



# WILDLIFE RESTORATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON ROTOROA ISLAND

FINAL REPORT ON A WORKSHOP HELD ON ROTOROA ISLAND, 29-30 APRIL, 2013

A partnership between Auckland Zoo and the Rotoroa Island Trust will see the wildlife management and community engagement strengths of Auckland Zoo applied to the Trust's restoration of Rotoroa Island. This will include the establishment of wildlife populations on the Island and will bring visitors to experience ecological restoration in action.

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A contribution of the IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group and Auckland Zoo, in collaboration with the Rotoroa Island Trust.

Cover photo: Rotoroa Island workshop participants.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 29th and 30th, 2013, 20 participants from 5 organisations took part in a workshop on Rotoroa Island. The purpose of the workshop was to develop a **five-year strategy** for a partnership between Auckland Zoo and the Rotoroa Island Trust, which will see the wildlife management, education and community engagement strengths of Auckland Zoo applied to the Trust's restoration of Rotoroa Island.

This document provides a record of the activities and outcomes of the workshop. Further work will be required to shape these outcomes into a completed strategic plan and the next steps towards this are described below.

## WORKSHOP OUTPUTS

- A draft vision for the future of Rotoroa Island.
- A description of success for each of the main zoo-related work programmes: Wildlife Management, Visitor Experience and Education.
- The identification and documented discussion of issues relevant to the achievement of success in these areas.
- Initial agreement on goals for pursuing success.

## NEXT STEPS

Next steps in the development of the five-year strategy are:

- To finalise the DRAFT VISION. Comments were made in the final plenary sessions that have still to be incorporated into the vision.
- Extraction of additional guiding principles, actions and goals from the documented discussions. A number of important points were made in plenary discussions which, though documented here, are not yet incorporated into the strategy framework.
- Goals need to be refined, consolidated and developed further.
- Once finalised, these components need to be drawn into a single, coherent strategy for presentation to the Rotoroa Island Trust.

Taking these actions forward is the responsibility of the Rotoroa Operations Committee.

## DRAFT Vision for Rotoroa Island

**Rotoroa Island is rich in diversity and abundance of New Zealand wildlife and is an internationally significant model of innovative conservation management and environmental education.**

**Through collaboration, education, philanthropy and community engagement, the island:**

- demonstrates innovative and sustainable wildlife and environmental management that supports a bio-diverse, pest-free and healthy ecosystem, both on the island and across the Hauraki Gulf;
- is internationally recognised for leadership in conservation management and training;
- provides a role model for true sustainability and promotes environmental stewardship;
- integrates arts, the island's heritage and wildlife conservation to offer a rich accessible experience, which engages visitors with Rotoroa Island and its restoration, and inspires a greater appreciation of the natural environment

**Success in wildlife management will see:**

- An island supporting a diverse range of species, some independent and self-sustaining, others requiring ongoing management and support
- Breeding and release aviaries, weka-excluding lizard enclosures, nest boxes and feeding stations supporting the establishment of species and demonstrating intervention to restore island species
- A horticultural nursery providing plants for island restoration and a vehicle to teach plant propagation for conservation
- The success and reputation of the project catalysing predator eradication on surrounding islands, and supporting integrated, multi-island programmes for sustainably managing wildlife across the Hauraki Gulf

**Success in our visitor experience will see:**

- The island as a unique visitor proposition drawing 20,000 visitors (international and local) each year, in a manner that is responsible and sustainable
- Island rangers who guide visitors, demonstrating the active management required to maintain the high diversity and abundance of native species, and who involve visitors with the work
- Island visitors inspired by their experience to take on a greater role in environmental stewardship
- Diverse communities engaged with the project, having developed a strong sense of belonging, pride and passion
- Every Aucklander knowing about Rotoroa Island and wanting to visit or to support what we do

**Success in education & training will see:**

- School children experiencing a taste of island conservation
- Tertiary students learning current island restoration theory and practical training in fieldwork
- Students of all ages and backgrounds putting theory into practice, radio-tracking kiwi and surveying lizards under the guidance of expert tutors and field biologists
- All participants in Rotoroa Island education programmes gaining an understanding and appreciation of the Island's rich and diverse heritage
- Programme participants acting for positive change in their communities as a result of their involvement with the island

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

**Rotoroa Island Trust** is developing Rotoroa Island as a rich experience of heritage, conservation and arts, with a strong education focus.

**Auckland Zoo** brings people together to build a future for wildlife. Zoo programs and experiences increase the community's understanding of wildlife and encourage greater participation in conservation.

