

THE LAKE NEWS

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Official Newsletter of Rotokare Volunteers

From the General Manager

BY ADRIAN CLEARY

Kia ora e te whānau,

I hope this finds you all well...

To kick things off I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to Lorella Doherty, our new Volunteer Coordinator. Lorella is a passionate conservationist who has a particular interest around the impacts that plastic is having on our environment. She's also an artist, writer and tramping enthusiast. For the most part she will be with us on Mondays, Wednesdays and some Sundays as well. Welcome to the Rotokare Whānau Lorella, we're excited to have you with us.

As you'll be aware, we're currently in the thick of it and I wanted to thank everyone who's assisted with a great start to kiwi translocation season. An encounter rate of almost 90 and 57 birds suitable for export, is a fantastic result. Well done all!

There are plenty of other goings on in the reserve, including another upcoming Mahoenui giant wētā release, recently completed lizard monitoring and of course plenty of kiwi catching to come. And the rest!

Once again, thanks for all you do, take care out there.

Adrian

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Our thoughts are with Katherine, wishing her a speedy recovery.

A Note From Lorella

This newsletter looks a little different from usual, as I get my head around the role, including getting the newsletter back up and running. So, it will be a little light in content this month, but it is here none the less.

But, I will take the space I do have here to thank all those I have met so far and tagged along to learn from. Your knowledge and wisdom, your helpfulness, your warm welcome has all been really beautiful to experience, and I am so happy to be in this role, in this incredible sanctuary, and getting to be amongst such passionate, caring people.

I am blown away by the amount of work you all dedicate to this beautiful place, and I can see why it is renowned for how magical it is, and why it thrives like it does. It would not be what it is without you all.

Please reach out if you have any questions, suggestions, problems or wisdom and knowledge to share. If I am not here in person, please feel free to contact me, I will always listen.

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Volunteer Reminders:

Being in Autumn now, and already having some mice found inside the fence. Please remember to check bags and vehicles

When checking traps, please remember to:

- Clear around and inside the trap for debris (especially pest entry points).
- Check each box is stable (adjust wire or stabilise where needed).

Thank you!

Task List

Trap Checks - Mondays 6/4, 13/4, 20/4, & 27/4

Fence Checks - Wednesdays 1/4, 8/4, 15/4, 22/4 & 29/4

Kiwi Catching - 8/4, 14/4 & 22/4

Hihi Feeding - as per roster

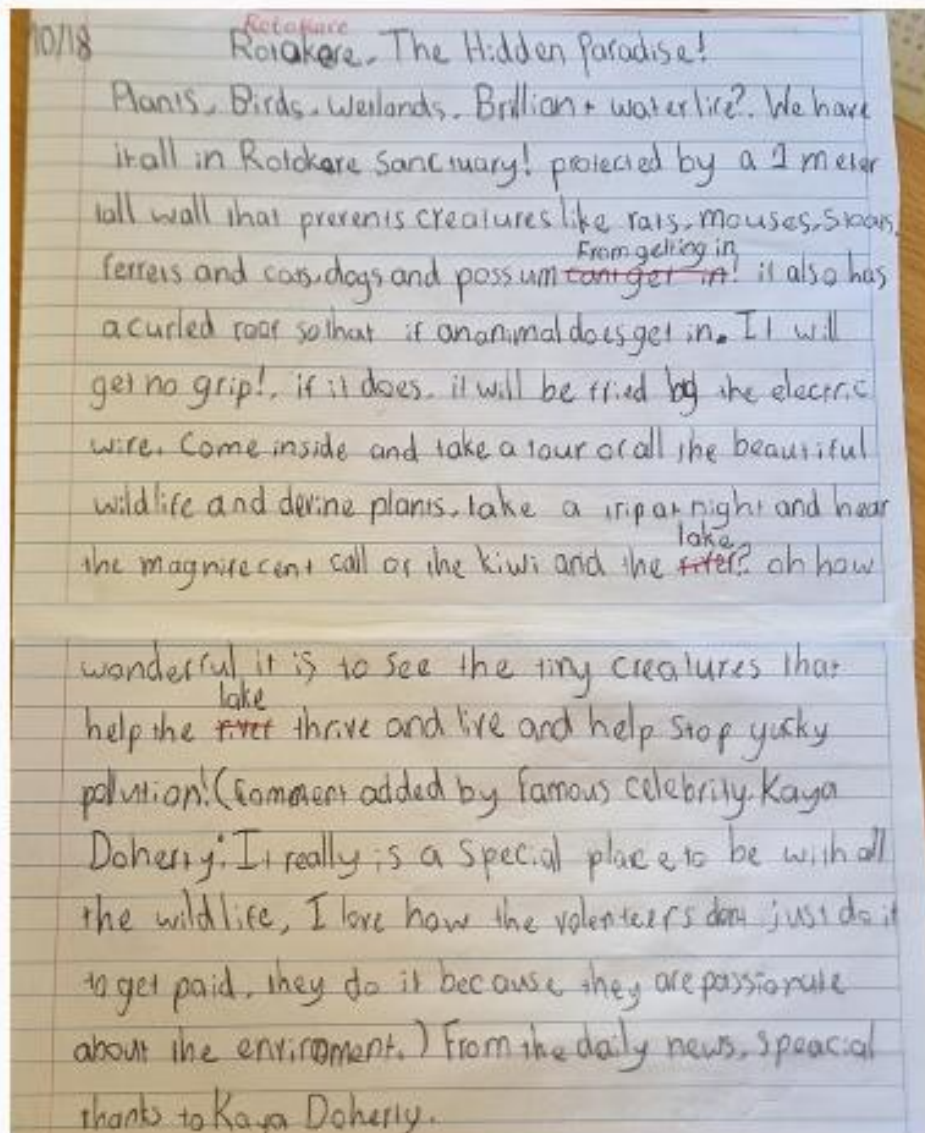
Cleaning - as per roster

- Mouse response - twice week public trap checks, plus tunnel cards in public

General site checks inc. litter collection - ideally done daily

A Story

I was clearing out an old cupboard of my children's school books from when they were smaller, and I found this story from my eldest daughter (who is now almost 18). At the time she was only 10. I thought her story was pretty special to share, especially the part about the volunteers.



Direct Bodily Empathy – Sound, Signal, Feedback at Govett Brewster this Saturday 4th April

12.00pm - 12.30pm: Artist Floor Talk with Simon Ingram
Hear from artist Simon Ingram on his new commission which invites listening, watching and attention: Vibrating World:
Rotokare Forest, 39.45254° S, 174.41727° E, 2026.

For more details visit:

<https://govettbrewster.com/events/event/E31086D1237>

Working Bee Sun. 19th April

We have a working bee coming up this month.

Sunday 19th April

Lorella will be there, alongside Tony who has said yes to being a leader at working bees when he is available.
Please let Lorella know if there is anyone else who is keen to fill the gaps when Tony is not free.

We will be concentrating on site maintenance.



Sunday Working Bees.

Start time: 9.00am at the Rotokare workshop **Finish time:** approx 12.30pm

Barbeque lunch supplied at the end of the working bee.

Please bring: Strong footwear, Small day pack, Rain wear, Drink & snacks if required.



Task List

- Mouse response (2x weekly public trap checks plus tunnel cards in public).
- Fence hood bracket replacement.
- Assist with weed control within the sanctuary.
- Regular assistance with Wednesday fence and trap checks.
- Maintaining monitoring lines.
- 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.
- Water blast inside toilet block.

If you are interested in helping with any of these tasks please contact Lorella.

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