

NEWS

House of Science visits Opotiki

JAMES SANDBROOK

OPOTIKI Primary School teachers attended a House of Science presentation last week, learning how to best teach the subject.

House of Science provides science kits, which are bulk sets of material across a wide range of categories, to schools.

Topics include learning about bees, agriculture, fireworks and more, with all resources for a series of activities and experiments.

Presenting the kits was facilitator Natalie Sandifer, who came with a self-proclaimed love for the subject.

"I've loved science since I was in fifth form, from my teacher," she said.

About a dozen school staff attended the presentation, where the kits and how to order them was explained.

Ms Sandifer explained the contents of one of the kits, showing the various theory and practical components.

"The kits come completely stocked," she said.

But in the spirit of science,

the presentation quickly turned to a hands-on demonstration, with groups of staff acting as students while one was a teacher, using the materials in the kits.

Kits are ordered from Whakatane, then brought to the schools where they stay for a week.

Following this, the kits are returned and refilled with their single-use components for redistribution.

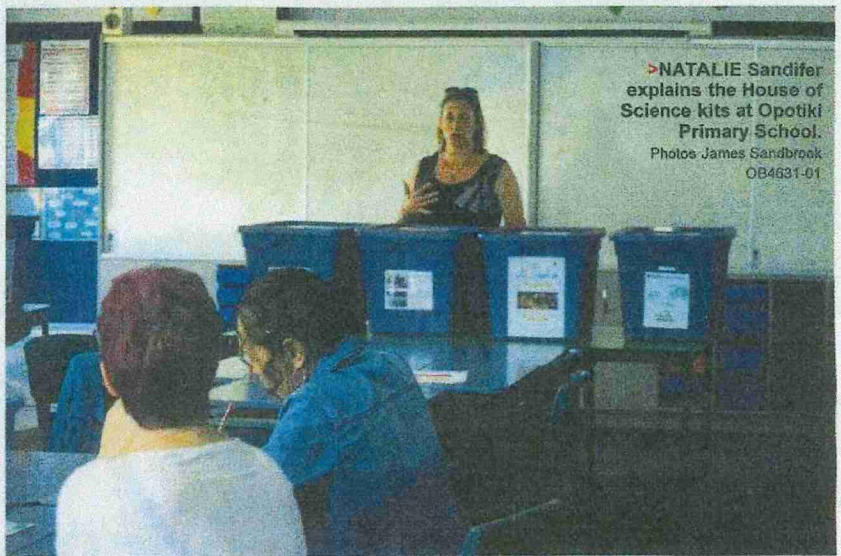
"Schools can keep them for two weeks if that's not long enough," said Ms Sandifer.

The kits are filled with enough materials for about 30 students to complete the experiments, along with detailed manuals and instructions on their usage.

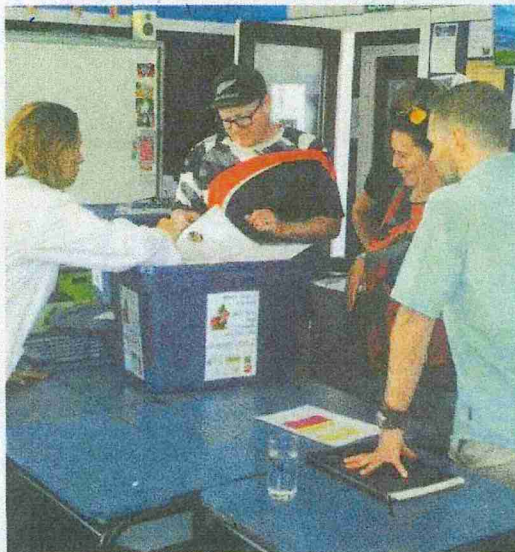
The kits also include exercises colour-coded in accordance to their complexity, making the kits relevant for all ages and levels of skill.

Ms Sandifer said she was impressed with the teachers who attended.

"These teachers are just amazing for coming in during their holidays."



>NATALIE Sandifer explains the House of Science kits at Opotiki Primary School. Photos James Sandbrook OB4631-01



>NATALIE Sandifer helps a group set up its kit. OB4631-05



>ORGANISED into groups, staff members act as students and teachers with the kits. OB4631-04



>ANOTHER group runs an experiment involving fireworks. OB4631-07

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