



FRIENDS OF A'DEANE'S BUSH UPDATE SPRING 2010

Kia ora koutou

Things have been pretty quiet over winter at A'Deane's Bush since we planted the gateway last May. The majority of the plants are looking great and we have recently sprayed with contact herbicide around them to kill off sticky weed (cleavers) and a few other weeds that would not be so good for the young plants!

With the coming of spring, and bird nesting comes the need to control rats and predators to give the birds a higher chance of fledging their chicks.

The start of this process is to use tracking tunnels to monitor the density of rats and we have done this in September with the number coming back pretty low at 3%. That's a great start to the season!

We have also installed some traps for stoats, weasels and ferrets in the last couple of weeks, but haven't caught anything yet! A big THANK YOU to Takapau Centennial Trust for granting \$500 to help pay for these traps.

Spring is also a great time to monitor birds as they call more frequently to attract mates or ensure that others know where their territory is. We are hoping to carry out bird counts with kids from Sherwood School participating. This is planned (with Ricardo) for the second week of the school term between the 18th to 20th of October as part of the outdoor education focus of that week. Putting up some weta houses and laying out some covers for lizards will also be happening then. Everyone is welcome to come and check this out so keep an eye on the school newsletter for details.

This monitoring will be done again in December – with the added task of doing long-tailed bat and morepork counts too! So if you can't make it this time, please come along then.

We look forward to seeing you over the summer

Kind regards, Kay & Craig
The Conservation Company Ltd