



THE LAKE NEWS

Vol. 2 | Issue 8 | August 2025

Official Newsletter of Rotokare Volunteers

... From the General Manager

BY ADRIAN CLEARY

Kia ora e te whānau,

I hope this finds everyone well and I hope you all have managed to find some time to get out into this glorious sunshine (by the time you read this the rain will have settled back in)!

Once again, its busy busy at the sanctuary. Night tours, working bees, tracking cards, kiwi call counts, school visits, ambassadors, as well as the daily and weekly tasks that need to be completed, in order to keep our flora and fauna in top shape. A big thanks to the Vollies that continue to help get our task lists completed. You're all seen and valued...

I hope to shortly run some workshops around the workshop. I'm hoping to put in a capital application with our incredible supporter the TOI Foundation and, fingers crossed, get some funding to expand/improve the workshop experience for volunteers and staff. Please keep an eye out for that.

Lastly, I wanted to acknowledge the passing of long-time volunteer, Lois Sundy. Lois wasn't just involved with Rotokare, but many other local organisations like the Hawera Tramping Club. I was unfortunate to only have a few interactions with Lois, but she was absolutely lovely. She is well loved and will be missed.

Take care out there.

Adrian

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Last month at a glance

Conditions got extremely wet during July but luckily the sanctuary did not suffer any serious damage. The lake level did rise to a very high level due to the outlet stream becoming partially blocked by a slip just below the water gate. Thankfully this has partly cleared itself. Ground conditions have been far too wet to get machinery close enough to attend to it.

The wet conditions have resulted in a greater number of tree falls through the sanctuary resulting in more hours spent clearing these.

The Taranaki rescue helicopter made a visit to the lake, mid month, to attend to a member of the public who suffered a broken leg while walking the lake walkway. Ranger Lance was called out to assist getting the patient from the far side of the lake to the car park with the use of the sanctuary's quad bike.

The mid year high risk area tracking card run was conducted late in the month. Two cards from the area adjacent to the first car park produced mouse prints. One mouse was caught in the immediate area the day after the cards were collected. Hopefully there are no more.

An enthusiastic team from Ballance Agri-Nutrients spent 2 days rebuilding and widening an old section of the lake walkway boardwalk in the vicinity of bush ridge. Thanks guys for a job well done.

Following the precision placement of gravel stocks by helicopter a significant part of the Ridge track has been re-metalled making it much safer when its wet.

**“Get a good
idea and
stay with it.
Dog it and
work at it
until its
done right.”**

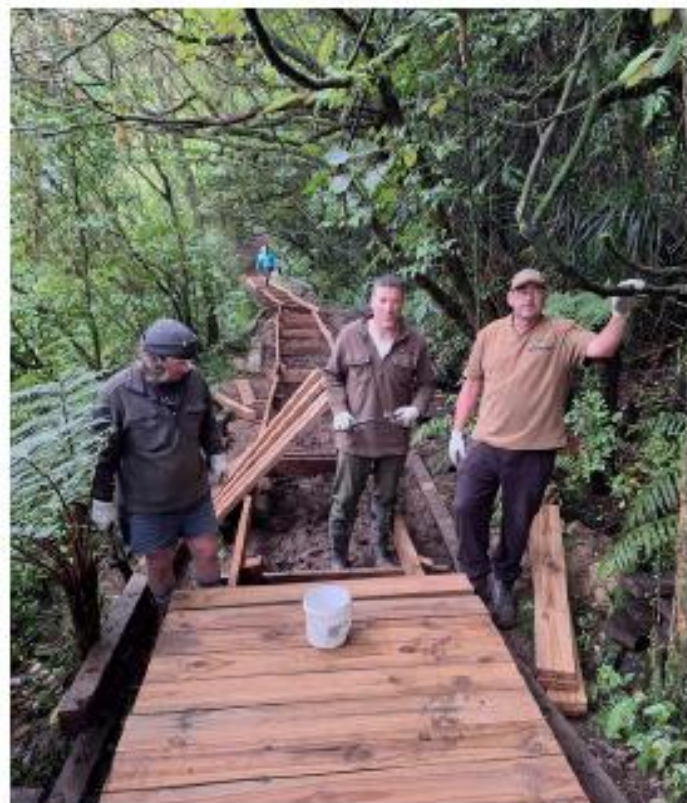
WALT DISNEY



Test Your Rotokare Knowledge

1. What is the estimated wild population of Pateke?
 - a. 250.
 - b. 2500.
 - c. 25000.
2. What is one of the most distinctive features of Pateke?
 - a. Bright colouration.
 - b. Large size.
 - c. White eye ring.
3. What is the primary diet of Paradise shelducks?
 - a. Grass and clover.
 - b. Aquatic plants.
 - c. Agricultural crops.
 - d. All of the above





Volunteer News

Welcome to the new volunteers who have joined us in the past month.

Jakim Murtagh

Lexi Lobb

Amanda Savage

Nic Schumacher

It's great to have you as part of our team.

For the year to the end of June our dedicated team of volunteers contributed nearly 6800 hours of their valuable time to Rotokare. One volunteer clocked up over 700 hours on his own. Well done John. 19 volunteers contributed over 100 hours each during the year. What a great team we have.

On September 13th and 14th there will be a field trip to the Nga Manu Nature Reserve on the Kapiti coast and Wildbase, the wildlife recovery centre in Palmerston North. This will obviously include a night away. This will be a very interesting trip. If you are interested in going please contact Tricia ASAP.



Volunteer of the Month

Graham Wells

Living in West Auckland and having the Waitakere Ranges on the doorstep meant I spent most weekends tramping around the tracks and enjoying the bush & birdlife along the way. So it was only natural when I retired that I looked into volunteering with the Ark in the Park who run the 300 hectare unfenced Sanctuary in the ranges. I took on a couple of bait lines and spent 3 or 4 days a week helping out.

In 2018 my partner Marie also retired and we looked into moving back to her hometown area of Taranaki where things would be cheaper and generally less hectic all round. While looking for a house to buy we stayed in Eltham with her brother known to all as Litchie. I was interested in checking out the work he did at Rotokare and carrying on the same sort of things I'd done in the Waitakeres.

Right from the start the staff and volunteers were all very welcoming and I was impressed with their knowledge and passion for the work they were doing. I've enjoyed my 7 years at the Lake and also at the Totara Block and have learnt a lot. The hills are a good challenge for this old body.

I would like to nominate Tony Ewing as the next Volunteer of the month.





Looking Ahead

Sunday August 31st

August Working Bee - Fence Maintenance.

September 13th & 14th

Rotokare Field trip to Nga Manu and Wildbase.

September 21st or 28th

September Working Bee - Hihi Pre Breeding Survey.

October 12th

Full Sanctuary Tracking Card Run - Cards Out.

October 19th

Full Sanctuary Tracking Card Run - Cards In.



Task List

- Metal spreading on lake walkway, Barrier free area.
- Clearing of sanctuary access lines.
- Vegetation clearing of fence platform.
- Spraying of grass and weeds on fence platform.
- Replace fence hood brackets.
- Assist with weed control within the sanctuary.
- 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. (b). 2500 2. (c) White eye ring 3. (d) All of the above



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