A partnership between Auckland Zoo and the Rotoroa Island Trust, will see the wildlife management, education and community engagement strengths of Auckland Zoo applied to the Trust's restoration of Rotoroa Island. This will include the establishment of wildlife populations and will bring visitors to experience ecological restoration in action. On April 29th and 30th, 2013, 20 participants from 5 organisations met on Rotoroa Island to discuss the opportunities and challenges of this project.

The principal focus of the workshop was the development of a **five-year strategy** for the Zoo's involvement which will work in synchrony with other areas of the Island's development.

## WORKSHOP GOALS

The goals of the workshop were:

- To build a strong and positive working relationship amongst the gathered stakeholders;
- To recognise, collectively, the natural beauty of the Island and the remarkable opportunity presented by the Rotoroa Island Trust- Auckland Zoo partnership;
- To develop collaboratively a shared vision for the future of Rotoroa Island, integrating arts, community, ecology, education and other relevant themes;
- To agree on the Zoo-related programmes of work required to deliver the agreed vision;
- To integrate those programmes of work into a draft strategy for the Zoo-Trust collaboration that is designed to work in synchrony with other areas of the Island's development.

## DAY 1:

Participants arrived on the island by boat (a list of participants and their details is provided in Appendix I). During the journey, each was asked to record something that they considered to be a key issue regarding development on Rotoroa Island. Answers were stored for use later in the programme (see page 4).

Participants were welcomed to the Island by Glen Tupuhi of Ngati Paoa. Following a brief introduction to CBSG philosophy and process, the workshop moved to a series of presentations aimed at bringing participants to a shared understanding of the history of the Island, the progress to date with its restoration, and the unique opportunities available through the Auckland Zoo - Rotoroa Island Trust partnership.

### *Rotoroa Island Trust – concepts and values for the island (Barrie Brown)*

The concepts and values that are important to the Rotoroa Island Trust and how these have been integrated into plans for the Island so far.

### *Island history and development milestones to date (Phil Salisbury and Jo Ritchie)*

Charting the history of the Island to date, including important milestones in its restoration.

### *A role for Auckland Zoo in island restoration (Jonathan Wilcken)*

The wildlife, educational and visitor experiences that Auckland Zoo provides and how these might translate to an island restoration project.

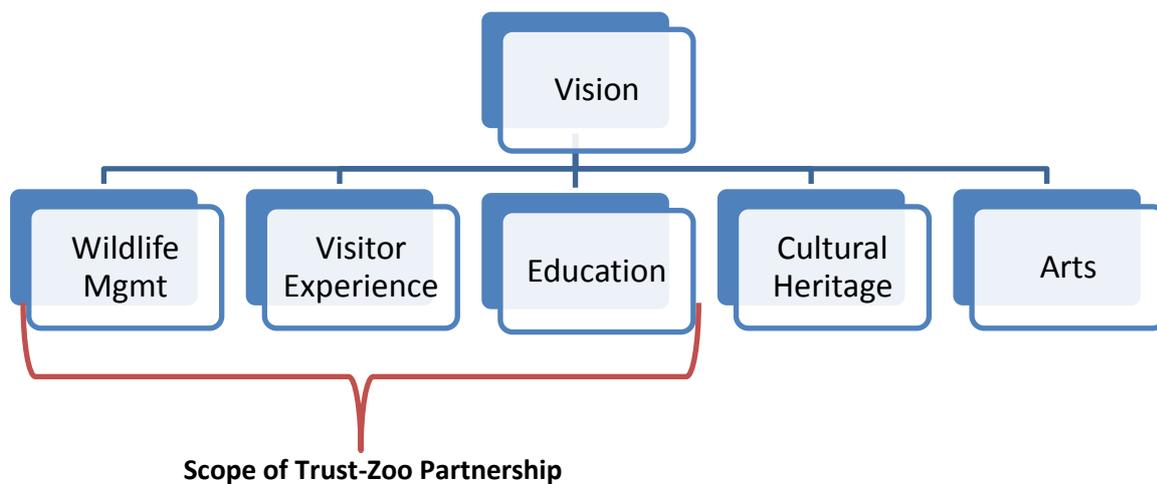
## VISIONING

Following plenary presentations, participants separated into three groups and were invited to imagine an ideal future for Rotoroa Island over a fifty-year time frame. Each group performed its ideal future in plenary and while the others observed and captured major themes. Groups reconvened to draft group vision statements based on their initial deliberations and additional ideas and themes highlighted by other groups. The results were presented in plenary and then provided to a synthesising group for further development. The resulting DRAFT VISION is presented in Section 2. [There is still some work to do on this to address plenary comments – areas of the vision requiring more work are highlighted in red].

## ESTABLISHING WORKING GROUPS

Vision statements provided by the groups were used to diagnose the broad areas of work likely to be required to deliver what participants envisioned for the Island (see Figure 1.). Those areas of work (termed Work Programmes) most relevant to the Zoo-Trust partnership were drawn out for further development.

