

## **Restoring Biodiversity on the edge of Lake Taupo**



### **The Structure, Methods and Results of the Pukawa Wildlife Management Trust – A Success Story.**

My husband chairs the Pukawa Wildlife Management Trust and by default I am involved in the project. Checking trapping lines is what you do! Congratulations to all involved!

Pest management work at Pukawa was commenced in 2002 by a group of locals led by an enthusiastic woman. After some support from the local property owners association and other local residents the Pukawa Wildlife Management Trust was formed to help with governance and funding support. Governance is kept to a minimum and funding is obtained by application to local gaming trusts, Waikato Regional Council and other environmental funding bodies. Local residents and visitors also donate generously to the Trust. While the main focus of the Trust is on bird population maintenance, the Trust also has interest in maintaining and recovering the indigenous flora and the fauna other than birds.

The work has been continued by locals assisted by visitors/holiday makers from afar as Auckland and Wellington. Trapping and poisoning are the main methods for elimination of pests. Results are measured by trapping rates and tracking tunnels and most importantly by 5 minute bird counts and comparisons with other similar nearby areas. The area is well recognised for the quality of its birdlife and birdsong – often being referred to as Bird Bay. Tuis, bellbirds and pigeons abound while whiteheads, robins and tomtits are occasionally seen. Recently a single kokako was seen and the NZ falcon, seen hunting in the area is a sign of bird abundance.

The Trust and the local working group are advised by Department of Conservation

