

Rimutaka Forest Park Trust Volunteer Programme

Rimutaka Forest Park is a beautiful area of mostly native forest in the hills east of New Zealand's capital city, Wellington.

It encompasses the Rimutaka Ranges and the Orongorongo River and is characterised by steep, bush-clad hills and narrow fern-filled valleys. These are cut by abundant freshwater streams and the beautiful Orongorongo River.

About the Trust:

Rimutaka Forest Park Charitable Trust is a non-profit organisation committed to protecting and restoring the unique flora and fauna of the Rimutaka Forest Park located east of Wainuiomata, near Wellington, New Zealand.

We believe that the Trust, in partnership with the local community and *Tangata Whenua* - and with support from the Department of Conservation ([DoC](#)), local bodies and a myriad of interested groups - can 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*.

The Trust is a registered Charitable Trust comprising an entirely voluntary workforce. We really appreciate your interest and hope that you will join us.

The current roles where we need additional volunteers for are:

Trapping

Clearing and re-setting traps along established trap-lines. Target pests are possums, rats and stoats. Tasks include clearing, bating 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 trap line).

Traps are checked monthly in winter and fortnightly in summer. Each trap line is assigned a team of trappers, so frequency depends on number of volunteers enlisted (on average is currently about half a dozen trapping days per year per trapper). Trappers need to be prepared to handle dead animals. Volunteers will all be provided with suitable training.

Minimum time commitment: we would appreciate you only volunteer if you can commitment to a period of 1 year or more, this is due to the time we need to invest in training and the roster system we operate.

Trap Servicing

Would you like to be part of our Fixit Team? With an ever expanding network of traps, we need more people for our Fixit Team. Team members need to be regularly available and able to travel to traps all across the trapping network to make minor repairs in the field.

A high level of fitness is important and time to commit to regular 6-9 hour tramping days. Volunteers will be provided with some training, but you should already be comfortable using basic tools.

Project Coordinator Dawn Chorus

We currently need a coordinator to run the Dawn Chorus pest control in the Catchpool Valley. Trap lines range from 30 minute line to a 3 hour trap line, targeting stoats, rats and possums using humane kill traps.

Distance Trackers

Kiwi distance tracking maps the positions of kiwi that are radio-tagged. Knowing where the kiwi are allows us to locate the birds for health checks, observations, Operation Nest Egg, fitting and re-fitting transmitters and removing birds for protection or health reasons.

Distance Trackers are tasked with acquiring information on the position of radio-tagged kiwi from a distance. Trackers work in teams and are rostered into these teams (usually) for weekend tracking. New Trackers will be rostered with experienced trackers until they become familiar with the procedure and the tracks and terrain. The number of person rostered onto a weekend team and the frequency of collecting information (weekly, biweekly, etc) is determined by the changes to the levels of activity of our kiwi population - nesting season, new hatchlings, new introduced kiwi, etc.

Volunteers need to be reasonably 'bush' savvy and moderately fit. Tracking involves using maps, compasses and tracking receiver equipment.

Minimum time commitment: we would appreciate you only volunteer if you can commitment to a period of 1 year or more, this is due to the time we need to invest in training and our roster system.

Egg Stocker

There is a rough idea how many eggs are in demand each week by the trappers, the role is to restock the Caltex Petrol station store with trays of eggs for the trappers. Would suit someone with the time to drop in and check the store regularly (particularly before weekends).

Egg stocker preferably needs to live in Wainuiomata.

Kiwi Avoidance Training Database Administrator

We currently need someone with database skills to take over administration of the Kiwi Avoidance Training database. The database keeps details of dogs that either are fully certified or only have their interim certificate.

This role ensures dog owners receive certificates as required and follows up with interim certificate owners providing details of when the next training weekend.

Plant Propagation Project Manager

The Trust's restoration project requires someone with plant propagation experience to co-ordinate the setting up of a nursery.

Other

Do you have a skill that you could offer volunteer time for to help us e.g. are you marketing whizz or a journalist or good at writing submittals for funding?

Please let us know in attached form if you feel you have a skill that would be useful to us and you don't mind volunteering your time to do.

Still want to volunteer but haven't found anything above you can commit too?

The Trust also needs short term volunteers for the Catchpool Restoration Project. This 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

Other ways you can also help us is by becoming a member or a sponsor.

Please see website for details: <http://www.rimutakatrust.org.nz/>

Still don't see anything that appeals at the moment?

Please do check our website again as new roles may come available.

Thank-you for your interest, it is appreciated.

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM

Thank you for considering volunteering for the Trust. The information in this form is being collected for the purposes of better managing our volunteers and assisting you to assist us. 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"/> Project Coordinator Dawn Chorus	<input type="checkbox"/> Distance tracking
<input type="checkbox"/> Egg Stocker	<input type="checkbox"/> Kiwi Avoidance DB Administrator
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Propagation Project Manager	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify with details of relevant experience)	

If selected 'Trapping' or 'Distance Tracking' please answer the following, else go to next question.

Are you comfortable off tracks: Yes / No

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

Do you hold a first aid certificate: Yes / No

Why the role/s do 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 to as a volunteer?						
What time can you commit each month?						
How long can you volunteer for?						
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.						
Emergency contact details – please include address and phone numbers: (someone we can contact in case of an emergency)						
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Name:	Phone number:					
Address:	Mobile (if available):					
Relationship:						
Is there anything else you would like to add that you think would be helpful or useful as part of this application?						

Signed: _____

Date: _____