

# Take Action for Taiao

## Community-centred conservation with Auckland Zoo and Mazda.

Teachers Notes – Updated September 2021  
(Includes a lockdown guide, page 3)

“We can sometimes feel overwhelmed and think, that as individuals, we can’t really make a difference. But we need to remember there are millions of us, and every little positive action we each take counts – there is enormous power in our collective efforts.”

– Kevin Buley, Auckland Zoo Director



Principal Partner



# Teacher Notes

## The challenge:

Identify a conservation issue in your local community and explore ways your class can make a difference.

Whether it's plants or animals' species – we want to understand its challenges, your solution, how you've tested your ideas – and most importantly, the results!

## The Grand Prize:

Be in to win an exclusive prize package thanks to our friends at Mazda. This includes an all-inclusive day out at Auckland Zoo connecting with our native taonga!

Even better if your a winning class located outside of the region we will fly a Zoo Conservation Learning Facilitator to your school along with a cash prize of \$500 for your conservation mission.

## Runner-up classes

Your school will receive a special visit from one of our amazing Zoo Learning Facilitators.

## How to enter?

Tell, show, present – it's up to you how you share your actions for taiao (natural environment). This could be in the form of a video, a slideshow, an essay, or any other method. The more creative, the better!

### Submit your entry by 4pm, 8 October 2021

To enter fill out the entry form on the Auckland Zoo [website](#). If you are submitting a video, please upload to You Tube then share the link in the entry form.

## Competition entry deadline:

By 4pm, 8 October 2021

(Two week extension to get your entries submitted)

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## Judging Criteria

**Research** – How you've researched and decided on your conservation issue

**Intervention** – How you've designed interventions that will help your school whānau think, feel and take action on the chosen conservation issue.

**Creativity** – How creative and innovative is your response to the challenge. How have you demonstrated the level of change, difference and success that was achieved.

**Evaluation** – How you've evaluated the project

**Presentation/Communication** – How well did you show and explain your project?

**Values** – How does your project demonstrate values e.g. inclusive, kaitiakitanga

# Teacher Notes

## Level 2–4 Lockdown

### At home tips

- Your class can turn this into a super simple lockdown project and choose an at-home activity that supports the local environment in some way.
- Feel free to get creative – your class could think about spreading a message whilst in lockdown, making small changes at home, or using this time to plan for their at school action.
- If your class is unable to complete their project during lockdown you could still submit a reflection on where they are at so far, what they've decided to do once they return to school and why.
- Feel free to make this as easy and manageable as needed for your class! We've provided some ideas

**These are some easy *take action for taiao* activities that could be part of your Mazda class project!**

### At home activities

- Make a tracking tunnel – Auckland Zoo
- Build a lizard home - Auckland Zoo
- Grow a seed – DOC
- Become a weed warrior – DOC
- What bugs can you find? – Auckland Zoo
- Garden Insect Census – DOC
- Make a nectar feeder – Auckland Zoo
- Make a wētā hotel – Auckland Zoo
- Take part in our Bird Survey – Auckland Zoo
- Create a nature inspired poem – DOC
- Make a nature journal – DOC
- Make your own worm farm – Recycle NZ
- Do a waste audit – Love Food Hate Waste

# Competition Prizes

There are 15 x runner up prizes and 3 x Overall winner prizes which shall be distributed to winners of the competition:

## Top Entries – Auckland Region

- Free class entry (30 students) to Auckland Zoo (including up to 6 adults)
- Accompanied by a Zoo Conservation Learning Facilitator and expert
- Special tour through Te Wao Nui with one of our amazing Zoo keepers
- A behavioural enrichment education session where the winners will create some special items for our native birds
- A hidden New Zealand encounter with some of our local treasures (wētāpunga, tuatara and ruru)
- The chance to present your project to Zoo and Mazda staff to share your story
- Free transport – within a 35km radius of Auckland Zoo
- Exclusive Zoo/Mazda goodie bag

## Top Entries – Outside of Auckland Region

- A special visit and education session with one of our Zoo Conservation Learning Facilitators
- \$500 cash towards your mission
- A behavioural enrichment education session where the winners will create some special items for native birds
- A learning opportunity for students to find out more about some of our amazing native animals here in Aotearoa and the things we do at Auckland Zoo to look after them (Kaitiakitanga) – Auckland Zoo’s role, careers, wild work (contextualizing you with your challenge)

- The chance to present your project and share your story to a Zoo Conservation Learning Facilitator
- An opportunity to ask a Zoo Conservation Learning Facilitator all your wild zoo questions during a Q&A session
- Exclusive Zoo/Mazda goodie bag

## Runners up

- A special outreach session with one of our Zoo Conservation Learning Facilitators
- A chance to present your project and share your story
- Find out more about some of our amazing native animals here in Aotearoa and the things we do at Auckland Zoo to look after them (Kaitiakitanga) – Auckland Zoo’s role, careers, wild work (contextualizing you with your challenge)
- An opportunity to ask a Zoo Conservation Learning Facilitator all your wild zoo questions during a Q&A session
- Educational resource pack

## Every class that provides an entry receives

- A resource to help scaffold your community conservation project
- Free resource booklet for use in class or at the zoo, all about our native treasures and the things we can do to help them



# A guide on how to get started:

## Here are some suggested topics

- Presence of plastic in your local community
- Increasing your local flora and fauna biodiversity
- Raising conservation awareness in your local community



### Planning

After a class discussion you've decided that the issue you will be tackling is the presence of too much plastic! You brainstorm ideas how to go about improving or solving this issue.



