

Enviroschools Northland



Issue 28 / July 2018

Dargaville Intermediate achieves Green-Gold

Dargaville Intermediate has just become the first Kaipara school – and only the sixth in Northland – to achieve prestigious ‘Green-Gold’ status through the national Enviroschools Programme.

The school celebrated the great achievement in its Enviroschools journey with more than 250 current and former students, staff, farmers and other members of the community and regional council representatives.

There were special riparian plant-themed cupcakes, decorated by some of the students, and pumpkin soup they made with pumpkins grown at the school.

The cupcakes represented the tens of thousands of native plants the school

has raised at its nursery and planted alongside local waterways to help protect and enhance the Kaipara Harbour.

Councillor Penny Smart, a former pupil and Board of Trustees’ chairperson of the school, officially presented the Green-Gold certificate at the celebration.

“It’s only through communities working together that we can achieve



Dargaville Intermediate cupcake decorators, from left, Willow Smith, Samantha Morgan, Hayley Lugtigheid, Ayla Steed and Eliot Williams are joined by regional council staff Kim Wall, left, and Susan Karels in a happy “thumbs up”.

environmental successes,” she said. “This award belongs to the entire school community and it’s the result of a lot of hard work by everyone involved.”

Northland hosts first national Enviroschools WaiRestoration hui



Northland Regional Council freshwater ecologist Carol Nicholson shows Riverview School students and hui participants how to collect a sample of periphyton (algae) from the Kerikeri River rocks to send away to NIWA for analysis.

About 50 people from across New Zealand recently gathered in Kerikeri for the country’s first Enviroschools WaiRestoration national hui.

WaiRestoration is a project that focuses on getting young people and their communities working together to restore local waterways and biodiversity.

It was conceived by the regional council’s Enviroschools team and has developed to become a model that can be used by other regions.

Northland organisations, tangata whenua, students and teachers, farmers and landowners were among those who shared their WaiRestoration experiences with

participants who came from as far afield as Otago.

There are seven elements at the heart of the Enviroschools WaiRestoration project: WaiFencing (keeping stock out of waterways); WaiNurseries (growing riparian plants); WaiPlanting (planting beside waterways); WaiMaintenance (keeping out plant and animal pests); WaiMonitoring (testing and tracking water quality); WaiEnterprise (creating sustainable employment); and Save a Species (restoring endangered plants and animals).

“It’s fantastic that we’ve been able to get together with similarly enthusiastic colleagues from around New Zealand and share what we’ve learned about successfully collaborating with our many communities to improve our waterways,” says Enviroschools Regional Co-ordinator Susan Karels.





Kia ora koutou



Nga mihi mahana ki a koutou

- Nau mai, haere mai! We have 6 new Enviroschools – Bay of Islands College, Broadwood Area School, Mairtown, Manaia, Paihia Waitangi and Selwyn Park Kindergartens.
- Congratulations to Ruawai Primary and Whangarei Intermediate schools, which have recently celebrated becoming Bronze and Silver Enviroschools, respectively;
- Ka mau te wehi! Northland Regional Council has increased funding for the Enviroschools Programme through its Long Term Plan. During the next few years we'll enjoy welcoming an Early Childhood Education Enviroschools Facilitator (2019/20), a team support person (2020/21) and more money to help meet the demand for Enviroschools projects;
- Together we thrive! The Northland Regional Council's Mangere, Waitangi and Whangārei Catchment Groups have joined with Enviroschools in the pursuit of WaiRestoration. The catchment groups have decided to put funding into school WaiNurseries to grow riparian plants for local landowners, tracking and trapping equipment to keep out plant and animal pests from riparian areas, plants to plant alongside waterways, and signs to inform people about the importance of inanga.

"Me mahi tahi tātou mo te oranga o tātou taiao - Working together for the wellbeing of our environment"



Susan Karels
Enviroschools
Regional Co-ordinator

Out and about

Inanga, gardens and hikes up the maunga....



Students harvest kumara from Whangaruru School's lush gardens.

Clearing local areas of rubbish, followed by strong messages to be kaitiaki of the environment, are among activities occupying Whangaruru School, which is heading for Enviroschools Silver this year. Gardens are flourishing in the grounds and have become the school's food basket. Parental skill

and support has seen the addition of a hot house where vegetable seedlings are growing. Hikes up the maunga, acknowledging Ngatiwai links and whakapapa, and becoming more familiar with their local environment have kept everyone busy at the school.

Eventful experiences all part of learning



Aaron, (a School camp Dad), with Stevie-Raye, Aaron Jnr and Ash.

Paparoa School students had many eventful experiences during their school camp at the Tangihua Lions Lodge. They respectfully cleaned their shoes at the kauri dieback station at the lodge entrance, learning firsthand how important it is to care for our ngahere (bush).

Shirley Peterson from Kiwi North visited the students, educating them about pest control and the benefits for flora and fauna. Gerald Mannion from the Lodge took them out to set Timms traps - a very successful mission with two possums trapped overnight!



