

# Sponsor a Brown Kiwi

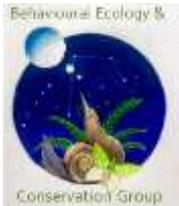


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The Behavioural Ecology and Conservation Group have the longest running research programme on kiwi in New Zealand after that of the Department of Conservation (DoC). The difference is that our research includes discovering the basic biology and behaviour of kiwi in addition to dealing with conservation questions, while DoC's research is directed to conservation exclusively. We are a joint Massey/Chamberlin family effort started in 2004, and after 11 productive years we are hoping to be able to continue learning and sharing our knowledge of kiwi for many years to come.

Please help us continue our research by sponsoring part the cost of studying each of our kiwi. To track and study our kiwi, they each need individual radio-transmitters and we need radio-telemetry equipment, batteries, and cameras to be able to follow them. In total, we spend \$470 per kiwi each year and we would like to ask you to sponsor this cost for one or more of our birds and in return we will keep you up to date with 'your' bird(s)'s news and stories/adventures through an annual report on what has happened to the bird(s), plus we will answer any emails asking about your bird(s) (or its friends) via our web site.

To help you choose, we have compiled each of our birds' stories in a light hearted way in what we think are their own words! A photo of each bird will let you glimpse their unique personalities. Once you decide who you want to sponsor, visit our website and choose the bird there.



## Quick guide to sponsorship

- 1) Sponsorship costs \$470 per kiwi
- 2) It covers the cost of radio transmitters, batteries and telemetry and monitoring equipment
- 3) We'll send you a photo of your kiwi and will keep you informed of your kiwi's adventures through our website and one communication per year after we change the bird's transmitter.
- 4) Choose a kiwi from this document
- 5) Visit our website at [www.massey.ac.nz/sponsor-a-kiwi](http://www.massey.ac.nz/sponsor-a-kiwi)
- 6) Complete the sponsorship form

[www.massey.ac.nz/sponsor-a-kiwi](http://www.massey.ac.nz/sponsor-a-kiwi)

## Eco, George and Kerri



**Eco:** I am one of the original birds in the study (2004). When I first met the scientists they thought I was old because I am pretty grey and I am blind on one eye. Old? Maybe I am, maybe I am not; that's for me to know and them to find out! I gave my son Mauro my bill length which, at 99.6 mm, is the longest of the males in the study. I annoy the scientists because I often roost over water and they (and I) get wet on capture. I am mated to Kerri but I have to share her with George, something I don't mind, we're all friends. I am named after Isabel's dog Eco who found me.



**George:** I am one of the original birds (2004), named after George Clark, son of Jono and Ria from EcoQuest. I am considered the most handsome of all the males in the study because I am so symmetrical. I guess I am! I nest with Kerri and Eco (both sponsored).



**Kerri:** I have also been in the study since 2004; named after Kerri Morgan (PhD graduate), one of the scientists who studied a disease called coccidiosis that can kill our kind. I am a large female mated to two beautiful guys, Eco and George. I am mum to Mauro. We live in a swampy area and our homes are under reeds and flax and mud castles, absolutely gorgeous.

## Mauro



**Mauro:** I hatched in October 2005. I was the first chick that survived in the Kiwi Program. I was named after one of Isabel's best friends at University in Colombia, Mauricio Bernal. My name has changed a few times from Mauro to Maura and then again to Mauro as genetic testing using my feathers first indicated I was a boy, then my bill grew long and they did another test that said I was a girl, and then another test was done and I was a boy and then... yes the scientists were baffled... and the possibility that I am a chimera (parts of my body female and parts male) still exists. I am a very VERY special kiwi not only because I was the first 'grandchild' of the programme, but also because I was born to a group rather than a pair of birds. My mum is Kerri and my dads are Eco, who provided the genetic heritage, and George who sat on my egg for 80 days non-stop all by himself while Eco spent time with my mum. I am now 11 years old but I have not yet had my own nest. I guess I am not ready for the challenge of fatherhood. Maybe I will get lucky and find two females to nest with this year 😊

## Clea and Ponui

We are one of the most committed Brown Kiwi couples, having bred and lived together for many years, and are only rivalled by Anne and Jenno in Pipe Gully. We live on the other side of the hill, at No. K3 Kauri Bush, a tree burrow at the top of the hill looking down upon all the other Kauri Bush birds. Clea calls it *our castle on the hill*. That has been our residence for a long time and we like to keep it very clean with just our poos in it so everyone knows it belong to us.



