

# Summer Holiday Programme 2026



# THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

Wander through regenerating forest thriving with rare and endangered wildlife, hear kiwi call at night and have an unforgettable encounter with nature these holidays. The Summer Holiday Programme is organised by Moehau Environment Group (MEG), offering you the chance to experience Coromandel's natural treasures guided by local volunteers keen to share their passion and knowledge. We look forward to a fun summer and meeting you soon. Learn more about us at [www.meg.org.nz](http://www.meg.org.nz)

## CLAY CRITTERS

**COST:** Child \$5,  
accompanying adult free

**When+Where:**

3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th January – 10am

Shelly Beach TOP 10 Holiday Park

Come and squish, roll and enjoy the smooth texture of clay donated from Driving Creek and create some critters that you can take home as a memento. Be inspired by our native animals of all shapes and sizes. A great activity for the little ones. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bookings not required but clay supplies limited, arrive early to avoid missing out.



## KIWI NIGHT ADVENTURE

**COST:** Child \$10, Adult \$15

**When+Where:**

3rd, 5th, 10th, 13th, 17th & 25th  
January – 7:30pm

Port Charles Fire Station,  
Tangiaro/Port Charles

Explore the forest at night time in real kiwi country. Hear kiwi call and see a kiwi burrow. Follow a beautiful stream and see glow worms. Learn about our national bird and the work MEG is doing. Bring a torch and sturdy shoes. Please be mindful to bring clean, dirt free shoes to protect kauri. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**BOOKINGS REQUIRED**

## KIDS IN THE SANCTUARY AT DRIVING CREEK

**COST:** \$5,  
accompanying adult free

**When+Where:**

6th January – 10am

Driving Creek Railway,  
Kapanga/Coromandel Town

Make your own clay creation and have a go at conservation bingo with Sophie, a conservation ranger from Driving Creek. Enjoy a tour of a predator proof sanctuary with geckos and native birds to inspire your creations. Suitable for young children.

**BOOKINGS REQUIRED**

# CONSERVATION TOUR AT DRIVING CREEK



**COST:** SPECIAL DISCOUNT RATE Child \$5 Adult \$15

**When+Where:** 8th January – 10am

Driving Creek Railway, Kapanga/Coromandel Town

Join Sophie, one of the rangers of Driving Creek's Conservation Park, and explore the history of Driving Creek from goldmining and kauri logging, to the vision of Barry Brickell to restore the kauri forest and build a predator-proof sanctuary in Coromandel Town, now home to rare native wildlife. See the predator traps in use today and meet amazing cave wētā and geckos! Suitable for all the family. Driving Creek regularly runs conservation tours over the summer months and this is a special discounted rate for our summer holiday programme.

**BOOKINGS REQUIRED**

# RIVER TO SEA: KIDS KRAFT AND KAURI VR

**COST:** Donation

**When+Where:**

11th January – 1 to 4pm

Colville Hall, Colville

Bring the kids along to create with craft materials and be inspired by our theme from River to Sea, showcasing wildlife from land, rivers and sea. The amazing Kauri Visual Reality Experience will be available for all ages to try. It is a moving, visually stunning experience created with mātauranga Māori advisory group and experts in ecology thanks to Waikato Regional Council.

# BOTANICAL EXPLORING

**COST:** Adult \$40 (member price \$30)

**When+Where:**

7th, 15th January – 10am to 2pm,  
bring packed lunch

Port Charles Fire Station, Tangiaro/  
Port Charles

Come with us on a bush exploration off the beaten track... scramble slopes and cross streams. Explore our unique flora, taking time to investigate, listen, feel and talk about the nature around us.

Bring clean sturdy shoes, camera, drink and lunch.

Suitable for adults and older children with a good level of fitness and coordination.

**BOOKINGS REQUIRED**

# PAINT A RAT TRAP

**COST:** \$30 per box

**When+Where:**

4th, 14th, 24th January – 9 to 11am

MEG Summer Shop, Waikawau Bay  
Campground.

Paint a rat trap box with your own designs inspired by nature or your imagination! Use your painted trap as a gift or put it in your own backyard. The cost includes the rat trap and trap box. Paint materials supplied by Draw Art Supplies (DAS) and Resene Paint.

