

INSIDE

BNZ OPERATION NEST EGG™

TRAIN YOUR DOG

WHERE ARE OUR KIWI?

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BNZ SAVE THE KIWI EFTPOS CARD

DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009  
good.net.nz/goodcause

# good<sub>cause</sub>

## Save the kiwi

The fight to save our national icon



# Without your help, they're stuffed.



## Together we can make sure future generations can see a real kiwi.

- Make a donation by asking for a Save the Kiwi EFTPOS card or cheque book\*
- Make a donation at any BNZ store or ATM
- Donate online at [www.savethekiwi.org.nz](http://www.savethekiwi.org.nz)

0800 ASK BNZ (275 269)

[bnz.co.nz/savekiwi](http://bnz.co.nz/savekiwi)



\* Annual \$10 donation deducted from your account for the Kiwi EFTPOS card and \$4 donation from your account per cheque book. Every single cent of your donation will be donated to BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust, a registered charitable trust formed in partnership between BNZ and the Department of Conservation, to support kiwi work. Our normal account opening criteria apply. A copy of our current disclosure statement may be obtained free of charge from any BNZ store, or viewed on [www.bnz.co.nz](http://www.bnz.co.nz).

### INTRODUCTION

## BNZ SAVE THE KIWI

### Iconic bank helps iconic bird

In 1991 the alarm bells rang—kiwi were threatened and it was felt by some researchers that they could soon become extinct on New Zealand's mainland. When we formed the BNZ Kiwi Recovery programme, a partnership between BNZ, the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, we wanted to create an initiative that would add value to kiwi conservation.

BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust was established in 2002 and is responsible for public awareness and education, fundraising, sponsorship and grant allocations for kiwi recovery nationally. BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust works with local iwi, communities and conservation groups in a combined effort to once again fill New Zealand's night air with the calls of a kiwi. Our goals are:

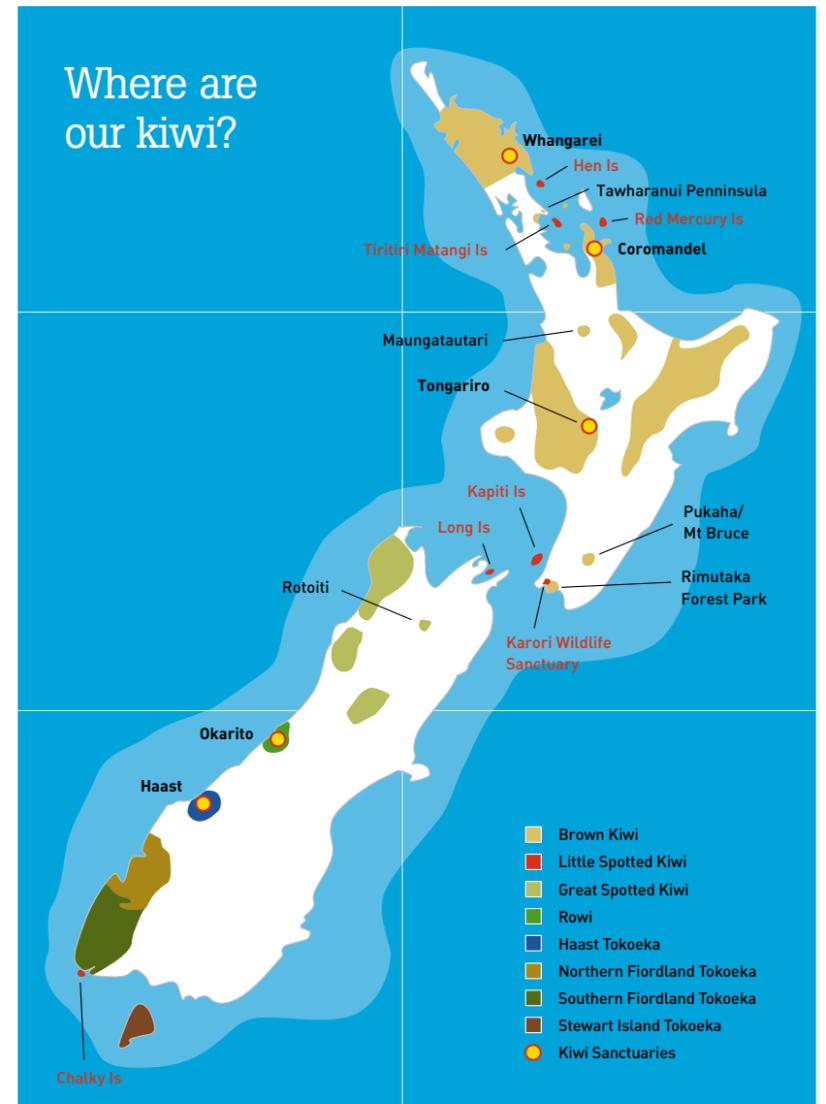
- to increase the number of kiwi in New Zealand
- to increase the number of places where kiwi live
- and to maintain their genetic diversity.

