

Time for school again

The first term is a time when outdoor activities are often blessed with fine weather and not surprisingly bookings are filling fast. Rocky shore studies are exceedingly popular at this time of the year but owing to the high number of bookings, further requests for my support at the rock pools cannot be guaranteed. However, while I may not be available to support you in person, I may be able to provide other assistance, such as taking pre-field trip class lessons or providing you with some of our resources for the field trip. These resources include large white trays, suitable for close observation of the plants and animals, large sieves and clipboards with ID sheets and pencils for recording data. Please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like my help in any way.

Congratulations to three Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Award winners for 2015. The winners were Koromiko Kindergarten for fostering education for sustainability and respect for the environment; the Kiwi Conservation Club for fostering children's understanding, skills and connection with the natural environment; and Uruti School for working with the community to control predators and protect local kiwi.

We know there are some wonderful environmental education programmes happening in Taranaki schools and many get little or no recognition from beyond the school gate. We'd like to be aware of the fabulous work that is happening in our region to help us select our environmental award winners. So, when nominations are called for the 2016 awards later this year, please consider putting your programme forward, if you feel it warrants consideration for an award.

Seaweek 2016 will take place from Saturday 27 February to Sunday 6 March 2016. The theme will be "Toiora te Moana – Toiora te Tangata – Healthy Seas, Healthy People!" Planned Seaweek activities can be seen on the Department of Conservation website www.doc.co.nz or you can contact Mike Tapp at mtapp@doc.co.nz

Kevin Archer



Social Media in Education

The focus of this newsletter is about how we can use social media to interact with teachers and students, and provide a forum for sharing stories and getting feedback. We cover how we use our website, our plans to develop our Facebook page and how we need your support.

New focus on recycling - Come and meet the MRF!

The recent upgrade of Taranaki's recycling system has brought new learning opportunities for the region's school students.

The three district councils expanded the service in October, with a greater range of recyclables now collected from kerbsides. They're all taken to a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Colson Rd, New Plymouth, where they are sorted and despatched to end users.

The good news for schools is that the MRF has a purpose-built education room looking out across the sorting floor. Here, presentations will be made to pre-booked school parties of up to 40 students, teachers and parents.

Topics will include:

- The benefits of recycling.
- Why we can't recycle everything.
- How the MRF's sorting machinery works.
- Where Taranaki's recyclables end up.

The one-hour presentations will be made by staff from any of Taranaki's four councils, and there is no charge. Please note that the MRF's education room is upstairs and there is no wheelchair access.

Booking is essential – call Mike Baker, New Plymouth District Council at 06 759 6060. Your visit can be combined with a 15-minute tour of the Colson Road landfill, for which you will need to use your own bus.

The MRF is owned by New Plymouth District Council and managed by Envirowaste Services Ltd, the company that has the contract for kerbside recycling and waste collection in New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki districts.



We Can



Social Media in Education

Environmental Classroom on Facebook

We have set up an environmental classroom on Facebook to make it easier for teachers, students and others to find out more about our Taranaki environment and share information and stories.

It is called the Taranaki Schools Environment Group and will provide the latest information about the Council's school environmental programmes. It is for teachers and students of all ages and will show environmental activities and work completed by students from within the region.

We will be posting information, pictures and articles about our environment, students' work and school outdoor activities in our unique environment.

Teachers and students can also post material to the page and give feedback on education programmes.



Who can join the group?

Anyone with an interest in learning more about Taranaki's environment is welcome to join the Facebook Group, including teachers, students and parents. Anyone can view the information at any time. The group will be monitored regularly and there are guidelines to be followed.

Where are the guidelines?

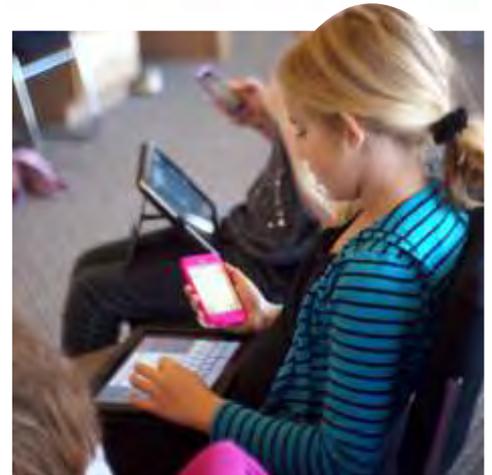
The guidelines can be found in the Taranaki Schools Environment Group.

How do you join?

You can join the Facebook group at: Taranaki Schools Environment Group.

How can we help?

Contact Kevin who can arrange for a TRC Digital Media Coordinator to talk to your teachers about the programme.



TRC Facebook page

The Council created a Facebook page last year and over the last six months it has really taken off. Our Facebook page helps us share a whole range of stories with people from across the Taranaki region which is great, and we aim to keep that up!

The graphic (below) shows some of the interesting insight data of our most popular types of posts from our main Facebook page. As you can see, videos and photos are very popular.



