



***Here is some extra info, top tips and suggested local hotspots for your adventures this May!***



**Stand in wonder at a tree corridor**

In Hawke’s Bay, we have Oak Avenue in Hastings, the Norfolk Pines on Marine Parade in Napier, and the plane trees lining Waimārama Rd before Red Bridge. Can you find out how old the trees are? How do you feel looking at them? Can you spot anything in the branches?



**Stand in awe of a tree** - Did you know there were ‘significant’ and ‘outstanding’ trees in Hawke’s Bay? Find a significant or outstanding tree – either in your opinion or one that is listed on a resource like the Hastings District Plan – [significant trees](#) and [outstanding trees](#). Or even the mighty matai on the Boundary Stream Tumanako Loop Track that’s over 800 years old! Find a place to stand and take a good look.



**Follow a crab on a rocky shore** - We have beautiful rocky shores in Hawke’s Bay, like Te Angi Angi Marine Reserve, Waimārama, Mangakuri, Purerere, Hardinge Road in Napier and others. Head to one at low tide and try to find a crab. Making sure to carefully lift small rocks and place them gently back down where you find them. Search for a hermit crab, a half crab, red rock crab or even a camouflage crab! Follow it as it goes about its day – what does it get up to?



**Explore a rock pool** - Hawke’s Bay is lucky enough to have the Te Angi Angi marine reserve, the easily accessible Hardinge Road rocky shore in Napier and many other beautiful beaches with rock pools to explore. There is a world of wildlife to find in these small spaces! Download the National Aquarium of NZ’s [Rocky Shore iSpy](#) or University of Otago’s [Northern NZ Rocky Shore Guide](#) to help you. Make sure you check the low tide time and wear solid footwear before exploring any rocky shore.



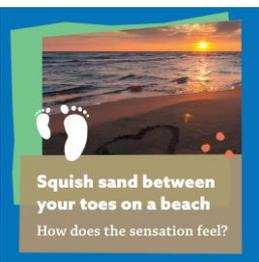
**Watch a bird** - Sit quietly, or go for a quiet walk, and try to spot a bird. What bird can you see? What is it doing? How long can you watch it for? Is it a native? What colours are its feathers? Does it blend in or stand out? Can you see it eating anything in particular? What shape is its beak if you can see it? You might like to take binoculars with you if you are looking from afar. Try the free [Merlin app](#) to help you identify the birds you see.



**Paint with mud** - Find a good patch of mud, or make your own by adding water to dirt. Use finger, hands, a paintbrush or anything you like to paint with mud. You might want to 'paint' on the ground, on paper, a wall, or even yourself! The good thing is that it can all wash off. Make sure to wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.



**Throw stones into a Hawke's Bay river** - We have many rivers in Hawke's Bay - the Tukituki, Waipawa, Mohaka, Ngaruroro, Tūtaekurī and more. Find an area you like, choose some rocks of different sizes and throw them in! Who can make the biggest splash? Can you skim a stone? Find out more about access to HB rivers [here](#). And always make sure that no one is standing in front of or near you when you try this!



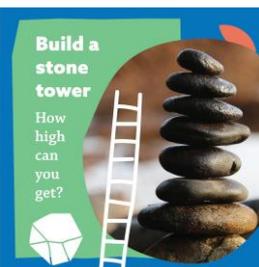
### **Squish sand between your toes on a beach**

Find a spot that looks to your liking, take your shoes off, and squish! How does the sensation feel? Can you make a picture in the sand with your toes? Does the sensation feel relaxing or a bit sharp of your feet? Do you dare have a quick paddle in the water too?



### **Have a stick race in a stream or river**

Find someone to have a race with, choose a good sized stick or small branch, count to three and throw them in! You might choose a finish line, or just let them go – but whose stick is the winner? Do different sticks travel faster or slower? Think of thick or with lots of branches on them?



### **Build a stone tower**

Use your patience and concentration to place stones, one on top of the other, and see how high you can get. What stones stack more easily? Can you challenge yourself to use bumpier stones and still get a high tower?



### Watch a sunrise/sunset

Find a place that you find beautiful, and watch the sun rise or set – or both! Wrap up warm for chillier temperatures and maybe even take a thermos of hot chocolate with you to warm you up. How do the colours change? Can you hear anything wake up for the day (or night!)?