Thanks to the last 11 years' of work we now know a lot more about our national icon and what it will take to build sustainable populations of kiwi throughout New Zealand

"BNZ became interested in the plight of the kiwi when we learned numbers were declining," says Bridget O'Shannessey, BNZ general manager, people and corporate relations. "The bank decided it simply could not stand back and allow our national icon to become extinct. We decided that becoming actively involved in supporting kiwi conservation efforts was the best way for us to help. So far, we've contributed about \$7 million, from sponsorship fees, staff, customer and public donations. We have a long way to go, but we believe our involvement with the protection of the kiwi will prove to be historically significant."

The bank promotes fundraising products such as BNZ kiwi EFTPOS cards and cheques. Through the BNZ volunteering programme staff are also encouraged to become involved in conservation work, for instance, in planting trees and shrubs on Motuihe Island, which is ear-marked to become a kiwi sanctuary.

Where are our kiwi?



### How you can help?

Everyone can play a role in saving kiwi, whether you live near kiwi populations or not by:

- Making a donation to BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust at any BNZ store or ATM or on-line with credit card at [www.savethekiwi.org.nz](http://www.savethekiwi.org.nz)
- Avoid taking dogs into kiwi areas
- If you live in a kiwi area, begin a pest and predator control project with your neighbours, so local kiwi populations are protected
- Volunteer your time at a local kiwi protection group or habitat restoration project. Visit [www.savethekiwi.org.nz](http://www.savethekiwi.org.nz) for more information
- If you are a BNZ customer, you can choose a BNZ Save the Kiwi EFTPOS card or cheque book



## NEST GENERATION

One thousand new kiwi owe their lives to a frightening discovery



TOP RIGHT: Hūpai one week old.  
ABOVE: Hūpai hatching, just born and being weighed at one week old

**R**esearch on kiwi survival rates in 1994 led to a frightening discovery—around 90% of all wild-born kiwi chicks were dying before six months of age due to predation from stoats, dogs and wild cats. As a result, some species of our national bird were facing extinction. Fortunately, a group of clever kiwi researchers took up their namesake's cause and came up with an innovative conservation solution.

They devised a pilot scheme to take eggs and chicks from the wild and keep them safe until they'd reached around a kilo in weight. At this point they were better able to find food and defend themselves against predators.

In 1995, this tool officially became known as BNZ Operation Nest Egg™, and, as Michelle Impey, BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust executive director, says, it was developed out of sheer desperation.

"Something needed to be done quickly to save kiwi populations on the brink of extinction," she says. "Kiwi chicks are so vulnerable to predation from stoats, dogs and feral cats, and that's why BNZ Operation Nest Egg™ is vitally important. We can't afford to lose a single kiwi."

Every summer breeding season, wild kiwi eggs and young chicks are collected and looked after in captive-rearing facilities and predator-free crèches. When the juveniles reach the target weight, at around nine months of age, and are better able to fend for themselves, they're released back into the wild.

Without conservation management, just 10% of kiwi chicks on mainland New Zealand survive their first six months, and only 5% reach adulthood. This is well short of the 20% survival needed for a population



to increase. However, a chick reared in the programme has about a 65% chance of reaching adulthood once released back into the wild.

Six captive-rearing facilities use the tool: Auckland Zoo, Kiwi Encounter at Rainbow Springs in Rotorua, the Whangarei Native Bird Rescue Centre, Napier's Westshore Wildlife Reserve, Otorohanga Kiwi House and Willowbank Wildlife reserve in Christchurch—in partnership with the Department of Conservation.

In February this year, the 1000th chick hatched. Named Hūpai, meaning 'to overcome', this brown kiwi has been at Bushy Park crèche near Wanganui since March. Hūpai came from a pair of brown kiwi in the Waimarino Forest, and his egg was incubated at the Kiwi Encounter at Rainbow Springs in Rotorua.

