

Term 4

# Education News

[www.rotokare.org.nz](http://www.rotokare.org.nz)



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
Te Tūhuhu o te Mātauranga

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## Welcome

- I am now back part time from maternity leave, and excited about the schools booked to come out this term.
- Including bookings for this term, we would have had 2000 students visit Rotokare in 2012. It's great to be able to share our amazing project with so many people via the education programme!
- Exciting developments at Rotokare include, ongoing kiwi releases, the completion of more board walking, near completion of the information hut, lizard education courtyard, fence walk and upgrades to the bush classroom. Read more about it in this newsletter.
- Please contact me to book visits for terms 1 and 2 2013 to avoid disappointment.

Kind Regards,

Melissa Jacobson  
Environmental Educator

## Education Lizard Courtyard

By term 1 the education lizard courtyard will be complete. This courtyard will offer an exclusive sheltered area for visiting schools to utilise for morning tea and lunch breaks. In addition, it will create another unique teaching space for lessons.

The courtyard will also be home to some special Rotokare animals, lizards! Kids love lizards, and they are often quite hard to find in the bush, so having captive lizards will enable all students to get up close and personal with these fascinating creatures.



## Rotokare Calendar



### Term 4, 2012

- ▶ Bookings being taken for school trips to Rotokare for term 1 and 2, 2013, get in quick to secure your visit, these are our busiest terms.
- ▶ 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 – Bug Camp
- ▶ Biodiversity forum, 10am 10<sup>th</sup> December TRC. Secondary students welcome to come along.
- ▶ Book Melissa in for your teacher only days in January to plan a visit for 2013.



Rotokare – Goldstripe Gecko  
Photo by S. Collins

# Kiwi Update

The kohanga kiwi project is progressing well with 6 birds now calling Rotokare home. Another release is planned for 4 birds soon, and an egg is being incubated as we speak. The goal is still to achieve a founder population of 30 kiwi by mid 2014; with regular survey work being done around the region, and by working with our project partner Taranaki Kiwi Trust, we have high hopes of achieving this goal.

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



Jack Frances, holding "Rua" the kiwi while she has her bill measured as part of pre-release health checks. Photo by P. Murphy

## NEW Info Hut

The information hut, next to the public toilets, will be completed soon. This space not only offers shelter, but will add a new dimension to the visitor experience at Rotokare, allowing some neat education resources to be created for students to fully explore the new information. Information panels will include history of the lake including maori perspectives, details of the plants and animals found here, and information about the Rotokare Sanctuary project.



One of the interpretation panels planned for the info hut

## The Bush Classroom

Due to huge popularity, the bush classroom at Rotokare is due to have an upgrade, with purpose built rustic benches in place for activity stations and bench seating for students. This will create an even more ideal spot for visiting classes to complete hands-on and interactive activities.

**Book your school or class visit now to utilise our exciting bush classroom, in 2013! Call 06 764 8500, or email Melissa at [educator@rotokare.org.nz](mailto:educator@rotokare.org.nz)**

## Calling all BUG LOVERS

10 -12 year old bug lovers are invited to attend a two day overnight camp at Rotokare

14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013

- Find out more about amazing NZ insects
- Diurnal and nocturnal bug hunts
- Use scientific equipment
- Watch movies and sleep over at Rotokare

**Numbers are limited, contact us for more info**



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!

