

63

Welcome to **ATTACK!** a two-page occasional publication. Most of **ATTACK!** will be concerned with the holistic curriculum which, if acted on, is a fundamental way to undermine the present undemocratic education system. Don't be discouraged if opportunities to teach holistically are limited, do your best, be a guardian, and act as a witness to this culturally significant and inspiring way of teaching and learning. **ATTACK!** is a partner to <https://networkkonnet.wordpress.com>

### **Attack! 63 Touching the clouds: Visual arts at a mythical Kiwi Primary School Part 1**

**Attack 63!** is intentionally placed following **Attack! 62** which is a talismatic **Attack!** for the **Attack!** series.

**Attack! 62** says that the neuroscience view is that young children who miss out on a wide range of stimuli are disadvantaged. If the brain does not have that wide range of stimuli when children are young then it is unlikely to become part of that child's reality in later years.

This writing is a celebration of the wonderful learning opportunities that some New Zealand primary school teachers provide their children. Grounded in the real life experiences of New Zealand children, these are both concrete and discrete. Participation in the activities described is an exploration and expression of a unique New Zealand identity. In every classroom there is a continuing narrative that connects the school to its immediate community and New Zealand's position, anchored in the South Pacific. For both teacher and children, the immediacy of the activities portrayed, encourages excited involvement in the process, satisfaction with the outcome, and a genuine sense of place and time. These classrooms are inclusive environments that value all children's aesthetic responses to a wide range of stimuli. (Following this writing is a pot-pourri of ideas for setting up an art programme and activities to undertake within it.)

As you arrive at Kiwi Primary School your attention is immediately drawn to a five-metre long sculptured tuatara lazing in the garden. It has a textured skin and paua eyes. A framed plaque explains that it represents a story the tangata whenua tell about the district:

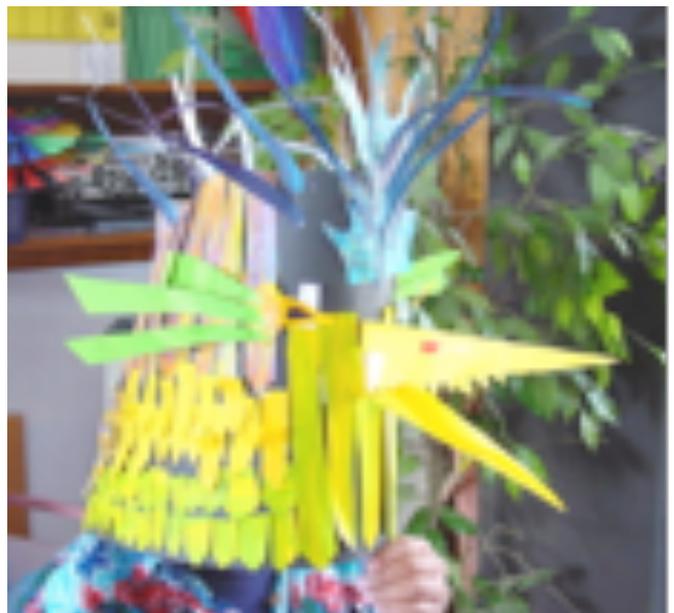


'Because Taurikura was disrespectful to her elders she was changed into a ngarara, a sort of lizard, and banished to Kawera motu. Taurikura was the ancestor of tuatara that live on Kawera today.' (Kawera is an island off the coast of Matakana that can be seen from many Tauranga vantage points.)

The painted mural placed on the lintel above the entranceway further illustrates the story. The y. 8 children under the direction of a local artist have worked on both the sculpture and mural.



Entering the foyer it is obvious that children are at work here. There is an immediate visual impact provided by displays of children's vivid artwork on the walls and in large clear-files. Paintings of circus characters vie for space with a collage car display and photos of bird masks.



Continued in Part 2

