

## **Rotokare Sanctuary Gets Significant Funding**

The Rotokare Wildlife Sanctuary is to receive funding from the Government's Significant Community Based Projects Fund from this year's allocation.

The grant of (\$578,699) is for the construction of a predator-proof fence, and pest destruction, to create a secure, pest-free, environment around a 230ha forested catchment, wetland and lake at Rotokare. The grant will also assist in the funding of walking tracks and a visitors carpark.

Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon Rick Barker said that as well as promoting environmental and biodiversity conservation, the project will provide education and visitor opportunities.

"This project will bring significant conservation benefits, both locally and nationally, by protecting indigenous biodiversity, and by providing educational opportunities and as an ideal venue for community conservation projects, he said.

"With the Sanctuary's natural lake and wetlands it will add to the national network of sanctuaries and assist in the recovery effort of the western North Island brown kiwi. This project complements the work of Karori Wildlife Sanctuary and, one of last year's successful applicants to the fund, Maungatautari Ecological Island as well as other existing conservation initiatives."