

## Tēnā koutou katoa

Two exciting news items to report in this SITE newsletter. Taranaki Taku Tūranga – Our Place, Towards a Predator-Free Taranaki, has been launched and we are encouraging schools to get actively involved in this large-scale, community-based project. This edition of SITE focuses on Towards a Predator-Free Taranaki and includes how you and your students can get on board. In short, if you are interested, get in touch ([education@trc.govt.nz](mailto:education@trc.govt.nz)) and we can hatch an exciting project plan based at your school or a suitable green space close to your school.

Also, the Taranaki Regional Council has expanded its commitment to environmental education and now supports the regional coordination of Enviroschools. The expanded Environmental Education team have plans in motion for widening their support of schools and kindergartens across the region. Watch this space for further Enviroschools developments and enjoy the Enviroschools newsletter which will be included with the SITE newsletter every term, starting with this issue.

Nāku noa nā,  
**Dr Emily Roberts**



## Taranaki Taku Tūranga - Our Place

# Towards a Predator-Free Taranaki

Towards a Predator-Free Taranaki is the largest predator-free project of its kind in New Zealand (woohoo!) and we would love you and your school to become part of the action. It is an exciting opportunity for the whole region to work together to better protect native wildlife against introduced predators including rats, stoats and possums. Given that so many species in New Zealand are endemic (found only in New Zealand) and threatened, this project provides an amazing opportunity for your school to make a real difference safeguarding species and helping Taranaki move towards being predator-free.

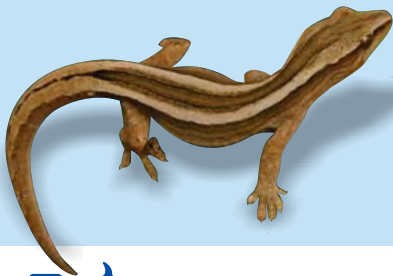
It will be rolled out across rural and urban land around the Mounga, starting around the New Plymouth, Oākura and Kaitake Range areas. To be successful, the project requires the whole community to get on board with predator control being undertaken by local residents, farmers, community groups and schools, hopefully including yours. You can find out more about Towards Predator-Free Taranaki at [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz)



# How can my school get involved?

A project can cater for a diverse range of students of different ages and abilities. To hatch a plan that will suit you and your students, we are keen to brainstorm project ideas with you. We can then provide ongoing advice and support for your project and help source the monitoring and trapping equipment required. In the first instance, we will focus on schools in the New Plymouth and Oākura areas where the programme is initially being


rolled out. We are also keen to help schools elsewhere in the region get up and running with their projects. If you are keen to get started, discuss ideas or have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch ([education@trc.govt.nz](mailto:education@trc.govt.nz)).



## Tools and resources available

### Get monitoring predators

It's interesting and useful to discover what predators are in your area before you start your trapping programme. This information can help guide where best to place your traps. Once you are up and running, it's good to monitor for predators every six months or so to know what predators are still around and how successful your trapping programme has been. We can provide you with the tools needed to do this.

 **Tools for the job:** Tracking tunnels and cards, chew cards and wax tags


### Get making

Your students might want to make their own trapping and monitoring equipment. We can provide the materials for trap boxes and there are lots of great resources online to make your own tracking tunnels and chew cards. Your students can also get creative, providing habitat for native wildlife by building wētā motels and bug hotels.

 **Tools for the job:** Predator Free NZ website [tinyurl.com/PFthings2make](http://tinyurl.com/PFthings2make)

### Get trapping

We can provide traps and advise on where best to place them and who should use them. We can also show you how to record catch data online using Trap NZ.

