Royal Albatross Centre Education

Save our Seabirds!

A Science Programme for
Primary Students
at the **Royal Albatross Centre**

Programme Booklet for Teachers
2017

Programme Overview

Objective: To understand how different seabirds are suited to their particular habitat and how they have responded to environmental change caused by humans.

Programme Description: Royal Albatross are only one of the attractions of Taiaroa Head. Breeding colonies of Spotted and Stewart Island Shags, Royal Spoonbills, Little Blue Penguins and Fur Seals are just a few of the highlights. Find out how the Department of Conservation rangers look after the wildlife at Taiaroa Head. Investigate how we have had both positive and negative impacts on the animals breeding on Taiaroa Head and think about what you can do to help.

Time:	2 hours
Age Focus:	Years 4-8
Curriculum Area:	**Science Level 2-4**
Cost:	$4/person

Spend the day on Otago Peninsula

Trip on the Wild Side

Make the most of your bus trip and journey through time on the Otago Peninsula. Investigate how natural and social events have shaped the Peninsula environment in the past and may shape it in the future.

New Zealand Marine Studies Centre:

There are a number of connecting programmes available at the NZ Marine Studies Centre and Aquarium. For programme details and bookings check out www.marine.ac.nz

Standard Programme Plan:

Time	Activity
	Arrive, meet guide at reception - *please arrive 10 minutes early*
0 min	**Education Rm** (30 min) - *programme overview and curriculum objectives* - *introduce Albatross – short overview of lifecycle* - *introduce other birds breeding at Taiaroa Head (costumes)* - *define terms endangered, threatened, least concern…* - *Assign status to the birds (eg endangered – red)* - *Brainstorm threats to the birds (record student's ideas on whiteboard – discuss later)*
30 min	**Observatory** (30 min) - *Albatross / Shag Viewing* - *role of the DoC rangers (display, monitoring board)* - *discuss conservation issues*
1 hr	**Pilots Beach View Pt.** (15 min.) - *observe Pilots Beach Reserve (eg fences, platform, vegetation)* - *discuss blue penguin tourism, tagging research etc.* **Cliff Viewing Area** (15 min) - *observe shag and red-billed gull nesting areas* - *discuss conservation issues*
1.5 hr	**Displays** (15 min) - *Scavenger Hunt with conservation theme* - *Blue penguin or albatross conservation game* **Education Rm** (15 min) - *Pass the Parcel Game (if time)* - *Review threats to birds (what can they add to their list)* - *Brainstorm" How to make an Albatross Happy"*
2 hr	**Depart**

Curriculum Links and Planning Guide

Science Achievement Objectives	Specific Learning Outcomes	Activities at the Royal Albatross Centre
Nature of Science **L3 Participating and contributing** ▪ Use their growing science knowledge when considering issues of concern to them. **L3 Investigating in science** ▪ Ask questions, find evidence, explore simple models, and carry out appropriate investigations to develop simple explanations. ***Living World*** **L3/4 Ecology** • Explain how living things are suited to their particular habitat and how they respond to environmental changes. Both natural and human-induced **L3/4 Evolution** • Begin to group animals into science-based classifications. **Social Science:** **L4** understand that events have causes and effects.	Students will be able to: • Identify different species of birds breeding at Taiaroa Head and understand how they are adapted for the environment in which they live. • Identify positive and negative impacts we have had on these birds. • Understand the terms least concern, threatened and endangered. Understand some of the things that the DoC ranges do to look after the albatross. • Classify 5 bird species that use Taiaroa Head into these classification groups	• Education Rm Activity • Observatory Visit • Lifecycle display

Other Curriculum Areas: **English, Arts, Maths**

Tour Guidelines

1. Supervisors
- Ratio of 1 adult to 8 students is required for primary level.
- Role of supervisors is to:
    - ensure that the students act in a responsible manner.
    - assist the students with the activities.
    - keep the noise level down and the group together.

2. Dress warmly
- It is always windy and cold at Taiaroa Head.

3. Arrive 10 Minutes Early
- If you are late, the time of your visit may be cut short as the observatory time is fixed and other tours are scheduled immediately after yours.
- Please allow time for a toilet break before the programme begins.

4. Group Size
- Please note only 25 people are allowed in the observatory at once.
- Please organise your students and adult helpers into groups of 25 or less before arrival.

5. Programme Length
- The programme is 2 hours and 15 minutes long (includes 15-30 minutes in the Richdale Observatory).
- Please plan to have morning or afternoon tea before or after the programme (not during).

6. Lunch Areas
- Areas suitable for lunch include:
    - Pilots Beach, just below the head land, is a great place to view fur seals but please do not approach or disturb them.
    - grassy area to the east of the Royal Albatross Centre.
    - Education Room maybe available if the weather is wet (please check availability with Royal Albatross Centre staff in advance).

Shop and Cafeteria
- Please keep children out of these areas unless they are planning to make a purchase.

7. Observatory
- Please note that the observatory is unavailable from Sept 17th to November 23rd to avoid disturbing the birds during courtship and egg laying. During this time students will be taken to an outdoor viewing area where they will see fur seals, shags, other birds and possibly albatross flying. Students will have the opportunity to view wildlife that is not normally part of the programme.

No Smoking
- To reduce the fire risk to the colony, smoking is not permitted.

