

Enviroschools Northland

Issue 26 / September 2017

Sharing the Enviroschools Northland WaiRestoration story

We're excited to complete our Enviroschools WaiRestoration celebration booklet and to be able to share our Northland reflections with Enviroschools throughout the country.

Our collaborative journey of discovery started a little over four years ago when the Northland Regional Council piloted WaiRestoration through the Enviroschools Programme with help from the Enviroschools Foundation (now Toimata Foundation).

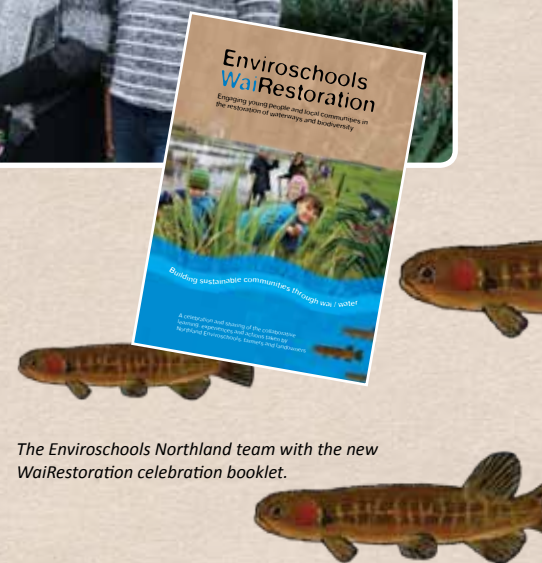
From small beginnings, the initiative to restore waterway health and biodiversity caught everyone's imagination, including our enthusiastic Northland facilitation team members and the teachers and communities they work alongside.

Their collective energy and wisdom is captured in 47 colourful pages telling the inspiring story of what happens when people come together to achieve a common goal.



Case studies, experiences, reflections, actions, achievements and learnings are all presented in the resource which is intended to guide others who choose to follow the same path.

Thanks to everyone who contributed! All Northland Enviroschools will soon receive their very own copy to pop into their Enviroschools Theme Area Folder.



The Enviroschools Northland team with the new WaiRestoration celebration booklet.

Braving the mud



Enviroschools Facilitator Jacque Knight leads the way on Paparoa School's planting day, one of 18 held around the region.

Rain and mud may have been a dampener, but the bad weather didn't stop planting projects by intrepid Enviroschools volunteers throughout Northland this winter.

Following an approach by Enviroschools Secondary Facilitator Jacque Knight, the ecological restoration scheme Reconnecting Northland provided around 6800 plants for planting in waterways near schools.

The plants – manuka, kanuka, cabbage tree, karamu and flax – were grown at Te Arai Native Nursery and picked up by the 18 participating schools or dropped off by Enviroschools Facilitators.

Armed with spades and shovels (and some community support), the planters braved the weather to complete their riparian planting, despite several weather-induced postponements.

The participating Enviroschools were Bream Bay College, Horahora, Huanui College, Kamo Intermediate and Primary, Kerikeri, Kokopu, Maungaturoto, Opononi Area School, Otaika Valley, Paparoa, Ruawai College, Taipa Area School, Tangawahine, Tauraroa Area School, Te Kopuru, Waiohira, Whananaki, and Whangaruru.



Kia ora koutou

Haere mai nau mai to September's 2017
Enviroschools newsletter



- Welcome! to three new Enviroschools - Broadwood Area School and Raurimu and Tangiteroria Schools
- Congratulations! to all the school communities who shared their mahi to create the amazing and useful WaiRestoration resource
- Get on board! This year's Enviroschools Expos are local enterprise bus tours in Kaitiā, Ruawai and Whangārei – see 'Dates to diary'
- Invite key people to join you! at the WaiRestoration professional development day for school communities at the Aroha Island Ecological Centre near Kerikeri – see 'Dates to diary'
- Make a date! Get together with your Enviroschools facilitator and fill out the Enviroschools census survey – it's a great end-of year reflection tool and provides meaningful data to progress Enviroschools regionally and nationally.

Nga mihi nui for the positive differences you and your communities are making - every day!



"Ka whakatupu ki te whenua ka ora ki te iwi – Nurture the land, give life to the people"

Susan Karels
Enviroschools
Regional Co-ordinator

Weaving kaupapa Māori and kindergarten philosophy



New whanau are welcomed with a mihi whakatau

Ruawai Kindergarten has established its own pepeha and waiata as it works towards the Silver Enviroschools stage by embracing Enviroschools guiding principles and kindergarten philosophy, procedures and policies.

The kindergarten integrates recycling, re-use, vegetable gardening, orcharding, water sustainability, healthy kai, a ban on plastic bags or food wrap, and using re-usable bags for wet clothing, into its daily programme.

"We are ensuring that the Enviroschools Programme provides our tamariki with a lifelong journey of investigation, exploration, planning, consultation and design," says Head Teacher Teresa Robertson. "They are empowered, alongside

their whanau and communities, by making meaningful actions within our environment."

