

# megaphone

THE FACTS &amp; ISSUES

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*"Time spent among the trees is never time wasted."* - Anonymous

print house Ltd.



## Latest Release...Netflix

### A small group got together recently to welcome Operation Nest Egg kiwi chick, Netflix back home to Port Charles.

Netflix, the egg and son of Sky, was uplifted earlier this year from the Moehau kiwi sanctuary, incubated and hatched at Rainbow Springs Rotorua. He was just one of 29 eggs that were lifted from the area this breeding season as part of the initiative, Operation Nest Egg (ONE).

After being raised to a weight of over 1200g, Netflix was deemed big enough to defend himself against stoats and was returned and released by long time MEG supporter Barbara Morreel.

MEG, as part of a collection of groups (DOC, Kiwis for Kiwi, other community conservation groups, iwi and researchers) participate in ONE. As part of this operation, kiwi eggs from our monitored breeding pairs are lifted from their nests and transported to be hatched in Rotorua. The chicks are then raised to a healthy weight and either returned to their place of birth or taken to a predator-free Island, such as Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf.

Of our 29 eggs (including 3 chicks) 23 have been viable and all but 2 chicks have been released onto Motutapu.

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Above: Kiwi dog Aniani was on-hand with her owner Tommy for the event.

Left: Barbara Morreel, long-time MEG supporter, releasing Netflix into the wild.

moehau environment group coromandel real kiwi country

[www.meg.org.nz](http://www.meg.org.nz)





## C.A.S all in a mornings work...

**We were lucky enough to go out for the morning with one of our local schools, Coromandel Area School, recently.**

Room 5 at CAS are currently studying water quality and as part of their studies have had trips to nearby Karaka stream and to McGregor Bay Wetland, via our Coromandel Kiwi Project.

What impressed us the most was the amount of prior knowledge the children had about the environment and their enthusiasm to be involved and open to learning.

Before entering our Coromandel Kiwi Project we talked about Kauri Dieback and made sure everyone's shoes were clean of soil. When we reached trap #3 we hit 'pay-dirt' a dead rat! There were so many eager volunteers to empty the trap we had to have a quick session of paper/scissors/rock to find the winner.

Organically the walk turned into a beach clean-up, with the children noticing the rubbish and finding something to collect it in.

Vanessa taught us about the importance of the wetland and showed us the gate that is stopping the

natural flow of water into the McGregor Bay wetland. Once at the wetland we headed out in our groups to listen for and identify different birds. We heard tui, ducks, pukeko, saw kingfisher and a pair of Royal Spoonbill.

Above: CAS students wading through the wetland, doing a beach clean-up, trapping predators & seeing the wetland from up high.

Below: Bird counting & watching...





## Tapu comes home too...



### Tapu, our second ONE chick comes home too.

Written by MEG volunteer, Stephanie Parkyn.

On a bright, winters day we gathered on a hill slope and waited for a precious delivery to make it's journey home. "Tapu" a hand-reared kiwi chick was coming from Rotorua to the Moehau kiwi Sanctuary—many hours in fern-lined cardboard box on winding roads for the nervous kiwi. Tapu had left Mt Moehau as an egg and been taken to Rainbow Springs to be raised, but now at 1300g he was large enough to fight off stoats and be released into the wild. He was coming home.

It was late in the afternoon by the time Carol, his carer from Rainbow Springs delivered a box to the destination. Children and adults settled in quietly on chairs and the floor waiting for the box to be opened. As the little kiwi chick was lifted from his box, Toko Baker welcomed Tapu back with a heartfelt Karakia. Tapu was shown off to the gathering and he settled in the crook of Carol's arm while she told us his life story. She stroked his feathers and his feet, and gently covered his eyes. We could smell the pungent droppings in his box and hear his chirruping call, but finally it was time for him to go.

Above: Kiwi chick Tapu assessing his new home (top).

Kiwi handler, Carol and helpers (L). Manaia resident Toko Baker conducting a Karakia for Tapu (middle).

The welcoming party (R).

We carried him to the kanuka forest where a shelter had been dug beneath ferns. There, half hidden amongst the trees with the sunsetting, Toko blessed his burrow, hoping Tapu would enjoy his new home under the trees with the birds and bees and bugs. 'Is it hard letting him go?' I asked Carol. 'Not at all,' she replied firmly. 'This is where he belongs.'

## Lettecia our good egg...



### The inaugural Kiwis for Kiwi, 'Kiwi Awards' were held in Christchurch recently.

The event was an opportunity to acknowledge and thank the kiwi conservation projects and individuals that are the backbone of community and iwi conservation across Aotearoa.

We are very proud to announce that our very own MEG Chairperson, Lettecia Williams, was the recipient of the "Good Egg Award" for her many years of commitment to protecting the Coromandel Brown kiwi. Congratulations from us all Lettecia!

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The purpose of this is to secure a population of Coromandel Brown kiwi should there be a catastrophic event, such as disease or predation by dog or ferret on the mainland and to secure a breeding population that will see the return of many, many kiwi to the wider Coromandel Peninsula in about 5-7 years.

ONE has helped increase our knowledge of kiwi behaviour and breeding. An ONE bird has a 65% chance of surviving to adulthood, while a wild-born chick has just a 5% chance.



## Winter Lecture Series

1st Sunday of each month,

**Pepper Restaurant,  
Coromandel town**

Starts at 7pm, get there early as these evenings are very popular!

See our website for details of the next lecture...

[www.meg.org.nz](http://www.meg.org.nz)

## Kiwi Avoidance Training

**1<sup>st</sup> September; Coromandel town**

Dogs are the biggest threat to adult kiwi in our area. Any dog can kill kiwi. Get your dog trained to avoid kiwi for free.



Training is free and only takes 15 minutes.

Phone 078679080 to book.

## Shop Online

Our online shop has a range of items for sale including traps, gift cards, key rings and T-shirts.

**100% of the profit of these items will fund local conservation projects.**

### Rat Trap

Dealing with a few unwanted visitors? Want a rat trap for your backyard?



This humane & effective rat-trap comes with a custom made wooden box to keep the trap safe from curious pets & children, protect the trap from the elements & pig interference, & exclude non target species.



**Purchase for \$25**

## Support our Work

### Become a member of Moehau Environment Group.

You will directly help to protect the unique species and ecosystems on the Coromandel.

It's easy! Simply fill in the form below...

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
I'd also like to volunteer	Please circle: YES NO

### Annual Membership fees:

Single: \$10, Family: \$20, Corporate: \$250

**I would like to donate a further:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include payment by cheque.**

Cheques payable to: Moehau Environment Group, c/o Lettecia Williams, 1409 Port Charles Rd

RD4, Coromandel 3584

**You can also pay online here**

[www.meg.org.nz/support-us/membership/](http://www.meg.org.nz/support-us/membership/)

*Pleased note for accounting reasons we no longer offer direct debit as a payment option unless requested.*

**Membership subs are due 1 October.**

Have you paid? If so, many thanks.

We really appreciate your support.

**For further information please contact:**

Lettecia Williams Ph: 07 8666626

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