**Clea:** I am a red feathered girl (yes, a ginger) and was named after our youngest kiwi worker Clea Molano who, at just 11, carried out her school research with us and who is red haired too. Ponui and I are parents to our daughter, Babe.



**Ponui:** I was named “big night” in Te Reo... what better name for a kiwi. I go wherever Clea goes, and we are often found close to each other foraging at night. We are like your good average kiwi family producing wee little chicks every year.

## Babe



**Babe:** I was born in 2011 to Ponui and Clea and was one of the wee little chicks studied by the scientist Alex Wilson (masters graduate). I am a full grown kiwi now, an independent, big and strong female living on my own in the Big Swamp. I love living in the swamp and getting the scientists upset because they have to get wet and muddy to find me.

**Transmitter failed. Currently out of project.**

## Dario and Salome

We have been in the project since 2008. We were actually a trio with another female, Vilma, who passed away from unknown reasons in 2010. Our names are all Spanish names after good friends of the scientists. When we were first found, Salome was a young girl and looked like a boy, so she was named German (a boy's name in Spanish), having to change the name after the scientists found her real gender (using genetics). We live in the middle of Kauri gully up on the hill with a nice view.



**Salome:** I am poop machine. I like to explosively poop on the scientists and their friends when they catch me. I have even pooped on a person's face! Now she smells like me! I do it to help with their research (they are always after poop samples), and because IT'S SOO FUNNY 😊



**Dario:** I am quite chilled and love being a great dad. I love helping the scientists, which is why I call where they can see me and I try to always use shallow burrows so they can get to us easily and learn heaps about us.

## Max and Minnie



**Max:** We are the largest birds in the programme and... often obese, we are just smart and know where to eat! We love to live in large inaccessible tree houses, maybe because those are the only ones where we can fit our big personalities. We rule over the land of South Kauri forest where donkeys and bulls live... yes, their poop is full of yummy stuff.... Minnie and I often like to hang out with them in the pasture at night... actually that's where we get all the morsels that make us fat...



**Minnie:** I am so content, I lack nothing. Max and I have plenty of food, plenty of homes and are just so happy! Many in Kauri Bush have big breeding groups, but Max and I just like each other. Well there is also the issue that we are a bit large and getting a third one in the burrow is complicated and also so hot!...

# Paul, Louise, Bow, Daphnae and Tweety

Yes, you are reading right! We are a quintet. What can we say? We love each other. If humans do it, why not kiwi? The only hard thing is to fit three of us boys in the same nest, but we get there! We like to help each other keep our eggs warm, and often have more than two eggs in our nest at a time..



**Louise:** I have been in the project since 2006. I used to live in Red Stoney Hill Gully, but moved to Kauri in 2008-9. I fell out of love and in love again. Aoteng was my partner but he dropped his transmitter so the scientists don't know what happened to him... and I won't tell them either! Then I joined the 'super five'. I must admit that while I love Paul, Tweety, and Bow, I don't get on all that well with Daph. She thinks she can call but I think I am louder! She also has that silly sway when she walks. Ugh! I so wish I didn't have to share the boys...



**Bow:** I joined the project in 2006. At first the scientists only knew of me and Daph, but soon discovered the rest of our group. I am a big boy and love both girls very much and enjoy spending time with both... I think that's why they fight so much...



**Tweety:** I joined the project in 2006 with Bow. I love being one of the boys, and would much rather share my burrow with Bow and Paul than the girls. They can be nasty, fighting each other and I'd rather not be there for that. The scientists don't like me all that much because I am shy. I am so fast that if they are filming my burrow they have to slow the film 16 times to see me! Hahaha! I should compete in a running competition with Jono. Our five have an open relationship and I have also been spending time with Roy Tane since 2012.



