

Activity Report- Tauranga Explorers 2010

We had a varied year, with excellent attendance at the activities each month.

Our year started well with an orienteering afternoon, giving the kids experience working with a compass and time to renew friendships and welcome new kids into the group. This was a very popular activity.

April saw a group head to Auckland to the observatory. This had been difficult to organise due to weather problems, but reports received were very positive.

We then had an afternoon at the Art Gallery in Tauranga, looking at the art and then hands-on doing a piece, using our non-dominant hand. This was a challenge for some and some new techniques were learnt.

Our mid winter movement class was popular, and even saw parents dancing. From the feedback, this is worth developing further and having a follow up class.

July School holidays had us pulling apart a computer amongst other household items. Also available were our games and the kids paired off and tried out games they may otherwise not have considered.

August was a miserable day, however we had an excellent turn out at the Gem and Mineral society club rooms. The kids were delighted with what was shared, and to go into the dark room and see the minerals shining. This has sparked an interest for several in rock collecting, and again one which we should follow up on.

Nathalie gave an informative session on atoms and molecules in September. This was hands on, and very enjoyable.

October saw us delving into the depths of a pig's interior, and beef hearts. The kids that were present all got a lot from this, and it was well presented by a local vet.

November saw a large group head for the hills with a walk through Maungatautari Ecological reserve. The kids were in groups and given a treasure hunt to complete. The scenery was beautiful and we were lucky enough to see Takahe on our arrival. The information talk set the tone, and I am sure the kids will remember this for some time and be keen to revisit at a future date.

Our Christmas party was again interrupted by bad weather and became a summer party to start the year in January 2011. Thanks again to Julie and family.