



Empowering communities, restoring nature



ŌTANEWAINUKU NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAMME TEACHER INFORMATION



ŌTANEWAINUKU EDUCATION PROGRAMME 2019 TEACHER INFORMATION

The Ōtānewainuku Conservation area is 1200 hectares of native virgin forest largely unmodified by human activities. It offers a glimpse into the majestic forests which once covered this land, where giant rimu pierce the skyline and inquisitive North Island robins greet visitors.

The Ōtānewainuku Kiwi Trust is a community based conservation Trust formed in 2002 out of concern for the decline of North Island brown kiwi in the Ōtānewainuku forest.

While the kiwi and kokako are the main focus for predator control, all the other birds benefit too, along with bats, lizards and invertebrates and of course the forest itself.

The Ōtānewainuku kaupapa provides a fantastic opportunity for students to

- discover how incredibly unique New Zealand is
- gain an insight into many of the conservation challenges in New Zealand
- learn a set of practical conservation skills they can use to make a positive difference in their communities.



Ōtānewainuku can proudly boast that they have the nucleus of a stable core population of North Island brown kiwi.

At last count there were 21 kiwi within the Ōtānewainuku forest. The population is made up of 13 females and 8 males.

OVERVIEW

The environmental science focus of the Ōtānewainuku Education Programme (OEP) is delivered via a range of hands-on activities carried out by conservation field staff here at Ōtānewainuku and similar conservation sites across the country. This focus allows students to gain experience and insight into many of the ecological issues we are currently facing in Aotearoa and just as importantly a new set of skills they can employ to make a positive contribution to conservation in New Zealand.

Mātauranga Māori content is also included throughout the programme to illustrate Te Ao Māori and the prominent role pūtaiao/science holds in Māori conservation practice.

Key Concepts:

- Conservation of New Zealand's biodiversity
- New Zealand's unique biodiversity / taonga
- Native, endemic and introduced species
- Interdependence of living things, habitats and ecosystems
- Predator Free New Zealand
- Sustainability
- Personal and social responsibility for action/ kaitiakitanga
- Heritage – changing relationships between people, place and environment

Note: Mātauranga Māori principals are delivered alongside all key concepts



Pest control is essential if we are to restore the momo taketake/native species of Ōtānewainuku.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Your visit to Ōtāneiwainuku

Students arrive at the entrance to Ōtāneiwainuku where the students and staff are welcomed more formally by AEP educators who then share with students the kaupapa/ purpose of their field trip to Ōtāneiwainuku: **gaining an insight into many of the environmental challenges in New Zealand and learning a set of practical conservation skills they can use to make a positive difference in their communities.**

PREDATOR FREE NZ: pest control theory and practice

- Pests – where did they come from? Why are they considered pests? How can we control them?
- Pest monitoring - tracking cards, chew track cards, lures, traps and trapping techniques.



Identifying animal tracks: exotic or native?



Up close and personal with the pests

SO much attention in New Zealand today is primarily focussed on pest control. It seems wherever you go people are talking about Predator Free NZ! The AEP biosecurity session is an experiential educator led investigation of this topic that makes full use of the senses (smell, touch, taste, sight and hearing), actively engaging students in pest management theory and practice and importantly getting students to discuss the many issues around pest control.

HĪKOI: Experiencing Ōtānewainuku!

Time is spent out in Ōtānewainuku exploring and engaging in conservation field work. Learning stations are sited along the walking trail specifically designed and located to break the hīkoi into manageable stages (physically and mentally). Hands-on engagement and exploration is encouraged where possible at each educator led station to enable students to better process information and ideas.

Selection of conservation science activities that can form part of the day:

- Reptiles and Invertebrates: monitoring theory and techniques.
- Birds
 - What species are in Ōtānewainuku– present and past.
 - 5 minute bird counts.
 - Bird bands: reading/recording.
- Plants
 - Rongoā.
 - How they vary and the different roles they play in a forest.
 - Biosecurity: Keeping our forests safe from diseases.



Birds, bands and binoculars



Students working out how to assemble an invertebrate monitoring device

The actual activities delivered and depth of discussion throughout the day varies depending on the age and prior learning of the students.

FAQ's

Are there toilets and fresh water at Ōtanewainuku?

There are toilets (really nice long drops maintained by DOC – but bring some spare toilet paper just in case). There is no fresh water so bring your own.

Who has developed the programme and who will be delivering it?

Bay Conservation Alliance (BCA) led by our nature education manager Brian Ireland has developed the programme. BCA operates in the Bay of Plenty with the aim to support, sustain and grow community-led environmental restoration and nature conservation. Brian has spent the last 6 years developing and managing education programmes at Auckland Zoo – including Rotoroa Island and Tāwharanui. Before that he was the Education and Visitor Experience manager at Zealandia: Karori Sanctuary. Before that he was a Deputy Principal/classroom teacher...that's him back to the year 2000. BCA is excited to have Brian, delivering the programme along with a number of highly skilled environmental educators.

What age students is this suitable for?

Our programme is suitable for students in Year 4 and up.

How long is the actual programme?

Its about 2hrs of delivery with 30 minutes allowed for kai. 1 hour is dedicated to things pest related and another hour to monitoring and more directly looking after our native species. But we can talk through your needs (the age and stage of where your students are) and tailor if possible.

Do you have a generic RAMS/ Risk Analysis and Management System form available for my Ōtanewainuku visit (to make my life as a teacher easier!)?

Yes we do...because we want to make life easier for teachers.

Is there 'free time' for schools to do their own exploring?

Time may be set aside for students to do their own self-guided activities under the guidance and care of their own teachers. Talk this through with the Ōtanewainuku team.

Is it possible to have a pre-visit at our school with the Ōtanewainuku educator with our staff?

It would be a pleasure – in fact we would strongly recommend it as it helps ensure that your visit to Ōtanewainuku is a success. It allows us to discuss the content we deliver and what we can achieve in your time at Ōtanewainuku.

BCA's education programme is proudly supported by:



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