

# ROTOROA

## An Island of Restoration

### ROTOROA ISLAND TRUST VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

#### **About our programme**

The Rotoroa Island Trust has an established volunteer programme where people can undertake a range of work to assist our island managers but also contribute to the running of the island. Tasks include biosecurity (weed and animal pest management), track, road and grounds maintenance and visitor experience. Our volunteers are highly valued and are an essential part of our island team.

We provide individual volunteer opportunities year round and encourage people to become regular volunteers and commit to at least 1 day a month) so you build good knowledge of the particular tasks you do to help us, grow your knowledge of the island and get to know our regular volunteer team.

We also provide opportunities for groups (including corporates) as we have a number of tasks such as track clearing, grounds maintenance and beach clean ups etc that are best suited to groups as you will feel a real sense of collective achievement at the end of the day. Because we only have 2 permanent staff on the island and are very busy over summer, group opportunities are limited to between 1 March and 30th September.

If you would like to be involved, please see the detailed role descriptions below and decide which one, or more, you'd like to be involved with. Thanks to Explore Group, ferry fares to and from Rotoroa are covered if you become a regular volunteer. Explore Group also provides a 50% discount for eligible volunteer groups.

#### **How does the process work**

If your application is accepted, The Trust covers accommodation for each volunteer who stays 1 night or more (you supply your own food and sleeping bag and are required to leave the accommodation in a tidy and clean state). Ideally, we would like you to come for a weekend or a few consecutive days (as long as accommodation is available) but if you can only manage day trips there is still plenty you can do to help us. However because we cover ferry fares we do expect at least ½ a day's work if you come to volunteer for a day and a full day's work if you come overnight.

Where work involves handling of money or other sensitive information or tasks we may undertake a Police check. You will be asked to complete an authorisation form and will be provided with a copy of the complete check.

#### **Training and Safety**

Full training to work safely and efficiently is given when you start, and you will generally work with another person until you and the Trust are confident you are able to work by yourself.

A strong commitment to Health and Safety is an essential requirement for any person working on the island – it protects our people, the Island and the Trust and ensures everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience. We also require our volunteers to be physically fit and equally able to work safely by themselves or in a group. You will be required to book in advance for days you would like to volunteer so we can plan in advance.

Rotoroa is an alcohol and drug free workplace. If you stay overnight, we are happy for you to bring alcohol but please in moderation. Rotoroa is owned by the Salvation Army and was previously an alcohol and drug rehabilitation facility so we must respect our heritage.

## **Role Descriptions**

### Track maintenance

We have a network of tracks and roads on Rotoroa. These are used for walking but also provide access for maintenance vehicles. This volunteer area involves maintenance and improvements to existing tracks and roads and occasionally the development of new walking tracks. There will be some minor construction involved and the operation of vehicles and equipment when required. Full training will be given.

### Biosecurity/Rat pack Rotoroa

Rotoroa is “predator free” and it takes constant vigilance to maintain this status. We have a network of traps and monitoring stations across the island which are checked and maintained on a regular schedule. We also have a weed control programme focused on key invasive species including pampas grass, wilding exotic trees species (e.g. pines, phoenix palm, wattle), mothplant, boneseed and woolly nightshade.

Full training will be given on the safe operation of these control programmes which includes how to identify pest sign in devices, the identification of targeted plant species as well as the use of pesticides and herbicides.

### Visitor Experience

Rotoroa is open to the public to visit and enjoy panoramic views, great swimming beaches and our native wildlife. Visitors arrive at Rotoroa by either scheduled ferry service or private boat. During the summer months the ferry service generally runs 7 days per week. Volunteers can assist our Island Rangers with a range of tasks including maintaining and servicing visitor facilities, greeting visitors from the ferry and private boats, delivering biosecurity and conservation messages, assisting with hosting public events, running our kiosk (sells soft drinks, ice creams, tshirts, books etc) and taking our guided walk. The Summer months from October to March is the time when we most need people on this team.

### Guided walk guides

We run guided walks based on a preset route and a written format to assist guides and provide visitors with an overview of the island, its history and present management. Each walk needs a minimum of 4 people and has a maximum number of 15 adults/guide. We have run them for several years and they are popular so we need more guides as our island staff can get busy and we need to spread the workload. You need to be a person who has experience or a strong interest in conservation and communicating clearly with a diverse range of people. You also need to be fit and able to manage a group of people safely on a walk.

### Grounds Maintenance/Garden Guardians

Looking after our Rotoroa landscape is a big job. Rotoroa has large grass areas that we keep open for our visitors to enjoy wide open spaces and panoramic views but also for our wildlife like takahe, weka and kiwi for whom these areas provide food and shelter. 50 hectares of the island has also been planted to expand our coastal forest. We need help to maintain these areas on a regular basis. Tasks include mowing, pruning trees and mulching the pohutukawa groves, maintaining and weeding garden areas around houses and buildings.

### Wayfinding

To help our visitors get around the island safely we have a network of signs. These need regular maintenance in the form of cleaning, clearing vegetation back from them so they are always visible and ensuring they are firmly placed in the ground.

[rotoroa.org.nz](http://rotoroa.org.nz)