**Paul:** I was the last of the group to join the project in 2010. The scientists did not know about me until they saw me in a video coming out of a burrow with the other four. I gave them the surprise of the year!



**Daphnae:** I have been part of the study since 2007. I am named after Birgit Ziesemann's (PhD graduate) friend. I have become famous because I love standing in front of the cameras and do stuff like preening. I am a little chubby which makes me walk with a sway. I often growl at the scientists when they get too close to my burrow for my peace of mind. I think it works because they only take me out of the burrow about twice per year; otherwise they just leave, evidently terrified of my ferocity. I am part of the largest breeding group in the Kiwi program; my mates are Paul, Bow, Tweetie and Louise.

## Roy Tane



**Roy Tane:** I was metal ring banded (traditional way to mark birds) in 2004 but only joined the study by getting a transmitter in 2010 because the scientists found me with Valda. We were named after Susan Cunningham's (PhD graduate) grandparents. Unfortunately I lost my transmitter in 2011 and although the scientists were always poking their hand in burrows looking for me, I escaped them. But in 2013, Valda was my downfall, when I was found with her again in the same burrow.

However, I had the metal ring removed in 2011 and the scientists thought I was a different bird and re-named me Tane after the cute, one-year-old son of Juan Carlos (PhD graduate). After that they read the notes in the research notebook regarding my metal ring being removed, and realised I was Roy, now I am Roy Tane. I was always faithful to Valda even when she would walk miles away to spite the researchers for disturbing her sleep to change her transmitter. I used to follow her, but now she is gone forever where I cannot go. She passed away in 2014 from a haemorrhage in the ovary and kidney of an unknown cause, but probably from ovulation. I miss her. ☹ Looking for love again... That Tako girl seems quite nice. Maybe I will introduce myself... and Tweetie is a good friend too...

## Anne and Jenno



**Anne:** I have been in this study from its inception in 2004. I was named after Lee Shapiro's girlfriend at the time, a lovely girl called Anne from some overseas nation. I am the skinniest of the girls in this study, but I am not anorexic, just naturally slim. I am mother to Jules, a beautiful boy who dropped his transmitter and is no longer part of this study. I am mated to Jenno, the bestest partner ever and we live in a pretty bush area in Pipe Gully where we have many houses including Anne's Palace, our huge tree mansion.



**Jenno:** I joined the study at the very start, 2004. I was named after Jen, Murray Potter's Labrador and Eco's sister, who found me. I live in the centre of Pipe Gully and I am one of the birds that breed every year. I have always mated with the same girl, Anne, we have produced many babies over the years. She adores me and we are always together in the same burrow. When I am on a nest she roosts in a nearby burrow to keep me company. She's lovely to me. I never want to leave her side.

## Scott and Margam



**Scott:** I joined the study in 2004. At the time I had a wife called Ria (after Ria Brejaart from EcoQuest), a beauty, but she moved to a different gully and I moved in with another female, Margam (after Margaret Murrell). Funnily enough, Ria was a tiny bird at just 1.9 kg and Margam is a large bird at nearly 3 kg. Both have loooooong bills that I find sexy... Margam keeps me warm during the day when we are asleep. I have fathered many babies but Charlie is one who's also in the study.



**Margam:** I am a BIG mama and joined the study in 2012. Like Roy Tane I was banded in 2004 but not given a transmitter. I am a faithful kiwi and my mate is Scott. I produce big and healthy children each year, like my darling Charlie...

## Charlie



**Charlie:** I am young, wild, and free. My mum and dad are Margam and Scott and I was born in 2011. Alex Wilson (MSc graduate), took special interest in me. I liked her but I've not seen her in a while. I am named after her boyfriend, but it turns out I was a girl! Tricked them! I like to travel all around and can be found in many different areas. When I am older I want to settle down in one place and make lots of big healthy babies like my Mum does. I think I must be special because the researchers used to find me every month to change my ankle bracelet to the other leg. I was glad of this because the more I ate, my legs grew and the band got a little bit tight. I liked to challenge them, though, and one of my favourite burrows was at the top of a steep ridge between two gullies. As I heard the scientists approaching (their footsteps are loud and their breathing is heavy. I am much fitter than them!) I knew it was time to go further into the burrow. I knew they couldn't get me there. But after a while I tired of this and moved far away, headed North. I think the scientists need exercise so I set them a task of a very long walk to find me. Haha! I am not looking for a mate, but I wouldn't say no should a charming young male pass by.