**Figure 1.** Work programmes required to deliver the VISION for Rotoroa Island



The following comments, ideas and reservations were discussed with respect to this framework.

Heritage, with respect to the Island, is generally interpreted as cultural heritage, encompassing Salvation Army and Ngati Paoa elements. However “heritage” as a broader theme is also an important part of native wildlife management, of education, visitor experience and of the arts. It was suggested that heritage in the broader sense could or should be something that binds the other areas together. After some discussion of this it was agreed that, for practical purposes, “heritage” would be worked on separately under each of the work programme headings proposed by the relevant working group and that “Cultural Heritage” would be listed as a distinct work programme. Where necessary, there might later be some cross-group discussion of heritage as a binding theme.

The Island’s botanical collection and planting operations are not designed to emulate the “natural” succession and development of a pristine forest ecosystem. Elsewhere in the Gulf (such as Rangitoto Is.) management is aimed at initiating natural succession, and visitors will be able to see the results of this kind of regeneration over time. It would take many decades for a “natural” system to develop on Rotoroa to a point where it could accommodate a diverse array of species. Instead, the aim of regeneration of New Zealand flora on the Island, amongst other things, is to provide appropriate habitat for desired species in a timely manner and, in some cases, to support higher than “normal” densities and diversities, to foster aspects of the unique Rotoroa experience. It is important that this is understood across all work programmes and communicated appropriately in Island-related materials.

Working groups were established around the agreed themes of **Wildlife Management, Visitor Experience** and **Education**.

## DEVELOPING ISSUES, SETTING GOALS AND DESCRIBING SUCCESS

In plenary, participants read out the issues that they had documented during the boat ride to the Island. Each issue was assigned to one or more of the working groups or, if a poor fit for all of them, was assigned to a separate category of “over-riding issues” to be dealt with later.

Individual working groups were asked to take their issues away, review them further, group them where appropriate, add to them where necessary and then develop a clear issue statement for each. It was intended that these statements would explain, to anyone not attending the meeting, the nature of the issue and its relevance to that work programme, in the context of Rotoroa Island’s progress towards the draft vision.

Draft issue statements were brought to plenary for discussion and amendment.

A summary of the list of issues proposed by participants, grouped by work programme, is shown in **Figure 2**.

**Figure 2.** Issues considered by participants to be key to the future development of Rotoroa Island, grouped by work programme topic.

Visitor Experience	Education	Wildlife Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make the island accessible to a broad and diverse group of people, taking into account geographic location, transport, cost, physical mobility and infrastructure capacity of the island.</li> <li>• Identify and ensure our unique proposition, which differentiates Rotoroa Island.</li> <li>• Ensure we have community engagement to foster a sense of belonging, pride and passion.</li> <li>• Deliver visitor experiences that have a sustainable cost model ; identify potential revenue streams.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage continuum: ensure that we embrace, honour and acknowledge all the peoples who have gone before, including partnerships e.g. Treaty of Waitangi, Salvation Army, Rotoroa Island Trust, Auckland Zoo, land, wildlife.</li> <li>• Equitable access. Cost and travel time are potential barriers to this.</li> <li>• Evaluation: should be built into programme design to allow outcomes to be measured.</li> <li>• Student and teacher voice: how might we ensure a place for these in the ongoing development of Rotoroa Island'.</li> <li>• Programme delivery: establish who, how, how many, where from, why, what happens where, when?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biosecurity.</li> <li>• Ensuring that we engage visitors/students directly and hands-on, with wildlife and its management - gathering and incorporating the voice of youth.</li> <li>• Over-coming legislative and bureaucratic obstacles and inertia.</li> <li>• Ensure principle if treaty Waitangi are honoured, followed and used to our advantage.</li> <li>• Ensure that the purpose for wildlife management and conservation on Rotoroa are unique and not another Tiri. And this contributes to the financial sustainability of the island/project.</li> <li>• Ensure we have clear goals (botanical, zoological, educational, recreational) and a framework to evaluate them.</li> <li>• Understanding the financial resources available in the long-term and therefore the security of the project.</li> <li>• Ensure and lead the integration of conservation management across Hauraki Gulf.</li> </ul>

For each of the issue statements, working groups were asked to develop a list of goals that would address the issue at hand and build towards the shared vision.

Working groups were then asked to use the goals to “paint a picture” of what success would look like for their work programme. Finally, issue statements, goals and descriptions of success were brought to plenary for discussion and refinement. The issues, goals and descriptions of success are summarised in Sections 3, 4, 5 and plenary discussions relevant to these are summarised below.

