

Term 3

Education News

www.rotokare.org.nz



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Te Tihuhu o te Mātauranga

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Welcome

- Term 3 has arrived! It feels like 2012 is going twice as fast as 2011. I hope everyone was able to take some time out to recharge over the holiday break.
- Congratulations to Melissa and Aaron. Mum and dad to new arrival Cohen Scott Jacobson. Many visitors will have noticed educator Melissa's baby bump in the last few months. Several staff were getting a bit nervous that Cohen might arrive earlier than planned. Our fingernails can grow back now.
- Melissa will be back – possibly with a little apprentice - working part time in the very near future.

Nathan Hills
Environmental Educator

More Kiwi Have Arrived!

The exciting news is 4 more kiwi (2 pairs) are now running around Rotokare. This has boosted the total population at Rotokare to 6 birds. A small invited group of people were lucky enough to see the new arrivals before they were released.

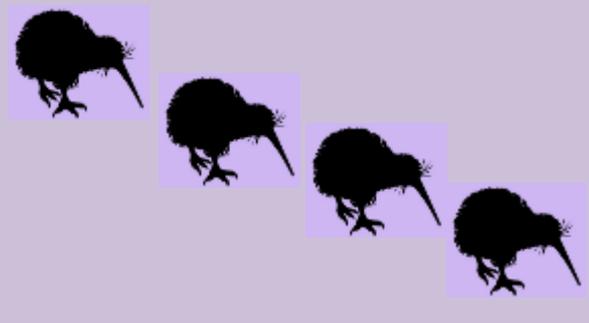
These kiwi are just the start and more are planned to arrive in the near future. They have been sourced from the nearby Mangamingi area where no pest control is occurring. Young birds' chances of survival in areas without pest control is less than 5%. In Rotokares pest free environment they will find more food, no introduced pests and lots of new friends.

Rotokare Calendar



Term 3, 2012

- Term 3 is traditionally the quietest teaching term understandably because of the predictable wet and cold weather. You can however take advantage of the winter warmer double deal. See the details below.
- Get in quick to book your class/school visit for term 4.



Other News:

Behind the scenes staff and volunteers have been working away on a variety of projects. Just behind the education classroom a **courtyard** has been under construction. This is almost finished - only a few weeks to go - and will provide another exciting teaching space and sit down area during lunchtimes.

Connected to the courtyard we will also have a **lizard enclosure**. This will house a number of special reptilian friends that are known to live in Rotokare. Interestingly we did not detect lizards prior to the construction of the fence and pest eradication. It is only in the past six or so months that prints and sightings have occurred. It just goes to show how pests can really suppress some of our native species.

This happy water loving frog (**Southern Bell Frog, *Litoria raniformis***) and others have been seen on occasion when staff have been checking the fence for rabbit holes. Although it is an introduced species it does not have the same appetite as an equivalent sized mammal and so are not considered a major threat to the reserves wildlife.



They have a few strategies to avoid being caught and eaten. These including jumping out of harm's way, hiding, puffing themselves up to look really big and lastly scream! I've only ever experienced one scream once and it made me... jump!

Be Aware!

Rats and mice use vehicles to shelter in.

A few weeks ago my parents caught 4 rats inside their relatively new motorhome in 3 days. Vehicles are one threat to the reserves pest free status. Set a trap inside or near your vehicle just to be sure.



Winter Warmer Double Deal!



"Who wants to get cold in winter? For term 3 only, we will come to you!"



1. Book the Rotokare educator for a school visit in term 3 –students will be able to have an "ask an expert" session with me. Who will bring along relevant activities, props, and information direct to your classroom.



2. In term 4 bring your class out to Rotokare to conclude your topic with a high quality, hands-on programme and guided walk around Taranaki's only large fenced predator-free wildlife sanctuary, and New Zealand's largest fenced wetland.



Topics Available: *Plants are Cool* and
Wetland Treasure Trove



**Book NOW! Call 06 764 8500 or email
educator@rotokare.org.nz**



Rats and mice are sneaky; they live where ever humans live.

If you are visiting Rotokare this summer, please take a minute to **stop**, and **check** (your bags, boat and vehicles) for pesty stowaways.

Thanks for helping us stay pest-free!

