

# What's Up DOC October 2018



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



## Stay safe this Labour Weekend

Spring weather can be unpredictable and change without warning. If you're planning an outdoors trip, use these tools to reduce your risk of getting caught out:

Know before you  
go

## Help care for our visitors

After the tragic death of an Indian tourist on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Senior Constable Barry Shepherd of Taupo Police encouraged all Kiwis to [reach out to visitors](#):

"Ask them their plans, tell them about the New Zealand weather – what cold really means here, what rain really means here."

"We have a collective responsibility to help care for our visitors."



Image: [Dean Harris](#) | [Creative Commons](#)

## Get involved

### Meet some tokoeka

Are you getting involved with [Save Kiwi Month](#)?

[You can meet some of New Zealand's rarest kiwi](#) as they're released into Haast Tokoeka Sanctuary on 18 October.



Image: [Sabine Bernert](#) ©

### Have your say: whitebait

DOC is responsible for making sure there are healthy populations of whitebait in our rivers and the whitebait fishery is sustainable.

[Tell us your opinion on whitebait management.](#)



### Have your say: biodiversity

[Have your say](#) on how New Zealand conserves its variety of native plant and animal life and how we'll contribute to safeguarding biodiversity globally.

The current New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy is nearly 20 years old and expires in 2020.



## Nature

### New device protects crafty kea

[Newly-designed parrot excluders](#) will be fitted to Goodnature A24 traps to ensure kea aren't inadvertently harmed.

While there is no record of kea being harmed by an A24, DOC scientists assessed that these traps in their original design could pose a risk to the inquisitive birds.



## Rats threaten Pukaha Forest

A huge influx of rats has overwhelmed the network of traps in Pukaha Forest, threatening kākā, kōkako, kiwi and other wildlife.

To protect native wildlife, DOC will use [aerial 1080 in parts of Pukaha Forest](#).



Image: [Nga Manu Images](#) | [Creative Commons](#)

## Help nesting shorebirds

Breeding on a river bed is risky business. Nesting shorebirds have to contend with introduced predators, floods and weeds.

[Help shorebirds this spring and summer](#) by minimising disturbance from people and dogs.



Image: Cleland Wallace ©

## Our work

### Powell Hut closing for rebuild

Powell Hut will be closed 1 November 2018 – 30 April 2019 to be demolished and rebuilt.

[Read all about this Wairarapa icon](#) over on our blog.



### Surprising ideas for marine reserve monitoring

[Check out the fifth and final instalment](#) in our blog series about monitoring with baited underwater video at Banks Peninsula.



## How 1080 bait is distributed

Watch this short video to see how accurately bait is distributed during an aerial 1080 operation.

Did you know, the 1080 toxin makes up only 0.15% of each bait? [Learn more about 1080.](#)



## Photo of the month

Kapiti Island is one of New Zealand's most accessible predator-free islands, home to rare birds such as kākā, kōkako, takahē and hihi.

'Kapiti' refers to Te Waewae Kapiti o Tara rāua ko Rangitāne – the dividing line between the tribal lands of the Ngāi Tara and Rangitāne peoples.

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## See more from DOC

- [Tahr control operational plan released](#)
- [Hunter Valley Station public access agreement signed](#)
- [Sentenced for taking sea life from marine reserve, Gisborne](#)
- [Cruise ship L'Austral grounding – fines total \\$100,000](#)
- [Steer clear of sea lions](#)

[More news and events](#)