"One of the rarest and most threatened species of kiwi is the rowi of Okarito," says Michelle. "BNZ Operation Nest Egg™ is particularly effective for rapidly recovering rowi populations, particularly at Okarito [on the west coast of the South Island], where the numbers increased by 25% over six years."

This highly successful conservation programme is also a useful tool to help researchers learn more about kiwi behaviour and breeding, and this has been used to increase the number of eggs and chicks that survive captivity. The discovery that kiwi males turn the eggs during incubation has helped improve the hatching success of salvaged wild eggs, and those laid in captivity.

To learn more please visit [www.savethekiwi.org.nz](http://www.savethekiwi.org.nz)

## A LITTLE CARD FOR A BIG CAUSE



Every day, 10 kiwi are killed by stoats, ferrets, dogs and feral cats, but BNZ is working hard to reverse the trend by letting its customers lend a small helping hand

**W**ellingtonian Rebecca Davis has discovered an easy and rewarding way to help protect our national bird. A BNZ customer for the past 12 years, she was recently introduced to the BNZ Save the Kiwi EFTPOS card.

It's one of the bank's initiatives to help combat the decline in kiwi numbers around New Zealand. Customers like Rebecca who sign up for the card have a \$10 donation automatically made from their account to the BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust. This becomes an automatic annual donation for as long as they wish to continue supporting kiwi.

"Signing up for a BNZ Save the Kiwi EFTPOS card was definitely a conscious decision for me," says Rebecca. "I grew up on a farm, and as a kid spent lots of time surrounded by native bush, so it's part of who I am. Now I'm a city-dweller and not as connected to nature, but I still want to do something positive, and this is such an easy way to help."

The idea also appeals to Rebecca because of her role as an account director at Moxie Design Group. Moxie has done a lot of research into consumer attitudes around sustainable products and services and what organisations are doing to promote these ideas. "The BNZ Save the Kiwi EFTPOS card

is a great example of an organisation doing just this and making a difference."

Rebecca says she makes careful choices about the products she buys and expects that the businesses taking money from her will be doing the right thing for the planet.

As a result, she particularly likes the fact that every cent she donates goes directly to the BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust to be allocated to kiwi conservation work, with nothing taken out to cover administration costs.

**"Friends even ask me about it and it's a great conversation point"**

And, while it might sound silly to some, having a BNZ Save the Kiwi EFTPOS card does give Rebecca the warm fuzzies and makes her feel more connected to our natural environment.

"People laugh at me when I say this, but when I take my card out of my wallet and I see that picture of the cute little fluffy kiwi on the front, it makes me feel good. It's a reminder about how I'm helping. Friends even ask me about it and it's a great conversation point."

Over the years, BNZ, through sponsorship fees, as well as staff, customers and the public have contributed more than \$7million to the BNZ Save the Kiwi effort. If you're keen to show your support, get your BNZ Save the Kiwi EFTPOS card by calling **0800 ASK BNZ** (0800 275 269), sign up online at [www.bnz.co.nz/savekiwi](http://www.bnz.co.nz/savekiwi) or visit any BNZ store today. Alternatively, you can make a donation using your EFTPOS card at any BNZ ATM. And those who prefer to use cheques can also help, by agreeing to have a \$4 donation deducted from their BNZ account each time a new cheque book is issued.





Dogs love to bite kiwi

## STOP KIWI GOING TO THE DOGS

Man's best friend is the kiwi's worst enemy

### Here's a fact you probably never knew:

Between 1990 and 1995, dogs were responsible for 78 per cent of kiwi deaths reported in Northland. Kiwi can live for more than 50 years, but the average lifespan of kiwi in Northland is just a third of that (15 years). This is largely because adults are being killed by dogs, who are instinctively curious about kiwi and find their smell irresistible. Dogs don't generally eat kiwi, but instead will grab them by their back or chest, inflicting fatal wounds by crushing or shaking the birds. Those who survive an attack often die later from infections.

Kiwi are most vulnerable during nesting season between June to March, as they are reluctant to leave their eggs, and are at risk both when feeding at night, and during the day when they sleep. Kiwi also like to spend time in long grass or vegetation outside the bush, which makes them particularly exposed to predation.