### Go cloud watching

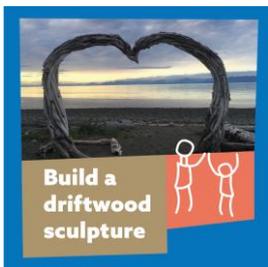
Find a comfy spot and look up – what can you see? If you are with friends or whānau, do they see the same things? Are any types of clouds easier to see shapes in? Wispy clouds or puffy clouds?

It's a good idea to take sunglasses and make sure never to look directly at the sun either!



### Check out a Hawke's Bay view from a scenic lookout

Consider heading up to Sugar Loaf Reserve (Taradale), Te Mata Peak (Havelock North), Bluff Hill (Napier) or Ōtātara Pā (Taradale) to see a beautiful view of Hawke's Bay. What other parts of Hawke's Bay can you see?



### Build a driftwood sculpture

Logs and branches washing down rivers or up onto beaches after storms make Hawke's Bay a great place to find driftwood. Head to a riverbank or beaches like Ocean Beach, Waimārama or Westshore to find some driftwood to create your own masterpiece. What will your inspiration be – making an animal, a ship, a person, even writing a word?



**Make a castle** - Sandcastles are a great way to get creative on the beach, but you could equally create a rock, mud or wood castle – or a combination of all of those! So, find a beach or riverbank, and pick a spot to build a castle, palace, citadel, fort or fortress. You might even try a new technique of a 'dribble' castle, letting wet sand or mud trickle out of your hand to form a turret! Use materials like shells, pebbles, flowers or seaweed to decorate, and maybe even protect it with a moat!



**Make a nature obstacle course** - Get creative with things you find outside and create an obstacle course for your friends and whānau. Think about logs or branches you can jump over or balance on, rocks you can use as stepping stones, low branches you could crawl under, or even take some extra things with you, like rope, to use. Time everyone on the course, after giving them a practice round, and see who's the fastest or most creative with the moves they use to get around the course!



### Travel on a Hawke's Bay Trail

Have a look at the [Hawke's Bay Trails map](#) and plan a route you'd like to take. If you're on foot or on wheels it might pay to look at the distance you plan to cover to make sure you can do it and make sure to take some snacks and water, and wear sunscreen and a hat in the Hawke's Bay sun – even in winter!



**Watch the waves** - Head to the shore of a beach or lake and find a spot to sit comfortably. Watch the waves, listen to the sounds and relax. How does it make you feel? Consider what the conditions are like – is the water lapping gently? Crashing? Is it calm or rough? Is every wave the same? If they're different, how are they different? Try and revisit the same spot on a different day and watch the waves again. Are the conditions the same?



**Leaf hunting** - Go on a leaf hunt and find at least five different leaves – do you know what they are? You might try and find all NZ natives, fallen autumn leaves. Try and find five really different leaves. How are they different? Heart shaped vs. thin and long? Zig zag edge vs. smooth edge? Green vs. orangey-red? You might even like to take a pencil and paper and do some leaf rubbings. Put the leaf under your paper, preferably on a hard surface, and rub the pencil over the paper. Can you see the leaf shape coming through?

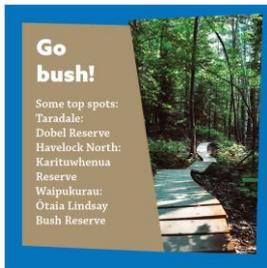


### Go with the flow

Take a minute to watch the water flow in a stream/river, under a bridge, even after a good rain shower in the gutters! Water flowing can be really relaxing, and of course good for a good leaf or boat race too. But take a few moments to 'go with the flow' and watch the wonderful wai in Hawke's Bay. Can you see any living things peeking back at you? Can you come up with five describing words about the water?



**Hunt for shells** - Head to the beach and go searching for shells. Try to find five different types of shell – do you know they are? Make sure nothing is living inside of any that you might want to take home. Try and find five really different shells. How are they different? Tiny vs. large? Bumpy vs. smooth? White vs. coloured? Find something and want to know what it is? Go to [iNaturalist](#) and get some expert advice



**Go Bush!** - Check out the [Department of Conservation](#) and [Te Mata Park Trust](#) websites to check out some awesome spots to *Go Bush* in May. Whether you choose places like White Pine Bush, Te Mata Peak's Redwoods and Tongio Falls Scenic Reserve tracks, or maybe something closer to home like Dobel Reserve (Taradale), Karitūwhenua Reserve (Havelock North), or Ōtaia Lindsay Bush Reserve (Waipukurau), all offer lots of choice for whanau keen to get out in May. Make sure you wear suitable footwear and have snacks and water for your adventures!



