

## International Volunteer Information

A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand offers a limited number of volunteer opportunities for international applicants. Most of our international volunteers join us through funded programmes, workplace opportunities, or as part of their studies.

However, we warmly welcome people with the skills, experience, and motivation to contribute to our work. The following information outlines key expectations and guidelines for international volunteers.

### **AGE:**

The minimum age for overseas applicants is 20 years. Exceptions may be considered, particularly where volunteering or internships form part of formal study programmes.

### **VISA:**

A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand is **NOT** able to assist with visa applications. Volunteers must arrange and obtain the appropriate visa independently.

New Zealand immigration policy allows visitors on a visitor visa to undertake unpaid voluntary work, provided no gain or reward is received.

All volunteers must therefore **fully self-supporting** and able to cover all accommodation, food, and personal costs during their stay. Volunteers should also bring skills that can contribute meaningfully to our projects.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

Te Whakaoranga o Karioi ([The Karioi Project](#)) is our primary site for international volunteers. Based in Whāingaroa Raglan, this long-running community restoration project has been connecting people with nature since 2009.

The project works across a landscape stretching from mountain to sea, linking two maunga, two harbours, and a nationally significant wetland system. Together, this covers over 23,000 hectares of land and waterways.

Key areas of work include:

- Predator control
- Seabird monitoring
- Wetland and forest restoration
- Environmental education

Thanks to sustained community effort – including landowners, volunteers, and backyard trappers – native bird species are returning and breeding across the landscape.

Alongside biodiversity work, we run environmental education programmes for young people through:

- After-school “living classroom” experiences
- The Manaaki Ao programme, delivered in partnership with Raglan Area School

These initiatives aim to grow the next generation of kaitiaki and create pathways into conservation careers.

Our overarching goal is to connect people with nature and inspire care for the environment, contributing to resilient ecosystems and communities.

### **COSTS:**

Volunteers must be fully self-supporting and able to cover all accommodation, food, and personal expenses during their stay.

### **Estimated weekly budget (NZD)**

- Accommodation: \$250–350 (shared or boarding-style)

- Food: \$120–200

- Transport and personal costs: \$130–200

Approximate total: \$500–750 per week

Costs will vary depending on lifestyle, location, and accommodation arrangements.

Volunteers are responsible for arranging and paying for their own accommodation. Information about local options can be provided on request, including opportunities to board with members of the wider community or project network. These arrangements are private, optional, and independent of A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand.

### **SKILLS REQUIRED:**

We welcome volunteers with a wide range of practical and professional skills that can support our work. These may include:

- Conservation and ecology
- Environmental education
- Communications and storytelling
- Gardening and land-based work
- DIY, building, and maintenance
- Administration and organisational support

A full driver licence and confidence driving in rural New Zealand conditions is highly beneficial. As the Karioi Project is based in a rural area with limited public transport, access to a vehicle is an advantage – particularly for longer stays. Where possible, opportunities for carpooling or shared transport with staff or other volunteers may be available, depending on schedules and capacity.

Please include a CV, résumé, or portfolio with your application, outlining your relevant skills and experience and how these could contribute to our projects.

### **CHARACTER REQUIRED:**

The Karioi Project team is a small, collaborative team supported by a large volunteer community. We are looking for people who are:

- Enthusiastic and adaptable
- Willing to learn and take initiative
- Comfortable working independently and as part of a team
- Open to a variety of tasks

We value diversity and inclusion. At the same time, volunteers should be supportive of the [core commitments](#) that shape A Rocha's life and work.

### **LENGTH OF TIME:**

A minimum of 2 weeks and up to 6 months.

### **INSURANCE:**

Volunteers are strongly encouraged to have comprehensive travel insurance.

A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand does not accept responsibility for accidents, loss, or damage to personal belongings.

### **BEFORE YOU APPLY:**

Please ensure you can answer "yes" to the following:

- Can you arrange your own visa to visit New Zealand?
- Can you fully self-fund your stay (accommodation, food, and personal costs)?
- Do you have skills that will contribute to our work?
- Are you enthusiastic, flexible, motivated, and willing to learn?
- Are you comfortable working as part of a team?
- Are you supportive of A Rocha's core commitments?

We look forward to hearing from you if you meet all the above criteria.

If you have any further questions, please contact us at: [new.zealand@arocha.org](mailto:new.zealand@arocha.org)