

Hot topics — Teachers get 'kitted' out

They're here! The eagerly-awaited revamped Enviroschools kits have been 'unpacked', picked through and proudly presented to 20 Northland Enviroschools teachers. The teachers met with the Northland Enviroschools facilitation team at the Northland Regional Council in Whangarei to 'get their mits on the kits' and find out how to make them work in their schools.

The kits were launched by the Enviroschools Foundation at a national Enviroschools hui in Rotorua in May, impressing NRC staff so much they ordered 60 of them at a heavily-discounted price to give to local teachers taking part in the programme.

Northland Regional Council Environmental Education Officer, Susan Karels, says the kits are split into four sections, the first showing teachers how to work with students to plan for a sustainable school. Section two contains a guide and tools to help students investigate options and decide where to focus their ideas for a sustainable school and community. The third section helps students design and implement a specific project, and the final section offers students tools to track progress, measure environmental changes and celebrate successes. The NRC plans to give away the remaining kits to other participating Northland Enviroschools in the near future.



NRC's Susan Karels gets acquainted with the new kits.

Thanks to the following schools whose representatives attended the Northland Enviroschools 'kit unpack':

Hurupaki School, Kaeo School, Kamo High School, Kamo Intermediate, Kamo Primary School, Karetu School, Mangakahia Area School, Northland College, Onerahi School, Oromahoe School, Poroti School, Ruakaka School, St Francis Xavier School, St Joseph's School, Tauraroa Area School, Tautoro School, Whangarei Heads School, Whangarei Intermediate School.

Your Enviroschools team

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A chance to meet Clinton

In our May newsletter, we welcomed Clinton Dearlove to the Northland Enviroschools team, Kaitakawaenga for Northland Kura Taiao.

We managed to capture him in action at the June 30th Northland Enviroschools Teachers' workshop. Here he is.



Oromahoe pupils take adoption seriously

Oromahoe School has planted a small orchard in their grounds. They now have a good amount of seasonal fruit and have found a way of distributing it so it doesn't get eaten too early or too green!!

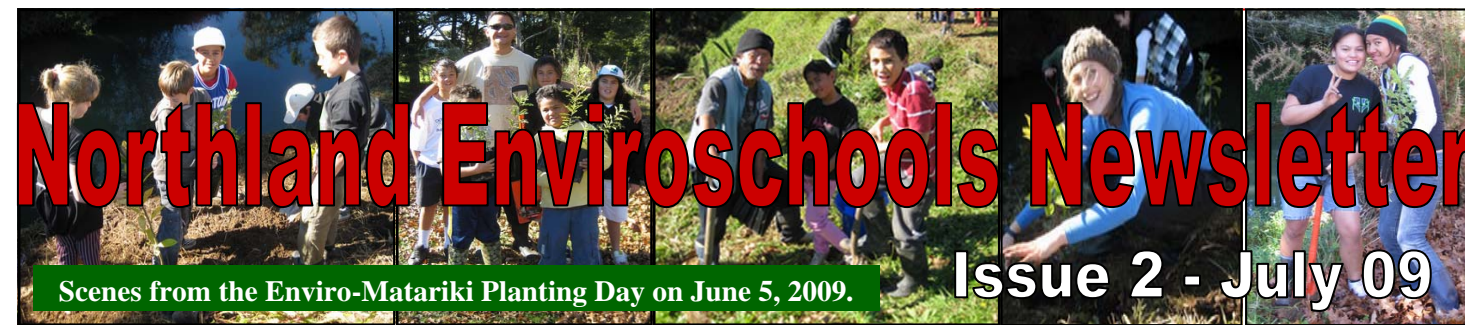
Each senior student has adopted a tree to look after. Their brief is to observe it closely, write down everything they know about it, list five things they would like to know and begin researching, continue to make observations throughout the year so the tree's life cycle can be noted, mulch it, make weekly diary entries about what they observe, talk and sing to it and pick the fruit when it is ripe and distribute it to the rest of the school at play and lunchtimes.

The students have loved this responsibility and learned a lot, whether it be about Melissa von guava, sour power lemon, Freddie feijoa or Penny Plum!

Well done, kids!



Student Kimberly Williams with 'Penny Plum'.



Northland Enviroschools Newsletter

Scenes from the Enviro-Matariki Planting Day on June 5, 2009.

Issue 2 - July 09

Kia ora tatou...

Congratulations to the Enviroschools that won funding for their environmental projects through the NRC Environmental Curriculum Awards. Kaikohe West, Karetu, Onerahi, Oromahoe, Oturu, Opononi Area, Poroti, Riverview, Ruakaka, St Francis Xavier and Tangowahine Schools and Okaihau College shared \$20,000!

