



**RANGER'S REPORT TO THE
PUKENUI/WESTERN HILLS FOREST
CHARITABLE TRUST
(May 2013)**



Northland Hospitality

It looks like we are going to be famous...well nearly famous. A book is being produced by author, Janet Hunt ("A Bird in the Hand"), called "Paradise Saved". It will feature organisations such as ours doing conservation volunteer work to save the environment. There are only a few hundred words for each sanctuary but it will be interesting to see what other groups are doing and achieving.

Further to which, the biannual North Island Kiwi Hui is on at Cambridge, near Hamilton, and starts in a couple of weeks. This is an opportunity for those in the 'kiwi business' to learn from the experts and do a bit of networking, discussing trapping methods and sharing their experiences.

Max and the meteors (the volunteers) have recently modified 130 bait stations under the direction of Nigel Miller of DOC. These will double the "Ark/Park" to nearly 400 hectares. We begin planning now for the start of our next poisoning in this coming September.

I met with Sharon Morgan and WDC staff to start the process of applying for permission to poison for rats in the Whau Valley catchment. We also met to discuss weeds and signage at the Quarry Arts Centre. I visited the bush above the Centre with Richard Campbell of Northland Vegetation Control. He also spent some time looking at the weeds that have sprung up following the removal of pines on the Brock block.

I would like to thank Max for the time he spent with Margaret finishing off the Biodiversity Fund application, which was a biggy, and which Margaret and I have spent some time on.

I had a very pleasant hour with a small crowd arranged by the national organisation, the Landcare Trust. After a meeting, which included representatives from DOC, NRC, WDC and a few others, we went for a stroll into the forest for a walk and talk. With Max's help, we ran through our trapping regime and then went to have a look at our weta box. Some of the group had not seen one before and were keen to make some themselves.

Finally, some good news on the education front. The lovely Jane Norman, teacher at Kamo Primary, has been successful in getting a Royal Society fellowship to spend six months out of her class, and some of that time will be spent with our Trust doing interesting research in Pukenui Forest. Congratulations Jane!

Gerry Brackenbury
Ranger (Part-time)

PUKENUI FOREST by Olivia

I saw two kauri trees, a big one and a small one.

I saw two dead hedgehogs.

I didn't quite see the sun.

I heard birds chirping and trees rustling in the forest.

I felt like a wildcat was going to pounce on me.

I felt nervous.

I smelt the strong, minty smell of the trees.

I tasted the wind going into my mouth.



Kamo Primary School visit to Pukenui Forest 27/03/13