

Eye on Nature Creative Arts 2025 Info Pack

Key dates and times:

Mon 15th September	Artwork entries close
Thurs 18th September	Artwork must be delivered to the Auckland Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre (8.00am – 4.00pm)
Fri 19th September	Judging takes place
Sat 20th September, 10.30am - midday	Prizegiving and exhibition opening event
Sat 20th September – Sun 5th October	Exhibition open to the public for viewing. Public can vote for People's Choice Award
Mon 6th October	Artwork must be collected from the Auckland Botanic Gardens (8.00am – 4.00pm)

Key information

- Submissions for each art piece must be received by **Mon 15th September**. Submit your entries via our [online submission form](#).
- You must deliver your completed artwork to the exhibition space at Auckland Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre (102 Hill Road, Manurewa) **on Thurs 18th September** for display and judging. A staff member will meet you on site and direct you where to set up.
- You will not need to be present for judging on **Friday 19th September**.
- A Prizegiving and Exhibition Opening Event will be held on **Saturday 20th September, 10.30am – midday** at the Auckland Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre. Come along to celebrate the exhibition opening and see prizes awarded to winners!
- You must collect your artwork from the Auckland Botanic Gardens on **Mon 6th October**.



2025 theme: Wellbeing – Taiao and Me

This year we are exploring how to care for our local spaces. We want you to show us how you learn about and look after te taiao (the environment) around you!

We are part of nature. Just like the forests, rivers and oceans need balance to stay strong, our own wellbeing also needs balance. We can use tools like [Te Whare Tapa Whaa](#) to help us understand this.

Our hope is that Creative Arts can be a hands-on project where children can investigate sustainability and voice their thoughts on te taiao. Their artworks will be displayed in a gallery and inspire visitors to consider their impact on the world too.



Special considerations:

The Beautification Trust would like to encourage awareness, research and understanding of tikanga around the use of food items in artwork, as well as the whakapapa of other artwork materials (such as toilet rolls).

We also do not permit the use of pest plants in any competition entries.

Moving pest plants from one place to another (from the ground to our Eye on Nature venue) is not permitted under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and puts NZ's unique biodiversity at risk.

We see this enforcement as a beneficial tool to raise students' and the wider public's awareness around these harmful species of plant.

[Weedbusters](#) have some great information on pest plants and how to identify them.

For example, [pampas](#) is a pest plant that replaces native plants such as ferns and shrubs and provides a habitat for pest animals such as possums and rats. Pampas is a huge threat to NZ's biodiversity and must not be used as a material. [Toetoe](#) can be used in place of pampas; it looks similar but is native to NZ and is not a threat to the environment.

If you would like further clarification or information, please don't hesitate to contact us.



PRIMARY SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN

1 st Prize	\$750.00	1 st Prize	\$500.00
2 nd Prize	\$500.00	2 nd Prize	\$250.00
3 rd Prize	\$250.00	3 rd Prize	\$100.00

Special merit prizes for best use of sustainable materials and a people’s choice prize are also up for grabs.

As this is a school competition, all prize money will be paid to the winning schools and will be allocated at the schools’ discretion. Home school Students are welcome to participate and prize money will be paid to the family.



Judging criteria & weighting

Category	Description	Max points
<p>Interpretation</p> <p>Whakamaarama</p>	<p>The theme for 2025 is Wellbeing – Taiao and me</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s natural ecosystems are taonga (treasures) to be protected. A healthy taiao (environment) means a healthy me. I acknowledge how human activities have affected the health of te taiao locally. My creative piece shows how I care for our oceans, beaches, rivers, forests, or gardens, by telling the story of how we can look after nature in our local areas.</p>	20
<p>Materials</p> <p>Rauemi hangarua</p>	<p>I understand that the materials that I use will have an impact on te taiao. I have considered where my materials come from, and where they will go when I am finished with my project. Some materials can be returned safely to Papatuaanuku and Ranginui, and others cannot.</p> <p>Creations can be made from any material but entries made predominantly from sustainable, repurposed materials, will be given more credit.</p> <p>Material sourced from pest plants is strongly discouraged.</p>	20



Category	Description	Max points
<p>Artist Statement</p> <p>Too maatou korero</p>	<p>I understand that my thoughts and words can have a powerful impact on behalf of te taiao. I have something important and worthwhile to express to others. I feel empowered when I share my whakaaro (thoughts).</p> <p>As part of your entry form, you will need to provide a short paragraph explaining how your design relates to the theme, how you came up with the concept and the considerations you gave to the environmental impact of your artwork.</p>	15
<p>Originality and Innovation</p> <p>Auahatanga</p>	<p>My connection to te taiao is special to me. I can inspire and wow people with my unique creations. I also recognise the beauty of our natural environment and draw inspiration from Ranginui and Papatuuaanuku.</p> <p>The judges are looking for an entry that will make an impression, an original art piece designed with a unique interpretation of the theme.</p>	15
<p>Construction</p> <p>Waihanganga</p>	<p>Our bodies are taonga, so I understand that my creation will be safe and easy for people to handle. I can be innovative with how I join things together but there are no sharp or dangerous components.</p> <p>Your creation must not exceed 1m in length/width/height and must be able to be easily transported by max 2 adults. Please consider your artworks durability for public display.</p>	15
<p>Artist effort</p> <p>Whakapau kaha</p>	<p>I understand that I am still learning and my best effort is something to be proud of. I have had found ways to have fun with the project and persevere through mistakes.</p> <p>While we do not mind some adult participation, the artwork must be primarily constructed by the student(s).</p>	15