Tangiteroria's winning possum traps

Innovative predator trap box designs by Sam and Boyd from Tangiteroria School have won Kiwi North's annual design competition. Both boys designed possum traps that won their school \$500 worth of traps sponsored by Kiwi Coast and individual prizes from Kiwi North.

Tangiteroria School students have been successfully trapping rats and possums in their school bush reserve, so the new traps will be put to good use. The 2018 design competition is now open for a predator trap box to trap possums and other predators like mustelids and rats.



Tangiteroria School students with their new traps in the school bush reserve.

War on waste



Whangarei Boys' High School students gear-up to analyse two days' worth of school waste.

Whangarei Boys' High School students are cracking down on waste. Two classes kicked-off their school's waste investigation by doing an audit on two days' worth of their school's rubbish.

They discovered all sorts of stuff, some of it quite surprising! Expert, Anton Bowker from Ecosolutions, did a superb job of leading the Year 10 group to an understanding of what type of waste was being produced so the students could then go on to identify ways they could improve their waste systems.

Sights set on Green-Gold

Kerikeri's Riverview School is busy with environmental learning and action in its quest to become Enviroschools Green-Gold. Sustainable action is part of everyday activities across the whole school and within and outside school gates. Students are involved in a planting project alongside the nearby Waipapa river and they enjoy a longterm relationship with Project Island Song in the Bay of Islands. More recently students have been joined by parents and teachers to take part in a planting day at Kapiro station Pāmu Farms of New Zealand (formerly Landcorp).



Riverview School students enjoy their Enviroschools field work.

Getting together to plant Waitangi waterways



Kaikohe Christian School students observe a tributary to Lake Omāpere

Schools are joining forces to plant waterways in the Waitangi catchment. Kaikohe Christian School set the ball rolling with a project about Lake Omāpere. The school is working with local iwi and the regional council to learn about the area's history and why their lake struggles with water quality.

Omāpere Trust secured funding from the Waitangi Catchment Group and teachers and iwi from throughout the catchment attended a WaiRestoration day about restoring waterways. Oromahoe Primary, Kaikohe West Primary, Kaikohe Intermediate, Ohaeawai Primary, and Okaihau College have joined in growing riparian plants for local landowners.

Nature project creates 'huge' excitement

'Our Naturehood' - a native bush restoration project - started out as a Portland Kindergarten initiative and has grown to involve the wider community.

Our Naturehood, next to the kindergarten, is now complete and the children go there to play, discover, connect with the land and have adventures. Local community members and kindergarten families, teachers and local businesses are right behind the journey.



A Portland Kindergarten Dad teaches boys how to use a saw safely.

Enviroschools Northland

WaiFencing teaches valuable skills

Valuable knowledge and practical skills were gained by participants in three WaiFencing courses recently held at Pāmu Farms of New Zealand (formerly Landcorp) at Kapiro, Rangiputa and Titoki stations.

Three waterways were fenced by the end of the course which included skills workshops and assessment days leading to NCEA Unit Standards.

The participants were shown how to build fences and given practical experience in wire knots and ties, strainer assemblies, and electric fencing and battening.

Feedback was very positive, with students commenting on the excellence of the tutors, the new things they had learnt, how fences can exclude stock from



Henare and Holly gain valuable fencing skills leading to NCEA Unit Standards

waterways, and how fencing can become a career.

"It's cool because the tutors were great and we got to build a fence using our new skills. Mean feed, too!" said one.

From possum trapping to shadehouses...



Additional funding for pest control is enabling more schools to do more Biosecurity work

Schools around the region have benefited from the latest allocation of funding from the regional council's Environmental Leaders Fund, which this year totalled \$30,000, including \$10,000 tagged specifically for pest control.

Successful projects range from animal pest tracking and trapping, to building shadehouses to grow native plants and monitoring water quality.

In all, 33 schools were awarded funding for 40 projects.

The Environmental Leaders Fund aims to support projects and initiatives that have positive environmental outcomes.

Dates to diary

For more details about these events, and to find out what else is coming up, visit www.nrc.govt.nz/enviroschools

Aug 14

PROJECT PEST CONTROL – Assessment workshop 2
Lonsdale Park, Kaeo

Aug 17

PROJECT PEST CONTROL – Assessment workshop 3
Tangihua Lodge, Whangārei

Sept

FIND YOUR FUTURE - Explore career possibilities in Northland's primary industries. *An interactive careers event for Year 11 students*

19 Sept Barge Showgrounds Event Centre, Whangārei

20 Sept The Old Packhouse Market, Kerikeri

Oct & Nov

ENVIROSHOOLS EXPOS – Ecotourism

31 Oct Mid North

2 Nov Kaipara/Hokianga

7 Nov Whangārei

Throughout the year

ENVIROSHOOLS BRONZE, SILVER AND GREEN-GOLD REFLECTIONS

Contact your Enviroschools Facilitator to make a date



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

www.facebook.com/NorthlandRegionalCouncil