

## Rotokare Education News

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# Education News

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Kia ora

Happy new year. I hope everyone has had some time to connect with friends and whānau and find some quiet time over the last month or so.

But I know we are all prepping for another busy term and a busy year ahead - in particular adjusting to the new curriculum

Sophie Herlihy  
Environmental Educator

*Picture to right: Me with my junior (now seniors in 2023) Ambassadors at Island Bay Marine Reserve*



Book in for Term 2 & beyond

## Enriching Local Curriculum @ Rotokare



Rotokare is the ancestral home of Ngāti Tupaia, hapū of Tāngahoe and Ngāti Ruanui iwi. Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust has always worked closely with Ngāti Tupaia and is honoured to receive the status of hau kāinga / people of the land at Rotokare.

Local knowledge is the foundation of Rotokare Reserve and continues to evolve - this narrative is one that is shared within all visits to Rotokare, but digging a little deeper in our history is our new programme...

### **Aotearoa New Zealand Histories**

With this history/social studies programme, we explore Rotokare's human and ecological history and its impact through three epochs—post 1880 with Ngāti Tupaia, the colonial reign with Hāwera Borough Council, and the modern age under the confluence of South Taranaki District Council, Ngāti Tupaia, and Rotokare Trust.

This timeline offers:

- Rotokare's history and importance in the eyes of mana whenua
- The impact of colonialisation on Rotokare and its inhabitants
- The consequences of history on conservation at Rotokare

Content can be adjusted for any age range, from junior primary through to senior high.

[Book Now](#)

## 2022 Record Numbers

In 2022 Rotokare was extra popular, with a grand total of just over 2000 students engaging with our education programs! Not bad for a small operation. The last time we topped 2000 in a year was 2013. The feedback from many kaiako was it was the first fieldtrip they had managed to take in a while - what better place to cure classroom cabin fever!

The trend continues, and term 1 is packed full with NCEA students planning to visit Rotokare to collect data for science and biology standards.

We love sharing this special space with as many ākonga and their families as possible. If you're thinking about coming out to see us, try and touch base nice and early. We're taking bookings for term 2 and beyond NOW!





Our (almost complete) new outdoors Bush Classroom is an awesome outdoors space of boardwalks and education 'huts' which weave through the beautiful native bush here at Rotokare to further enhance our ever popular year-round education and community engagement programmes.

This fantastic project has been built with the help of many supporters and volunteers so far and we now need YOUR HELP to finish the construction of this wonderful project.

We are holding 4 working bees during January from 9am to 4pm and would love if you'd like to come along and help on any (or all!) of these dates:

- Friday 20 January
- Saturday 21 January
- Friday 27 January
- Saturday 28 January

