

# Children set their sights on new Kiwi Ranger Badge

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BIRD CALL: Caitlin Borrie, Entelea Savinelli, Erin O'Sullivan and Patrick O'Sullivan listen for bird calls at the Ohope Scenic reserve and record their findings. Photos supplied

FAMILIES are being welcomed to join Forest and Bird Kiwi Conservation Club kids for the hatching of the latest Kiwi Ranger product on Saturday. The activities will start at Cheddar Valley Pottery, Nukuhou at 9.30am.

Kiwi Ranger Footsteps of Toi is a self-directed learning resource aimed at increasing families' understanding and love of Whakatane.

It provides the opportunity to engage with local community conservation groups and learn about their restoration projects. It also highlights significant local cultural sites including Kapu Te Rangi – Toi's Pa and Mataatua Whareniui.

Whakatane Kiwi Trust has recently trademarked Whakatane as the "Kiwi Capital of the World".

Families will have the opportunity to step off the pavement into kiwi country to experience the sights and sounds of our native species in this beautiful environment that we are lucky to have on our door step.

Produced by Shades of Green Ltd in association with the Department of Conservation and the help of local conservation care groups, the newest Kiwi Ranger profiles the forest, landscape and culture of Whakatane.

By undertaking activities in the booklet, children can learn more about what makes the area unique, as well as earning themselves a badge to start, or add to, their Kiwi Ranger collection.

DOC partnership ranger Bridget Palmer said Kiwi Ranger Footsteps of Toi will be a great activity for both local families to undertake to learn more about our town and also visitors coming to Whakatane with their children.

Once children have completed their quota of activities they can hand-in the booklet and claim their badge from either White Island Tours reception or Cheddar Valley Pottery, Nukuhou.

There is also the option of sending in the completed booklet by post if that is more convenient.

Saturday's activities will conclude with a prizegiving at White Island Tours at 3.30pm.

In addition to Footsteps of Toi (Whakatane), Kiwi Ranger badges can be collected by doing activities at other sites including Te Urewera (Waikaremoana), Ahuriri Estuary (Napier), Tiritiri Matangi (Auckland), Orokonui Ecosanctuary (Dunedin), Te Apiti Manawatu Gorge and 10 more locations across the country. Check out [www.kiwiranger.org.nz](http://www.kiwiranger.org.nz) to learn more.



KEEPING TRACK: Tyla van Alphen works on her activity booklet at the Ohope Scenic Reserve.



RESTORATION WORK: Stuart Slade of Cheddar Valley Pottery explain the work their Nukuhou Saltmarsh Care Group does to restore bird life back to the area.



RANGER: DOC ranger Bridget Palmer and her well-dressed ute.