

Robin adoption project launched

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NEW PARENTS: Janene Maguire and John Black are the first to adopt a North Island robin – an initiative to boost robin numbers in Whakatane and Ohope reserves. Photo supplied

JANENE Maguire and John Black are the first two people to take up the challenge of adopting one of the North Island robin's heading to Whakatane in August.

Both were eager to help the Whakatane Kiwi Trust with its latest endeavour – translocating 40 robins from Mokoia Island, in Lake Rotorua, to Ohope Scenic Reserve, Whakatane Kiwi Trust executive officer Lynda Walter said.

Mrs Maguire and Mr Black each bought the 'Gold Adoption Package', which includes an invite to attend the release on August 9 and open the box containing their robin.

Mrs Walter said Ohope Beach Top 10 Holiday Park owner Mrs Maguire had already started to promote the robin translocation by including information in the holiday park's newsletter.

The park was developing kids club activities for the Christmas holidays that linked to its new North Island robin family member, with the help of the Whakatane Kiwi Trust.

Mrs Walter said the translocation was part of the trust's vision to restore and enhance biodiversity in Whakatane and Ohope reserves.

It would boost the robin population already present in the Whakatane Kiwi Project area.

"This is a very small remnant population and the introduction of additional birds from Mokoia Island will ensure the species successfully recovers," she said.

Robins needed consistently low numbers of rodents to survive and a translocation of this kind would not have been considered prior to establishment of the Whakatane Kiwi Project.

To learn more about the robin adoption challenge contact the Whakatane Kiwi Trust – www.whakatanekiwi.org.nz.