

# ROKOKARE BUSH TELEGRAPH

Winter 2013

[www.rotokare.org.nz](http://www.rotokare.org.nz)

## Friends Update

### Welcome to all new Friends of the Lake

We always need volunteers to help with a variety of tasks – all levels of fitness can help. Try it out at one of the weekly Sunday working bees (please arrive at 8.45 am for briefing and a 9 am start) followed by lunch, or talk to us about weekday opportunities.

Email: [simon@rotokare.org.nz](mailto:simon@rotokare.org.nz)

In addition to outdoors work there are other tasks that could be taken up:

- Help with admin
- Help spread the word by having a stand at events or markets
- Organise a fund raising event
- Help with maintenance or repair of traps

.....and many more.....



The Opunake High School envirofit team came out to Rotokare recently. Together they did a fantastic job and collected 30% of our tracking cards. Encouraging our future conservation decision makers to start contributing and having fun out here is really important.

## Welcome

Despite cold weather, Rotokare is still a busy place. With biodiversity and biosecurity monitoring, including robin surveys, the completion of the Ridge Walk project, and ongoing Kohanga Kiwi project work, being just a few of the things keeping us busy.

Read all the exciting details in this issue. Make sure you check out our website ([www.rotokare.org.nz](http://www.rotokare.org.nz)) and like us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/Rotokare](http://www.facebook.com/Rotokare)). If you would like to volunteer and help out with this awesome conservation project in any way, please contact us, with notice we have jobs suitable for everyone!



## Andy the Robin Whisperer

Andy Warneford an Auckland wildlife ecologist, recently spent a week at Rotokare conducting a robin survey. Andy was a leading ecologist at Waitakere's Ark in the Park sanctuary, and has expert knowledge in a range of areas, especially pest control, kokako and robin translocations.

In total 6 different individuals were identified (2 females and 4 males) at Rotokare. Time was spent interacting with the robins (feeding them with meal worms etc), to allow for adequate identification and future monitoring opportunities.

We will receive a report from Andy on his work here, but it has been suggested that our recent drought could be one of the reasons for not seeing more robins at Rotokare. Hopefully the robins that are here have a good upcoming breeding season.



# Ridge Walk Opening



A dreary winter's day didn't stop visitors arriving at the lake to celebrate the opening of our new Ridge Walkway. After introductions and welcome from Rotokare Chair Mike Weren and South Taranaki council Mayor Ross Dunlop, the walkway was officially opened by Ian Ramage from OMV, the major sponsor of the walkway. After approximately a year of hard work, the result is a unique, challenging, and vista filled new attraction at Rotokare.

The walk begins at the main car-park, it then follows totara ridge up to the predator-free fence, which then continues along the fence line around to the old Rotokare Road, before heading back to the lake edge walkway. There are several sections of steps making the terrain easier to manage in all seasons.



**Photos:** Steps joining up with the old Rotokare Road. Guests at the opening starting the walk. A helicopter dropping a load of metal off. Three of many Rotokare volunteers hard at work

The total distance is approximately 6 km's and will take people between 3 to 5 hours to complete. This track has been classified as back country standard, and is very steep in places, so be prepared with adequate food, water, clothing, and footwear.

The views of the Reserve and eastern hill country are amazing and on a good day there are breath taking views of Mount Taranaki and Ruapehu.

## Interesting Facts and Figures

- Over 10,000 Nails were used in this project
- 123 People helped out in some way
- 1220 Steps were built
- Helicopters were needed to transport timber and metal

Special thanks to OMV, Mangamingi Milling, Beck Helicopters Vickers Quarries, Fonterra staff, STDC staff, ANZ staff, Eltham, Kaponga and Stratford Lions Clubs, Whanganui Tramping Club, Girl Guides, Rotokare volunteers, staff and neighbours for their assistance with the Ridge Walk construction.



# Kohanga Kiwi Update

Rotokare is now home to 20 founding birds, as a result of hard work from both the Rotokare Trust and Taranaki Kiwi Trust. The joint *Taranaki Kohanga Kiwi at Rotokare* project is in good stead for the start of the breeding season (August). It is exciting to think about how many kiwi we may have this time next year, from these founders breeding in a resource packed, predator free environment. Check out a selection of our founding kiwi at Rotokare.

## Rotokare Founder Mug Shots



**Rua**

Released: 29.6.12



**Rawhiti**

Released: 11.1.13



**Moki Rerekapa**

Released: 22.2.13



**Makino Iti**

Released: 5.3.13



**Morgan**

Released: 16.3.13



**Mata**

Released: 13.6.13

## A Generous Donation

A huge thank you to Paslode New Zealand and Tony Green for their kind sponsorship and donation of a paslode staple gun. Such a staple gun is important for ongoing fence maintenance and emergency response to fence breaches. With well over 180,000 staples in our predator-proof fence this is a crucial addition to our workshop.



Joseph Lord from Paslode NZ, at the lake presenting Rotokare's site manager Simon Collins with a new Paslode staple gun.

Tony Green tests out the new gun.



# Education Update

As the middle of the year looms, the education programme is well on track to exceed targets. 1811 students ranging from year 1-13 have participated so far this year, and 111 3-4 year olds from various early childhood centres, have visited.

A self-led audio walk has been added as an exciting new activity option at Rotokare. To help keep up with the growing demand on the education programme. This has been well received as an exciting added extra to visits.

We are expecting to reach a major milestone of our 5000<sup>th</sup> student sometime in the last term of this year, so watch this space!

If you would like to be on the email list for our specific education newsletters let us know.



Lucas and Tai check out the new weta hotel and trap display. New addition's along the walkway for the self-led audio walk education programme option.

**Special thanks for their support :** QV New Plymouth (Danny Grace)  
Department of Conservation New Plymouth  
Normanby and District Lions Club

## Proud to recognise major sponsors & supporters:



## Not a friend of the lake? Join up to support Rotokare and be kept in the loop!

Individual	\$30.00	
Family	\$40.00	
Business/Group	\$50.00	
	Subtotal	
	Voluntary Donation	
	<b>Total</b>	



Tick if you need a receipt

- ✓ 4 Newsletters packed with updates and information
- ✓ Opportunities to be involved in the volunteer programme
- ✓ Invitations to special events and family days
- ✓ Supporting a great community conservation project

Please make cheques payable to Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust, & send to: P.O Box 33, Eltham, Phone (06) 764 8500 or pay by direct debit to TSB Eltham 153951 0426545-00 (Please include your name and "FOL donation" in the details and "R" if receipt required)

Name:

Email:

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