## Belgarion and Tomasina



**Belgarion:** I am named after a meerkat from the Kalahari Desert in a famous project run by a well-known scientist Tim Clutton-Brock. I was first mated to Carla and Lance when I joined the study in 2004, but I started to hang out with Amanda and then Tako, so Carla got a bit upset and left to travel to a faraway land (Richard's farm) and I left Lance. I settled with Tako but she left me to travel too (she now lives in Kauri Bush). I was a loner for a year or two but now I have found Tomasina. Not sure why I can't hold a girlfriend... I wish I could go to a kiwi psychologist to ask, but all we get around here are behavioural ecologists, useless (sigh). I love living near the water's edge in the creek. Maybe girls don't like getting wet to get to bed... I don't know... My life is like a TV drama, I wonder if the BBC (??) would do a drama documentary like *Meerkat Manor* about me? We have enough stories: *Apteryx Acres* could be called...



**Tomasina:** I am mated to Bel. I am so lucky to have found him; we make a great couple... I think. He can be a bit dramatic. I was discovered with him by the scientists in June 2014, and named after one of the scientists called Tom Dixon (MSc graduate). Though I do also want to travel and see more of the world... If I go Bel will understand I am sure...

## Tako and Koby



**Tako:** I have been in this project since 2012 when I was with Bel. Unfortunately the scientists that gave me my original name were from North America and called me Taco because I was found with Bel... you know, Taco-Bell? I don't know why the scientists found that funny, neither did Isabel, so she changed the spelling of my name to Tako to make it Maori. I am not sure that was that great either as tako means "gums or palate". Isabel reckons this is good as all the members of my bird group have a special palate that gives us our scientific name *Paleognathous*. I personally think that they should have called me Rangī Takō, which means clear sky... Oh well, so it goes! I adored Bel, and stayed by his side and put up with his eccentricities but with time I had enough. So I set out to travel and put some distance between us. Now I live over in the hills at Kauri Bush, looking for love once again... (The scientists were hoping I would fall in love with Roy Tane or something like that, but I had a surprise under my belt... I chose another boy...).

**Koby:** I am Tako's new man. Named after a wonderful Akita dog who recently passed away. Like the dog I am big and loving and have a great nose! Tako likes me and I hope I can do better than Bel in retaining her.

## Robyn and Dale



**Robyn:** I have been in the study since 2004, was named after one of the kiwi catchers. In those days I was Genesis' partner, but that promiscuous guy started to mingle with that cute brown kiwi Susie. I did not want to share him, less with her, she was beautiful. So I left him in 2010. Plenty of fish in the sea as they say. I found Dale, a gorgeous boy and we now live at no. PKG3, Pohutukawa Grove, most of the time. The scientists find this slightly annoying as they can't get us out very easily. Haha!!



**Dale:** Well, what else to say? Females, they say it all... I joined the study in 2010 (named after one of the scientists' boyfriends), and have been living with Robyn. We make a great team. I really like living in PKG gully underneath the pretty red trees!

## Genesis



**Genesis:** I am a beautiful but different kiwi and I joined the study in 2004. I am named after the first book of the bible as I was the first male to be caught in the study. I am special as I prefer sleeping on the surface whenever I can. I run on the theory that if I cannot see you, you cannot see me. Initially I was paired to Robyn, but then Susie came into my life and the girls didn't get on that well and had lots of fights in the middle of the night. One day they ran on top of the scientists that were there. So eventually Robyn found Dale and left, while I and Susie stayed. We had great times together but sadly I recently lost her. Rest in Peace, Susie my dear. This is the first year that I don't have a nest because I am lonesome.

## Gaven and Leigh



**Gaven:** I am one of the original birds from 2004. Named after a famous NZ mathematician Gaven Martin, a smart and stylish man indeed, just like me. I was a single bird for a long time until in 2012 I finally nested to the surprise of all the scientists! Hehehe. After that first time I am all for nesting every year.