## DISCUSSION POINTS: ISSUES AND GOALS

The following text describes the discussions that followed the plenary presentation of issues and the subsequent presentation of revised issues, goals and descriptions of success. Similar topics or repeated discussions of the same topic have been grouped and some of the areas requiring additional work have been flagged.

### VISITOR NUMBERS, FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF RESOURCES

The issue of financial sustainability was repeatedly raised and particularly in the context of working in a five-year window on projects that will require ongoing management. Much emphasis was placed on bringing visitors to the Island, not only to increase the reach of Rotoroa’s educational influence but as a potential revenue generator, however, questions were raised about how large numbers might affect the quality of experience and the integrity of the environment.

The following clarification was provided:

- The financial stability of the island is secure for the next 100 years in terms of the ongoing, day-to-day caretaking and management of the island’s existing infrastructure and services. Additional projects that cannot be supported within existing funding will need to find an alternative revenue stream.
- Like Bhutan, which has a maximum number of tourists each year, Rotoroa wants to be not the most visited but the MOST SOUGHT AFTER visitor experience. 30,000 – 50,000 visitors per year is the maximum that the Island’s sewage system can manage and upgrading this system is not a preferred option. Large numbers of visitors (up to 270) can be accommodated but only as a one-off event, after which the systems need time to recover. The vision, goals and achievements of the island should therefore be planned for within the bounds of this visitor capacity – 20,000 visitors per year was suggested as a potentially “happy medium”.
- It will be important to be clear about HOW MANY PEOPLE can come, how often, and how this can be made equitable and focussed on key audiences.

### LOOK, FEEL AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

There was discussion around the need for a shared understanding of the envisioned nature and flavour of the visitor experience - the overall look and feel of the Island - as this will guide what species are supported and how the experience of them is designed. This in turn will lead into

managing visitor expectations – should people expect to be coming to a zoo? Or should marketing focus more on the privilege of seeing wildlife “in the wild”?

The Trust wants to bring people to Rotoroa Island to experience its unique characteristics. It is open to ideas about how the visitor experience should develop and to advice on what people are most likely to want to see or be able to see. However, it would not favour a big infrastructure programme for reasons of sustainability and responsible resource management.

Points of difference of Rotoroa need to be clearly articulated, agreed and developed. It might be valuable to get a clearer sense of what the other islands are doing, to clarify what Rotoroa is doing or might do, that is different.

The purpose of the vision, and the descriptions of success, is to guide thinking around these issues. In particular, **heritage**, an **arts** programme and the ability **to experience the science and practice of restoration**, are recurrent themes.

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#### MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL SPECIES

Determining management options for individual species can be challenging without a clear understanding of the infrastructure constraints – can fences be built and, if so, what principles should guide their location and aesthetic qualities? In making decisions, we need to be aware of what the various options might mean for educational opportunities for students, visitor experience and financial sustainability.

Again the vision, and the descriptions of success, should guide thinking around these issues. An important theme there is demonstrating the management of wildlife in ways that are or could be applied to urban restoration in local communities, a diverse array of sanctuaries around New Zealand and in some cases internationally. So, from the range of experiences that could be offered of a particular species (e.g. from occasionally seeing kiwi at night, in the bush, to being able to see them at close quarters in Operation Nest Egg facilities), the ones preferentially selected will be those that actively demonstrate or provide teaching opportunities for restoration science and practice, bearing in mind the financial and resource constraints (see above). For example:

- Wildlife might be sustained at a higher diversity and density than would otherwise be considered in a restoration project. It's OK to speed up nature in this context. We should not apologise but celebrate this.
- In 3.5 million years some species never came to Rotoroa, either never reaching the island or finding other places. It's OK to provide Rotoroa with the ecological attributes of those other places so that those species can be experienced on Rotoroa.
- Rotoroa should look and feel like a restoration process in action. Other islands have not chosen this path but have instead attempted to create a “wilderness” experience. This is one of Rotoroa's points of difference.

The Trust has taken on long-term responsibility for the Island and needs to plan accordingly. The Trust is approaching planning with an open mind but needs to understand all of the implications before making a decision.

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## ACCESSIBILITY

Rotoroa Island has accepted that it will not be able to provide for all levels of disability. However, it is important to consider, understand and communicate what levels can comfortably and reliably be accommodated.

Participants discussed the possibility of overnight programmes for school visits, which might increase accessibility given the time taken to get groups to and from the island. Numbers may be an issue. Camping is not an option on Rotoroa and this has already been discussed and agreed upon. For the moment, the preference would be to stick with small groups that can be catered for in the context of the existing facilities. The Superintendent's House was suggested as appropriate for use by school groups, but not the other houses.

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## POLICY CHANGE

Some of the issues and aspirations described clearly have a political element. To what extent do the Zoo and the Trust want to get into the field of changing policy?