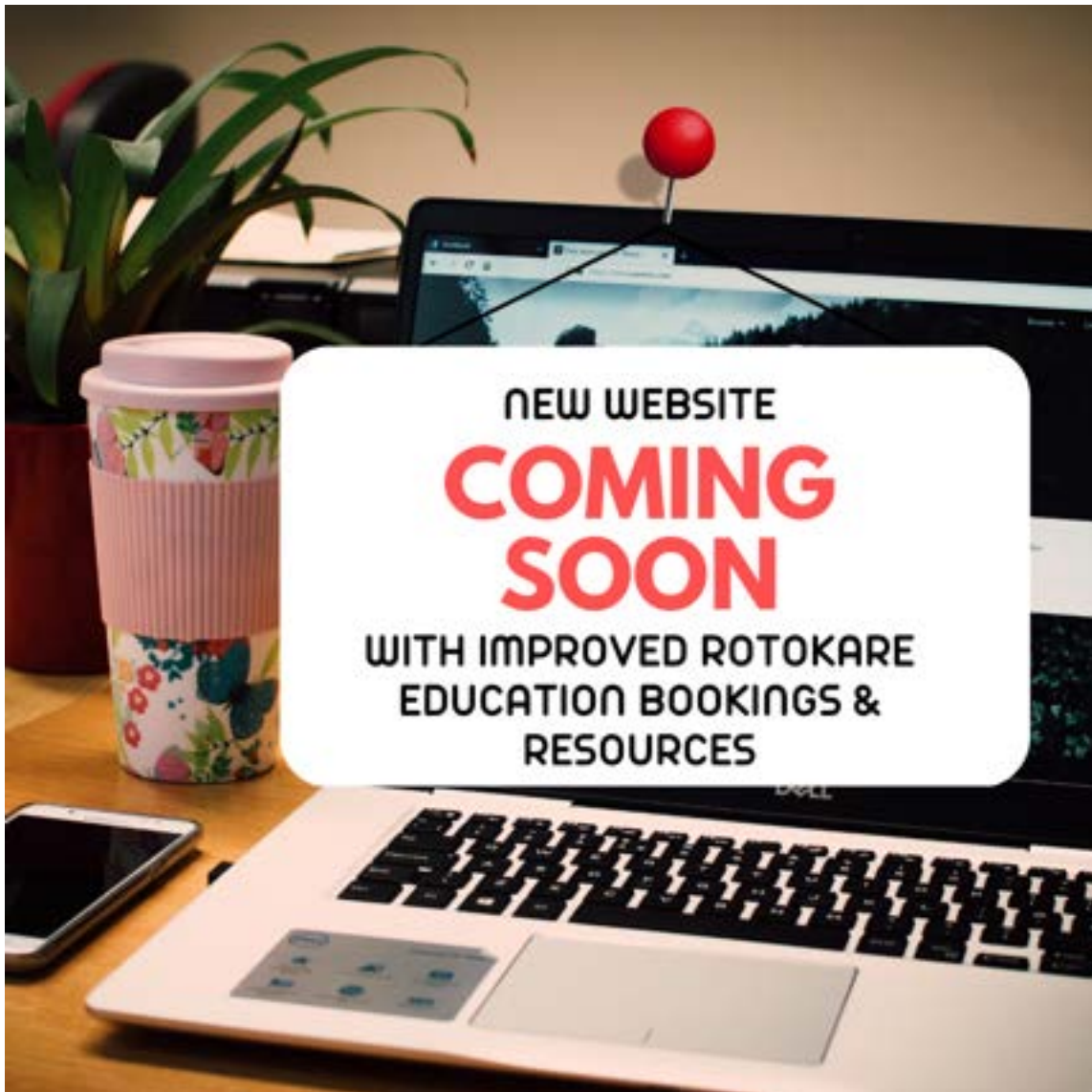
The work will be supervised by an experienced builder and will include:

- digging holes and measuring, cutting, cementing posts
- measuring, cutting, installing bearers, joists, decking, handrails, balustrades
- measuring, cutting, fixing exterior ply cladding to walls
- clearing / sweeping away fallen and overgrown vegetation
- carrying materials up & down steps & sloped boardwalk

- making refreshments and washing u

A BBQ lunch and end of day beer (or two!) will be provided to show our appreciation.

Contact me at [educator@rotokare.org.nz](mailto:educator@rotokare.org.nz) or Tricia at [contact@rotokare.org.nz](mailto:contact@rotokare.org.nz)



**2023 Youth Ambassadors - Applications Closing Soon**



**APPLY NOW!**

Rotokare  
**Ambassador**  
Programme

We're looking for year 6/7/8 students that are:

- Passionate about the environment and wildlife
- Keen to get stuck into conservation mahi
- Eager to grow, learn & make new friends

**Become the future of conservation**  
*& have fun!*

with this award-winning, year-long education program based in the beautiful, unique surrounds of Rotokare Reserve



**Build skills and knowledge in:**

- Biodiversity
- Day/Night tour guiding
- Wildlife monitoring
- Science communication
- Leadership and teamwork

**Experience unique events, such as:**

- Hands-on workshops
- Wildlife encounters
- Conservation in action
- Community events
- Field trips/overnight camp

**For more information:**

[www.rotokare.org.nz/education/youth-ambassador-program](http://www.rotokare.org.nz/education/youth-ambassador-program)  
or contact Sophie on  
06 764-8500 / 027 824 3330 [educator@rotokare.org.nz](mailto:educator@rotokare.org.nz)

**Applications close 31th Jan 2023      Spaces are limited!**



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

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

Specific NCEA Achievement Objectives are available for schools to utilise (other units can be developed with an interested school/teacher as required). All objectives offered come as a complete resource (assessment/marking matrix and other resources students/teachers need to complete the standard).

### Got an idea?

Rotokare's education doesn't just stop at our structured offerings. Discussion, ideas, and collaboration is welcomed with open arms. Make use of our on site educator and unique natural environment to connect your school, workplace, group, or community to te taiao.

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