



Morepork (Ruru) are the focus of a new study on Banks Peninsula. Although this iconic bird is common in some parts of NZ they are now uncommon in Canterbury. Our project is asking the public to report morepork calls or sightings to help build a picture of where they are living on the peninsula. We are also providing morepork with nesting boxes which will act as a monitoring tool and provide them with a safe place to breed. Morepork are nocturnal and make a distinctive "More Pork" call. The three year project is a joint initiative between the BPCT, DOC and the local community.



Photo: Moira Pryde

Morepork prefer dense forest to live in and they make their nest in the holes of big old trees. This makes morepork vulnerable to predators such as possums and stoats. The morepork's favourite food items include insects, small birds and sometimes mice. They have special feathers that enable them to fly quietly and sneak up on their prey. It is not known how long morepork live for but the oldest known bird in captivity is around 40 yrs old.

Morepork on Banks Peninsula

What is the trust doing to help Morepork?

- providing nest boxes for breeding
- radio tracking a breeding pair
- acoustic monitoring in remote areas
- developing an education kit for schools
- mapping the distribution on BP

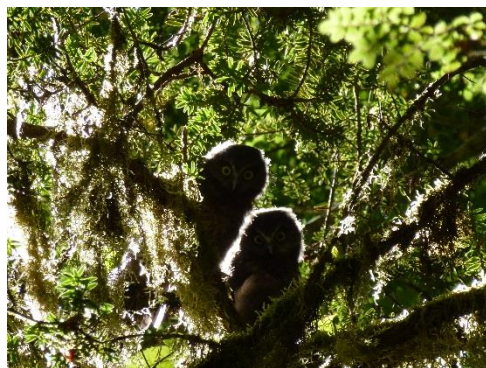


Photo: Moira Pryde

Report morepork calls or sightings to:

www.naturewatch.org.nz

or

Text: 021 02779363

What can you do to help Morepork?

- use rodent toxins that won't harm morepork
- control predators such as stoats and possums
- help to restore native habitat
- retain big old trees with nest holes