It will be difficult, and in some cases impossible, to progress the vision and goals discussed without changing some existing government policies. The Department of Conservation has to date been very receptive to this project as it fits well with the new directions that they are taking with respect to public-private partnerships on conservation activity. There is some existing political will to change some of the current policies and practice, to ensure that community conservation projects can move forward.

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## INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT ACROSS THE HAURAKI GULF

The wildlife group has one additional issue to explore that is not yet recorded. This relates to the current management of wildlife across the Hauraki Gulf, which is not well coordinated or integrated and needs to be if resident wildlife populations are to become healthy and sustainable.

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## OVER-RIDING AND CROSS-OVER ISSUES

Over-riding issues parked on the previous day were assessed against the outputs of the meeting to ensure that each had been addressed.

### *Youth Voice*

Incorporating a youth voice into decision-making for the Island's development was considered an important component of schools programme development. The establishment of a sub-committee or some other vehicle that communicates directly with Trust members with respect to the Youth Voice was discussed. A number of options were flagged and this will be progressed.

### *Accessibility and Transport*

Both the Education and Visitor Experience groups included issues relevant to these aspects and some joint work will be needed on this as development progresses.

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## TREATY OF WAITANGI

There is a desire to identify or refer to the Treaty in some way so that it is not lost and is always a present part of the Island's development. We need to ensure that the Treaty is honoured throughout the Project.

## DISCUSSION POINTS: DESCRIPTIONS OF SUCCESS

### SUCCESS IN EDUCATION

The group had developed descriptions of success for each issue but had not had time to combine these into a single, all-encompassing description though the necessary ingredients had been developed.

Participants noted that the descriptions of success are mostly around schools programmes and requested the incorporation of content relating to tertiary education, the “Living University” etc.

Also, there was a request to consider incorporating the repeat visits idea as it relates to schools - to capture the idea that individual children will see the restoration happening over time - that they will grow up with Rotoroa Island restoration.

### SUCCESS IN VISITOR EXPERIENCE

The Visitor Experience working group discussed high-level success descriptors for their area of work. Agreed definitions of what success will look like for the wildlife and education work programmes will help shape more detailed work on issues, goals and descriptions of success for the Visitor Experience work programme.

## CLOSING REMARKS

The workshop was brought to a close by Jonathan Wilcken who thanked all of the participants for contributing their time, energy and thinking over the two days. CBSG was thanked for facilitating the meeting and in particular Caroline Lees, CBSG Australasia co-convenor, and Onnie Byers, CBSG’s Chair, who brought an international perspective to the proceedings. Glen Tupuhi, who in addition to representing Ngati Paoa at the workshop holds a number of key positions affecting the management of the Hauraki Gulf, was thanked for sharing his informed perspective.

The meeting organisers and coordinators were thanked and acknowledged for their work, in particular Claudine Gibson who had planned and managed much of the logistics of the workshop. Phil and Ginnene Salisbury’s generous assistance with, and support for, the workshop and its organisation was commended and John Gow and Barrie Brown from the Trust were thanked for their open, encouraging and supportive contributions across all areas of the discussions.

## DRAFT VISION

Rotoroa Island is rich in diversity and abundance of New Zealand wildlife and is an internationally significant model of innovative conservation management and environmental education.

Through collaboration, education, philanthropy and community engagement, the island:

- Demonstrates innovative and sustainable wildlife and environmental management that supports a biodiverse, pest-free and healthy ecosystem, both on the island and across the Hauraki Gulf.
- Is internationally **recognised?** for leadership in conservation management and training.
- Provides a role model for true sustainability and promotes environmental stewardship.
- Integrates arts, the island's heritage and wildlife conservation to offer a rich experience, **accessible[equitable]** to all, which engages visitors with Rotoroa Island and its restoration, and inspires a greater appreciation of the **[their connection] [natural] environment.**
- **Include a bullet point that reflects education programmes for schools. For example: provides unique, authentic, hands-on learning experiences in conservation restoration for students.**

## SECTION 3. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: ISSUES, GOALS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF SUCCESS

### SUCCESS IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

*An island supporting a diverse range of species, some independent and self-sustaining, others requiring ongoing management and support.*

*Breeding and release aviaries, weka-excluding lizard enclosures, nest boxes and feeding stations support the establishment of species and present a real-life and up-close experience of island species restoration practices. The horticultural nursery provides plants for island restoration and a vehicle to teach the theory and demonstrate the practice of plant propagation for conservation.*

*Boat-loads of school children experience their first taste of island conservation while students of all ages and backgrounds put theory into practice, radio-tracking kiwi and surveying lizards under the guidance of expert tutors and field biologists.*

*International and local visitors, guided by and working alongside island rangers, are overwhelmed by the astoundingly high diversity and abundance of native species, achieved through daily active management, and are inspired to 'take-home' their experience and apply the great kiwi tradition of do-it-yourself to the environmental stewardship of their home and local community.*

