

Great News on Funding!!!

Major news for the Rotokare trust is the granting of up to \$950,000 by the South Taranaki District Council through its Long Term Plan Process, which is the ten year planning operation that all Councils use to allocate funding to projects in their community areas that the community itself deems worthy.

So... a very big thank you to all those folk who took the time to fill in and post the supplied submission form in the last newsletter. The Rotokare Sanctuary proposal attracted far more support than any other individual project on offer, and this was vital in influencing the final (unanimous) vote.

Granting of this amount is specifically for the completion of the fence and the caretaker's residence – in conjunction with the TSB Community Trust's 1.25 million dollar pledge. The education facility is funded courtesy of a \$110,000 grant from Taranaki Electricity Trust.

Now we have the legal procedures to follow for the granting of consents for the various works and construction needed to complete the project. With this in mind, the Trust has met with the South Taranaki District council and the Department of Conservation to start the consents process. None of this will happen overnight, but we have got the ball rolling.

The actual building of the fence is not likely to begin until mid to late October at the earliest. Ground conditions will need to be suitable for accessing the ridgeline for siting the fence, and the materials and building contracts need to be in place before any ground is turned.

We are hoping that many of our supporters will be willing to assist in working bees to strip old fences and do general preparation for the new fence. More details will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

Display Section of Pest-Proof Fence

On the 11th and 12th of May, two fencing team members, from Xcluder Pest-Proof Fencing Co, erected two 20 metre sections of fence on either side of the entranceway into the reserve. They were ably assisted by Joe Menzies, Mark Caskey, Terry O'Connor, Murray Pranker, Cees Bevers and Murray Sulzberger. The fencers made great work out of a wet and miserable couple of days.

Now that we have this exhibition fence built, people will be able to see just how the pest-proof fence will look in place and hopefully will then feel more inclined to contribute financially to the construction costs. It is difficult to commit money to something that you cannot see or touch. Now we have the real thing there for touching and seeing!



George Calvert (Xcluder) attaching the capping to the fence - Oecologico



More fence building pictures courtesy of Murray Sulzberger

Ngati Ruanui Management Visit to Rotokare Reserve



On Tuesday 6th of June, three members of the Ngati Ruanui Iwi management team made a visit to the reserve. They were accompanied by John Sargeant and Linda Vogt from STDC, and Joe Menzies, Alex Ballantyne and Murray Sultzberger from the Rotokare Trust. A pleasant afternoon's stroll around the walkway allowed all parties to get an understanding of how and where each entity fits into the big picture of the Rotokare plan. The Ngati Ruanui representatives were enthusiastic in their support for the project and appreciation of the Trust's work and like the Ngati Tupaea members we have met with previously, expressed a keen desire to participate in and contribute to on-going developments.

Left to right are: - **Cr Alex Ballantyne, Ngati Ruanui representative Wendy Eynon, STDC Facilities Officer Linda Vogt, Ngati Ruahine representatives Tony Whareaitu, Eddie Ngeru and Ngapori Ngu, Rotokare Trust Secretary Murray Sulzberger and Chair Joe Menzies**

Here's a little background information on these groups. Ngati Ruanui is the Iwi (official tribal entity) for the greater area ('rohe') within which Rotokare falls. Ngati Tupaea is the hapu (extended whanau or family grouping, or 'sub-tribe' of Ruanui) for the smaller area within Ngati Ruanui's rohe within which Rotokare is located.

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