

Welcome

In 2011 the Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust produced *Living Waters*, a series of short documentaries celebrating the ecology of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment. To encourage use of this amazing series the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Community Trust has produced a resource for teachers to encourage them to make use of the films in their classrooms. Aimed for students working from Level 2 to Level 5 (senior primary school and junior secondary), the resource focuses on the Science and Social Studies areas of the New Zealand curriculum.

Important tips for teachers

Live links

Using the resource while online will enable you to follow links to websites referred to throughout, including the online versions of *Living Waters* episodes and Ministry of Education teaching tools.

Structure

The resource is presented in three themes, each with a specific curriculum focus. Theme One: Ecology has a Science Living World focus, Theme Two: Porirua Harbour as a Taonga has a Social Studies focus, and Theme Three: Human Impact on the Harbour focuses on both Science and Social Studies.

Each theme provides significant scope to integrate other learning areas (in particular English and The Arts), as well as rich contexts for exploring a number of Key Competencies and Values. The resource also promotes Inquiry approaches to teaching and learning.

Planning for action projects

Each theme encourages students to apply their learning about the issues facing the Porirua harbour and catchment by planning and implementing an action project. Taking action for the environment is one of the key aspects of environmental education and provides the opportunity for students to learn skills such as planning and decision making, working as a group, communication, and reflection.

Te kete Ipurangi has a very useful guide for planning action projects and is recommended:

<http://efs.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources-and-tools/Action-Planner>

Useful background reading to understand the issues

Wellington City Council, Porirua City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council and Ngati Toa Rangatira have worked together to produce the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan. The front end of this document is very useful and interesting reading about the social and natural history of the harbour and catchment, and the “big three” threats to its health and future. The document can be downloaded from the Porirua City Council website.

Or you can contact Porirua City Council for a hard copy. For any questions about the strategy or action plan please contact Keith Calder the Harbour Strategy Coordinator at kcalder@pcc.govt.nz or call the Council on 237 5089.

Field trips

Each theme of this resource includes a field trip that focuses on aspects of the harbour and catchment relevant to that theme. While the *Living Waters* documentaries bring learning to life for students, experiencing the harbour first hand will add enormous value to their understanding and appreciation.

Theme One: Ecosystems field trip is to the Pauatahanui Inlet, starting at Motukaraka Point and making use of the mudflats and boardwalks through the intertidal vegetation and streams.

Theme Two: Porirua Harbour as a Taonga includes a field trip to Takapuwhia Marae and surrounding area. Schools are able to contact the marae committee to book a guided visit which will include a powhiri welcome, stories about the harbour from kaumatua, and a walk around the harbour edge.

Theme Three: Human Impact includes a field trip through the catchment by train. Starting at a station nearest to your school, students can travel from Pukerua Bay through to Takapu Road and see the variety of ways that people impact on the waterways and inlets of the whole catchment. Another option for this field trip could be a simple survey of your local stream or beach.

The Ministry of Education has excellent information on Te Kete Ipurangi about planning for safe experiences in the outdoors. <http://eotc.tki.org.nz/EOTC-home/EOTC-Guidelines> A pre-visit for teachers as part of your planning is recommended.

Useful resources

Simple maps of the harbour and catchment can be found on the PHT website <http://www.poriruaharbourtrust.org.nz/catchment/otherresources>

This whitebait booklet produced by Department of Conservation will be very useful for literacy activities around the topic of Porirua harbour and catchment, and help to deepen understanding about life in harbours and estuaries:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/documents/getting-involved/students-and-teachers/themes/estuaries/whitebait-education-resource.pdf>

For learning about the natural history of the harbour and catchment, we strongly recommend the book, *At the Beach*

– *explore and discover the New Zealand sea shore* by Ned Barraud and Gillian Candler. It is a local production and is an excellent natural history reference for young people. It is particularly relevant for Theme One: Ecosystems:

<http://www.craigpotton.co.nz/store/at-the-beach-paper-back>

The Greater Wellington Regional Council has an online resource for freshwater studies, called Take Action for Water:

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/take-action-for-water/>

This link has interviews with Ngati Toa elders, who share an oral history of Ngati Toa's relationship with the harbour, and the impact on Iwi from the way it has been managed in the past:

<http://www.ngatittoa.iwi.nz/ngati-toa-kaumatua-interviews-te-awarua-o-porirua-3/>

For updated links to resources, please refer to the Porirua Harbour Trust website.

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