



Surprise at light show crowds P4



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The Hutt News

stuff

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Conservation super-sleuths

Koraunui School students (from left) Otto Saul, 8, Persia Edmonds, 9 and Will Watson, 8, hone their searching skills ahead of the Stokes Valley Bio Blitz.

MATTHEW TSO/STUFF

MATTHEW TSO

Some of the best scientific brains in the region are about to take a close look at Stokes Valley.

They will be taking part in a unique event aimed at making about 400 young minds think conservation.

Bio Blitz organiser and Koraunui School teacher Di Christenson said the event on November 6 was about instilling conservation values in kids and getting them to understand the world around them.

"If you want kids to be kaitiaki, they have to know what to look after."

Local students from Koraunui,

Tui Glen and Tawhai schools will be joined by pupils from Avalon Intermediate, Wellesley College, Pinehaven and Hampton Hill schools, which are all part of the sustainability focused EnviroSchools network.

The students will spread out across the valley with the aim of capturing as much flora and fauna as they can find on camera.

The photos will be uploaded to an app and their findings will be examined and catalogued by about 60 experts from the likes of the Department of Conservation, Forest and Bird, Wellington Zoo, Zealandia, local councils, Predator Free New Zealand, Te Papa

"It will give us a much deeper knowledge of what's in the valley and what needs protecting. We will find out what we can do to build the environmental health of the valley."

Barbara Hay

and a range of other organisations.

Another organiser, Barbara Hay said the information gathered by the students will be used to assess the health and biodiversity of Stokes Valley.

"It will give us a much deeper knowledge of what's in the valley and what needs protecting. We

will find out what we can do to build the environmental health of the valley.

"We hope we can build [the students'] awareness of conservation issues and also get the community involved in the project."

She said it would be a great opportunity for the students to work with experts who had a

wealth of knowledge.

There will be project bases at the new Stokes Valley Community Hub, Horoeka Scenic Reserve and Koraunui School.

Interactive activities, presentations and story telling will also be part of the day, and members of the local community are invited to take part.

The Bio Blitz project was the brainchild of Christenson, who applied for an Unlocking Curious Minds grant from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment.

The grant is a contestable fund that aims to engage New Zealanders, particularly young people, in science and technology.

GARDEN EVENING

THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 6-8PM

MITRE 10 MEGA

PETONE, UPPER HUTT & PORIRUA