



# Kiwi experiences up for grabs!

**Exciting opportunities are available to take part in one of several unique kiwi conservation experiences over the next 2 months.**

**Be in Quick!**

**Four separate kiwi experiences are on offer**, as part of the Taranaki Kohanga Kiwi at Rotokare project –a joint project between Taranaki Kiwi Trust and Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust. Each “Experience” is unique, and each offers a small group the opportunity to take part in this special kiwi conservation project. The Kohanga is based at the Rotokare Scenic Reserve, a predator-free sanctuary 12km’s east of Eltham in Taranaki. A range of opportunities are being offered by our two Trusts for people to take part in some front-line kiwi experiences within the sanctuary, and also importantly they are opportunities to raise funds for our ongoing kiwi protection work in Taranaki.



## Experience #1: Night time kiwi egg-lift.

A small team will head up to near the kiwi burrow, and quietly ‘stake-out’ until the male kiwi leaves the nest to feed. At this point (after hearing the kiwi calling) the team will carefully remove the eggs. The eggs will be checked and then gently packaged and carried out of the bush to be sent for hatching. Seeing a real kiwi is a rare experience, seeing real kiwi eggs is even rarer! You are unlikely to see a kiwi on this mission, but will see something even fewer people have ever witnessed – fresh warm kiwi eggs and an actual kiwi nest. We cannot predict exactly when the male kiwi will leave the burrow, so you should be prepared to spend several hours out in the bush after dark.....waiting. That in itself is a memorable kiwi experience!

One trip only: Between **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August** (date subject to arrangement and weather).

There are 4 places available (minimum age limit for this trip is 12 years old, accompanied by a parent or guardian). All participants must have a reasonable level of fitness, and be comfortable spending several hours in the bush, off-track in the dark (but with torchlight at times). Full details of required equipment, the event, and safety measures will be provided. Be prepared to be out in the bush from 7pm until maybe midnight or later.

**Cost: \$250 per person.**



The aim of our project is to establish a genetically wide founding population of kiwi within the protection of the predator-free sanctuary at Rotokare, with the eventual aim of being able to significantly increase kiwi populations throughout Taranaki.

We also encourage members of the community to become long-term supporters of kiwi protection in Taranaki, so you can follow a whole generation of Kohanga kiwi – from eggs to adulthood. Cost: priceless! Donations are most welcome towards this project.

## Experience #2: Day-time kiwi hunt and transmitter change.

A few days after the egg-lift has been completed, you and the team will head out to capture the male kiwi to check his health and change his transmitter. This typically involves spending a few hours in the bush tracking the kiwi with radio telemetry equipment, before locating the burrow. Once the burrow has been located, the kiwi handlers move in, very quietly. The kiwi is examined as part of health monitoring, and the transmitter is changed. This is an amazing opportunity to see an adult kiwi up close but also to learn about this incredible kiwi work. Over the past 12 years the Taranaki Kiwi Trust has reared more than 100 chicks have been reared regionally using this egg recovery process.

One trip only: Between **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August** (date subject to arrangement and weather).

There are 4 places available (minimum age limit for this experience is 12 years old, accompanied by a parent or guardian). All participants must have a reasonable level of fitness, and be comfortable spending several hours in the bush, off-track. Full details of required equipment, safety measures and a full description of the event will be provided.

**Cost: \$250 per person.**

## Experience #3: Day-time kiwi chick release (x2).

Once the kiwi eggs have hatched, and the chicks have put on some weight, they will be ready to return to the Kohanga site at Rotokare. On the day of their return, a volunteer will drive them from Rotorua to Rotokare, and you will have the opportunity to meet a cute 3-4 week old kiwi chick and help release it into a burrow within the predator-free sanctuary. It is a special time to be a part of that kiwi's life. Only around 5% of kiwis hatched in the wild will ever survive to maturity due to the many predators running around the forests of New Zealand – stoats, ferrets, cats, rats and dogs. Kiwi chicks living inside a predator-free environment are almost certain to live for 30-40 years, producing many kiwi chicks of their own.

Two trips only: Week day afternoon **Mid to late September** (date subject to arrangement and weather).

We anticipate that 2 kiwi chicks will be released, however until the eggs have hatched, we cannot be certain. These chick releases will be offered on a first-in first-served basis. If in the event someone has paid for the experience of releasing the second chick, but only one is available, we will refund the amount in full.

These two trips are suitable for a group of up to 8 to 10 people, and although we have no firm age restriction, they are not really suitable for children under 4 years.

**Cost: \$500 per kiwi release.**



**All experiences are subject to weather and the naturally unpredictable nature of wildlife.**

For further information about the experiences and for booking:

**Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust**  
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06 764 8500

**Taranaki Kiwi Trust**  
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