**Leigh:** I was found in June 2013 with Gaven, my partner. I am named after Alexandra Leigh Brighten, another scientist working with our noisy neighbours and friends, the Morepork. I live with Gaven in the middle of Pipe gully. We like it here because it is nice and shady and the stream runs right past our door.

## Martin and Elisabeth



**Martin:** I've been in the project since 2004 and was named after a famous anatomist from Auckland University, Martin Wild. I am a nesting machine and have the coolest nests. The scientists say that my nests are so flush with the ground that it looks like I am a mole! I nest in Red Stoney Hill Gully but spend most of the time outside the breeding season at Richard's Farm. I have some awesome properties there; one in particular which I like heaps is a huge fallen tree. Isabel has taken me out of there by getting her entire body into the tree and then reaching into a branch to hold me. Someone has to pull her legs to get us out of there.



**Elisabeth:** I am named after Elisabeth Jones, currently working for EcoQuest. I am one of the original birds from 2004. I am beautiful, I have the largest bill length of any of the females in the study 135mm. This makes me look sleek. I am mated to Martin, but I have been known to have other male companions: Alvaro, Alex, several unnamed... Any ways, they must also like my bill...

## Jono and Olivia



**Jono:** I am one of the original birds from 2004, named after Jono Clark from EcoQuest. I had an amazing life with my partner Birgit, but that all came to a horrible halt in 2011 when Ivan the Terrible and his wife, Octavia, stole my nest with my darling eggs and all. Ivan is a bully and I have been wandering the gullies since they booted me out. I have no home, no burrow, and no girlfriend. I was never a big bird, but now, I am slim as! I am a runner like my hero Usain Bolt. Someday, I wish to compete in the Olympic races and represent the KIWI. For now I get all my training done by running from the scientists all day and all night and make it as painful as possible for them to catch me... Every day I train, I am closer to my goal. I wouldn't like to be sponsored by Puma, like Usain, because we Kiwi don't like cats! I wonder if I can get sponsored by Nike to compete?



**Olivia:** Well Jono may have to change his tune above as now he is with me... Not sure about running and things if we are going to have a family... that's something I want to do straight away... I was found this year 2016 with Jono and given my name in honour of a gorgeous little girl Olivia who like her aunty Jess Hiscox (one of our team) loves kiwi.

## Ivan and Octavia

**Ivan:** Octavia and I joined the study in 2011. There has been uproar from moment one because we moved into Jono's nest. But what do you expect? We were neighbours... we muck around... one thing leads to the next. Fact is that Octie and I are top kiwi and so what if Jono and Birgit were weak? Not our fault. I stand by my kiwi girl, she's tough and beautiful.



**Octavia:** I am the meanest kiwi on the block. I huff and I puff and my talons are like T-rex claws! If you are scientist, volunteer or student, be ready to be marked by me!

## Vaughan and Adriana



**Vaughan:** I am a feisty male and I recently joined the study in 2013. I was named after Vaughan Keesing, a sporty and handsome scientist. But the scientists can never pronounce my name right, they call me Vau-ghan... they should try Vorn. I live in the most slippery burrows. I am mated to Adriana as I like my kiwi women big.



**Adriana:** Vorn and I live mostly in the huge Kauri at the convergence of three gullies. We are new in the study so no one knows much about us... we are still a little mysterious...

## Clel and Karen



**Clel:** I am named after Cleland Wallace, a technician at Ecology, Massey University. I shocked everyone when in 2011 when I nested after four years in the study as a single male. My first two eggs had to be taken into Rainbow Springs because Dr Isabel thought I was dead and approached me when all I was doing was lying with my head stretched outside my nest, sunbathing, while incubating my eggs. I hear this is typical of Emu, one of my Aussie cousins. Anyway, undeterred, I have been nesting annually ever since and I think I'm pretty good at it too.



