



## Newsletter August 2024

Gosh – all of a sudden, we are half- way through term 3 and advertising the October holiday programme!

### Holiday Programmes

July's holiday programme was a blast, from the Intro to Robotics day through to two days of Combat Robotics, then in the second week investigating crime through to sewing tote bags using sewing machines and an overlocker then personalising them. Our staff thoroughly enjoyed each day and the children were all wonderful. We look forward to seeing you all again in October!



### Afterschool and Homeschool classes

Our Term 3 STEAM topic, Extreme Explorers – Land, Sea and Space, is going well under the guidance of Barbara Cook with the assistance of the very enjoyable 'Crazy Explorer Lady' who goes on extreme adventures here on Earth (sometimes using her special time machine hat), but also aspires to explore the Moon or Mars. The last two weeks she has travelled to Death Valley and Antarctica and our students have learnt about the preparations required and dangers associated with exploring such extreme environments.

#### *Crazy Explorer Lady*

*Adventura insaniensis*



Extreme Environments and Crazy Times

#### **Token #3: *Adventura insaniensis***

an extremophile known for her remarkable attraction to harsh environments and extreme adventures. She can survive doses of adventure that would be lethal to most other organisms.

#### Key Adaptations for Mars and Moon:

- Spirit of adventure
- Willingness to learn from extremophile animals
- Access to time machine hat

Our Term time robotics classes are also very popular with a homeschool class, foundation class and a class for the more experienced. The focus for the experienced class so far has been on strong construction, with the challenge last week to build a motorised catapult.

Coming soon! Our Term 4 flyer which will include our homeschool and afterschool classes on **‘Nature-based STEAM Solutions’**. Students will explore biotechnologies, discover how some animals act as ecosystem engineers, and prototype nature-based solutions for complex problems in our world. Through hands-on activities, creative projects, and deep dives into science and engineering, students will learn how nature inspires and supports elegant solutions for building, people care, environment care, and more.

This will be available to book online very shortly via our website <https://steamed.nz/>

### **Additional Workshops**

Last week we had a couple of additional workshops here at STEAM-ED. The first was a two-hour electronics workshop for a group of homeschooled students who had fun experimenting and creating with electric circuits.

Secondly, the four-year-olds from New Shoots Childcare Centre walked down the road and visited us for an hour of learning about MBots, how to make playdough float, and looking at rocks through microscopes. It was lovely to see the natural curiosity of these very young visitors. We look forward to their next visit at the end of September, and expect it will be the start of more pre-school activities at STEAM-ED.



On the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> September we have five classes of 8-9yr old students from Tahatai Coast School visiting us for a “STEAM and the Olympics” activity. They will experience an Olympic-themed relay with a boating activity, miniature archery, magnetic powered cycling, spring cup high jump, and bowling – all while exploring different forms of energy. Our new 3D printer (sponsored by RAM3D) is busy printing miniature cycles to be used over the two days – very different to the cycle parts provided by RAM3D to the Olympic Games cyclists, but fit for our purpose!



### **Our Supporters and Funders**

A very heartfelt “Thank you” to Bay Trust who have just confirmed their continued support of our ‘In-School Robotics’ project for the year ended 30 September 2025. Over the last 12 months we have introduced approximately 500 Yrs 5-8 children in low socio-economic schools to robotics and related technology through an 8-week intro course. The funding we receive from Bay Trust will assist us in reaching a further 500 children with the aim of giving them the confidence to choose tech related subjects in future schooling leading to a possible career.

Another special “Thank you” to TECT for assisting us to replace our old petrol-thirsty vehicle for a lovely second-hand hybrid Nissan Serena. We use the vehicle to take our educators and equipment out to schools, and think it looks great especially now that it has been sign written by the excellent team at Hancock Signs!



Lastly, we are thankful that Acorn Foundation have just confirmed their support for STEAM-ED this year thanks to the generosity of the Jeanne Round Fund and John & Philippa Laing Fund.

Are you our new team member, or do you know someone who may like to be?

CASUAL  
TEACHING  
ASSISTANT

ROLE AVAILABLE

- Team player!
- Interested in S.T.E.A.M.
- Honest, reliable, caring.
- Enjoys working with children.
- Casual & on call work, to cover our busy times, special events & staff absences.

SEND YOUR CV: [manager@steamed.nz](mailto:manager@steamed.nz)