Thank you for your success stories of environmental action. This term our newsletter features Oromahoe School, Russell School, St Francis Xavier School, Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Te Rawhiti Roa, and Te Kura Taumata O Panguru.

Over the next two terms we offer a range of events to cater for students and teachers. We look forward to catching up with you on an Enviroschools Bus Tour, Youth Jam, at the NZ Enviroschools Energiser Hui, and at the end of year Sustainability Celebration.

Choose your events and mark them on your calendar. Good luck to the six Northland Enviroschools that have taken up the Enviroschools EcoHut Challenge. Ahipara, Oromahoe, Poroti, Tangowahine and Whangarei Heads Schools and Northland College, are in the midst of designing and building youth-inspired habitats. You too can be 'in to win' by registering with andrea.ricketts@enviroschools.org.nz.

Remember to have fun putting together your Enviroschools 2009 Scrapbook Page to reach us by August 14. This year's theme is 'Creating Sustainable Communities'. For formatting tips, check out: www.nrc.govt.nz/enviroschools/scrapbooks/. Wishing you all a terrific term!

Nga mihi nui
Susan Karels, *Enviroschools Regional Co-ordinator*

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L'Arbor of love!

Russell School had it in spades for Arbor Day— that's enthusiasm for the planting of their new school orchard. Also known as World Environment Day, June 5th is also part of our national Matariki celebrations. Russell School students, staff and supporters found their own way to celebrate. Donations were received from children, parents and friends of the school to purchase the trees, and some families also donated plants.



Local businesses got behind the project, too: Harvies Landscapes donated plants, Russell Hardware donated stakes, and Environmental Arts donated fertiliser, mulch, compost and labour. Kent Thwaites for Environmental Arts, pictured above, demonstrated how to plant the trees before



the children got into action themselves. Jordan Clifford and Puke Clarke, above, stand beside their effort. Plum, fig, mandarin, guava, feijoa, pear, persimmon and tamarillo trees were planted, as well as banana, passion-fruit, thornless blackberry and cranberry plants.

See Page 2 for students' comments on World Environment Day



Making it happen for Matariki

Tradition has it that the brighter the stars of the Matariki constellation when they rise in late May, the better the coming year's crops will be.

However the stars shone this year, if the smiles of those taking part in the Enviro-Matariki Planting Day at Tikipunga Domain on June 5th had been measured for their brightness, bumper crops can be expected.

Matariki celebrations mark the rising of the Pleiades star cluster (or Seven Sisters), and usher in the Maori New Year. They are also an opportunity to celebrate and pay respect to our land, and preserve it for future generations.

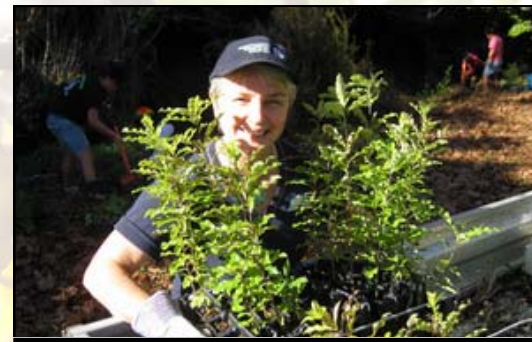
So, with June 5th also being Arbor Day and World Environment Day, hosts of the event, Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Te Rawhiti Roa, found an appropriate activity. It was a popular one, too, if the large number of Whangarei locals who turned out to plant trees on the banks of the Waitaua River were anything to go by.

A number of Enviroschools were represented by enthusiastic groups of children and their supporters, and the Northland Regional Council also helped out with people and plants.

Thousands of trees were planted by people from all walks of life, working together in the true spirit of Matariki co-operation.

See also: *L'Arbor of love* (page 1)

Stream of activity at St Francis (page 3)



NRC's Teresa Rudgley, above, and a group of eager helpers, below, take part in the Enviro-Matariki Planting Day on June 5th.



Recommended resources

Green games

Chameleon Island Ltd has launched its first green educational games. For more information checkout the website: www.chamelonisland.co.nz.

Fabulous film

If you haven't seen the blockbuster "Earth", it's a must. Great viewing for children of all ages. Go to: <http://disney.go.com/disneynature/earth/>.

Brilliant Book

"Gardening with Kids" by New Zealander, Martyn Cox. This book is filled with great ideas for getting children into gardening, on a small or large scale. Gardening craft ideas are also featured.

Wonderful website

Find out about environmental activities, issues and initiatives in our region on the Northland Regional Council's very own award-winning website: www.nrc.govt.nz

The things they say...