### Research

Take some time to chat with other classes and find out what they think about this issue and possible actions you can take. You think about ways you could involve the local community and get their support.



### Action

Explore different solutions. For example:

- A waste audit at your school
- Incentives for students and teachers to reduce their plastic consumption
- A fun DIY beeswax wrap session to educate people about alternatives
- A local school community clean-up
- A catchy video to communicate why plastic is harmful for the environment, and what they can do to help.



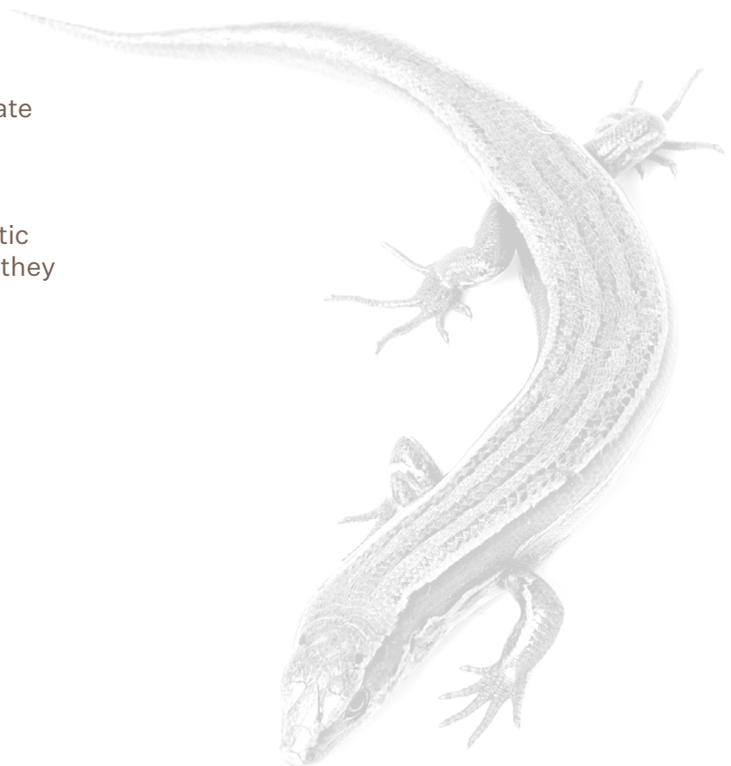
### Evaluation

Try out a few different tactics and keep track of what worked best and had the biggest impact. For example, a school survey, plastic waste audit of your school grounds or local creek at the beginning of your project, and then again at the end. What does success look like, and how will you evaluate it?



### Sharing

After testing and evaluating your ideas, get creative and share your journey! It could be a slideshow presentation showing the difference at your school grounds, or the amount of plastic collected. Or create a video featuring all the taiao champions who helped deliver the project.



## Curriculum Links:

- **What do we want for our young people?** (New Zealand Curriculum, p8):
- **Be actively involved** – participate in a range of life contexts, contribute to the well-being of New Zealand – socially, culturally, economically and environmentally.
- **Education for Sustainability:** Responsibility for Action, Sustainability, Interdependence, Biodiversity Science – Living World
- **Life Processes L1-2:** Recognise that all living things have certain requirements so they can stay alive.
- **Ecology Level 1-2** – Recognize that living things are suited to their particular habitat
- **Ecology Level 3-4** – Explain how living things are suited to their particular habitat and how they respond to environmental changes, both natural and human-induced
- **Ecology L5:** Investigate the interdependence of living things (including humans) in an ecosystem.
- **Evolution L1-2:** Explain how we know that some that some living things from the past are now extinct.
- **Evolution L3-4:** Explore how groups of living things we have in the world have changed over a long period of time and appreciate that some living things in New Zealand are quite different from living things in other areas of the world.
- **Nature of Science:** Understanding about Science, Investigating in Science, Communicating in Science, Participating and Contributing

## Helpful Resources:

- [Auckland Zoo Website](#)
- [Auckland Zoo Education Facebook Page](#)
- [Department of Conservation](#)
- [Auckland Council Sustainability Education](#)
- [Kiwi Conservation Club](#)
- [Education for Sustainability NZ Curriculum](#)

## Contact us if you have questions!

discoveryandlearning@aucklandzoo.co.nz

(09) 360 3817

Watch a recording of our [online session](#) explaining more about the project

**Auckland  
ZOO**

Principal Partner

