



Spreading the word on pest control for kiwi at Russell: trapper Laurence Gordon with Far North district councillors, Noma Shepherd, Evon Sharp (mayor), James Munroe and Johnson Davis.

his way to help set up a 1.5-kilometre predator fence across a farm. Predator control will still need to take place on the 2500 hectares of land the fence protects. However, the hot-wire fence should reduce the number of ferrets, stoats, feral cats, possums and species that manage to re-invade the peninsula.

The project has cost around \$100,000 to set up in its first year, but Laurence Gordon is sure that support from various agencies, the 800 permanent residents and 1,600 holiday residents, will ensure it continues. He is also expecting the cost to drop to under \$40,000 per year, now that the bait stations and traps have been purchased and the fence has been erected.



At right: Steve Allen setting pest traps. Wooden trap covers prevent kiwi and other non-target animals getting caught in the traps. Covering the traps with tunnels also helps to attract predators such as stoats and ferrets, which often hunt for food in rabbit and bird burrows. Baits, such as hen eggs and salted rabbit meat, are used.



Another Kiwi-zone project, in Motatau forest, is managed by local Maori (Ngati Hine) in association with the Department of Conservation. Workers and volunteers can stay in this hut when doing surveys of kiwi and New Zealand pigeons (known locally as kukupa). Ngati Hine also makes the hut available to some private groups.



WORLD FAMOUS GERMAN OPTICS



**Diafun
8x30**



PRECISION FOR YOUR EYES



New Zealand Distributors
Ian R. Little Ltd.

124 Peterborough Street
P.O Box 1287
Christchurch
New Zealand

Phone (03) 366 76 22
Fax (03) 379 3962
e-mail irl@irl.co.nz