remainder of the day). Three stages of daytime nestling care were apparent: full-attendance brooding by either parent (day 0 to day 8-12); female-only brooding (day 9-13 to day 12-26); and feeding only (day 13-27 to fledging) except in wet weather. Females brooded the nestlings for significantly longer than did males. Young nestlings were fed more frequently, and for longer, than when older. Parents appeared to select fruit of pigeonwood (*Hedycarya arborea*) and nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) for feeding nestlings. Development and growth was rapid and one nestling weighed 565 g (similar to adult weight) by day 26. Feathers first appeared on day 5-8.

3. Kaitoke Regional Park kereru counts - Owen Spearpoint, Greater Wellington Regional Council

These kereru counts involved searching an area of c. 500 m² around the ranger's residence.

| 2003 | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Date | 3 Sept | 5 Sept | 7 Sept | 10 Sept | Mean |
| No. of kereru | 36 | 26 | 34 | 36 | 33.0 |
| Time | 8-9 am | 8.30-9.30 am | 8-9 am | 8-9.30 am | |
| Weather | Fine/calm | Rain/calm | Overcast/calm | Fine/light breeze | |

| 2004 | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Date | 4 Sept | 8 Sept | 15 Sept | 21 Sept | 21 Sept | Mean |
| No. of kereru | 48 | 44 | 73 | 49 | 59 | 54.6 |
| Time | 1-2.30 pm | 8-9 am | 9-10 am | 8-9 am | 9-10 am | |
| Weather | Fine/light winds | Fine/calm | Fine/calm | Sunny/calm | Sunny/calm | |

I'd like to think that the considerably more kereru counted in 2004 is a response to the possum control carried out in the Hutt catchment in 2003, and the Pakuratahi/Kaitoke basin in 2002. Several large poplars and willows were removed last year reducing the possible food supply.

4. Preliminary results from monitoring kereru nesting attempts - various

A. Diamond Harbour & Church Bay, Banks Peninsula - Maaik Schotborgh, Kaupapa Kereru project; no intensive predator control

Number of completed nesting attempts = 15 (further 3 in progress)

Number successful = 5 (33%)

Number failed = 10

B. New Plymouth - Kirsty Moran & Nik Joice

DOC fragmented landscapes project; no intensive predator control

Number of completed nesting attempts = 16 (further 2 in progress)

Number successful = 4 (25%)

Number failed = 12

Reasons of failures: inadequate nest - 2, abandoned - 1, predation - 1, possible predation - 2, chick fell from nest - 1, unknown - 5.

C. Invercargill - Les Moran & Kiri Pullen

DOC fragmented landscapes project; no intensive predator control

Number of completed nesting attempts = 6 (further 4 in progress)

Number successful = 1 (17%)

Number failed = 5

Reasons of failures: chick died during hatching - 1, abandoned (no incubation) - 1, possible predation - 3.

KERERU NEWS No 46

D. Nga Manu Nature Reserve, Waikanae - Bruce Benseman
Intensive predator control

Number of completed nesting attempts = 2 (further 2 in progress)

Number successful = 1 (50%)

Number failed = 1 (infertile egg)

The results for A-C are consistent with previous results for mainland sites where there has been no predator control; 0 - 25% nesting success.