TRC Website refresh

The Council is working on refreshing its website, which we hope will be really cool when it's all done. We will update some of the information on the current site as well as post more pictures and videos which is exciting! We can't wait to get the new site up and running, so when it's ready we'll let you know and you can check it out. In the meantime head over to our current website and watch the video of Kevin and the mountain stream study with Pembroke School by using the following link. <http://tinyurl.com/gtpqyme>

Taranaki Regional Council digital media accounts

- Taranaki Regional Council Facebook Page
- Gardens Page
- Taranaki Buses Group
- Taranaki Schools Environment Group
- Twitter@TaranakiIRC
- Website-www.trc.govt.nz



Facebook by the numbers		Taranaki Regional Council
Post-type	Average Reach (Individual Facebook users)	
Video	1,950	
Photo	1,825	
Link	769	
Shared Video	686	
Status (text)	110	



Spot the difference (There are six differences)



Animals and their sounds Match the animals and their sounds from the list:

- meow
- cluck
- tweet
- neigh
- moo
- trumpet
- buzz
- bark
- crow
- hiss
- bleat
- roar
- croak
- quack



Environmental quotes

Below are five quotes related in some way to the environment. I am sure you will agree with most of them but I would be surprised if you agree with them all. Have a group or class discussion to see if you can work out what they actually mean. You could even consider using the third quote as a debating topic.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has" - Margaret Mead.

"Birds are indicators of the environment. If they are all in trouble, we know we'll soon be in trouble" - Roger Tory Peterson.

"Climate change is a hoax" - Donald Trump.

"Environmental concern is now firmly embedded in public life: in education, in medicine and law, in journalism, in literature and in art" - Barry Commoner.

"If we do not permit the earth to produce beauty and joy, it will in the end not produce food either" - Joseph Wood Krutch.

Collective nouns

A collective noun is one that denotes a collection of individuals regarded as a unit. Common collective nouns you may have heard of are: a flock of sheep, a herd of elephants and a bunch of flowers. Try and work out what some of these less familiar ones are. To give you a help we have jumbled up the letters of the collective nouns.

1. A arliatnemp of owls
2. A ltosh or shleut of bears
3. A puonec of cats
4. A sssbuine of ferrets
5. A rtowe of giraffes
6. A cklepri of porcupines
7. A tdans of flamingos
8. An ttosenaoi of peacocks
9. An mrya of frogs
10. An trusoinin of cockroaches

To take or not to take that is the question!

Imagine that you have been invited to join a group to go on an all day walk across a farm, on a mountain track, through a bush etc. You have been told to fill a day pack with items that could be useful and to not include anything that is unnecessary and simply adds weight to the pack. From the list below form two lists - one is the 'Must Take List' and the other is the 'Not Essential List'. Good luck with sorting them and it might be fun if you noted why you have decided what goes into the pack and what stays at home.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> torch | <input type="radio"/> some tinned food | <input type="radio"/> warm jacket | <input type="radio"/> some noisy toys |
| <input type="radio"/> CD player | <input type="radio"/> a couple of pieces of fruit | <input type="radio"/> your togs | <input type="radio"/> cellphone |
| <input type="radio"/> map of the area | <input type="radio"/> two magnum ice creams | <input type="radio"/> first aid kit | <input type="radio"/> small spade |
| <input type="radio"/> a book | <input type="radio"/> bottle of water | <input type="radio"/> calculator | <input type="radio"/> matches |
| <input type="radio"/> some sandwiches | <input type="radio"/> bottle of fizzy drink | <input type="radio"/> pen or pencil | <input type="radio"/> blanket |

Two classes from Hawera Intermediate found time during a busy camping programme late last year to pop down to the rock pools at Kawaroa in New Plymouth. The students and the adults were pleasantly surprised at the diversity of plants and animals they discovered living there.



Pembroke School camps on the mountain



The senior students at Pembroke School had a fun-filled camp on the mountain at Konini Lodge in November. Here a couple of the lads and Kevin are looking closely at the invertebrates in one of the streams during their stream study. Shortly after, the group popped up to Wilkies Pools and had a great time checking out those remarkable feats of nature.

Woodleigh School compares rock pools

The senior classes at Woodleigh had an enjoyable learning experience at the Kawaroa rock pools in November. Several groups were able to find examples of the wandering anemone amongst a wide range of plants and animals. A small selection of students from the same classes popped out to the rock pools at Bell Block and found the animal and plant life just as interesting, although not in the same numbers, with the exception of the variety and size of the crabs!



TRC Environmental Award Winners 2015

Uruti School students, teachers and community members proudly display their certificate and crystal following a special presentation at the school in November.



Koromiko Kindergarten teachers and students show plenty of animation during their special presentation in November.

Bits'n'Pieces

Tupare 'Riverside School' and Hollard Gardens 'Woodlands School' study units

Following on from the successful programme currently operating at the Rainforest School at Pukeiti, we have recently written draft study units for classes when they visit either of the Council's other two regional gardens at Tupare Gardens in New Plymouth and Hollard Gardens near Kaponga. Copies of both draft study units will shortly be available on our website www.trc.govt.nz or you can contact Kevin for a copy. We will be running professional development sessions at both venues early in term two.

Professional development for teachers

Rocky shore (see insert for details)
Thursday 18 February, 3.30pm-5.00pm
Kawaroa Reef, New Plymouth.

Regional gardens public education

The Council facilitates a number of public education sessions at its three regional gardens. All sessions are suitable for family groups and everyone is welcome to attend. Coming up this term are:

HOLLARD GARDENS

Sunday 28 February – 10am to 3pm
Celebrate International Children's Day with family fun, painting, music, kite flying, and 'Sparky' in association with Kindergarten Taranaki and sponsored by POWERCO.

PUKEITI

Sunday 7 February – 10.30am
Guided walk to Puke Te Whiti (3 hours)
Sunday 3 April – 10.30am Puffer fun runs

TUPARE

Saturday 6 February
Guided walk at 8.30am, garden fair and house tours from 10am. Relax and enjoy the local music, fabulous food and entertainment.

Answers from page 3

Collective nouns. 1. parliament 2. sloth or sleuth 3. pounce 4. business 5. tower 6. prickle 7. stand 8. ostentation 9. army 10. intrusion

For assistance or information on environmental education contact:

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