

Roost boxes boost



Form 4JM woodwork class at Wellington College made 14 roosting boxes for the saddleback. The pupils are (from left) front row, Daniel Kalderimis, Andrew Douglas, Benjamin Atkin, Chris Gilman; back row, Rohan Biggs, Timothy Catchpole, Geoffrey Clare, Scott Clemmett and Charles Gillespie. Photo: Evening Post

ON KAPITI ISLAND the rare saddleback's attempts to survive are hampered by their habit of roosting on low branches, making them easy prey for rats.

Scientist Tim Lovegrove has been working on a project to provide roosting boxes for the birds to protect them from the rats. The Wellington branch, along with the Wellington Trust Bank, Wellington Central Rotary Club and the Depart-

ment of Conservation, recently sponsored a competition to assist Tim's efforts.

Schools were asked to build roosting boxes; the prize was membership of Forest and Bird for the winning school and a chance for three individual winners to spend the night on the island.

The schools responded by building 510 roosting boxes which are now being used on the island.

Hibiscus Coast branch protects forest



The Hibiscus Coast fencing gang at Dunn's Bush. Photo: Eric Parker

JUST NORTH of Auckland at Puhoi stands a testament to the enthusiasm and commitment of our newest branch, Hibiscus Coast.

Owners of a 100-ha block of forest called Dunn's Bush wanted it to be covenanted with the QEII National Trust. This involved erecting a 1.7-km fence on moderate to steep hill country with limited

tractor access. Therefore the local branch organised a fencing gang which carried in 450 posts and 2000 battens, as well doing the actual battening work.

The grateful owners now have a fine area of native bush protected under a covenant and fenced against stock invasion.

Do it yourself

UNHAPPY about the lack of plants around the Cape Kidnappers gannet colony, Hastings/Havelock North branch student member Tim Hay has initiated a project to make the area more attractive.

Earlier this year he organised a fun run along the coast to raise money to revegetate the area. He obtained sponsorship from Watties, The Hub and Arataki Honey, and enlisted helpers from the branch to service the checkpoints and

drink stations along the run.

On a beautifully fine February morning nearly 60 people from 18 to 60 ran the 25-km trip from Clifton Beach to the gannet colony and back to the beach.

Tim's effort raised \$550, and the branch has made the total up to \$1000. They are now working closely with the Department of Conservation on a planting plan for the Cape. Well done Tim.



The start of the run to raise money for tree planting at Cape Kidnappers.

Earth Day for the children

EARTH DAY celebrations swept the globe at the end of April. In New Zealand, where Forest and Bird organised events, many of our branches took the opportunity to invite the public along to walks, beach clean ups, field trips and tree planting, while others organised special Earth Day events.

Great Barrier Island members weeded out wild ginger, and Otago and Waitaki branches together cleared wilding pines from a proposed reserve near Mt Stalker. In Wellington the branch organised a festival at the zoo, while Auckland branches were involved with festivities which saw Queen St renamed Green St.

Many of the branches took on board the theme for the year and approached their local schools with environ-

mental information and various competitions.



A Wellington KCC member paints a poster at the Wellington Zoo Earth Day celebrations.