

No images? [Click here](#)

Space for Nature Autumn 2025

Kia ora

Such a rainy start to Easter weekend!

I hope you're all enjoying being safe and cosy inside. I thought I'd get this newsletter out today as there's some some competitions you can get involved in and be ready for when the rain stops.

In this newsletter you'll see we're on a mission to increase protected space for nature throughout the Bay of Plenty, and get people signed up to the project.

Now's your time to spread the word... let's increase space for nature on your street and in your suburb. Western Bay and Ōtūmoetai residents can join in the **competitions outlined below and be in to win!**

We're thrilled to have the **iNaturalist Space for Nature project** now ready for you to start logging your observations and joining in the competitions. Full details of how to get involved can be found in this newsletter.

With the new Tauranga City pilot project launch we saw just how important Space for Nature is to people in the Maungawhare Place/

Ōtūmoetai area. We are very hopeful the pilot project will be successful.

For the next month we have some **local events** coming up for the Ōtūmoetai area. We'll be learning about pest plants, predators and doing a bird count to get baseline data for the project. Keep these dates free... **Sunday 4th, 11th and 18th May**, and we'll send more details soon.

Once the rain clears you'll see the autumn leaves fallen, and it's a fascinating time to look at what's happening in the spaces we're protecting for nature. Below we've put together some thoughts and things you can do to support nature in your patch this autumn.

- Follow Space for Nature on Facebook and Instagram (links below)
- Email us on rose@envirohub.org.nz

Ngā mihi,

Rose and the Space for Nature Team



Competitions

1. Ōtūmoetai area residents

Recruit your neighbours, whanau or friends in the next two weeks and go in the draw to win a \$100 gift card and a yellow flowering Pohutukawa plant seeded locally.

We've added "Who were you referred by?" to the sign up form so they can vote for you.

Share the [link](#) and go in the draw to win. The person in this area with the most people joined up by the end of April wins.

2. *Western Bay residents*

The people from the Western Bay suburb with the most registrations in April will go in the draw to win \$100 gift card and a yellow flowering Pohutukawa plant seeded locally.

Spread the word, tell others in your suburb about Space for Nature and how they can join. If your suburb has the most new members by the 15th May, you will go in the draw to win.

The registration form link can be found on this [page](#)

3. *iNaturalist photo competition*

Enter photos of all your observations into our Space for Nature iNaturalist project (see below) before the 15th May. The photos will be judged in two categories...

1. The most photos of backyard birds and critters - get busy and log your observations
2. Best photo of a bird or critter in your backyard - take care and get a great shot!



Join our Space for Nature iNaturalist project

This app will make it easy for you to share your backyard finds and be entered to win awesome prizes!

What is iNaturalist?

iNaturalist is a free app and online community where you can share your nature observations with others. It's a great way to identify species, track wildlife, and contribute to scientific research—while you participate in our Space for Nature community.

Why iNaturalist is Great:

It helps you discover nature, identify plants, birds, critters and more with help from the community.

Track Your Finds: Record your observations and contribute to a global database of biodiversity.

Help Science: Every observation you make helps researchers and conservation efforts in our city and around the world.

How to Use iNaturalist and join the Space for Nature online project:

Download the App

-Available on iOS and Android.

Create an Account

-Sign up with your email or through Google/Facebook.

Join our Space for Nature Project [here](#) so you can connect with the Space for Nature community and your observations count for the competitions.

Once set up you can begin observing and sharing.

-Capture a clear photo of nature in your backyard flora or fauna

Upload Your Photo

-Open iNaturalist, tap the “+” sign, and select “Add Observation”.

-Choose the photo you took.

Identify Your Find

-Type in the name of what you saw, or let iNaturalist suggest it for you!

Submit Your Observation

-Hit “Share” to upload and share your observation.

For a step-by-step video tutorial on using iNaturalist, check out this link:

<https://help.inaturalist.org/.../151000170777-how-to-make..>



Protecting nature in your backyard this autumn

Observing the changes taking place in your backyard as the days shorten, the temperatures drop, and the leaves fall, helps us see what the critters and birds that we're protecting will need heading towards winter.

Autumn colours are stunning, and nature puts fallen leaves to good use protecting plants,

hiding wildlife, and feeding the soil as they break down.

Instead of blowing your leaves away, run your mower over them. Mulching the leaves lets them settle into the grass, adding nutrients and building healthy soils for your garden to flourish.

If you do need to use a leaf blower, go electric and stick to paths or driveways. Fuel-powered blowers are extremely polluting—some have a carbon footprint 30 times worse than a car. In some places, they're actually a big chunk of total air pollution. Plus, they mess with nesting birds and bugs, stir up all kinds of mold spores and make allergies and asthma worse.

You may also notice an increase in rodents as we move through autumn. This is the time they are leaving their parents nests and looking for new homes. Don't let them settle in and threaten the taonga species in your yard. Get your predator free trap working and check the [Predator Free BOP](#) website for for new hints for predator control.

Space for Nature is an Envirohub Bay of Plenty project



Contact Details

rose@envirohub.org.nz

Space for Nature Team

Envirohub Bay of Plenty

31B Glasgow Street, Tauranga

Phone: 07 578 6664 Web: <https://www.waiarikiparkregion.org.nz/home/spacefornature>

You are receiving this email as a member of Space for Nature. If you wish to change your preferences for communication, please do so here:

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)