

VOL. 1 ISSUE 10 - OCTOBER 2024

# THE LAKE NEWS

Official Newsletter of Rotokare Volunteers

## View From The Top

BY ADRIAN CLEARY - GENERAL MANAGER

Kia ora koutou,

I hope this finds you well.

It's been another busy period at Rotokare (when is it not I hear you say...) with umpteen corporate working bees and weather that keeps on giving!

We're making fantastic headway on the fence remediation, and we've put a massive dent in the Ridgewalk maintenance. These are significant works that require substantial resources and it's great to see both of those tasks being progressed. A massive thanks to those who have assisted Kane with these.

Also, thanks to those who have helped with our Hihi surveys. I'm hanging out for the results...

Spring has sprung, the cuckoos are here and I'm glad to see the back of Winter. Hopefully the wet weather doesn't hang around for too much longer. As much as I love a good storm, I think it's time for some sunshine and some settled weather.

Thank you all for you continued efforts, we wouldn't be us without you.

Noho ora mai.  
Adrian

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## Last month at a glance

It's been a huge month for corporate working bees with teams from ANZCO, Tupu a Nuku, Monkeytoe, Todd Energy and South Taranaki District Council helping with tasks throughout the sanctuary. Some of the projects these teams have helped with include the massive job of replacing staples on the fence with screws and washers, earth ramping along the fence, finishing the section of boardwalk upgrade in the bushridge area of the lake walkway, and clearing clogged drains along the lake walkway.

The Rotokare kiwi are certainly in no hurry this year with still only one of the monitored males incubating. We can only just wait to see what happens.

The entry gates are still causing headaches with periodic malfunctions. The electronics are proving to be extremely difficult to get reliable.

Preparation of the building site for the new information centre is well underway with the construction of the retaining wall to create a level building platform. It will be interesting to watch this project progress.

The ridge walk is currently getting some maintenance and has been closed for short periods while a helicopter has been dropping supplies of metal into strategic locations. The metal will then be carried and spread in the areas required.

During the 3 month period June to August our volunteer team contributed 1516 hours to the Rotokare Scenic Reserve with an impressive 4140 total for the year to the end of August. This compares with 1200 hours for the same three month period last year and 4684 hours January to August 2023. During the June to August period this year our volunteers travelled a massive 22100 km to help at Rotokare.

## Test Your Rotokare Knowledge

1. What is Xcluder?
  - a. An online computer game
  - b. A mustelid trap
  - c. A predator proof fence
2. To complete the Rotokare Ridgewalk how many steps do you have to negotiate?
  - a. 670
  - b. 1220
  - c. 2130
3. I am a fruit. I am a bird. I am a person. What am I?

"Rivers know  
this: there is  
no hurry.  
We shall get  
there  
someday."

A.A. Milne





## Volunteer News

With the influx of new volunteers over the past few months it has become clear that there is a requirement to improve the introduction of these people to the surroundings and work routines of the Sanctuary. We are looking for a small pool of experienced volunteers who are prepared to come in when required to help with the training of these new volunteers. If you are interested in passing on your knowledge and skills please give Ross a call.

Further to requests that have been made over the past couple of months there is still a requirement for volunteers who are able to assist Kane with the guidance and supervision of Corporate working bees. As these are predominantly held during the week it would require someone with time available Monday to Friday. Contact Kane for further information.

A similar request applies to assisting with the co-ordination of tracking card runs. If you are interested in helping run these activities please give Fiona a call.

Recently there have been a couple of much needed improvements in the workshop and operations room. Thanks to a kind donation the workshop now has a nice new, large workbench. The operations room has a new much improved Sanctuary wall map.

The electric stock wire on the outside of the fence has had a long overdue maintenance check. John and Helen estimate they repaired or replaced almost 2000 supports.

## Volunteer of the Month

### John Cooper

In 2017 I occasionally helped doing cards in tracking tunnels and noticed that the ropes installed on some of the more difficult lines were not in very good condition. I happened to mention that I could get some expired-date ropes used for rescue work. I got them but then it was suggested that maybe I could install them. I agreed and recruited my wife Helen to help me.

After several months we completed that job and we had also noticed in the course of doing tracking tunnels that a lot of the tunnel numbers were unreadable so set about renumbering all of them. After that I got involved in doing the usual traps and fence checks and then Kiwi work.

In more recent times I have been involved alongside others in projects such as the radio repeater, the bush classroom, upgrading the fence surveillance system, the mobile phone boosters, the remote trap monitoring and the RFID readers on the Hihī feeders.

I nominate Jan Fleming as the next volunteer of the month.



# Looking Ahead

Sunday October 20th - 9.00am  
Full Sanctuary Tracking Card Run - Cards out

Sunday October 27th - 9.00am  
Full Sanctuary Tracking Card Run - Cards in

Sunday November 24th - 9.00am  
November working bee

Sunday December 1st  
Lake Rotokare opens to powered boats for the summer.



## Task List

- Assistance with the running of the tracking card run. Helping organise the cards going out and card collection.
- Assisting in various aspects of the Hihī program.
- Regular assistance with trap checks around the middle of each month when DOC traps get serviced and rebaited.
- Assistance with weekly fence checks and trap rebaiting, both inside and outside the fence.
- Weed control - Mexican Daisy, Blackberry and Selaginella. See Fiona for details.
- Line clearing of sanctuary access lines.
- Regular weeding and tidying of office gardens, courtyard and Bush Classroom.

Assistance with these tasks would be appreciated. If you are able to help please check with Fiona or Kane for further details. [fiona@rotokare.org.nz](mailto:fiona@rotokare.org.nz) or [kane@rotokare.org.nz](mailto:kane@rotokare.org.nz)

## Knowledge Answers

1. (c) Predator proof fence 2. (b) 1220 3. A kiwi

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