

# Rotokare 'Special Reserve' Honey

Limited Edition Batch Honey - Summer 2016



Purchasing this jar of honey supports community-led charitable conservation work. The unique blend of nectars represent the flavours of our rich and diverse native bush, delivering a great tasting smooth and creamy honey.



Once upon a time there was a beautiful lake and bush reserve in Central Taranaki. The community loved their reserve and had a bold vision to return it to a pristine condition and protect its biodiversity for generations to come. Neighbours, friends, families, farmers, walkers, businesses and school children came together and got stuck-in!

The Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust was formed, soon after they built a pest-proof fence and completely eradicated all introduced mammals. The flora and fauna prospered, and soon long-lost species were returned including kiwi and tieke (saddleback). The region's children began learning about conservation and ecology through the Rotokare Education Programme, and wildlife spilled over to the surrounding district.



Then in 2015 along came 'Mike the Bees and Trees Honey Man' and he saw the vision that Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust had. He recognised the community-led, grass roots, "get it done" approach to conservation and wanted to get involved.

He suggested that a very special batch of honey could be made from all the goodness at Rotokare.....And the Rotokare family agreed!

The Eltham Lions Club arranged for Beck Helicopters to deliver 2 hive pallets high up in the reserve into prime bee country.

The fabulous summer of 2015/16 allowed the bush to flourish and provide just what the honey bees wanted. So they did their thing and began making honey, foraging on local manuka, kamahi, rewarewa, and rata among other glorious natives, high up on the ridge tops of the Rotokare Sanctuary.

The hives were retrieved in April 2016 bursting with goodness. Mike's team of bee keepers extracted the honey with Rotokare Trustees, and then Rotokare Volunteers labelled the jars. Finally, with much excitement and joy, this small batch of 'Special Reserve Honey' was ready to share with the world.

The Rotokare Trust has established a successful community-led pest-free sanctuary, most importantly it is free to enter. Today, tieke thrive at Rotokare having returned to Taranaki after c150 years of local extinction. Kiwi are busy breeding through a joint project with the Taranaki Kiwi Trust. Many other species are thriving, and the future sees many more rare and endangered species returning to the Rotokare Sanctuary for present and future generations to enjoy.



All the goodness of this limited edition batch honey, and this unique community story are yours to enjoy in your own jar of Rotokare Special Reserve Honey.

All profits from the sale of this honey go to continuing the vision of the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust, supporting Taranaki's community-led wildlife sanctuary.

We sincerely thank Bees & Trees Native Honey & Eltham Lions Club for making this charitable fundraising project possible!



Eltham

For more information about the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust

[www.rotokare.org.nz](http://www.rotokare.org.nz) 06 764 8500 [contact@rotokare.org.nz](mailto:contact@rotokare.org.nz) [facebook.com/rotokare](https://facebook.com/rotokare)

For information about **Bees and Trees Native Honey:** [www.beesandtrees.com](http://www.beesandtrees.com)

**Eltham Lions Club:** <http://www.lionsclubs.org.nz/Clubs/202D/Zone-5/Eltham>