



THE LAKE NEWS

Vol. 2 | Issue 7 | July 2025

Official Newsletter of Rotokare Volunteers

... From the General Manager

BY ADRIAN CLEARY

Kia ora koutou,

I hope everyone is managing to stay thawed – Winter has certainly arrived in South Taranaki.

A big thanks to those who braved the freezing temps for this week's Kiwi Call Count Survey – Data collection is essential to measuring the success of our taonga species both within and outside of the sanctuary and we can't complete this mahi without our valued volunteers. Thankyou.

Myself, Tricia and Ross attended the Volunteering New Plymouth Awards this past weekend and were pleased to witness the Willy family (Tuku Iho) and Grayson Armstrong- Wilson (Youth) receive their awards recognising their dedicated efforts to supporting the sanctuary. Congratulations to Grayson and the Willy family, you represented Rotokare extremely well, well done.

Winter can be a challenging season to be boots-on-the-ground and I wanted to extend my thanks to all volunteers for their continued support of Rotokare, despite the wet, the wind and the cold.

A very sincere thank you.

Take care out there.

Adrian

In this issue:

View from the Top.
PAGE 1

Last month at a glance.
Test your Rotokare
knowledge.
PAGE 2

Volunteer News.
Volunteer Of The
Month.
PAGE 3

Looking Ahead.
Task List.
Knowledge Answers
Contact.
PAGE 4





Last month at a glance

The annual New Plymouth (which covers all of Taranaki) Volunteer Awards presentations were held in New Plymouth during the month. Rotokare volunteers were well represented. Congratulations to Ray Willy and his family who were presented with a Tuku Iho award for their three generations of Rotokare volunteers. Also to Grayson Armstrong-Wilson for achieving a Youth award.

Merit certificates for significant contributions were awarded to Jenny Kerrisk, Helen Cooper and Ross Laurence.

The Rotokare Halo project reached a significant milestone recently with the recording of 20,000 pest caught. Nearly 800 catches alone have been recorded in Outside Bush since August 2021. A huge result, great work from the team.

No further mice have been caught inside the sanctuary since May 15th and an audit by a rodent detection dog indicated the sanctuary is again pest free. The dog did show significant interest in two locations initially but not on a repeat visit to those areas. Response trapping will continue for a little while just to make sure this result is correct.

The first round of the winter Kiwi call counts was completed during June and will continue in July.

Advisors from the Mahoenui Giant Weta group visited Rotokare to assess the suitability of the sanctuary as a possible site for releasing Giant Weta back into Taranaki. Watch this space.

**“Just one
small
positive
though in
the morning
can change
your whole
day.”**

DALAI LAMA



Test Your Rotokare Knowledge

1. The tree which is commonly known as the New Zealand Honeysuckle is the?

- a. Hinau.
- b. Rimu.
- c. Rewarewa.

2. Which NZ native tree relies on the Kereru for seed dispersal?

- a. Tawa.
- b. Pukatea.
- c. Miro.

3. What is regarded as New Zealand's tallest native tree?

- a. Kauri.
- b. Kahikatea.
- c. Matai





Volunteer News

There have been no new volunteers join us this month. We all know that May was a big month activity wise at Rotokare with nearly 900 volunteer hours recorded to prove it. 40% of those hours were from the tracking card run and the kiwi relocation effort. June has been considerably quieter.

A special reminder to all volunteers, please complete your log sheets at the end of each day. The information from these sheets provide vital record keeping, especially for fence and trap checks. Hours spent on each task is used in funding applications. Use the back of the form for recording catches and any maintenance that requires attention. All of the prompts on the form are there for a reason, please use them. If unsure about anything on this form, please ask.



☀ Volunteer of the Month Helen Cooper

My introduction to Rotokare came in March 2013 when Jenny Kerrisk asked for help with a tracking card runs.

In the latter part of 2017 I became more involved and in December that year assisted my husband John in replacing ropes on the tracking tunnel lines. This was a long project which also included some trimming and clearing of windfalls. We also began renumbering the tracking tunnels which was another long project. I got to know the lines reasonably well.

I have assisted John in a few other interesting projects such as trapping in Outside Bush. I helped to transport materials to the repeater site during its construction and carry solar panels up to the fence on the surveillance system upgrade.

At present I assist with trap and fence checks (mostly outside the fence) and do some vegetation trimming on the access lines.

I nominate Graham Wells as the next Volunteer of the month.





Looking Ahead

Sunday July 20th 9.00am
High Risk Tracking Card Run - Cards out.

Sunday July 27th 9.00am
High Risk Tracking Card Run - Cards in

Sunday August 31st
August Working Bee - details TBC

September
Hihi Pre Breeding Survey

October
Full Sanctuary Tracking Card Run



Task List

- Name engraving on wetlands boardwalk.
- Clearing of sanctuary access lines.
- Vegetation clearing of fence platform.
- Spraying of grass and weeds on fence platform.
- Finish installation of screws in fence.
- Entry of 5MBC data into computer.
- Assist with checking and fixing lizard monitoring devices.
- Regular assistance with tracking card run organisation and card reading.
- Regular Wednesday assistance with fence and trap checks.

Assistance with these tasks would be appreciated.

If you are interested in helping please contact Kane or Fiona

Knowledge Answers 1. (c). Rewarewa 2. (a) Tawa 3. (b) Kahikatea



CONTACT US

Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust

365 Sangster Road, PO Box 33, Eltham

📞 06 764 8500

🌐 rotokare.org.nz

✉ contact@rotokare.org.nz | volunteers@rotokare.org.nz

🔗 Facebook - Rotokare | Facebook - RotokareVolunteers