Pre-trip Preparation

In order to ensure that students get the most out of the programme we suggest that some pre- and post-trip work is done in the classroom prior to the visit to the Royal Albatross Centre.

1. Risk Assessment

Review guidelines on the web site (Education Safety / RAMS form) and review with trip supervisors.
(www.albatross.org.nz/education/educational-resources/)

2. Pre-trip Activities

Use the activities on the web site and the resources listed to introduce the students to albatross and the Taiaroa headland.

3. Background Information

Review the information provided in this booklet. Further information about albatross and the Taiaroa Headland site can be found on the web site and in the reference list

4. Work Sheets

Programme worksheets are available on web site. Use them to prepare and follow-up the programme in the classroom.

5. Tour Guidelines

Please review the Tour Guidelines with your students and adult supervisors prior to the trip to the Royal Albatross Centre.

6. Teacher led activities at Taiaroa Head

Extend your visit to Taiaroa Head by exploring the headland. Simple identification guides will help you find other species of birds and mammals that use the headland. Lunch at Pilot's Beach and follow a trail to look at how humans interact with the environment. Laminated copies of activity sheets are available from the Royal Albatross Centre.

7. New Zealand Marine Studies Centre

Combine at the Royal Albatross Centre programme with a visit to the NZ Marine Studies Centre and Aquarium. Spend the morning at the Aquarium and the afternoon with the Albatross or vice versa. The programmes are complementary and together create a unique learning experience for your class.

Resources

Royal Albatross Centre Activity Sheets
(download from www.albatross.org.nz/education/educational-resources/)

PRIMARY
"Getting to know the Royal Albatross" Pre and Post Trip Activity
This activity can be done individually, in groups or as a class activity. We suggest you do it prior to the visit and then ask children to use a different colour pen to change or add to their answers after the visit. This could be used for assessment. Please send examples of the students work to the Royal Albatross Centre.

A is for Albatross, B is for Bird Word Puzzle
Find words related to birds for every letter of the alphabet.

Albatross and Seabird Observation Record Sheet
Record your observations and compare Albatross with shags and gulls.

Albatross Conservation Cartoon Story –
"Yawn the Albatross" cartoon has information about the life of an albatross and how our fishing activities are affecting these birds.

Design a Penguin Nest Box, Design a Penguin Tag
Use your creative skills to see how you could help the penguins.

Bird Count Form – Taiaroa Head
Include a 5 minute bird count into your programme at Taiaroa Head

Create your own Albatross Mask
Colour template to construct an albatross face mask with bill.

Food Chain Card Game - "Gulp and Swallow"
This card game illustrates local food chains and where albatross fit in. And excellent resource for both the Royal Albatross Programme and the NZ Marine Studies Centre programme.

Little Blue Penguin Game
An interactive game which looks at issues which could affect the breeding and survival of Blue Penguins.

Make an Albatross Happy
Brainstorm sheet for environmental action ideas

Tracking our Trash
This activity takes students a few steps beyond just picking up trash from the local beach. By identifying the type of rubbish they can look at the source,

harm rating on wildlife and find out how long it will take to break down in the ocean.

Blue Penguin Game

ALL LEVELS
Albatross of NZ Poster

Crossword – Albatross

English Activity – "Poems about Albatross"
Encourage students to write about the flight observed in a creative way.

How can we help the Albatross – ideas

Human Impact Trail at Pilot's Beach
Look at the impact we have had on the local environment, Activity could be lead by teachers.

Poem – Toroa Waiata

Royals of Taiaroa / Conservation Project Information Sheet

Wildlife Viewing Guide
Wildlife viewing activity guide for teachers.

Wildlife Information Guide
Species to look for at Taiaroa Head and information.

Tracking our Trash
This action planner for Teachers gives an example of how students can make the vision to reduce the amount of rubbish going into the sea a reality.

Relevant Web Sites

www.school.albatross.org.nz
The education part of the Royal Albatross Centre website. Lots of activities and information to download.

www.albatross.org.nz
The Royal Albatross Centre site with background information on the colony and history of Fort Taiaroa.

www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-education/resources
Excellent resources including Experiencing birds in your green space

www.southernseabirds.org/resources/students-teachers/
Southern Seabird Solutions fact sheets, lesson plans and student activity guides. Also videos and case studies. Excellent resources.

www.savethealbatross.net
Save the Albatross campaign by RSPB and Birdlife International.

www.forestandbird.org.nz/saving-our-environment/marine-and-coastal/save-our-seabirds
Facts about the threatened albatross species and information on the campaign to prevent albatross deaths in the fishing industry.

www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/species_/seabirds/
World Wide Fund for Nature site with information on conservation issues surrounding albatross.

www.albatrossencounter.co.nz/albatross/ocean_birds/
A tourism operation in Kaikoura. Has a conservation section and information on what birds (including albatross) can be seen.

www.kcc.org.nz/help-keep-seabirds-off-the-hook/
www.kcc.org.nz/singing-for-seabirds/
www.kcc.org.nz/seabird-smart/
Kiwi conservation club site. Information on albatross and their threats.

http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/conservation/issues/great-pacific-garbage-patch-explained.htm
www.science.howstuffworks.com/clean-up-garbage-patch.htm
How stuff works articles on the problem the Pacific ocean is facing with plastics and how we can 'potentially' clean it up.