**Karen:** Well finally they scientists caught up with me... I am Clel's partner since 2011, the mama of his wee chicks and his companion. Named after Karen Mason, one of the scientists (Plant and Food Research) who loves the bush and envisions us bush birds helping with ecosystem services everywhere in NZ – I will join her anytime. I am a big beautiful female and my life secrets I understand will soon be found out as I also got one of those transmitters... Watch this space...

## Tashu



**Tashu:** I was caught when the scientists broke into our secret motel to look for Valda in June 2014. I made the mistake of trying to run and they thought I was Valda. They put a transmitter on me and named me Tashu after one of the scientists, Natasha Bansal. The scientists don't know much about me yet... but I hold wonderful secrets they will discover with time...

## Cindy (and Murphy)



**Cindy:** Murph and I joined the project in 2004, at the very beginning and are the only “big swamp” birds to remain in the study because we nest on dry land. I am very accommodating, always roosting close to the edge of the swamp where I can be caught relatively easily. In 2007-8, I dropped my transmitter because the hospital bands the scientists had to use were really bad that year. Murph dropped his transmitter in 2012. I was re-caught in 2015 in our usual burrow/nest. Unfortunately, I was alone, so Murph is still at large. When the scientists re-caught me I had just broken one of my legs and it was pretty swollen. However, since then I have recovered and my leg is looking much better. The scientists are hoping to find Murph, but I’m not sure he shares that view!

**Both birds are currently out of the project. We let Cindy go not to put pressure on her broken leg.**

## Ken and Amanda



**Ken:** I was found with Amanda during catch week 2010 in our little love nest R22 Red Stoney Hill Gully! How many lovely times we’ve spent there. Both of us are into rock climbing and found the perfect couple’s retreat, although less cosy than our nest, in a steep crevice on Richard’s farm, not far from Red Stoney Ridge. It is a bigger house and better still it eluded the scientists for a while until Tom managed to find us. I like to spend lots of time in the pasture feeding on big worms and crickets.



**Amanda:** I was a young bird when I joined the project in 2007 so much so that I was named Murray thinking that I was a male... However, in just a few months my bill grew heaps and I had a name change to Amanda, the lady who found me. Over the next two years I hung around with Bel at night. I guess I liked him because he is such a hunky male.. Ken and I have been together since 2010 although sometimes we have shared our lives with Betty. Unfortunately Betty’s transmitter has not been heard for a year now meaning that either she left the area for good or it stopped working...

**Currently out of the project because of dropped transmitter.**

## Jaeden, Linda and Marc

We three amigos have been friends for aages! We live at the top of Pipe Gully in the highest burrows out of all the birds studied. We really like to hang out in the stumps of fallen trees and make really cool burrows which the scientists call Kiwi Hotels!



**Jaeden:** I am so in love with Linda. Me and her are inseparable. I am really good at making Kiwi Hotels, some of my other friends call me the architect!



**Linda:** I am a lucky girl because I have two boyfriends to keep me happy! Being an aristocrat; living in our flash Kiwi Hotels at the highest point in Pipe Gully suits me just right.



**Marc:** I am a good friend to both Linda and Jaeden, and a good breeding bird. Sometimes I like to spend some time alone when those two want more privacy. I think that I am a really good flatmate and always make sure to be a good friend.

## Emily



**Emily:** I am Emily, named after one of the scientists' (Sarah Jamieson, ex-postdoc) grandmother. I joined the programme in 2011. The scientists think that I am quite funny because I am not very good at hiding during the day time, but really I do it on purpose to show off my amazing beauty. I love the freedom of roosting on the surface. I find burrows very stuffy but I am always surprised how the researchers find me. If I can't see them, how can they see me? Sometimes I like to hide with just a few leaves covering me because I like everyone looking at me and taking photos. I guess you could call me a supermodel Kiwi. If you sponsor me you are sure to get some good candid shots.

## Denis



**Denis:** Hi! My name is Denis after Denis Wilson, Alex Wilson's dad (MSc graduate). I am a recent addition to the research programme having joined in 2013. The scientists are just now beginning to know me. I live in Pipe gully right at the end by the big box of researchers' gear. At the moment I am all alone, but I often go for big walks across the ridges to try and find a mate. My favourite spot to hide is on the surface under flax bushes or scrub.