In an attempt to significantly reduce the number of kiwi killed by dogs, Michelle



Dog attack victim

Impey, executive director of the BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust, and Wendy Sporle, the Trust's national mentor for advocacy, have recently created the Dog Awareness Campaign.

It will be rolled out over the next six months with a two-pronged approach. A media campaign will help raise awareness of the issue, and community projects will be given tools and information to help them overcome their local dog problems.

"The Dog Awareness Campaign will target four groups—holiday makers and boat owners, farmers, hunters and lifestyle-block owners with dogs—addressing them in very specific ways," she says. "People need to be aware of this whether or not there are kiwi in the area. These birds are very capable of living alongside us; they're comfortable with people."

Wendy says the dog issue is making a considerable impact on North Island brown kiwi numbers in Northland, the Coromandel, Ureweras and in Taranaki.

The Dog Control Act (1996) means kiwi are legally protected from dogs, and dog owners must keep their animals under control at all times. What's more, the Conservation Act Amendment of 1996 states that some areas of Department of Conservation (DOC) land are open to dogs, while some and controlled areas where dogs are only allowed by permit, and in other areas, dogs are excluded completely.

### Protecting kiwi from canines

**Any size or breed of dog can kill a kiwi, but there are ways to minimise the risk:**

- If you're holidaying in an area where kiwi live, look at options for leaving your dog at home with friends or in a kennel
- Ideally, don't keep dogs in kiwi areas.
- Avoid exercising dogs in the bush—they can kill a kiwi while on a lead
- If you must take a dog into a kiwi area, ensure it's under control
- Cattle and hunting dogs should be aversion-trained to make them safer around kiwi
- Avoid hunting at night and never leave your dog in the bush
- Report stray dogs to the council dog control officer immediately
- Fence your property to keep your dog in and kiwi out
- Ensure your dog is well trained or has attended obedience classes
- More information on [www.savethekiwi.org.nz](http://www.savethekiwi.org.nz)



Free! Releasing kiwi into the wild

## PRIVATE PROTECTION

Between 80 and 90 community projects around New Zealand are working to protect kiwi

**When BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust** national mentor for advocacy, Wendy Sporle first began work as a Kiwi Advocate, few people were actively protecting kiwi or their habitat. But over the past 15 years, new groups have gradually sprung up around the country, bringing motivated landowners and communities to the party.

"They're beginning to see the benefits of increases in kiwi numbers, chick sightings and low pest and predator numbers," says Wendy. "However, sustainable support and funding is the most challenging issue for community projects. Most of them depend hugely on voluntary contributions of time and resources. Landowners are joining forces and forming charitable trusts in order to obtain independent funding. They all have to make annual applications for funding to the diminishing number of funding agencies. Last year the BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust allocated over \$1 million to kiwi projects run by both DOC and community groups but, as always, there were more applications than money."

The Whangarei Heads Landcare Forum (WHLF) is among dozens of projects making a major impact. The society protects 6000ha, and four of its groups are fully focused on predator control to safeguard the head's 200-strong kiwi population. Their combined aim is to create a safe habitat for a sustained kiwi population.

Their efforts are supported by Helen

Moodie, local co-ordinator for the New Zealand Landcare Trust. She says residents were motivated by information put out by the BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust. "It made them realise that hearing kiwi every night from their homes was a privilege they couldn't take for granted. They wanted their grandchildren to experience the same thing."

Locals are now involved in monitoring the kiwi population during the annual kiwi listening survey, and in predator control. Those unable to carry out predator control themselves, provide access to their land for the trapper who does on-the-ground predator control work.

More people are now reporting sightings of kiwi, more chick footprints are being seen, and interim results from the annual listening survey, carried out by 20 volunteers during



Rimutaka Volunteers

June, showed record call counts.

Another group doing great things to help local kiwi is the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust. Its 110 members are helping DOC on several fronts, working on projects linked to the park on the eastern side of Wellington Harbour.

One of the Trust's projects focuses on the brown kiwi. It began in 2002 when a DOC coordinator, impressed with the Trust's voluntary predator control, suggested working toward reintroduction of kiwi into the park. In 2005, DOC authorized the release of kiwi there, and the Trust aims to have at least 10 pairs of birds established over the next decade. They should produce enough young birds to ensure the population grows. The ultimate goal is to reintroduce other native species and create an area of forest teeming with native wildlife.

**The biggest threat to kiwi is introduced predators—95% of kiwi chicks are killed before they are six months old**

*better off*  
**bnz**

