



THE LAKE NEWS

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Official Newsletter of Rotokare Volunteers

From the General Manager

BY ADRIAN CLEARY

Kia ora e te whānau,

A sincere thanks for those who have been braving the wet weather we've had over the last couple of weeks. The constant wet and the strong spring Sou'west winds make for a tough day in the field - but our volunteers are some of the toughest out there and you have all proven that!

Possibly by the time you've read this, we would have held our Workshop Workshop. Our current setup needs a bit of a tickle up and your feedback is essential to creating a space that makes life easier for those that use it. This feedback will feed into a TOI application which will hopefully see some improvements around useability, practicality, and storage etc... Watch this space!

I also would like to thank Kane and our volunteers who attended the Fence Check training. We had a great turnout (some great weather luckily) and some really positive feedback was received. Even some of our veterans picked up a few tips! A lot of knowledge was shared and our precious vulnerable flora and fauna will be safer as a result. Great work!

Thanks again for all you do, take care out there.

Adrian

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Last month at a glance

Rotokare's kiwis have certainly got an early start to the breeding season this year, if our monitored males are a true indication of what is happening in our sanctuary. Early in the month 9 out of the 11 monitored birds were incubating eggs. Since then Liam has abandoned his nest.

A small team from the Kakariki Karaka Recovery Group spent time at Rotokare exploring the possibility that our sanctuary would be a suitable release site for Kakariki Karaka. The visit appeared to go well so we are hopeful that we might be able to see this species reintroduced into the Taranaki region.

A group from Auckland University, who are planning an Art-Ecology exhibition to be held in the Len Lye Centre in New Plymouth next year, spent several days in the sanctuary collecting audio recordings. Several recording methods and locations were trialed from the first visit and they are planning to be back in October. It will be intriguing to see and hear the end result.

The annual Hihi pre-breeding survey was commenced during this month's working bee but bad weather initially limited progress. As the survey has progressed good numbers of both male and female birds have been caught and banded for the first time. Nesting boxes are being cleaned ready for nesting to commence.

The next stage of the fence remediation project has begun. Over the years since the fence was installed corrosion has started to eat away at the galvanized steel hood brackets. These brackets are now being individually inspected and replaced where required.

**“Learn as if
you will
live
forever,
live like
you will die
tomorrow.”**

MAHATMA GANDHI



Test Your Rotokare Knowledge

1. How many hectares does the Halo project cover?
 - a. 3500.
 - b. 4700.
 - c. 5250.
2. How many traps are used in the Halo to help protect the sanctuary from predators?
 - a. 1234.
 - b. 2456.
 - c. 3567.
3. Which reintroduced species was the first to move out into the Halo area?
 - a. Robin.
 - b. Pateke.
 - c. Saddleback.





Volunteer News

Welcome to our new volunteer David Froom. David joins us from New Plymouth and has already got involved with fence checks and Hihi survey. Good to have you on board David.

A group of 7 of our volunteers attended a trapping workshop hosted by the East Taranaki Environment Collective at Everett Park, Inglewood. It was a great opportunity to learn new trapping techniques and share experiences.

A pleasing number of volunteers attended a fence and trap check workshop recently. It was a great refresher to get all those involved in trapping and fence checking together as a group to discuss the issues associated with these two crucial tasks in keeping our sanctuary pest free.

An enthusiastic group of 12 took part in the volunteers field trip during the month. Visits to the Nga Manu Reserve in Waikanae, Wildbase Hospital and Recovery Centres in Palmerston North and then finally to the Roper farm at Alton made for a very interesting weekend.



Volunteers of the Month

Georgina & Robert Goble

Kia ora! Robert and I first began our journey in South Taranaki after we moved in 2021. Not long after settling in, we visited the reserve for the first time and were blown away by its peaceful lake, lush bush, and incredible wildlife. It quickly became one of our favourite spots to visit and bring other family and friends

Last year, we decided to get involved in a more hands-on way. Robert joined the volunteer team and often brings along our grandson, which has been a really special experience for them both. Volunteering has given us a chance to learn more about the behind-the-scenes work that goes into keeping Rotokare predator-free and thriving.

We've always had a love for nature and conservation, having the Waitakere Ranges in our backyard where I worked as a volunteer becoming a paid employee. Seeing the dedication and passion of everyone involved at Rotokare has been truly inspiring.

For us, this reserve has become much more than just a beautiful place to visit. It's a welcoming community, and we're proud to say extended whanau.

We're excited to keep learning, giving back, and helping to protect this special taonga for future generations to enjoy.

We would like to nominate Dave Jordan as the next Volunteer Of The Month.





Looking Ahead

October 12th
Full Sanctuary Tracking Card Run - Cards Out.

October 19th
Full Sanctuary Tracking Card Run - Cards In.

October 25th to 27th
Labour Weekend.

November 23rd
Working bee



Task List

- Clean Hihi nesting boxes
- Assist with trimming of vegetation along the road
- Fence hood bracket replacement.
- Assist with weed control within the sanctuary.
- Regular assistance with Wednesday fence and trap checks.
- One or two people are required to become working bee leaders for the Tracking Card Runs. This will primarily involve organising volunteers to get tracking cards deployed out into the sanctuary and also card recovery.

Assistance with these tasks would be appreciated.

If you are interested in helping with any of these tasks please contact Kane or Fiona.

Knowledge Answers 1. (b). 4700 ha 2. (a) 1234 traps 3. (b) Pateke



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