

Q: What's free, fun and fabulous?

A: Our fifty free, fun and fabulous things for friends and families to do at the Gardens!



- Count the lizards on our Bird Lady sculpture
- Find your favourite vegetables in the Edible Garden
- Find the brick campsite near the lake and climb aboard the row boat
- Find the toilets near the Potter Children's Garden. What can you see growing on the roof?
- Check out the weta in the Visitor Centre Huakaiwaka – do you know where their ears are?
- Practice doing cartwheels on the main lawn
- Have a picnic under your favourite tree
- In the Potter Children's Garden, learn why the puriri tree needs our kereru (native wood pigeon)
- Stand in the native forest and close your eyes. What birds can you hear? Our cheeky piwakawaka (fantail) like to follow visitors through the forest
- Find the sun dial in the Potter Children's Garden to tell the time without your watch
- Race your mum or dad across the central lawn
- Take some photos and make a collage when you get home
- Explore the Threatened Native Plants Garden – find out how we're protecting these precious endangered plants
- Find and follow an ant trail. Where are they going and what are they doing?
- Visit our resident worms in the Edible Garden
- Walk around the Herb Garden and find a plant used to make perfume
- Head to the Gondwana Arboretum, imagine huge dinosaurs roaming around and munching on these ancient trees!
- Play a game of eye-spy in the African Garden
- Head to the Potter Children's Garden and go grub hunting in the grub pit
- Take a bush walk through the native forest. Totara Park playground is at the top of the hill
- Count the geckos in the kids area at the Huakaiwaka visitor centre
- Take your dog for a walk – there's even an off-leash area at the northern end of the gardens
- Head to the Potter Children's Garden and go grub hunting in the grub pit
- Find the brick seat for old men in the Rose Garden
- Use a magnifying glass to look at the plants with tiny leaves
- Stop on the bridge over the Puhinui Stream at the bottom of the forest, can you spot any eels in the stream?
- Feed the Ducks – get a bag of special duck food from the Huakaiwaka visitor centre for 20c
- Run through the refreshing jungle mist in the Potter Children's Garden
- Discover a sculpture made of shovels in the Native Ideas Garden – how many shovels can you count?
- Find a tree with nice smooth bark and give it a hug
- For rainy days, there are some great books and puzzles in the children's area of Huakaiwaka visitor centre
- See if you can find a blue flower in the Perennial Garden
- Count the frogs in the stinky bog (Potter Children's Garden)
- Lie on the grass and look at the clouds – what shapes can you see?
- Take your shoes off and walk around, what feels nicer – grass or concrete?
- Learn how to identify native trees and shrubs on the Native Plant ID Trail
- Check out the cheeky jungle monkeys in the Potter Children's Garden
- Fly a kite or throw a Frisbee on the central lawn
- Stand in one spot and count how many different shades of green you can see
- Find out how to tell the difference between kanuka and manuka plants on the Native Plant ID Trail
- Create an art trail by arranging fallen leaves into shapes on the ground, leave them for other visitors to discover
- See how many different leaf shapes you can find in the garden
- Find out when the Huakaiwaka visitor centre first opened
- Read the latest garden and lifestyle magazines in the library
- Use the microscope in the Huakaiwaka visitor centre to magnify and explore leaves and creatures up close
- Bring a notebook and pencil and sketch your favourite plant
- Bird watching – how many different birds can you see, do you know what they are?
- Find all the colours of the rainbow in the Herb Garden
- Have a hot chocolate with marshmallows at Café Miko
- There are loads of strange plants in the Rock Garden – dream up a weird name for the wackiest plant you can find!