**BOOKINGS REQUIRED**



# MEET A CONSERVATION RAT DOG

**COST:** Gold coin donation      **When+Where:** 19th January

**11am Shelly Beach TOP 10 Campground**

**2pm MEG summer shop, Waikawau Bay Campground**

Come and meet conservation dog handler Richard and his rodent detection dog Flint. Richard travels around the motu and to pest-free islands, where he follows his dog through many kinds of terrain to sniff out rodents that should not be there. Learn what their role is in protecting biodiversity and take a walk with Richard to see what they detect around the campgrounds!

# NOCTURNAL WALK WAIKAWAU

**COST:** Child \$5 Adult \$10

**When+Where:** 9th, 16th January – 8pm

**MEG summer shop,  
Waikawau Bay Campground**

Take a walk at night with a DOC ranger and an ecologist to learn about the creatures that come out at night in the campground, bush tracks and streams. Bring a torch and wear shoes that can get wet. **Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.**

# WEAVE HARAKEKE WITH NICI GREULICH

**COST:** \$90 full day workshop

**When+Where:** 8th January –  
9am to 5pm, bring own lunch

**Tangiaro/Port Charles**

In this full day workshop, you will learn to prepare flax and weave a kono (four corner basket) for beginners, or for those more experienced, expand your knowledge by working on something new with guidance from Nici. This will be a small group session of max 10 adults/teenagers (not suitable for children) and may fill up fast!

**BOOKINGS REQUIRED**  
enquire: [info@meg.org.nz](mailto:info@meg.org.nz)

# KIWI AVOIDANCE TRAINING

**COST:** Donation per dog

**When+Where:**

**18th January – 11am**

**Northern Coromandel**

Even well trained dogs can inadvertently kill kiwi. The best protection for kiwi and peace-of-mind for you is to put your dog through Kiwi Avoidance Training. MEG is funding the training this year because dogs are one of the main threats to kiwi in our area. If you can help us out with a suggested donation of \$15 to cover the cost of the training that would be a huge help. Register your dog through [www.kiwiavoidancetraining.nz](http://www.kiwiavoidancetraining.nz)

Training only takes 10 minutes.

If you've already had your dogs trained, well done! To keep kiwi safe, repeating the training once a year is recommended.

# CONSERVATION EXHIBITION

12th – 14th January

Hauraki House Gallery in Kapanga/Coromandel Town, 10am to 4pm.

Three days of displays, activities, giveaways and beautiful art by local photographers and artists. You could be in to win a family pass to Driving Creek Railway just by attending! Natural history items on display, a conservation story corner, kauri virtual reality experience, art exhibition and more.

## MONDAY - BIRD ART WITH THE BIRD LADY

**COST:** \$10 per participant (includes canvas and some materials)

**When+Where:** 12th January – 1 to 2pm Hauraki House Gallery

Join Annemieke Kregting bird rescue carer and renowned mosaic artist and make some art with found and recycled materials. Bring those collected shells, sea glass, buttons or bits and bobs and learn about wildlife while creating masterpieces!

All ages welcome. Children please be accompanied by an adult. **BOOKINGS REQUIRED**

## TUESDAY - MEET A GECKO

**COST:** Child \$5, Adult \$10

**When+Where:** 13th January – 11am Hauraki House Gallery

Get to see and hold a real live gecko! Encounter the exciting world of geckos with lizard expert Doug Ashby. Hear Doug share his wide knowledge and experience as a gecko keeper. Wonderful opportunity for all ages. **Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

## WEDNESDAY - CONSERVATION EXPO DAY

**COST:** FREE

**When+Where:** 14th January – 10am to 4pm Hauraki House Gallery

Want to know more about conservation? At our joint expo day, Department of Conservation team members will bring some games, information displays and be on hand for questions. Learn backyard trapping with our MEG team. The Kauri Protection and Marine Biosecurity teams from Waikato Regional Council will be running activities, sharing educational material and giveaways, and showcasing the incredible Wētā Workshop Kauri tree model. You can also try the immersive Kauri virtual reality experience – visually stunning, heart-stirring, and fun. **Not to be missed!**



## LEARN BACKYARD TRAPPING

**COST:**

Gold coin donation

**When+Where:**

14th January – 11am

Hauraki House Gallery

Learn about the different kinds of traps that are currently being used in the field to catch rats, stoats, ferrets, possums and feral cats. See how to set them and learn about the different lures and the best placement for your traps. MEG builds rat, stoat and ferret traps and these will be available to purchase at this event.



