



# Tread Lightly Caravan

## Information for Schools - 2019

### Background

The Tread Lightly Caravan (TLC) is a mobile environmental classroom which visits primary and intermediate schools in the Auckland region.

Through the use of fun interactive exhibits and activities, the TLC experience inspires students to live more environmentally responsible lifestyles. The TLC shows students how every day choices in an urban context (what we buy, how we travel, what we eat, how we use energy in our homes) can make a huge difference to our natural environment.



The long term goals of the TLC are to teach Auckland students and their families about the environmental consequences of their everyday lives, and to inspire positive behaviour change to create actual environmental benefits such as reduced waste to landfill, reduced reliance on private transport, reduced energy use in the home and a greater consciousness when making consumer decisions.

The TLC offers a unique, cost-effective and turnkey environmental education opportunity for Auckland schools. Pre and post visit learning materials are provided, schools don't have to travel to an external location for an environmental education experience, and the high impact sessions are facilitated by the TLC teacher and assistant.

In June 2014, the TLC won the Community Focus category of the 2014 Ministry for the Environment's Green Ribbon Award, and was a finalist in the 2015 Sustainable Business Network Awards.



With thanks to our supporters in 2018



## Educational Information

The overlying concepts that are taught during the TLC session are:

1. **Our actions and choices have an effect on our environment.**
2. **The current rate and way in which we use resources (water, materials & energy) is not sustainable.**
3. **Small changes in the way we live will help save resources, prevent pollution and protect biodiversity and natural habitats.**

The TLC programme supports the NZ Curriculum Future Focus principle – that is learning for the future and learning about the future. Specifically the TLC creates an awareness of what the future could look like if we don't take action now to protect our natural environment and that students play a key role now, in their everyday choices, but also in the future as our decision makers.

The TLC programme integrates key aspects of the New Zealand curriculum such as key competencies and values, as well as meeting achievement objectives for every strand of the science curriculum.

The high impact, interactive activities and exhibits that are used in the TLC are not found in a normal school environment.

The TLC programme comprises a number of different age-related modules covering Years 0-8. This allows whole-school learning during one TLC visit, but also a continuation and reinforcement of student learning as a school books the TLC in successive years.

### *Tread Lightly Caravan 2019 Standard Year Group Activity Rotations*

Years 0-1 40 mins	Year 2 50 minutes	Year 3-4 90 minutes	Year 5-6 90 minutes	Year 7-8 90 minutes
Planting, Magnifying glasses (Beach)	Planting Magnifying glasses (Beach)	Microscope: Bees and Adaptations	Microscope: Praying Mantis and Adaptations	Microscope: Weta and Adaptations
Stormwater Pollution	Stormwater Pollution	Stormwater Pollution	Stormwater Pollution	E-waste
Litter, recycling and waste	Litter, recycling and waste	Litter, recycling and waste	Litter, recycling and waste	Litter, recycling and waste
	Geckos and Vines (conservation)	Geckos and Vines (conservation)	Environmental Footprint	Environmental Footprint
		Energy (hand generator)	Energy (bike and hand generator)	Energy (bike and hand generator)

The TLC overcomes one of the main barriers to LEOTC in Auckland which is the cost of transport to an external venue. The TLC is parked in the school grounds so students experience an impactful LEOTC programme without the expense and hassle of getting there.

The TLC programme is appropriate for any ethnicity and learning ability and has been designed so that it is accessible for people in wheelchairs. The TLC regularly hosts students with learning and physical disabilities and is able to modify the programme to suit their needs.

Pre and post visit TLC lesson plans are provided to schools to encourage ongoing learning, discussion and debate.

## Exhibits on board the Tread Lightly Caravan

The TLC exhibits are unique experiences using custom-made apparatus, instruments and computer games/graphics to provide a hands-on WOW learning experience.



### My Environmental Footprint

- Students use a computer touchscreen to answer simple questions about their lifestyles (e.g. what is in their lunch box, how they get to school). The result is expressed as the number of earths needed if everyone used the same amount of resources the children are currently using.



### Geckos and Vines

- Students play a life size version of Snakes and Ladders, answering environmental and conservation based questions to move through the game. This exhibit is a fun way to raise students' awareness of ecological issues in New Zealand.



### Video Microscope

- Students use a video microscope to get a closer look at nature. Students look at compost and other animal/plant specimens to gain an appreciation of the intricacy of nature and the importance of balance in a fully functioning ecosystem.



### Litter and recycling

- The reasons why people litter and affects of littering on the environment are investigated and the composition of different materials that allow them to be recycled
- the slice of waste exhibit allows students see the decomposition rate of different types of waste in a landfill



### Energy - Power Bike

- Students pedal a real 'exercycle' to generate their own electricity to raise their awareness of electricity and the amount of energy used by different appliances commonly found in their homes.



### Energy - hand generator

- Similar to the Power Bike, students crank a hand generator to generate their own electricity to raise their awareness of electricity and the amount of energy used by different appliances and lightbulbs commonly found in their homes.



### Water Pollution

- Students investigate how our use of water affects animals and organisms living in streams, with a special focus on stormwater, pollutants and litter.



### E-waste - years 7/8 only

- Students learn all about the environmental impacts created during the lifecycle of a mobile phone, and other electronics, and how to minimise their effects.
- Students watch an animated clip of the story of stuff using listening posts

## Tread Lightly Pledge Project

At the end of the TLC session, each year 3 – 8 student will have a photograph taken of them with their chosen Tread Lightly Pledge – an action they will commit to, to make a difference to the environment. Years 0-2 have a class Tread Lightly Pledge photo taken.

