

# Education News

Term 1 - 2024

## Highlights of 2023



Last year saw over 1600 students visit the sanctuary from 28 different schools. Our most popular programme was once again Conservation and Biodiversity from within our Eco-Detectives branch, with our level 1 NCEA programme coming in for a close second. Students from across Taranaki ages 3 to 18 have had the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of New Zealand environmental conservation, gain new skills, and have fun while doing it.

Last year we had multiple opportunities to collaborate with other education providers, including TRC and ETEC. We plan to continue more throughout 2024.



Photo: North Taranaki Home School Education, collaboration visit with Emily Roberts from TRC.

Kia ora koutou,

Happy New Year! I hope you all got a much-needed rest over the summer holidays and are ready to get back into teaching mode.

Over the holidays I have been redeveloping the Eco-Detectives programmes to be more interactive and I've designed some new games to further progress the conservation skills of our tamariki.

There is still some availability for Term 1, but I'm almost fully booked. So, get in fast!

Ngā mihi,  
Penelope Thomas

## NZ Curriculum

Our Education Programme fulfills the **Nature of Science** strand of the NZ curriculum and centres on the following Learning Areas:

- **Science:** Living World
- **Social Science:** Place and Environment
- **Technology:** Technology and Society

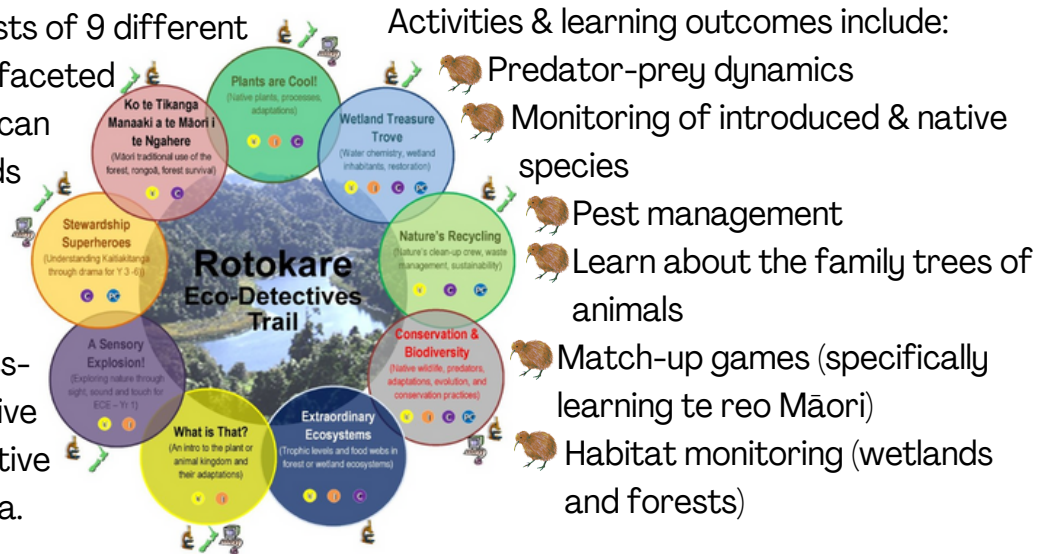


We are providers of 'Enriching Local Curriculum'. For more information, please follow the link below.

## What can your ākonga do at Rotokare?

The education programme consists of 9 different units each with unique and multi-faceted learning opportunities. The visits can cater to specific curriculum needs with activities and learning outcomes to match topics that your ākonga are learning in class. I have been redeveloping the classroom content to include interactive games that will leave lasting positive memories for your visiting ākonga.

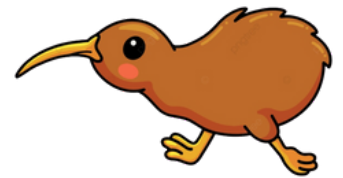
Activities & learning outcomes include:



- Predator-prey dynamics
- Monitoring of introduced & native species
- Pest management
- Learn about the family trees of animals
- Match-up games (specifically learning te reo Māori)
- Habitat monitoring (wetlands and forests)



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| <b>Learning Areas (with Contextual Strand)</b> | <b>Nature of Science (NoS) Achievement Aims</b> |
| Science (Living World Strand)                  | Understanding Science                           |
| Social Science (Place and Environment Strand)  | Investigating Science                           |
| Technology (Technology and Society Strand)     | Communicating in Science                        |
|  | Participating and Contributing to Science       |



In 2023 we welcomed 12 junior Ambassadors to participate in a year-long journey that would see them learning about Rotokare and the conservation work we do. Highlights included 9 workshops with fun activities, and observing and participating in bird monitoring tools (getting to witness a Hīhi being banded). The absolute highlight of the year was our weekend trip to Wellington, where we visited Zealandia, local wetlands, and Island Bay Marine Reserve. 5 of these ambassadors have continued into 2024 as Senior Ambassadors.

## Ambassadors



Our 5 senior Ambassadors of 2023 completed a year-long programme focused on building their leadership, mentoring, and public communication skills. The ambassadors developed their teamwork skills, learnt about the diverse environmental field, as well as conservation ethics. The ambassadors were involved with public night tours and mentored the junior ambassadors. Another highlight of their year was our weekend trip visiting Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery and Ngā Manu Conservation Reserve.



As part of the Senior Ambassador programme, the tamariki must complete a conservation project. In 2023, our cohort decided they wanted to raise money and awareness for Rotokare Scenic Reserve. They ran a stall during the Taranaki Garden Festival and raised over \$300!





## Rotokare Updates



We have welcomed two new staff to the Rotokare whānau in the last few months; Adrian (left) has joined us as our new General Manager and Lance (right) has joined the team as our new Halo Ranger. Both are Taranaki born and raised! Adrian worked as a senior fisheries officer and wanted to progress further within the conservation field. As an avid photographer, and a lover of birds, Rotokare has always been an important place to him. In his spare time, he works on his own private sanctuary (~2ha), which he has been working on revegetating and removing pests from for the last 6 years.



Lance's background is broad and the skills he was picking up was ultimately working towards the goal of landing his dream job, which he says he now has! He has been volunteering with TKT as a kiwi handler for the past few years, and is keen to continue developing his skills.



We are extremely lucky at Rotokare to have such a hardworking and passionate team of volunteers. Some of whom were recognised late last year for their contributions. Graham Wells (left), Andrea Shepherd (bottom), and Paul Mackle (right).



*Thank you!*



Peppa, our Dauvacell's Gecko was thrilled to move into her new home, made by 2 of our wonderful volunteers, Wietze and Rei. She has loved exploring and would love to show off her new home to your tamariki!



## Semester 1 Holidays

If any of your tamariki are nature lovers, make sure to show them what's in store for the Term 1 School holidays at Rotokare. There will be a day of arts and crafts, a Rotokare Rangers day to learn about hands on conservation tools, and a round of our famous Survival Game which tackles predator prey dynamics and why our actions are important for the health of the environment.

