

Tēnā koutou katoa. Ngā mihi ō te rā ki a koutou. Greetings from Aotearoa New Zealand!

Over fifteen years ago, the founders of EcoQuest imagined a learning community where, through education and research, young, motivated, people would become catalysts for sustainability. As the saying goes, 'the rest is history.'

The prequel...

Your flight across the great Pacific, through the night, leaping forward a day into a bright Aotearoa dawn. Anticipation...the shift begins. Everything is different. Night is day, right is left, the sun goes backwards. You are seeing with fresh eyes. Capture that feeling and let yourself be immersed in our place, our culture.

You have become part of something much bigger...

Our field centre by the sea quickly becomes your home. Teammates and EcoQuest staff become Whānau (family), and companions on a series of adventures throughout our land, forests, and waters. This is a country of raw beauty, a place of light and contradiction. You find yourself on a multi-layered journey that extends your horizons, challenges you. It's all in the name. Te Rārangahau Taiao (EcoQuest) has layered meanings. It speaks of the questing for the natural world. It also conjures up the idea of weaving together strands of knowledge and understanding to provide for generations to come. Together we weave these strands, not just within New Zealand, but also across the globe.

But it is not just about fun and adventure...

There is a lot of joy in what we do, but what is essential is that we always strive for the highest standards. To do less would be denying the spirit of our quest. At heart, we believe well-grounded, well-rounded natural scientists have a critical role in the wise stewardship of our planet; and our programs are designed to educate for this purpose. Good minds, good hearts, good science. At times, in Kiwi speak, "it is a bit of a grunt" meaning that it is really hard work, but this all leads to an unforgettable learning experience.



On our journeys through Aotearoa New Zealand...

We combine rigorous academic pursuit with hands-on learning, from the mountains to the sea. Together with our experienced faculty and staff, you engage in practical, field based case studies, and scientific research with real community and conservation outcomes. When you leave New Zealand, you will have been immersed in our place and our culture, and you will have left something of yourself behind—our place and our people will be enriched by your efforts.

Take a few moments to browse through this brochure to understand more about the way we use our "natural laboratory," the way your work connects us with and serves our community, and about our sustainable learning community. Whatever your pathway, if we can widen your vision, earth your understandings, and encourage an abiding fascination for the natural world, we can feel assured that you will work towards sustainability wherever you belong. Every place needs its guardians.

Arohanui ki a tātou katoa.

Jono Clark, Director