

Had some faster growing sheltering trees not been removed or side-pruned, slower growing lacebarks and kowhai would now be outcompeted and dying

QI/KTC (KDM'16)

The resident brown rat will not let swimming ship rats and human carried mice establish on this smaller island. A management dilemma

QI/KTC (KDM'16)

Shrubland development on boney ground. The small plants are already food and habitat for insects and lizards. On good ground forest species would soon shade out this ecosystem

QI/KTC (KDM'16)

A big change from thin overgrazed grass in 1996. Fortunately a few old hebes, some tussocks and a flax remained to provide a seed source

QI/KTC (KDM'16)

Shade tolerant periwinkle smothers the forest floor. The end result is forest collapse. Ivy does the same AND climbs trees

QI/KTC (KDM'16)

By not cutting back competing plants this lightwell would have closed and stopped the planted lacebark from entering the canopy to eventually seed

QI/KTC (KDM'16)

This stumpy totara started on cleared land. Why grow a tall trunk if you can grab resources by spreading wide?

QI/KTC (KDM '16)

As long as the young plants have clear top access to light the grass can help shelter from salty winds until the plant 'toughens up'

QI/KTC (KDM '16)

In 1996 this dampish south facing slope was largely in weaker grass into which the natives could reinvade. No need for planting here

QI/KTC (KDM '16)

Plant 'Stud Farm'

The reintroduced plants here are in clumps to bulk them up. This helps them 'muscle' their way through competition on their way to producing seed

QI/KTC (KDM '16)

Reintroduction of Rifleman

RIFLEMAN UPDATE

30/03/99

Returning rifleman to Quarantine (Kamau Taurua) Island.

Hi supporters and participants.

We now have the authority to capture South Island rifleman and release them on Quarantine Island. The permit is under my name (Ken Mason), with my also representing Forest & Bird.

The Department of Conservation (DoC), in granting this permit, is developing a collaboration with NZ's proliferating Non Government Organisation (NGO) ecological restoration movement. All this is very good news to our currently beleaguered native flora and fauna.

A number of DoC staff in particular need to be thanked for their advice and ongoing support for the rifleman project. They are:- Greg Sherley, Bruce McKinlay, Dean Nelson and Don Merton. The Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and Te Runanga Otakou are thanked for their support and ongoing interest. Without the Dunedin Forest & Bird and the St Martin Island Community's backing the project would still be just a idea. And thanks for the co-operation of the Harbour Cone area landowners.

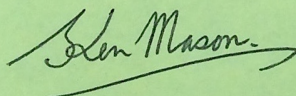
It is planned to use young people, particularly from Forest & Bird's Dunedin Teen Conservation group, in as many stages of the rifleman translocation to Quarantine Island as possible. Many of these dedicated young ones will play key roles in future developments in ecological restoration.

Sue Heath will be in charge of banding and will guide the science aspects of the rifleman translocation and subsequent monitoring. Sue has banded and studied rock wrens (the rifleman's only remaining relation), takehe, kakapo and Adele penguins.

And the current status of the rifleman donor population under Harbour Cone? Despite initial concerns regards the effects of the summer drought, the birds are in very good numbers. They appear to be more numerous than we originally believed. In addition twelve of the fifteen nesting boxes installed on Hendrick & Ellie Koch's land were used this breeding season.

Winter is looming on the horizon. Sue and I are gathering additional advice and accumulating the last bits of equipment. We will soon be making the decision to either attempt a transfer of six pairs of birds to Quarantine Island before winter this year, or to have a training run for the team in anticipation of doing the complete transfer early next year. The best longterm interests of the rifleman will come first.

Regards

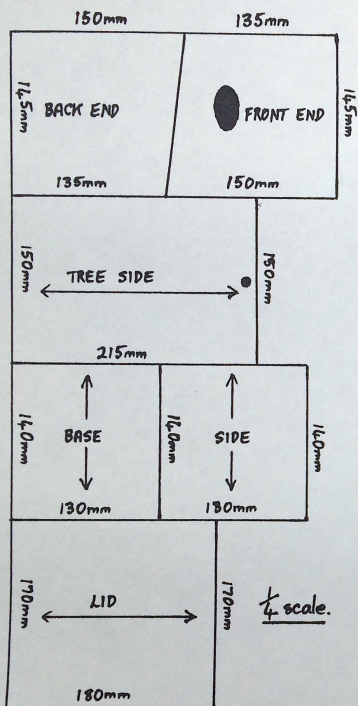


Ken Mason (project co-ordinator)

PS. If you would like the plans for building rifleman nesting boxes, give me a call at 476 2494.

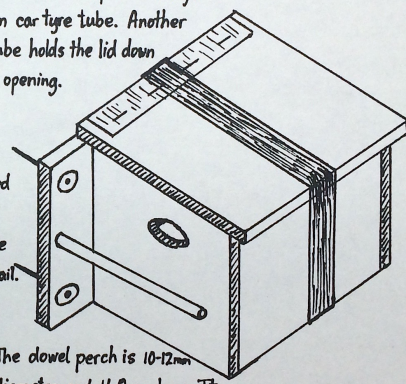
Rifleman Nesting Box (Mark 7)

Drawn by K.D. Mason from boxes supplied by Greg Sherley of DoC Science and Research, Wellington.



Lid held on with a stapled on hinge made from car tyre tube. Another band of tube holds the lid down and allows opening.

The box is nailed or screwed to a tree c 2m up. Use a washer on the nail.



The dowel perch is 10-12mm diameter and 140mm long. It extends from a hole in the tree side board and 40mm out from the entry hole board.

P.T.O.

Treated wood such as marine ply 10-12m thick ideal. The six sides of the nesting box, if laid out as above, will fit onto a piece of wood 700mm x 300mm. Allow for the thickness of saw cuts. The arrows show the length measurement of each piece.

