

Remutaka Conservation Trust: Volunteer Programme

Thank you for inquiring about our volunteer programme. We hope that you will join our entirely voluntary workforce. The Trust is a non-profit organisation committed to protecting and restoring the unique flora and fauna of the Remutaka Forest Park located, near Wellington, New Zealand.

We take enormous pride in the success of our programme to establish a wild Kiwi population and the reforestation programme. This is only possible through the efforts of our dedicated volunteers.

The Trust, in partnership with the local community and *Tangata Whenua*, and with support from the Department of Conservation, local bodies and a myriad of interested groups, believes it will succeed in restoring a self-sustaining natural biodiversity where indigenous flora and fauna will flourish and allow visitors to the park unlimited access to the precious *Taonga O Ngahere o Aotearoa*.

We have a number of programmes people can volunteer to be part of outlined briefly below. We do hope that one of these roles will be of interest to you. You will of course be trained by an experienced volunteer and will receive the support you need to carry out this very rewarding work. If you want to volunteer, but are less enthusiastic about trapping or monitoring related activities in the park, we do appreciate support with our administration requirements and data-base.

A Volunteer Application Form is attached. If you complete this form and return it to us we can assist in assessing how you may gain the most reward from volunteering.

Trapping

A key task is trapping possums, rats and stoats along established trap-lines. Tasks include clearing, baiting and re-setting traps and minor maintenance. Volunteers need to be reasonably 'bush' savvy and moderately fit. (You may need to be prepared to go for a walk for up to 5-7 hours each time depending on the trap line).

Each trap line is assigned a team of trappers, so frequency depends on number of volunteers enlisted (on average it is currently about half a dozen trapping days per year per trapper).

Trap Servicing

Our "Fixit team" travel to traps all across the trapping network to make minor repairs in the field. A good level of fitness is important and time to commit to 6-9 hour outings. Of course you will not be tramping all that time as you will be making repairs to traps. Training will be simple provided you are comfortable using basic tools.

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Distance Monitoring

This team remote monitor the brown kiwi in the park. The majority of the tracking is done on DOC maintained walking tracks but there is some degree of off track work that may be required from time to time. All new trackers will go with an experienced tracker until such time they have become familiar with the area, terrain and listening post locations.

As part of our permit issued by the Department of Conservation, under the Wildlife Act 1953 and the Conservation Act 1987, we are permitted to remote monitor “Absolutely Protected Wildlife” and report to DOC on our results. Although there are limited people in the Trust authorised to handle kiwi all volunteers, trappers, trackers are welcome to come out with “handlers” for bird health checks to better understand the need for distance tracking and how, what volunteers do helps protect these amazing birds.

Acoustic Monitoring Kiwi, forest birds and Bats

This activity involves the distribution and collection of recorders for the identification of kiwi dispersal and abundance of forest birds. This also involves the interpretation of call data.

Lizard Monitoring

Monitoring presence/absence of lizards in the Catch pool Eco hotspot and upper Turere valley. This involves the use of tree wraps, pitfall traps and unduline deployed along defined lines.

Tracking Tunnel Monitoring

The Trust has installed tracking tunnels to assess the abundance of pest species and as a way to measure the success and effectiveness of any pest control that is carried out in the area. Pests entering the tunnels leave footprints providing information to the Trust on the prevalence and types of species. We need two types of volunteers for this activity. The first is to visit the tunnel sites to bait them and clear the cards that record the footprints. Good fitness, and being bush “savvy”, is required for this activity as it takes people off established trails. The activity of the second group of volunteers is “desk work” assessing the footprint details from the cards and entering information into a database.

Restoration Project

The Catchpool Restoration Project aims to give Nature a helping hand to speed up the reforestation of the hillsides with native plants and trees in order to quickly restore the original biodiversity of the area. In addition to regular planting activities in winter a plant nursery has been established to collect, pot and maintain seeds collected in the park for future replanting. Northern rata and Yellow Mistletoe are two key species being re-established in the Catchpool along with many other species.

Health and Safety

Ensuring your health and safety in the bush is a priority. As with any outdoor activity there are hazards both from the natural environment and from the traps. The Trust will:

- Assess your experience and training required;
- “Buddy you up” with an experienced volunteer till you are sufficiently confident with your chosen tasks or buddy you permanently if that’s your preference.
- Detail the equipment you need and in some instances provide some equipment.

Transport

There is no public transport to the Catchpool entrance of the park on Coast Road, Wainuiomata. You will need to have access to a vehicle to carry out “in the field” volunteer work

Please become a Member of the Trust

Other ways you can also help us is by becoming a member or a sponsor. Membership of the Trust is only \$20 and we ask that all volunteers become financial members.

There are also different sponsorship options available if you choose.

Please see our website for more details: www.remutaka.nz or check out our Facebook page RCT/FA.

Remutaka Conservation Trust
Geoff Cameron President

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January 2019

Volunteer Information Form

Thank you for considering volunteering for the Trust. The information in this form is being collected for the purposes of assisting you to assist us and for you to get the most reward as a volunteer. Only people in the Trust with a legitimate reason will have access to the information you have provided.

Name:	Sex: M/F	Date of birth:
Occupation:		
Home Address:		Telephone No:
		Mobile No (if different):
		Email address:
Postcode:		

What do you want to volunteer for:
 (please refer to role descriptions above and tick any role/s that interest you)

<input type="checkbox"/> Trapping	<input type="checkbox"/> Trap Servicing
<input type="checkbox"/> Distance tracking/monitoring kiwi	<input type="checkbox"/> Acoustic monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Lizard monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/> Database management
<input type="checkbox"/> Tunnel monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant nursery
<input type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe)

If selected 'Trapping' 'Distance Tracking' Trap Servicing, tunnel or acoustic monitoring please answer the following, (otherwise go to the next question.)

Are you comfortable off tracks: Yes / No

Have you used any of the following (please circle all that apply): Maps Compass GPS PLB

Do you hold a first aid certificate: Yes / No

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Why do the role/s selected interest you?
Have you volunteered before for another group? If so, what did you like and/or dislike about your volunteer experience with that group?
Are you or have you ever been a member of a conservation or outdoor recreation group?
What skills and experience could you bring as a volunteer?
What time can you commit each month? What days of the week are you available?
How long can you volunteer for (that is a year or more or indefinitely?)
Where did you see or hear about this volunteer opportunity?
What interests you about our projects?

Do you have any health conditions or allergies that would affect your role as volunteer, is there anything we need to do to assist you in your volunteer work? If so, please explain. This is of course confidential to those who have to know.

Emergency contact details – please include address and phone numbers: (someone we can contact in case of an emergency)

Name:

Address:

Cell phone:

Relationship:

If your contact person when you are in the park has concerns about non arrival home contact Melody 0274524982 or Rosemary 0210443279 or Alan 0272852018 or police 111

Is there anything else you would like to add that you think would be helpful or useful as part of this information record?

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to the Remutaka Conservation Trust:

Email - volunteers@remutaka.nz

Postal - PO Box 38564, Wellington Mail Centre, Lower Hutt 5045

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