*Government fisheries officers are inspired to establish multiple coastal 'no-take-zones' after snorkelling among the abundance and diversity of the islands coastal marine life, guided by the projects marine conservation officer.*

*The DOC, academics, and other community conservation groups share a common understanding of the many and varied justifications for wildlife management and work together to streamline legislation and facilitate timely delivery of the Rotoroa Island wildlife management. Furthermore, the success and reputation of the project has catalysed predator eradication on surrounding islands, and has driven the establishment of integrated, multi-island programmes for the sustainable management of species populations across the Hauraki Gulf.*

### ISSUES AND ASSOCIATED GOALS

Issue 1. It is difficult to establish species options without clear guidance on the infrastructural constraints.

***Goal 1: a Rotoroa Island 'collection-plan' which identifies suitable species and their infrastructural needs and is agreed between RIT and AZ.***

Issue 2. It will be challenging to maintain BIOSECURITY – from pests and disease – on an island so close to others and with continued and considerable foot/vehicle traffic over the indefinite future. It might be considered unethical to transfer threatened species to an island without assurance of long-term commitment to biosecurity.

***Goal 2: the Rotoroa project catalyses pest-eradication and biosecurity plans for neighbouring islands.***

***Goal 3: a detailed, budgeted and approved long-term biosecurity plan for Rotoroa Island.***

Issue 3. Modern best-practice wildlife management may require actions considered unpalatable by some – e.g. culling, customary harvest and translocation. How do we achieve stakeholder understanding of and support for these actions?

***Goal 4: a Rotoroa Island wildlife management plan which identifies and explains any potentially controversial management practices.***

***Goal 5: the Rotoroa Island wildlife management plan is reviewed and updated regularly and endorsed by an ethics committee.***

***Goal 6: a communications plan is written and stakeholder spokespersons identified.***

Issue 4. Providing visitors/students with hands-on wildlife experiences will present ethical, welfare and operational challenges.

***Goal 7: opportunities and constraints for hands-on wildlife experiences are identified within the (ethics committee-reviewed) Rotoroa Island wildlife management plan.***

Issue 5. We currently have no mechanism for gathering and understanding the ‘voice of youth’, the thoughts and opinions of the generation who will inherit Rotoroa. It is crucial that we plan and deliver an experience, a project and an island that incorporates the interests and aspirations of the next generation.

***Goal 8: the Rotoroa Island project takes account of and incorporates the ‘voice of youth’, and is embraced by future generations.***

Issue 6. There are considerable legislative and bureaucratic obstacles and inertia to overcome in working with species included on the Wildlife Act. This may delay and or prevent the pace, innovation and process of the wildlife management programme on Rotoroa.

***Goal 9: DOC understands, endorses and supports the aspirations of the Rotoroa Island project, up to the very highest level.***

***Goal 10: legislative and bureaucratic obstacles to species programmes are removed.***

Issue 7. There are significant differences between organisations, and between individuals within organisations, regarding the management of small and recovering populations. Failure to agree on common principles and or new approaches may further delay or prevent translocations and wildlife management according to the project’s aspirations.

***Goal 11: the principles and justifications of the Rotoroa Island wildlife management plan are widely disseminated to professional colleagues and the wider community.***

***Goal 12: Wider issue that needs a goal drafted.....***

***Goal 13: the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi must be upheld throughout the project (this is a principle, not an issue).***

Issue 8. The purpose of wildlife management and 'role' of each species (current and aspirational) on Rotoroa need to be clearly defined to ensure comprehensive stakeholder understanding of the hows, whys and whens directing species choice and management strategies in support of the project's vision.

***Goal 14: the Rotoroa Island wildlife management and collection plans effectively communicate the principles applied in selecting and managing species, to any and all audiences.***

Issue 9. We need to establish a set of clear goals and an evaluation framework for botanical and zoological components of the Rotoroa project in order to demonstrate scientific integrity and success.

***Goal 15: the Rotoroa Island wildlife management and collection plans will clearly outline project goals and a process for regular critical review.***

Issue 10. Wildlife management in the Hauraki Gulf is not uniformly integrated and is not optimal for the management of some species across multiple localities.

***Goal 16: the Rotoroa project is in integral component of a multi-island integrated management strategy for the Hauraki Gulf and its wildlife.***

[In plenary it was noted that more work is needed around goals for this issue].

## SECTION 4. EDUCATION: ISSUES, GOALS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF SUCCESS

The Education Working Group worked at three levels, making an initial attempt to go beyond the development of goals to more specific objectives.

