

VOL. 2 ISSUE 2 - FEBRUARY 2025

THE LAKE NEWS

Official Newsletter of Rotokare Volunteers

View From The Top

BY ADRIAN CLEARY GENERAL MANAGER

Kia ora koutou,

Happy 2025 to you all, I hope you've all had a fantastic start to the year...

I would like to begin with a big thanks to those who assisted at Rotokare over the festive season, especially with tracking cards. You are hugely appreciated by staff and by the Trust.

It looks as though summer has finally arrived, temps are up and the reserve has seen lots of visitors, taking advantage of the beautiful weather and our incredible surrounds. It's great to see and is a credit to you all.

RSRT has been given a fantastic opportunity by major sponsor OMV to be the official gate collection charity at WOMAD 2025. Last year Taranaki Retreat made a significant amount in donations including post-festival donations after appearing on Seven Sharp. We are looking for some collectors to assist on the 14-16 March. If anyone is keen to help out, please reach out to myself or Ross.

I'm looking forward to a productive and fruitful year - we have some exciting things on the cards and I thank you for being here with us.

He hauora te taonga. Go well.

Adrian

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Last month at a glance

It is pleasing to report that the final reading of the cards from the peak season tracking card run, conducted over the Christmas/New Year period confirmed no predator prints were found. A great result.

The next tracking card run will be the High Risk Run which is scheduled for the end of February. Over 500 cards will go out, starting Sunday February 23rd, with collection commencing the following Sunday, March 3rd. Make sure you diary one or both these dates now.

Corporate working bees are back underway for the new year with a team from Excel assisting with the fence remediation project by installing more screws. Thanks guys.

It's definitely wasp season again with a number of nests already been dealt to and a number of traps and bait stations have been placed around the reserve. If you see any wasps and/or nests please report their location so that they can be targeted.

Recently a PhD student utilised Rotokare to further test the use of drones to survey and study arboreal (tree dwelling) lizards. He successfully located a significant number of Goldstriped Gecko but disappointingly no Striped Skink.

The Kiwi breeding season is still progressing with several monitored males still incubating eggs. It will be interesting to see the results of the season when the Kiwi dog teams come through the sanctuary in March.

Construction work has commenced on the new public information centre. The floor should be poured by the time this newsletter goes out. The rest of the construction should follow quickly after that.

Test Your Rotokare Knowledge

1. How many "Founder" kiwi have been released into the Rotokare sanctuary?
a. 4 b. 14 c. 41
2. What is the incubation period for kiwi eggs?
a. 75-80 days
b. 90-95 days
c. 105-110 days
3. How do newly hatched kiwi chicks get their food?
a. From their mother
b. From their father
c. Fend for themselves

"If you are working on something that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed. The vision pulls you."

STEVE JOBS



Volunteer News

Welcome to the new volunteers who started with us recently, great to have you join the Rotokare family.

Shannley Cottam

Morgan Hobo

Remember if you are at Rotokare either as a volunteer or just visiting and you notice something that needs attention, regardless of what it is, please report it so that it can be attended too. Don't just assume that someone else will see it and sort it.

We still require extra assistance with the cleaning roster, helping coordinating tracking card runs and reading tracking cards once collected.

For further information contact Ross at volunteers@rotokare.org.nz

Volunteer of the Month

Angela Willy, Steve, William and Zach Wright

Kia ora kau tau Rotokare whanau

Rotokare, such a magical place. Nothing better than spending the night at the lake, seeing the stars, hearing the kiwi call and watching the mist rise off the lake each morning.

While I've been going to Rotokare on family visits or school visits since birth, my volunteering first started in 2006 when I was home on holiday, and I assisted my father on the rat lines before the fence went up. As he likes to say, they did it harder back then, and there was lots of time spent on my backside in the mud! Lots of rats back then too.

I moved back to the Taranaki region in 2010 with my husband. While we were jobless Steve spent four months assisting with the weekly fence checks. We also got to enjoy the perk of house sitting for Simon and Trisha while they went back to Otago. Nothing better than sitting on the deck looking at the lake (there was less privacy in those days)

More recently our family has returned to assisting with the tunnel run, putting cards out in the tunnels to see what animals are in the reserve. We have our family A team, Steve and Zach, with Zach enjoying the hardest trails the lake has to offer, and our family B team, William and I, who go at a more leisurely pace. The kids enjoy it as much as we do, especially the BBQ afterwards and a chance to spot the geckos in their enclosures. It is also very satisfying to get an "all clear" result after puzzling what made those marks on the cards you collected.

As the Rotokare team has grown our family is enjoying the benefits this offers our local community with the boys participating in the school holiday programs, learning a lot and having buckets of fun.

Our family has had and continues to have amazing times at Rotokare and I'd just like to say thanks to all the people who continue to work hard to make it such a precious taonga.

For next month's newsletter, I'd like to nominate Win Kerr.

Nga Mihi



Looking Ahead

Sunday February 2nd - 9.30am
Nexans Fun Run at Rotokare

Sunday February 23rd - 9.00am - 12.30pm
High Risk Tracking Card Run - Cards Out.

Sunday March 3rd - 9:00am - 12.30pm
High Risk Tracking Card Run - Cards In

Sunday March 30th - 9.00am - 12.30pm
March Working Bee



Task List

- Report any sign of rabbits or wasps inside the sanctuary.
- Painting of classroom.
- Line clearing of sanctuary access lines.
- Fence line vegetation clearing.
- Regular assistance with tracking card run organisation and card reading.
- Regular assistance with trap checks around the middle of each month when all DOC traps get serviced and rebaited.
- Help with weekly fence checks and trap rebaiting.
- Weed control - Mexican Daisy and Selaginella. See Fiona for details.

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 or kane@rotokare.org.nz

Knowledge Answers

1. (c). 4l 2. (a) 75-80 days 3. (c) Fend for themselves

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