



**RANGER'S REPORT TO THE  
PUKENUI/WESTERN HILLS FOREST  
CHARITABLE TRUST  
(April/May 2011)**



*Northland Hospitality*

First up, a significant milestone was achieved recently when, according to Steve Pohe, a trap set by Max has killed our first mustelid! May this be the start of great things for our Trust!

I have had a number of meetings, including a visit to the DOC Area Office where I was informed that, to put poison on public land controlled by DOC, I have to fill in a fifteen page document called an AEE (Assessment of Environmental Effects). This will take me a little time but has to be done before we can put out any poison to kill rats and possums. I have made a start, and have been ably assisted by Steve.

**Kiwi:**

Max, Steve and I have met to prepare the listening sites for the up-coming national annual kiwi-listening exercise. Max will present the map and sites for those involved. I have collected the forms from DOC in preparation for listening, which starts on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

We also looked at the Ark-in-the-Park proposed site and drew it out on the map. This is also required by DOC, along with where we plan to put warning signs to warn the public of poisoning activities.

I hope to be attending the national two-day Kiwi Hui this week at Havelock North, near Napier. My airfare is being paid for by Kiwi North (Whangarei Museum & Kiwi House) and I hope to meet the people I have been liaising with re any future release of kiwi into Pukenui Forest and find out what we need to do to achieve our aims.

I have had another meeting with Keith Thompson and we agreed on a time-frame for me to produce some words on the Trust and the impact of dogs on kiwi. He sends his literature and brochures out to all dog owners in early July.

**Fund raising:**

I met with Ngaire Tyson of the NZ Landcare Trust to discuss funding options; where she could help and use her expertise in this area. She came back with a strong recommendation to go for funding with the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature). She was very helpful and encouraging, and was keen to see what we were trying to achieve in Pukenui Forest.

Finally, I have re-connected with the volunteer recommended by the Limestone Island Ranger. The volunteer is keen to kill possums for their fur, and I think the committee needs to put some protocols in place for this sort of request. We have to think about what liabilities we have re H&S issues, etc. However, working on the principal that the only good possum is a dead one, we want to encourage responsible people like this one to keep hitting the possums for the sake of our wildlife.

**Gerry Brackenbury**