

# Tread Lightly Caravan Programme document

## The Tread Lightly Caravan

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 inspires students to live more environmentally responsible lifestyles, and shows students how every day choices can make a huge difference to our natural environment.

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 Tread Lightly won the Community Focus category of the 2014 Ministry for the Environment's Green Ribbon Award, and was a finalist in the 2015 and 2019 Sustainable Business Network Awards for Communicating Sustainability.

Visit the Tread Lightly website [www.tread-lightly.org](http://www.tread-lightly.org) for further information or visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/treadlightlycaravan](https://www.facebook.com/treadlightlycaravan)



**tread lightly caravan**  
*Auckland's mobile environmental classroom*

*With thanks to the Tread Lightly Caravan's major supporters in 2022*



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## 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 – 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, and in the future as our decision makers.
- 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.
- 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 rebooks the TLC in successive years.
- Overcomes one of the main barriers to LEOTC in Auckland which is the cost of transport to an external venue. as the TLC is parked in the school grounds
- Is appropriate for any ethnicity and learning ability and has been designed so that it is accessible for people in wheelchairs.

## Programme details

The Tread Lightly Caravan programme is offered as an activity rotation programme (90 minutes for years 3-8 and 50-60 minutes for years 0-2). Learning outcomes become more complex as year levels go up.

<b>Years 0-1 50 minutes</b>	<b>Year 2 60 minutes</b>	<b>Years 3-4 90 minute</b>	<b>Years 5-6 90 minute</b>	<b>Years 7-8 90 minute</b>
Planting & Magnifying glasses Bees, flowers and pollination	Planting & Magnifying glasses Bees, flowers and pollination	Microscope: Bees, flowers and pollination	Microscope: Bees, flowers and pollination	Microscope: Bees, flowers and pollination
Stormwater Pollution	Stormwater Pollution	Stormwater Pollution	Stormwater Pollution	Stormwater Pollution
Landfill, recycling and waste	Landfill, recycling and waste	Landfill, recycling and waste	Landfill, recycling and waste	Landfill, recycling and waste
	Geckos and Vines	Geckos and Vines	Environmental Footprint	Environmental Footprint
		Energy (hand generator)	Energy (bike and hand generator)	Energy (bike and hand generator)



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## Exhibits and Activities

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.

### Magnifying Glass

Junior students use hand held magnifying glasses to get a closer look at nature. Students look at bees, other pollinators and flowers under the microscope to understand the role that pollinators play in an ecosystem

### Video Microscope

Students use a video microscope to get a closer look at nature. Students look at bees, other pollinators and flowers under the microscope to understand the role that pollinators play in an ecosystem

### Landfill, recycling and zero waste

Students discuss what is a landfill and how can we reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill. Using the Slice of Waste, students discuss what happens to different types of waste in a landfill. Using the Spinning Wheel, year 5-8 students discuss truth and lies about waste

### Energy - Power Bike / hand generator

Students pedal a real 'exercycle' or crank a hand generator 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.

### Stormwater

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.



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## Pledges

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.

A comprehensive suite of resources is provided electronically to teachers, consisting of classroom and homework activities. Every teacher receives an A2 Tread Lightly Pledge poster on which to track student progress in achieving their pledge. 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 Tread Lightly Pledge Project is proudly supported by Canon NZ.

## The Little Growers Club Project Years 0-2

The Little Growers Club Project is a specific activity in the TLC session for year 0-2 students so that students can grow their own vegetable plant or flower. Soil, seeds and newspaper pots are provided for each student. This links to the learning about bees and other pollinators in an ecosystem.

With the support of Kings Plant Barn, individual classes or syndicates will be rewarded in 2022 for the commitment their students can demonstrate over a 4-6 week period to care for their plants.

All classroom teachers have to do is to support their class to care for their plants and then to send us photos and stories of what the students have achieved!

Each school has the chance to receive:  
For an individual class - \$50 Kings Plant Barn vouchers  
For a syndicate - \$100 Kings Plant Barn vouchers





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## 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 four classes per day year 0-2.

### 2. Pre-visit meeting:

Once the school booking has been confirmed, the TLC's Operations Manager, Kaye Hawkins, will organise to visit the school approximately six weeks before the TLC visit. At that meeting, Kaye 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.

### 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 room 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 room 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 50 minutes and for year two 60 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 class 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.

Post-visit Kahoot quizzes are also available as a fun and easy way to reinforce the key messages taught to students as part of the Tread Lightly programme.



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## Costs

With thanks to Tread Lightly's supporters, the following subsidised cost is able to be provided to schools:

- \$7.50/student (incl GST) for years 3-8
- \$5.50/student (incl GST) for years 0-2

An invoice for the total number of students that were booked to participate in the Tread Lightly Caravan is sent to the school following the visit (based on reconfirmed student numbers following the pre-visit meeting). If a cancellation occurs after the pre-visit meeting has been held, a cancellation fee of \$250 (excl gst) will be issued.

## Testimonials

Since the TLC started visiting schools in December 2010, it has completed over 200 school visits and hosted over 64,000 school children.

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

*"Activities are engaging and the small group style works well to have high participation. Knowledgeable and engaging staff who were very accommodating of all students. The hands on activities were really good"* **Wakaaranga Primary School June 2021**

*"Highly engaged, hands-on, visual, inclusive (students and whanau), rotation of sessions ideal length, excellent resources, fantastic topic preloading. Tidy, resourceful, modern, practical and relevant. Displays and materials for the sessions were a great mix of hands-on and digital. Resources relevant and helpful for us to continue the inquiry focus in class. Personable, flexible, professional and helpful. The staff on the day were knowledgeable, organised and expertly managed the volunteer parents as well as keeping the students engaged."* **St Thomas' School October 2020**

*"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)**

## Further information

### Katie Jones

General Manager Tread Lightly  
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### Kaye Hawkins

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Auckland's mobile environmental classroom