Ruawai's pepeha: "We acknowledge the watching presence of the mountains Tokatoka and Maungaraho, we greet the mighty river Te Wairoa that carries life-giving water across the plains of the Kaipara. We mihi to the mana and tapu of this place and to the tangata whenua, the people who have made this place their home over many generations, Tihei Mauri Ora!



Out and about

Worm farms bring students together

Portland Kindergarten students were very happy to show off their worm farm when Mangawhai Beach School students made a recent fact-finding visit to the pre-school.

Primary Enviroschools Facilitator Eden Hakaraia says the visitors wanted to see a worm farm in action so they could find out what was involved in setting-up their own farm.

"It was a successful visit and the Mangawhai students found out what they needed to know to establish a healthy worm farm of their own," she says.

Finding out about Portland Kindergarten's worm farm is a fascinating experience for Mangawhai Beach school students keen to establish a farm of their own.





Out and about

Home made pizzas coming up

Whangārei Primary's English as a second language students are looking forward to summer when they'll be picking their own tomato and basil and eating home-made pizzas from their hand-made pizza oven.

Teacher Julie Hepi says Jo Shanks from EcoSolutions helped them make the pizza oven out of cement, sand, clay, water and fibre. Also in the mix were chicken wire wrapped around a Swiss



Whangārei Primary School's colourful new pizza oven is nearly complete

ball, (later deflated and removed), glass bottles for insulation and kerb bricks for the base.

The result is a red hot, wood fired pizza oven.

It's good to fence off waterways

Students on our winter WaiFencing workshops are pleased with the skills they have gained from the NCEA accredited scheme aimed at fencing off waterways.

They enjoyed the chance to learn new things such as batten stapling, wire cutting, tying wire knots, using fencing tools and setting-up strainer posts.

Their new knowledge was put into practice with projects on Landcorp farms that included fencing-off a dune lake on Rangiputa station (Karikari), a wetland on Kapiro Station (Kerikeri) and repairing streamside fences leading into a lake on Titoki Station (Whangārei).



Enviroschools WaiFencing

Pest plants be gone!



Kerikeri Primary School students learnt more about how to identify and get rid of pest plants during a visit by Northland Regional Council biosecurity officers.

They found out how to identify pest plants and how they were spread by wind, people, water and birds. Their next step is to clear the pest plants from their local waterway.

Regional council biosecurity officers share their knowledge of pest plants with Kerikeri Primary School students, whose next step will be to clear and plant trees along local streambanks.

Environmental film festival



Ada and Ava make chutney for sale at Oromahoe School's very successful food and environmental film festival.

Seeking Bronze

Rawene School has its sites set on becoming a Bronze Enviroschool and has recently visited Oromahoe School to find out what it takes to reach the important first milestone.

Rawene pupils have many projects underway and are keen to learn from Oromahoe where tree planting, composting and shadehouse activities are among those on the go.

It's always fun to plant a tree and Oromahoe School pupils enjoy sharing their Enviroschools activities with visitors from Rawene School.



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Out and about

Onerahi achieves Green-Gold



A small group gathers to cut a cake made in honour of Onerahi School's coveted Green-Gold status. There were enough cakes for everyone in the school to enjoy a slice.

Big congratulations to Onerahi School which has just become the fifth school in Northland to achieve EnviroSchools Green-Gold status.

Onerahi School is a pioneering school in the EnviroSchools Programme, introduced to Northland in 2004 and now embracing more than 90 schools and kindergartens throughout the region.

EnviroSchools Regional Coordinator Susan Karels says among Onerahi School's key strengths is its strong connection with its local community, including nearby Matakohē-Limestone Island, and the

leadership provided by principal Gerald Koberstein.

"The school's charter is developed around the environment and the school has consistently looked for innovative and interesting ways to encourage environmental initiatives such as beekeeping, developing an extensive native bush area and butterfly garden."

The Green-Gold certificate and EnviroSchools sign were recently presented by council chairman Bill Shepherd and councillor Paul Dimery at a special ceremony to celebrate the school's success.

Dates to diary

BRONZE, SILVER AND GREEN-GOLD REFLECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Sharing and decision-making sessions followed by celebrations

FOUR STORIES Embedding EnviroSchools kaupapa into everyday mahi

OCT 10 Comrie Park Kindergarten
Professional development day for all Kindergartens

ENVIROSCHOOLS ENTERPRISE EXPOS

OCT 31 Kaitiāia

NOV 2 Ruawai

NOV 6 Whangārei

Local Enterprise Bus Tours for Years 5–10

WAIRESTORATION

NOV 21 Aroha Island, near Kerikeri

Professional development day for school communities



EnviroSchools Northland Team



Susan Karels
*EnviroSchools Regional
Co-ordinator*
Northland Regional
Council
P: 0800 002 004
E: susank@nrc.govt.nz



Julie Holt
*EnviroSchools Facilitator
(Primary)*
P: 027 452 9091
E: julie.holt@xtra.co.nz



Eden Hakaraia
*EnviroSchools Facilitator
(Primary)*
P: 021 121 1699
E: edenhakaraia@gmail.com



Jacque Knight
*EnviroSchools Facilitator
(Secondary)*
P: 021 488 822
E: jacqueline@rahui.co.nz

www.nrc.govt.nz/enviroschools

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