 **Tools for the job:** Traps including T-rex snap traps and Victor traps Trap NZ [www.trap.nz](http://www.trap.nz)


### Get learning

With help from Predator Free NZ, we have put together some Predator-Free School Guidelines (email us for a copy). There are also lots of fantastic resources available online

 **Tools for the job:** Predator-Free School Guidelines [education@trc.govt.nz](mailto:education@trc.govt.nz)  
Predator Free NZ [tinyurl.com/PFNZresources](http://tinyurl.com/PFNZresources)  
Department of Conservation [tinyurl.com/DOCgreenspace](http://tinyurl.com/DOCgreenspace)  
Rotokare Scenic Reserve [www.rotokare.org.nz/](http://www.rotokare.org.nz/)

### Get monitoring biodiversity

An important part of any predator control programme is to monitor how native wildlife is benefitting as a consequence. Conducting a BioBlitz every six months is good fun and your students will learn about all of the species in the local area that you are protecting. You might prefer to take a more targeted approach and focus on one group of organisms. For example, if you're interested in birds, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research have developed some great resources around how to conduct a bird survey. We are happy to provide advice and get you up and running with your monitoring programme.

 **Tools for the job:** BioBlitz [inaturalist.nz](http://inaturalist.nz), bird survey [tinyurl.com/NZ-bird-survey](http://tinyurl.com/NZ-bird-survey)





Scarlet rātā vine



Tomtit - miromiro

### Outcomes

The vision of Towards a Predator-Free Taranaki is to better protect and restore native animals and plants. Here are just a few of the species that are set to benefit from Taranaki moving towards being predator-free.

### Get visiting

There are some great locations in Taranaki to learn more about the benefits of controlling predators and protecting native biodiversity. Here are three awesome venues to visit for field trips linking in with your predator control project:



- Tools for the job:**  
Pukeiti Rainforest  
education@trc.govt.nz
- Rotokare Scenic Reserve  
educator@rotokare.org.nz
- Purangi Kiwi Project  
info@purangikiwi.co.nz



Kākā



NZ dotterel - tūturiwhau



Kiwi

### Get raising money for the school

If your school is willing to distribute traps to the local community, the Taranaki Regional Council can provide traps for free that can then be sold to raise funds for your school. The Council can provide Towards Predator-Free Taranaki packs that include a trap, trap box, reusable bag, letterbox/fence badge and information about the project. This offer is initially directed towards schools within the New Plymouth and Oākura areas, and will subsequently be expanded around the region as the project grows. The packs can then be sold on by the school for \$10 each providing the money raised is put towards a good cause relevant to the school.



Wētā



Tūi

*We'd love to hear from your students about their aspirations and what we can achieve together through this project.*



## Making compost with Kaponga Primary and Hawera Primary

Hollard Gardens provides the ideal location to learn how to compost sustainably and successfully. This last term we've loved spending time with Kaponga Primary and Hawera Primary, making top quality compost and learning how to identify cool creepy crawlies. So much fun!



## This and That

### Environmental Awards

The Council will again be rewarding outstanding environmental work by individuals, community groups, farmers, businesses and educational institutions through its annual Environmental Awards programme. Please feel free to nominate yourselves for an award as we aren't always aware of the many excellent environment programmes that are happening out there.

Nominations for this year's awards are open and close at 5pm on Wednesday 15 August. The winners will receive their awards at a presentation evening in New Plymouth in late October.

To make a nomination or for further information please go to [trc.govt.nz/environmentalawards](http://trc.govt.nz/environmentalawards) or contact: Rusty Ritchie ph 06 765 7127



## Protecting native birds with Coastal Taranaki School

Year 5 and 6 students from Coastal Taranaki School have been on three fabulous field trips to Komene 13B Māori Reservation, Pukeiti Rainforest and Rotokare Scenic Reserve as part of their inquiry focussing on native birds. With their newly gained ornithological knowledge, this next term their focus will be on protecting bush areas around Ōkato, providing safe habitat for local birds through predator control. They have completed a whole heap of additional learning around the field trips and we think that this is a shining example of the type of project that can be undertaken as part of Towards a Predator-Free Taranaki. Congratulations everyone involved!



### For assistance or information on environmental education contact:

Emily Roberts, Education Officer  
Taranaki Regional Council  
Private Bag 713, Stratford 4352  
Ph: 06 765 7127 Fax: 06 765 5097  
[education@trc.govt.nz](mailto:education@trc.govt.nz)  
[www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz)