



**RANGER'S REPORT TO THE  
PUKENUI/WESTERN HILLS FOREST  
CHARITABLE TRUST  
(May 2012)**



*Northland Hospitality*

Just before I left for the South Island, I was contacted by a journalist working for the highly regarded "Wilderness Magazine". He was very interested in our Trust and was keen to write an article about our work. It will be interesting to see what comes out of our telephone conversation.

Wendy Morris has been doing sterling work preparing two funding applications, which have been complex and time-consuming. One was to the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust and the second was to the ASB Trust. I have been able to assist Wendy where I could.

Sue Milner met with me and Wendy to prepare for my LTP presentation next week. I only have fifteen minutes to make our case, so a very pared-down power-point presentation has been created by Sue.

I organised a meeting at the Department of Conservation (see Margaret's report) and invited both Paul McDonald from the Whangarei District Council and Paul Reid from the Northland Health Board. Paul McDonald was unable to make it but the other Paul was. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss our progress over the last year re predator control work in the forest, and to talk about the possible extension of toxin use into the large Whau Valley catchment. This is a sensitive area/subject and Nigel Miller of DOC will get the ball rolling with a discussion paper.

Further to which, the removal of old cyanide tablets in the Ark in the Park area required the use of proper face masks to be worn under health legislation. There seems to be an issue over this.

Environmental Northland has kindly offered us some space in their next dog brochure, to be printed shortly. I have written the text and Sue Milner has kindly offered to help with the technological side, to make the whole production "camera-ready".

More work by our growing band of volunteers has seen more stoat traps taken into the forest, and are starting to kill those little beasts.

Finally, on one of these trips, I released back into the forest the Pacific gecko that had been mauled by a cat in Three Mile Bush Road. It had re-grown its tail and I would like to formally thank Kevin Saxton and Kiwi North for their professional care in bringing it back to health.

**Gerry Brackenbury**  
Ranger (Part-time)