The Tread Lightly Pledge Project has been developed to encourage students to have greater commitment and accountability to their pledge, and to provide resources to help teachers extend the learning opportunity after the Tread Lightly Caravan visit.

With the support of New Zealand Steel, a Tread Lightly Pledge resource pack will be provided to each classroom teacher consisting of classroom and homework activities, classroom resources and poster. Each student is provided with their own Tread Lightly Pledge photo wallet, containing their individual pledge photo, factsheets, homework exercise and family Tread Lightly Pledge certificate.

We highly encourage that each student takes home their pledge photo, homework exercise and family pledge certificate to enable further discussion and engagement by the whole family.

**Have a look at our youtube videos which tell the story of two students on their journey to achieving their tread lightly pledge (search “tread lightly caravan” on youtube).**



## The Great Veggie Project

The Great Veggie Project is a specific activity in the TLC session for year 0-2 students so that students can grow their own vegetable plant. Soil, seeds and newspaper pots are provided for each student.



## Logistics and Costs

The process for the Tread Lightly Caravan visit is briefly described as follows:

### 1. Confirm dates:

Details of school bookings can be confirmed with Katie Jones [kjones@tread-lightly.org](mailto:kjones@tread-lightly.org) 0221 099 207. The length of the TLC visit will vary depending on the number of classes that visit the TLC. Three classes per day for years 3-8 or six classes per day year 0-2.

### 2. Pre-visit meeting:

Once the school booking has been confirmed, the TLC's Operations Manager, Andrea Kendall, will organise to visit the school approximately six weeks before the TLC visit. At that meeting Andrea will confirm the detailed logistics of the TLC's arrival and setup, including the times and names/numbers for each class visiting, exact location and access for the Caravan, any health and safety details and will go through the pre-visit educational learning options.

Additional educational options for years 3-8 range from unit plans (which have been developed for waste, energy and conservation) through to more specific targeted learning for each exhibit.

### 3. School visit:

TLC sessions (one class per session) are run by the TLC's teacher and assistant, with support from parent volunteers/teacher aides.

#### Years 3-8

TLC sessions for Year 3 – 8 classes are taught in the Caravan and area made available by the school (either the school hall, library or vacant room) adjacent to where the Caravan is to be parked.

The TLC session for years 3-8 is 90 minutes long (one class per session) and includes:

- A short (10 min) pre-briefing from our educator;
- The students rotating around five exhibits in small groups
- A short (5 min) de-briefing from our educator, plus Tread Lightly Pledge photos.

#### Years 0-2

TLC sessions for year 0-2 classes will be held in the area adjacent to the Caravan being used by the senior classes for their TLC sessions (year 0-2 classes will only visit the actual Tread Lightly Caravan if it is parked close to inside space).

The TLC session for years 0-1 is 40 minutes and for year two 50 minutes (one class per session) and includes:

- A short (5 min) pre-briefing from our educator;
- The students rotating around three exhibits in small groups (or 4 exhibits for year 2)
- A short (5 min) de-briefing from our educator, plus Tread Lightly Pledge photo.

#### Activity supervisors

The TLC relies on assistance provided by parent volunteers / teacher aides to help supervise the activity stations. It is essential that the school endeavours to organise this assistance.

**For Years 3 – 8 a min of 3-4 helpers is required. For the Years 0-2 a minimum 2-3 helpers are required.**

**THE CLASS TEACHER MUST BE PRESENT AND ASSISTING WITH CLASS MANAGEMENT FOR THE ENTIRE SESSION IN ALL YEAR GROUPS.**

#### 4. **Post visit:**

A feedback form is sent to schools immediately following the conclusion of the TLC visit to obtain your feedback.

#### 5. **Costs**

- \$7/student (incl GST) for years 3-8
- \$5/student (incl GST) for years 0-2

An invoice for the total number of students that participated in the TLC programme is sent to the school following the visit.

If a cancellation occurs after the pre-visit meeting has been held, a cancellation fee of \$250 (excl gst) will be issued.

### **Tread Lightly Caravan Testimonials**

Since the TLC started visiting schools in December 2010, it has completed over 185 school visits and hosted over 42,000 school children.

Feedback on the TLC experience, from both teachers and children, is hugely positive.

*"It was excellent. The organisation was great, the price is fantastic. It is so much more economical for you to come to us, it saves us money, saves the carbon footprint of busing kids out and makes organisation easy. Your resources are high quality, great hands-on experiences and very engaging. One of the best experiences that the children have had and we will definitely be doing it again. Great pre- and post-resources which takes the pressure off teachers and the Educators did a great job - engaging the children at the right level and I think the pledges are a great idea. The parents also enjoyed it and saw how much the children enjoyed it. Thank you ever so much." (Pukekohe East School Oct 2015)*

*"Great facilitators running this programme. Extremely easy to welcome into our school and we thoroughly appreciated their expertise. The programme was run very smoothly and delivered very professionally. Thank you!" (Waiau Pa Primary School May 2017)*

*"There are some very authentic actions happening as a result. Some of my students are writing to management to persuade them to put worm farm bins into every class. Some students are making news articles for our weekly school news. Some are thinking about entering the Outlook for Someday film challenge. Very exciting". (Mt Roskill Primary School May 2018)*

### **Contact Information**

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