**Liking lichens** - Do you like lichens? What even is a lichen? Give a little attention to these often overlooked little guys this May – they are living things that are a partnership between a fungus and something that photosynthesises, like a plant (algae). How many different kinds can you find? There are a lot! Find out more about lichens from the NZ Plant Conservation Network [here](#).



**Listen around you** - Find a nice comfy spot. What can you hear? If listening early or late in the day, does anything suddenly spring into action that you can hear? Or are things missing that you can hear at other times? Share with your friends or whanau what you can hear, and see what they might pick up. You could try this at some different locations and then compare the sounds you hear. What does a dawn chorus sound like vs. sunset? A beach vs. a river? A suburban park vs. some native bush out of town?



**Make and decorate a mud pie** - Get some old bowls, pots, pans, containers and even a wooden spoon, and head outside to get mixing some mud! Try mixing dirt and water with sand, dried leaves, small stones or even sawdust to change the texture. Use the bowls to mould them or shape them using your hands, then decorate with moss, leaves, twigs, shells, small sticks or whatever treasures you can find. Is there anyone's birthday you can celebrate by putting twig candles on for them to pretend to 'blow out'?



**Make tree decorations** - You could use many different materials here – sticks, shells, leaves etc. – but sculpting mud can get some great results too. Using a bowl, add dirt and just enough water to make a thick mud paste that you can shape with your hands. By shaping a ball or disc, you can stick other objects like twigs into the mud to make bauble-like decorations, and embed a piece of string into the centre of your shape so you can hang it up.



**Dance in the rain** - It might sound a little silly – but try it! If it's cold, get your gumboots and raincoat on and dance like no one's watching! You might even want to put some music on that you can hear outside, or use sticks, pots, cans or other items as musical instruments to make your own! It's always a good idea to have a towel ready, maybe a change of clothes (depending on how long you stay out there!) and put the kettle on afterwards for a hot drink to warm up again.



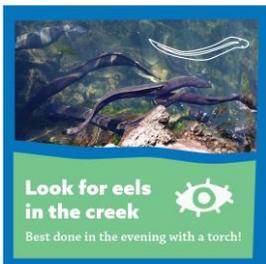
### **Make a sailboat out of sticks and leaves**

Collect some sticks, leaves and possibly a little harakeke / flax to use as string to create a sailboat or vessel to send off on an adventure. Send it off in a river/stream and see how far it can go. You might want to try a few different designs, or even have a race with a friend of whanau member who's made one too!



### **Mimic a tui bird**

Listen out for bird calls and see if you can mimic or copy them. Not sure what you're listening to? Try the Department of Conservation [website](#). Try and identify a native bird like a tui, piwakawaka (fantail) or korimako (bellbird) and try to sing along. Do you sound anything like it? Who's the best mimic out of your friends and whānau?



**Look for eels in a creek or river** - This is best done in the evening with a torch! Find a leafy overhang in a creek, stream or river, and see if you can see any tuna (eels) hanging out. You might want to put out a few tasty 'snacks' like mince or bacon to attract them out and see what you might find. Any luck? How long is the biggest one you can see?



### **Dig up some leaves (leaf litter) under a tree or bush**

Use your hands or a little shovel to gently get into the leaf litter under a bush or tree. How many worms can you find? Are there any slaters/woodlice? How does the leaf litter feel – mushy, crispy, limp?

### **Enjoyed all these? You might also like to ...**

- Create a journal of your month's activities to keep an awesome record your adventures!
- Visit all four [Toyota Kiwi Guardians sites](#) in Hawke's Bay. Can you find the Toyota Kiwi Guardians wooden badges at each site? Take a photo of each, post them and tag Biodiversity Hawke's Bay!

Remember to **share your May adventures** on the [Biodiversity Hawke's Bay \(@BiodiversityHB\)](#) and [National Aquarium of New Zealand's \(@NationalAquariumNZ\)](#) Facebook pages and tag [#bayinmay](#) to be in to win an epic family adventure prize pack!