

# Protocols for groups of children

For the safety of your children and our animals – please discuss the following with your group (especially the adults) before arriving at Willowbank.

- **No running in the Reserve.** Running can disturb nesting and/or feeding animals and can cause personal injury. Please also ensure your students are made aware of water hazards throughout the Reserve. No running, pushing or fooling by waterways.
- **Keep voices at usual talking level.** Screaming and unexpected loud noise can frighten the animals.
- **Silence in the Nocturnal House.** In order to see Kiwi it is important to be as quiet as possible.
- **A ratio of 1 adult to 5 children is essential.** These groups must stay together at all times.
- **Keep to the track at all times.** To avoid accidentally stepping on bird nests or newly planted vegetation, and to avoid personal injury.
- **Do not feed the animals unless** it is with food purchased from the Willowbank counter. Other foods can make our animals sick.
- **Sensible behaviour is essential.** Things like throwing sticks or stones at animals is cruel but can also be dangerous if the animal gets upset or tries to protect itself. Please explain that students seen disturbing animals in this, or like, manner will be asked by Willowbank staff to leave the Reserve immediately.
- **Use litter and recycling bins provided throughout the Reserve.** Litter can be dangerous to the animals. Please ask your students to respect their environment.
- **It is essential** that all KEEP OUT, STAFF ONLY and NO FEEDING signs are obeyed at all times.

Willowbank has limited first aid kits. School groups are required to bring their own first aid kits.

