



Education News

Education updates

Term 3 - 2024

Term 3

Despite the cold, wet and (very nearly) snow we had a pretty packed term four here at Rotokare.

St Josheph's school came out to do a discover your schoolyard day. The first day was spend at school taking note of what they found in their school yard, then they came out to Rotokare to compare to what we see here and compare the differences in results.

In September, we saw a mix of visitors. Molly Ryan rest home came out and imparted much wisdom on our Educator. Trainee trapper group Tupu a Nuku came out to have a trapping run down on how we run things at Rotokare. They also got some expert advice from Halo Ranger Lance. Pests watch out for this new group of trappers!



Term 4

Term four is packed with schools. As the weather warms, and the end of year approaches it's the perfect time to be enjoying the bird chorus and maybe do some learning while you are at it! We have had two schools already come through on the first week of term, it was a sunning day for both. A few special days for Cassie was when Sacred Heart Girls Collage came out, some of her old teachers were in attendance and she got to teach the joy of conservation biology to classes she was once in! It's already starting to warm up here so get in quick for the last few education visits in 2024



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.
www.rotokare.org.nz



Ambassador Field Trips

The ambassadors have been all over on their field trips. The Senior Ambassadors started their trip in Palmerston North at Wild Base. Learning about some of the amazing work they do there. They saw some pretty special species we don't usually see here at Rotokare and picked up some bird first aid tips from the professionals. They then headed down to Ngā Manu Nature Reserve in Waikanae.



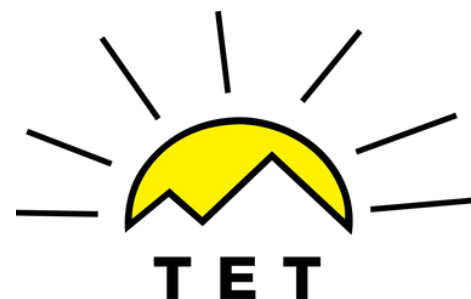
They took a tour of their facilities and showed us how day to day life looks at the reserve. Again, we saw some amazing species that aren't usually spotted. For some the highlight was a friendly Kaka making its way around the group sniffing shampoo, for those less bird inclined, it was their nightmare. The Juniors headed down to Wellington where they did some tours at Zealandia, getting up close and personal with a Kiwi. Then headed to Island Bay Marine Center where they were stoked to get their hands wet in the touch pools. Finally, they stopped at Pāuatahanui to see some of the cool wetland birds there!



Ambassador Applications Open:

Ambassador application will be open to Tamariki ages 9-12 for the Junior Ambassador program. We intake a small amount each year into the Junior Program and then those selected get the opportunity apply for the senior program then the mentor program. This program consists of two meetings per term on Sundays at Rotokare and an out of region field trip.

If you know someone who would be interested in applying for the ambassador program, or would like more information, contact the Educator Cassie at educator@rotokare.org.nz





Biodiversity

We have had a new release in the Sanctuary, three striped skinks have been released into the Sanctuary with hopefully more to come soon!

These skinks are very cryptic and not much is known about them, they are one of few arboreal skink species and can be found high up trees or closer to the ground. Release day was a very special one for us here, we had representative attend from Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Tupaia and Waka Kotahi present. The three skinks were named on release Rimu, Clearly and Pirirākau



We hope these three little guys will be the start of a new population here at Rotokare. While there have been no detections of Striped Skink inside the Sanctuary there have been sighting close by. We look forward to having a thriving population of these amazing taonga.



Site Work

We have a few work sites around the lake at the moment. The main one being the new information shelter going up. This is beside the walk at the far end of the carpark. We also have some work being done on the fence as we are replacing/ adding screws to our fence in an effort to create an even more secure barrier. The ridge walk is also getting some new metal placed down on it to make it a bit more user friendly

Tracking card run.

We have a full sanctuary tracking card run coming up. Cards are going out on starting on the 20th. If you would like to come help out, see our Facebook page for more details.