



# THE LAKE NEWS

Vol. 2 | Issue 9 | September 2025

*Official Newsletter of Rotokare Volunteers*

## ... From the General Manager

BY ADRIAN CLEARY

Kia ora koutou,

I hope this finds you all well...

It seems like there is a hint of spring in the air with some fantastic weather breaking up the cold and wet winter we've mostly had. Temps are up slightly with winds slowly swinging back around to the west.

A massive thanks to our dedicated volunteer crew who turn up despite the often less than pleasant conditions. Hats off to you all.

The team had a great few days down south in Whanganui for the annual SONZI conference. Rotokare had a solid contingent with 12 total representing the sanctuary on Day 1. Those that attended had a great time by all accounts. Talks ranged from stoat genomics to new AI pest ID advancements to carnivorous native snails and had attendees from as far away as Alaska (Also congrats to Fiona who was appointed to the SONZI board. Great stuff!).

Again, the team really values and appreciates your ongoing dedication, thank you for all that you do.

Take care out there.

Adrian



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## Last month at a glance

As Adrian mentions above a good contingent from Rotokare attended the annual Sanctuaries of NZ conference in Whanganui. This conference is a great opportunity to not only learn more about what is being done throughout New Zealand in preserving and protecting our native flora and fauna, but to learn from what other sanctuaries are doing.

The latest mouse response was closed down in the latter part of the month. No further mice were detected since late July.

Our Rotokare Kiwi appear to be off to an early start this season with now 7 of our 11 monitored males incubating eggs. This is a lot earlier than has been seen in the past.

The *Gratiola concinna* which was translocated into the sanctuary 12 months ago certainly likes its new environment and is flourishing well. A second translocation took place back in the Autumn but is currently suffering from excess water, so only time will tell if that area is successful.

A large water tank has been installed behind the public toilets which should help alleviate future water outages that were experienced this past Autumn.

A team from Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research have established and marked vegetation monitoring plots in areas that were in grass when the fence was constructed. This will help understand forest regenerating without any browsing animals.

A team of professional arborists from Tree Machine spent a day on site pruning back larger trees which were encroaching several sections of the fence.

Big thanks to Fonterra for a grant for new tools. We now have a new chainsaw, a hedge trimmer and several pair of loppers.

**“Take the time to enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realise they were the big things.”**

ROBERT BRAULT



## Test Your Rotokare Knowledge

1. How was Lake Rotokare formed?
  - a. Man made.
  - b. Volcanic activity.
  - c. Natural landslide.
2. The lake has an average depth of 6m but how deep is it at its deepest?
  - a. 12m.
  - b. 15m.
  - c. 30m.
3. What South Taranaki water catchment is the lake part of?
  - a. Tangahoe.
  - b. Waingongoro.
  - c. Patea.







## Volunteer News

Welcome to Ei Robert, from the Hawkes Bay who joined us for a couple of weeks while house sitting in the area. Thank you Ei for your contribution.

A meeting of staff and volunteers is planned to formulate a plan for the future development of the workshop and storage areas. With the increase in personnel using these areas there is significant congestion and conflict. Once a date is set all those who use these areas will have the opportunity to contribute.

Kane is organising a workshop session for all those involved in fence checks. This will be a refresher to ensure everyone is on the same page when it comes to checking this crucial piece of Rotokare infrastructure.

A special shout out to two of our volunteers for their efforts. Ian Robinson, a South Taranaki farmer, has decided Rotokare is a great place to spend his free time and has taken on the task of fence platform weed control. Jenny Kerrisk has again been busy conducting a full maintenance check of the many lizard monitoring devices spread throughout the sanctuary.

## ☀ Volunteer of the Month

### Tony Ewing

I have been volunteering at Rotokare for about 15 years. Back in the seventies at university we were told of the idea of 'mainland islands' as something that would happen in the future. Fast forward thirty odd years, looking for things to do, and there was Rotokare, a mainland island, in my backyard. I began doing Sunday working bees. It also tied in very well with another passion of mine which is riding motorcycles on winding Taranaki back roads.

Now that I am retired, I have switched to Wednesdays and fence-checking. Being a volunteer has many rewards. Today I had fabulous views of both Mt Taranaki and Mt Ruapehu, got to get up close and personal with several rare birds and just enjoyed being in the forest, which I believe is very good for the soul. I also enjoy the people at Rotokare, the staff and volunteers. We make a great team. It is nice to interact with the public who are always very impressed with this place. I am looking forward to many more years being involved with Rotokare.

I nominate Robert & Georgina Goble as volunteers of the month for October.







## Looking Ahead

September 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

Rotokare Field trip to Nga Manu and Wildbase.

September 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>

September Working Bee - Hihi Pre Breeding Survey.

October 12<sup>th</sup>

Full Sanctuary Tracking Card Run - Cards Out.

October 19<sup>th</sup>

Full Sanctuary Tracking Card Run - Cards In.



## Task List

- Water blast courtyard roof.
- Clearing of sanctuary access lines.
- Vegetation clearing of 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. (c). Natural Landslide 2. (a) 12m 3. (a) Tangahoe



## CONTACT US

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