



## **PUKENUI/WESTERN HILLS FOREST CHARITABLE TRUST END OF YEAR REPORT (December 2015)**

As the year comes to its close, Pohutukawa are coming out to lead us to the Festive Season and the New Year.

We at the Pukenui Forest Trust wish you all a wonderful, safe and possum-free summer.

The past year for the Trust has again been positive, and I personally thank it and our small army of volunteers for your support and your conservation efforts.

In May, I attended the bi-annual Kiwi Hui at One Tree Point, and was again encouraged by the growing interest and effort in kiwi conservation.

Two weeks ago, five of us (including reps from DOC and ENL) met and put together the first draft Dog Management Plan in preparation for a kiwi release back into Pukenui Forest. This Plan is a pre-requisite for all kiwi restoration before anything else can happen.

The Trust also helped me attend the NZ Sanctuaries Conference, run by the Landcare Trust, to hear and learn about the latest in pest control and what scientists and researchers are up to in biodiversity restoration (thank God for helicopters!).

A few weeks ago, for the third time in a row, we attended the Whangarei A&P Show (that sort of rhymes eh!). Members of the public were able to chat to us and ask questions about our work and quiz us on conservation issues in general. We could tell them about Pukenui Forest being the largest in the Whangarei District (2,000/ha), and the fact that the long-tailed bat, endemic to NZ, still hangs in there...literally. My thanks to Kiwi North/Whangarei Museum for the loan of gear and the lovely and lively Auckland Green Gecko.

Also recently, we had our second major poison drop (all done by hand), over 700/ha. Pests like possums and rats are now down to less than 5% in this area and as our work progresses, so the pest numbers will continue to drop. Again, thanks are due to our staff, DOC, NRC and vullies.

In retrospect, the Pukenui Forest Trust and its volunteers, teachers and students have all planted trees, killed pests and generally made a positive difference to our wonderful environment...keep up the good work!

Have a great Christmas, and we will do it all over again next year.

*Gerry Brackenbury*

Chairman  
Pukenui/Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust