

# What's Up DOC – January 2019



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



## Is it ever OK to throw food scraps away?

Have you ever thrown a banana peel into the bushes thinking it's not really litter? How about some sandwich crust or orange peel?

Litter isn't just about plastic – organic litter can affect our wildlife too. When you're out in nature, the right thing to do is leave no trace. Pack out what you pack in. It's the Kiwi way.

Litter and our  
birds

## Why the drone rules?

Did you know the Civil Aviation Authority classifies drones as aircraft?

If you've got a drone, make sure you follow the rules – [the reasons behind them might surprise you](#).

## Update from Lou

Lou announces our new Deputy Director-General, People and Engagement and talks about our summer visitor campaign, work on Chatham Island, Pitt Island and in Northland, parks management insights from Australia and news about storytelling, Wild Creations and Te Arawhiti.

- [Read Lou's latest update](#)
- [Sign up to Lou's mailing list](#)



## Get involved

### Summer writing competition

Are you a keen writer under 18 years old? Tell us how you treat nature, using words in any way from an essay to a poem or play.

[Enter before 22 February](#) – you might win a calendar and Forest & Bird membership.

### How to clean up for kauri



See how you can keep kauri safe by using kauri dieback cleaning stations.

### Volunteer

It looks like your region is **Auckland**.

[Volunteer at Omaha Beach](#)

[Update your region.](#)



### How to check for myrtle rust



Find out how to check your local myrtle plants for myrtle rust this summer.



## Nature

### Kākāpō breeding

xxx page from Jayne

[Listen to RNZ's Kākāpō Files.](#)



## Decapitated fur seals a mystery

Six New Zealand fur seal/kekeno pups were found decapitated late last year.

A necropsy (post-mortem) carried out on three of them has [ruled out the possibility of foul play](#).



Image: [Stefan Marks](#) ©

## Christmas trees go rogue

Introduced pines are invasive weeds. Their seeds spread for miles and can grow almost anywhere.

They take over native landscapes, killing vegetation and evicting wildlife. The timber either has no value or the value is outweighed by extraction costs.



Image: Anthony Behrens ©

[Dispose of your garden waste wisely](#).

## Our work

### Fiordland kiwi diaries update

At Shy Lake, the team have been monitoring newly translocated kiwi to see how well the birds survive without pest control.

[Check out Ranger Anne's diary and video](#).



Image: Mat Goodman ©

### Successful aerial predator control

Tracking tunnel prints before an aerial 1080 operation in Russell Forest show (left to right) pigs, rats and possums. After the operation, the [papers were clear](#).



DOC are working with hapū and communities to keep pest numbers low and return native species to the forest.



## Stoat hunt underway

A potential [sighting of a stoat](#) on Great Barrier Island/Aotea has sparked an immediate response, starting with a check by Conservation Dogs.

Watch the video to meet Ranger Miriam and her pest detection dog Woody.



## Photo of the month

Jonathan Astin took this photo of a kiwi that seems to have skewered a leaf while probing the ground for food.

Kiwi might be named for the shrill whistle males use to call their mates. Or perhaps the name began as kivi, the bristle-thighed curlew which early Māori settlers may have remembered from their Polynesian homeland. [Source: [Te Ara](#)]



[Follow DOC on Instagram](#)

## See more from DOC

- [Fox Glacier access road reopens](#)
- [Duke's Nose \(Kaiaraara Rocks\) Track reopens](#)
- [Banned campfire on pest-free island a serious risk for native wildlife](#)
- [Vespex wasp bait found safe for bee colonies](#)
- [Conservation board nominations close 28 January](#)

### Answers from last month's Kiwi way test

When is it OK to handle a gecko? Never without a permit. When is it OK to fly a drone over public conservation land? Never without a concession. Which items can be harmlessly thrown into the bush? Nothing - pack it out. When should you tell someone your plans when you're going for a walk? Every time. Winners have been contacted by email.

[More news and events](#)

Department of Conservation

National Office | PO Box 10420 | Wellington 6143 | New Zealand

You have received this email because you subscribed to What's Up DOC?

All images are copyright DOC unless otherwise stated.