Following their World Environment planting day Te Kura Taumata o Panguru, tamariki wrote their thoughts on the experience:



The best part of the day was seeing the tree I planted standing in the ground. I'm going to always remember this day because of the tree I planted. Thank you for filling our young minds with words of rocking wisdom. Bastian Atama

The highlight of my day was being able to plant a tree and helping the boys push the wheelbarrow full of sheep kaka. The field looks really cool. Digging holes is hard work but me and the boys had it sorted. Reuben Adams-Leef

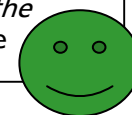


Wow, did you read the front page of the Northland Age? Well we were in there advertising our planting day at our school. What a buzz to see that. The day was really cool from the powhiri and blessing of the planting area. It was cool watching the oldies planting trees and then the kids got into it. Pakihi Taua



I helped and was there when they blessed the land for planting. I was too little to dig but I loved watching the trees being planted. BJ Dunn

We hope you can come to the school and have a look at the field now and see where your trees are and how they help our future generation have shade in the future. Campbell Te Wake



Youth jam north

Tena koutou from the ReGen Roadie Team!

On September 21st and 23rd, the Enviroschools ReGeneration Roadie Crew will be hitting Te Tai Tokerau to jam with all the inspiring rangatahi there on the kaupapa of ReGeneration.

The theme? How do we plan, design and take action to create our ReGenerated future?

The ReGen Roadie crew - Jinty MacTavish and Te Rawhitiroa Bosch - have just returned from the South Island leg of the roadtrip and, along with their team mate Billy Matheson, have now been Youth Jamming in the North Island.

They have been exploring this concept, action planning and bringing together youth all over Aotearoa, New Zealand, to share and focus skills, energy and enthusiasm on bringing about the future we all WANT for our communities and nation. The Team looks forward to jamming with the rangatahi of the north!!

C U there :)



Te Rawhitiroa and Jinty jamming ReGeneration in Dunedin.

Stream of activity at St Francis Xavier

You just can't keep a good team down! Pupils from Saint Francis Xavier School certainly aren't letting the colder months hold them back. Check out their news:

"Our Saint Francis Xavier School Stream Care group has planted 450 plants beside our stream, like ribbonwoods, flaxes, cabbage trees, kowhai and sedges. Some of the people who helped us were David and Rachel Wright, (local ecologists), Matua James, our caretaker, and Lynn and Colin Douglas.

This is helping take care of the stream by planting plants that our native creatures need and making sure the stream is clean and healthy. Four kids from our enviro team went to the Tikipunga Domain for World Environment Day. Hundreds of people planted thousands of plants next to the Waitaua River.

Special thanks to the pupils and staff of Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Te Rawhiti Roa for this awesome event! We are trying to make the world a better place."



Working hard to make the world a better place.

Team brings Wiki solutions

Carol Young and Julie Holt from Team Solutions have set up a "wiki" to support teachers of education for sustainability in Northland.

The site is designed to offer dates of workshops and other events, Enviroschools' contact details, useful organisations and resources by and for teachers.

All teachers are welcome to visit the site and join up. Then they can upload units of work, good resources or assessment tasks. The material is not moderated as it is designed to be a sharing place for teachers.

There will be no specific support for Education for Sustainability next year through Team Solutions so it is hoped the wiki will help to build a strong community of teachers supporting each other.

Visit <http://northlandefs.wikispaces.com/> to register.

Make a date — Terms 3 and 4 calendar

Wk 3, Term 3 Wednesday 5 August (registrations close 29 July)	Far North Enviroschools Bus Tour for primary and intermediate schools	Visit Oromahoe School and River-view School's outdoor classroom on Aroha Island.
Wk 3, Term 3 Friday 7 August (registrations close 29 July)	Whangarei Enviroschools Bus Tour for primary and intermediate schools	Visit St Francis and Onerahi Schools and take action with Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Te Rawhiti Roa.
Wk 4, Term 3 Friday 14 August	2009 Enviroschools Scrapbook pages due	Check out: www.nrc.govt.nz/enviroschools/scrapbooks/
Wk 6, Term 3 Friday 28 August	2009 Scrapbook Cover Competition	Be in to win by checking out the web address above.
Wk 7, Term 3 Wednesday 2—Friday 4 September	NZ Enviroschools Hui, Wellington, - PD for teachers.	Work with Enviroschools' teachers from throughout the country.
Wk 10, Term 3, Monday 21 September	Whangarei Enviroschools Youth Jam for secondary students (Yr 10 +)	Learn how to plan, design and take action to create our ReGenerated Future (see article).
Wk 10, Term 3, Wed 23 September	Far North Enviroschools Youth Jam for students (year 10 +)	As above. To be held at Northland College.
Wk 7, Term 4 Thursday 26 November	Northland Enviroschools Sustainability Celebration	Come celebrate our combined efforts towards creating a sustainable future.