



Education News

Education updates

Term 3 - 2025



Term 2

Among a term packed with students, one of the standout moments of Term Two was Moturoa's involvement in a pāteke release. It was an incredibly special day, with some of the Wildbase crew joining the release, as their captive breeding pair had been retired, and some of their offspring were being released at Rotokare.

Term 3

Despite the wild and windy weather, Term Three was packed with tamariki enjoying the ngahere! We welcomed an incredible number of students throughout the term. TOPEC returned for round two of their trapping programme, braving weather just as wild as last time! Local schools, including Ngaere School, joined us, along with the Homeschool Group, who took on the survival game. It was fantastic to see kids as young as five getting stuck in and loving it, proof that outdoor fun really is for all ages!



Term 4

We're in for a stunner in Term Four (I'm just manifesting this for all of us)! As winter breaks and summer rolls in, we have a flurry of students coming to Rotokare for Twilight tours and end-of-year fun days. And then, another year will come to a close!



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

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

Ambassador Field Trips



The Senior Ambassadors went off on their annual trip to Wildbase and Nga Manu. This year, the group was lucky to have a behind-the-scenes guided tour from Geoff at Wildbase and get to quiz Wildbase technician Bex on all her knowledge. The group then drove on to

Levin to get settled for the night, but not before a quick detour to Prose Bush to find some native giant snails! Although we had no luck finding live ones, they did find some shells. The next day, the ambassadors were off to Ngā Manu, where they were lucky enough to get behind the scenes and learn about their space. They even got to see a Kiwi health check, which was an extra special surprise for our ambassadors.



The Junior Ambassadors made their way to Wellington to visit the amazing Zealandia. They toured the space, meeting some friendly kaka and spotting some amazing

Tuatara. The next day, the Juniors visited Island Bay Marine Education Centre, where they were able to see some cool sea critters! The crew then started to make their way home, with a pit stop at Pāuatahanui, where we spotted some of the fernbirds translocated from Rotokare!

Ambassador Applications 2026

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for the opening of 2026 Ambassador Applications.

These will open early December and close the end of January if you are interested please get in touch with Cassie our educator at: education@rotokare.org.nz



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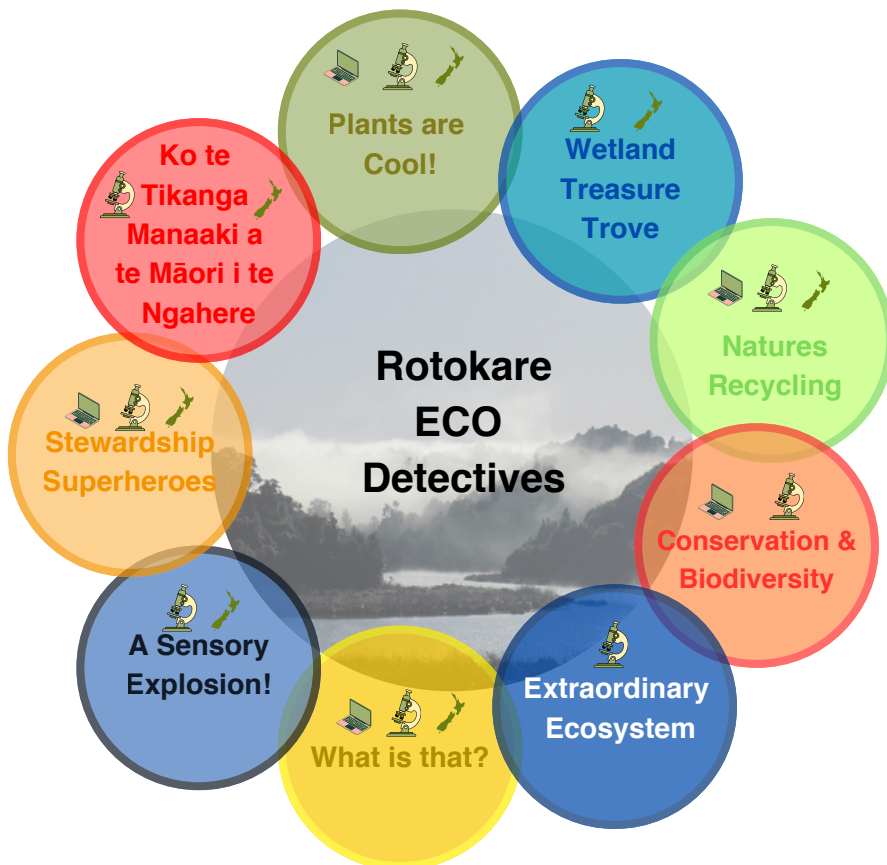
2026 Offers

Ever wondered what Rotokare offers ākonga? We have a variety of different programs in our eco-detectives space.

These are designed to simulate curiosity, create eco-warriors and teach about Rotokare's history.

At Rotokare, we let the ngāhere be our Kaiako as we show the ākonga what this space has to offer, and the role people play in its protection. This experience is only \$5.00 per student. Join us in one of our two bush classrooms, discover our wetlands or take time to learn about how our space has evolved and changed over time.

Our programme is a bespoke experience that is built together with kaiako to ensure that learners get a rich learning experience at Rotokare Sanctuary.



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Mahoenui Giant Wētā



For some time, Rotokare has been in conversation with the Mahoenui giant wētā recovery group on whether Rotokare can support recovery efforts for this unique and threatened invertebrate. Following on from the successful captive breeding set up at Ōtorohanga kiwi house, the recovery group approached Rotokare about being a release site for some of their taonga.

The Rotokare team hosted some of the recovery group and technical advisors earlier this year to build relationships and to make sure these wētā would have all they needed to survive and thrive here at Rotokare. The recovery group were happy with what they saw, and we are working towards securing a permit to restore a population at Rotokare. Watch out for further developments.

Phase Two of the Fence Remediation Project.

We are at phase two of the fence remediation project. The team are replacing the southern hood brackets due to rust occurrence. The southern side of the fence is the only side affected by this rust, so focus will just be on this section of the fence.



This project involves checking, then repairing or replacing 16,000 hood brackets. Just like the screw project, this is part of our ongoing fence remediation project to strengthen the fence and keep it standing for another 10 years.