## BOOKINGS & CANCELLATIONS

Bookings are essential for some activities as they may not run without a minimum number of people. To book either message us on FB or email at [info@meg.org.nz](mailto:info@meg.org.nz). You will be sent details of our bank account. The weather may impact the ability to run certain activities. Check our Facebook page for updates. In the case of cancellations you will be notified and refunds will be made to your account.

## IMAGES

We may take photos during our activities for future promotion opportunities. If you do not want your image used please make this known at time of booking and to the activity leader. Thank you.

## A WORD ABOUT SAFETY

Most of the Summer Holiday Programme takes place outdoors. Common hazards are steep and uneven terrain and exposure to sun and heat. While we at MEG will take all reasonably practicable steps to keep you safe, we require participants in the Summer Holiday Programme to take some responsibility. Please ensure you/ and your child/ren wear suitable footwear and clothing, apply sunscreen and insect repellent. Please bring drinking water. We require all participants to follow any instructions provided by our MEG team so that we can all enjoy these activities.

## ABOUT US

Moehau Environment Group is dedicated to restoring, connecting and protecting the biodiversity and habitats of northern Hauraki/Coromandel

- Extensive mustelid trapping network for kiwi protection
- MEGa Pest control 450ha area of forest enhancement
- Wetland pest trapping
- Volunteer weeding or planting days
- School education
- Summer holiday programme
- Backyard trapping

*Giving nature a helping hand for 25 years!*



**BECOME A MEMBER**  
Volunteer or donate!  
[www.meg.org.nz](http://www.meg.org.nz)

# A BIG THANKS TO.....

This Summer Programme is organised by Moehau Environment Group Volunteers and for some events we work in partnership with the Department of Conservation, Driving Creek Railway, Colville Junction, Shelly Beach Top 10 Holiday Park. Our work would not be possible without the support of Waikato Regional Council.

We can't do this without our sponsors support. Please support them when you can and enjoy a safe and fun summer with us and our amazing volunteers who make this programme possible.



Contact us  
if you want to become a  
MEG corporate sponsor!



We are grateful to Print House (our print sponsor)...  
Print House Ltd is committed to sustainability and the protection for the environment.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The beautiful native bird photographs are courtesy of Anna Sephton whose artworks and calendars will be for sale at our Conservation Exhibition in Kapanga/Coromandel.

Find her work on instagram @anna\_sephton\_ or for calendar purchases  
email [anna.sephton@gmail.com](mailto:anna.sephton@gmail.com)

# KEY DATES: JAN 2026

- 3rd** – Clay Critters - Shelly Beach  
Kiwi Night Adventure – Port Charles
- 4th** – Paint a Rat Trap – Waikawau
- 5th** – Kiwi Night Adventure – Port Charles
- 6th** – Kids in the Sanctuary, Driving Creek – Kapanga/Coromandel
- 7th** – Botanical Exploring – Port Charles
- 8th** – Conservation Tour Driving Creek – Kapanga/Coromandel  
Weave Harakeke with Nici Greulich – Port Charles
- 9th** – Nocturnal Walk – Waikawau
- 10th** – Clay Critters – Shelly Beach  
Kiwi Night Adventure – Port Charles
- 11th** – River To Sea: Kids Kraft and Kauri VR Experience – Colville
- 12th to 14th** – CONSERVATION EXHIBITION
- 12th** – Bird Art with the Bird Lady – Kapanga/Coromandel
- 13th** – Meet a Gecko – Kapanga/Coromandel Town  
Kiwi Night Adventure –  
Port Charles
- 14th** – Paint a Rat Trap –  
Waikawau  
Conservation EXPO day –  
Kapanga/Coromandel  
Learn Backyard Trapping –  
Kapanga/Coromandel
- 15th** – Botanical Exploring – Port Charles
- 16th** – Nocturnal Walk – Waikawau
- 17th** – Clay Critters – Shelly Beach  
Kiwi Night Adventure – Port Charles
- 18th** – Kiwi Avoidance Training – Northern Coromandel
- 19th** – Meet a Conservation Rat Dog – Shelly Beach  
Meet a Conservation Rat Dog – Waikawau
- 24th** – Clay Critters – Shelly Beach  
Paint a Rat Trap – Waikawau
- 25th** – Kiwi Night Adventure – Port Charles