### SUCCESS IN EDUCATION

*Rotoroa Island's sought after environmental education programmes are a must do for all schools in the Auckland region. Schools programmes are fully booked with repeat visitation, student engagement is across curriculum levels and participation reflects the region's demographic profile. Rotoroa Island education programme design and resourcing leads best practice in education outside the classroom (EOTC) through delivery of outstanding programmes that are hands-on, experiential, curriculum-linked, offer assessments and reflect current wildlife restoration activity and integrate Rotoroa Island heritage. Internationally, students at tertiary levels seek to gain experience in Rotoroa Island conservation and wildlife programmes as their optimal choice for fieldwork skills and training.*

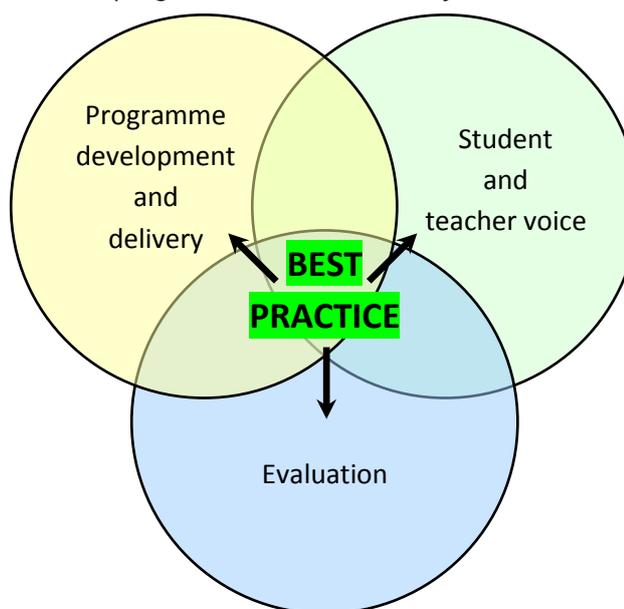


Figure 3. Model for maximising success

*Schools engage in Rotoroa Island education before, during and after field trips through interactive online resource materials, facilitation by Auckland Zoo educators, Auckland Zoo education programmes and resources (e.g. Rotoroa Island interpretation centre, Te Wao Nui) providing ongoing connection between students, Rotoroa Island activity, Auckland Zoo and other schools or stakeholders. Student revisit through differentiated programme opportunities and experience restoration on Rotoroa Island as it progresses. Evaluation feedback from students and teachers exceeds 95% positive and continues to inform programme development and delivery. Participants generate positive change and action for wildlife and the environment for Rotoroa Island, the Hauraki Gulf and in their own communities; building significant biodiversity across the region.*

*Rotoroa Island education programmes embrace, honour and acknowledge all the peoples and partnerships, past and present e.g. Treaty of Waitangi, Salvation Army, Rotoroa Island Trust and Auckland Zoo. All participants understand and appreciate the rich and diverse heritage of Rotoroa Island through scientific, artistic and socio-scientific perspectives. Stories are alive, shared appropriately and celebrated, enriching and deepening knowledge, connection and experience of Rotoroa Island for all stakeholders.*

## ISSUES AND ASSOCIATED GOALS

### **Issue 1. Attracting schools to take part in Rotoroa Island education programmes.**

*Goal 1: To demonstrate best practice in environmental education through development of Rotoroa Island education programmes that are sought after by schools.*

#### Objectives:

- develop education programmes that are hands-on, experiential and reflect restoration as it happens on Rotoroa Island. Programmes include aspects of the heritage of Rotoroa Island, meet the needs of schools, the New Zealand curriculum and employ educational strategies to build knowledge and galvanise action for wildlife and the environment. Regular ongoing programme development reflects considered input from advisory group;
- build in robust, independent and ongoing evaluation frameworks that include student and teacher voice for Rotoroa Island programme development and delivery;
- create online, interactive learning materials to build anticipation, excitement, participation and ongoing engagement in Rotoroa Island education programmes;
- establish and implement a marketing plan for Rotoroa Island education programmes;
- establish and meet visitation targets for schools participation in RI education programmes.

### **Issue 2. Schools access to Rotoroa Island education programmes is limited due to geographical location, timings, facilities and financial barriers.**

*Goal 2: To develop transport and cost structures that are equitable, transparent and sustainable in order to meet schools unique needs and that enable wider access to Rotoroa Island education programmes.*

#### Objectives:

- scope costing and uptake of existing environmental education programmes;
- establish funding structures and opportunities to minimize financial barriers;
- identify and negotiate optimal transport options;
- carry out a cost-benefit analysis of infrastructure and resource options for day or overnight programmes;
- identify further infrastructural needs (EOTC).

