



Experience a different 9 to 5

with a summer job at the

Department of Conservation

Photo: Petrus Hedman

Ranger, Tara Iti/NZ Fairy Tern

Location	Various Locations Auckland and Northland
Dates of Employment	7 th September 2026 – 19 th February 2027
Salary	Salary range based on skills and experience is \$61,189 - \$67,446

Mō te tūranga | About the role

The New Zealand Fairy Tern/ Tara iti is New Zealand's rarest endemic breeding bird. There are currently fewer than 45 birds left in the population. The survival of this species is supported by a dedicated team of DOC staff.

We are looking for Rangers to work as part of the team supporting the tara iti protection and recovery. Working within the Tara iti Operations Team, you will contribute to intensive conservation efforts during the breeding season. You may be working across multiple coastal sites in Auckland and Northland, with each Ranger focussing on a primary site and being able to help out at other sites as needed. This role focuses on protecting nesting birds, managing threats, and engaging with volunteers and the public to support conservation outcomes.

Key Tasks

- Monitor and protect tara iti breeding pairs, eggs and chicks
- Undertake predator control including trapping and dispatch of predators
- Assist with nest protection and management
- Liaise with volunteers to coordinate site activities
- Engage with the public through advocacy, education, and compliance
- Prepare weekly updates and contribute to end-of-season reports
- Support work across multiple sites as required
- Assist with site maintenance and infrastructure at all sites

Ngā pūkenga me ngā wheako | Skills and experience

- Strong observation and monitoring skills in field environments
- Ability to work independently and as part of a small team
- Self-motivated with a good work ethic

- Comfortable working outside in all conditions
- Strong communication skills, including working with volunteers and the public
- Ability to prioritise tasks, adapt, and problem-solve in dynamic situations
- Good written communication skills and ability to produce reports
- Competency using Microsoft Office and basic data recording tools
- Full New Zealand driver's licence

Desirable:

- Experience in predator control (including trapping and dispatch)
- Comfortable using hand tools
- Experience working in conservation or wildlife monitoring
- 4WD and/or LUV experience (training can be provided)

Mō te tīma | About the team/Location

The Tara Iti program operates across multiple coastal sites including Mangawhai, Waipū, Pāpakanui, Pākiri, and Te Ārai. As a seasonal Ranger, you'll be placed at a primary site and may be expected to work at other sites depending on the needs of the program. You will be supported by teams from Whangārei and Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

Additional Information

Roster: Rangers work 5 days on/ 2 days off with days off during the week. All Rangers are expected to work weekends and public holidays including Christmas. This is a full-time 40hr/ week role with flexible working hours depending on the work.

Accommodation:

DOC provides accommodation support with shared/ basic accommodation if needed. Rangers with existing local accommodation are encouraged to use it.

Number of positions: 7

Me he pātai anō, whakapā mai | For further enquiries

Please contact Kate Sparks ksparks@doc.govt.nz