

Term 2

Education News

www.rotokare.org.nz



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Te Tihuhu o te Mātauranga

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Welcome

- I trust you all had an enjoyable term 1 holiday break, and are back into the swing of a new school term?
- We have had a great start to 2012 here at Rotokare, with huge student numbers, close to the same amount of students in term 1 this year as all of 2011.
- I am welcoming a new baby to my family in mid June, so am taking maternity leave from the middle of term 2 through to term 4, when I will be back part time. We have hired another environmental educator Nathan Hills, to take care of visiting schools while I am away. Learn more about Nathan in this newsletter.
- We are offering our winter warmer promotion again for term 3 and 4 this year, see the following page for more information.

Melissa Jacobson
Environmental Educator

Introducing Nathan Hills

Nathan is joining the Rotokare team to cover for Melissa while she is on maternity leave. He grew up in Toko, and has always pursued his interest in the environment, and is now an experienced environmental educator. Nathan gained a Science degree majoring in Zoology and a post graduate teaching diploma. Previous organisations he has worked for include Canterbury and Puke Ariki Museums, the Department of Conservation and the *60 spring's* project. Nathan has been called



many nick names

ranging from 'frog man' to 'penguin guy', all related to research projects he has used to engage people in the outdoors and the natural environment.

Rotokare Calendar



Term 2, 2012

- ▶ Weeks 1-5 of term 2 are fully booked
- ▶ Bookings being taken for school trips to Rotokare for weeks 6-11 of term 2, and all weeks of terms 3 and 4.
- ▶ Bookings being taken for winter warmer term 3/4 deal
- ▶ World Environment Day – 5th June
Why not book a visit to coincide with this special day!

Term 1, 2012

We urge all schools, new and those who are repeat visitors to Rotokare, to get in quick for term 1 and 2 2013, to avoid disappointment, as they are proving to be the most popular terms for participating schools.

1029 students, from 28 classes and 15 different schools utilised the Rotokare EE Programme from Taranaki and even Whanganui last term!

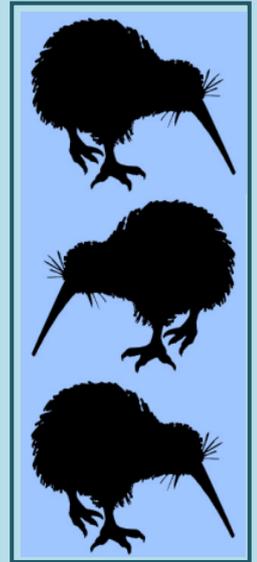


Students from Pembroke School, listening to Melissa.

New Kiwi Project @ Rotokare

We are excited to be able to let you know that planning is well underway for a permanent kiwi population at Rotokare. Over the last 18 months we have been créching kiwi chicks until they reach a stoat proof age, and ready for release to the wild. Now we are working with Taranaki Kiwi Trust to start a new kiwi project – also known as ‘kohanga kiwi’.

As Rotokare has none of the usual threats to kiwi such as stoats or dogs, it’s expected that the 40 kiwi released over the next few years will do extremely well. While only 5% of kiwi chicks survive to adulthood in the wild, it wouldn’t be unreasonable to expect a pair to successfully raise 2 – 4 chicks per year at a site like Rotokare. Once numbers build up, we will then be in a position to regularly transport ‘surplus’ kiwi to new unfenced wild sites around the region. The ultimate goal is for North Island Brown kiwi to be abundant again. For more information on this project or ideas on how to incorporate a visit to Rotokare with a classroom topic on kiwi and conservation email or give us a call (06) 764 8500, educator@rotokare.org.nz



NEW Unit Available !

Ko te Tikanga Manaaki i te Ngahere

(Maori use of the Forest)

We are now taking bookings for Rotokare’s newest unit

When māori arrived in Aotearoa, there weren’t any supermarkets or hospitals, so they relied on the forests, wetlands and sea to survive.

Students will get an insight into these traditions by taking part in a range of hands-on activities, which may include harakeke (flax) weaving, learning about traditional rongoa (medicines and healing), making bird callers and tasting traditional teas.

When you book a visit to Rotokare, you will receive a comprehensive resource pack for this topic, including plenty of background information and pre and post-visit activity ideas. You will also get a trip participation pack with site RAM forms.

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

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 Nathan. 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!