### **Issue 3. Rotoroa Island education programmes appeal to fewer participants due to missed opportunities to include learning of Rotoroa Island's rich heritage.**

*Goal 3: All participants in education programmes understand and appreciate the rich and diverse continuum of heritage of Rotoroa Island.*

#### Objectives:

- ensure the heritage continuum is evident in all Rotoroa Island education programmes;
- create a brains trust to collect and document stories for sharing;
- scope feasibility to publish stories from the island, ensuring intellectual property considerations are met;
- explore potential for revenue generation.

Add goals and objectives for tertiary education programmes.

## SECTION 5. VISITOR EXPERIENCE: ISSUES, GOALS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF SUCCESS

The Visitor Experience Working Group worked at a different level of issue development than the other two groups. Other issues related to the Visitor Experience work programme may emerge as more detailed pictures are built of the intended wildlife and education experiences. All three work programmes will need to articulate closely to ensure a coherent and unique “look and feel”.

### A SUCCESSFUL VISITOR EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

Everything we do inspires, educates and galvanizes action for conservation. Every turn of the track is an opening to a new theatre. Our unique proposition draws 20,000 visitors to the Island each year and our model is responsible and sustainable in all areas. Communities are engaged with our project. A strong sense of belonging, pride and passion has been fostered and every Aucklanders knows about Rotoroa and wants to come here or support what we do.

### ISSUES AND ASSOCIATED GOALS

#### **ISSUE 1. We want to bring people to the island to experience what it uniquely offers.**

Points of difference must be identified and our unique proposition ensured.

*Goal 1: agree key points of difference with other stakeholders (RIT, other collaboration, other workstreams).*

*Goal 2: maximise and promote points of difference.*

**Accessibility** may be an obstacle. The Island will need to be accessible to a broad and diverse group of people, taking into account geographic location, transport, cost, physical mobility and infrastructure capacity of the island (note that the Education Working Group is working on accessibility for the education audience).

*Goal 3: develop key attractions within close proximity of Home Bay.*

*Goal 4: attract visitation in the shoulder seasons.*

*Goal 5: focus on attracting groups - special interest, community (Church/Guides etc), volunteer, corporate.*

*Goal 6: secure a reliable affordable and convenient ferry service*

**Awareness** – people may not be sufficiently aware that Rotoroa is open for visitors, or of its plans

*Goal 7: ensure every Aucklanders knows about Rotoroa Island.*

**ISSUE 2.** We want the experience visitors have of the Island to change them in positive ways that cause them to effect change in their communities. This was flagged for further work.

## APPENDIX I: PARTICIPANT DETAILS

Participant	Affiliation	Role	Email
<b>Barrie Brown</b>	Rotoroa Island Trust	RIT Chair	<a href="mailto:bm.brown@xtra.co.n">bm.brown@xtra.co.n</a>
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<b>Participant</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Email</b>
		Coordinator	
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## APPENDIX II. AGENDA

### DAY 1:

- 08.45am Boat trip and **Task 1:** Participant Introductions
- 10.15am Arrival on Island
- 10.30am Welcome (Glen Tupuhi – Ngati Paoa)
- 10.45am Orientation, Health and Safety (Ginnene Salisbury)
- 11.00am CBSG Workshop Processes (Onnie Byers)
- 11.15am Information sharing (15 minute presentations)
- I. Rotoroa Island Trust – concepts and values for the island (Barrie Brown)
  - II. Island history and development milestones (Phil Salisbury and Jo Ritchie)
  - III. A role for Auckland Zoo in island restoration (Jonathan Wilcken)
- 12.00pm **Task 2A:** Imagining an Ideal Future (working groups and plenary)
- 13.00pm LUNCH
- 14.00pm Plenary: Ideal Future Presentations
- 15.00pm **Task 2B:** Building a VISION (working groups)
- 16.00pm Plenary: Vision Statement Presentations and Identification of Work Programmes:  
Issue Generation
- 17.00pm **Task 3A:** Draft Issue Statements (Work Programme working groups)
- 19.00pm BREAK FOR DINNER
- 20.00pm Evening talks (10 mins each)
- I. Ngati Paoa’s aspirations for and connection to, Rotoroa Island (Glen Tupuhi)
  - II. Rotoroa Island and the Arts (John Gow)
  - III. Wildlife Management – options and implications (Ian Fraser)
  - IV. Schools Programme – options and implications (Tali Jellyman)
- 21.30pm End of Day 1

### DAY 2

- 08.30am Plenary presentation by VISION synthesis group
- 09.00am **Task 3B:** Develop work programme goals (working groups)
- 11.00am Plenary presentations and discussion
- 12.00pm **Task 3C:** Define what work programme success looks like (working groups)

13.00pm	LUNCH
14.00pm	Presentations of descriptions of work programme success
14.30pm	Next steps and closing remarks
15.00pm	Depart for ferry