

Enviroschools Northland



Issue 27 / March 2018

Enterprise Expos inspire students...and teachers!

It's possible to start a small and sustainable environmentally friendly business, enjoy what you're doing and make a living at the same time, as students attending three Enviroschools Enterprise Expos found out.

Twelve small businesses in the Far North, Whangārei and Kaipara opened their doors to about 250 participants, giving them a real taste of how it is to operate a business in a sustainable way that uses local produce and benefits local communities.

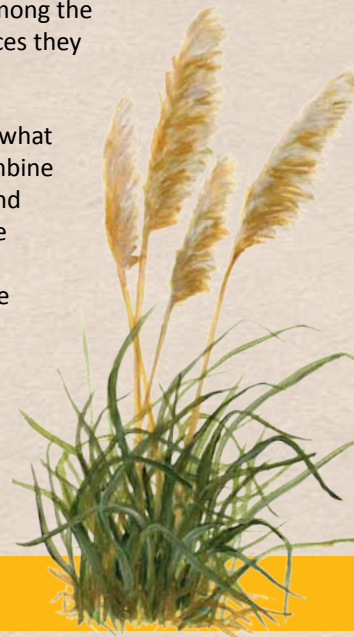
Students were inspired as they met people whose businesses are founded on bees and honey, making preserves and olive oils, meat processing, long line fishing, oyster farming, free range chickens and eggs, growing berries and tamarillos, and milking goats.



Connecting with the free range chooks at Te Rata Family Farm, Kaipara.

Sampling and bottling tamarillo vinaigrette, exploring a berry processing plant, mingling with goats and chooks, finding out how sausages are made and learning how to tie fish hooks and swivels were among the many experiences they could try.

"We found out what it means to combine sustainability and enterprise," one student said. "We met people who are doing it and who showed us how to do it. It was awesome."



ELF funding applications coming up

It's time for schools to sort out their environmental projects for the coming year, so they can get their applications in for funding from the Northland Regional Council's Environmental Leaders Fund (ELF).

The keenly sought-after funding has been increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000 this year, thanks to a biosecurity boost for pest control projects, and applications open on Monday 9 April with a close-off date of Tuesday 22 May.

Ruakaka School is among 21 Northland schools that have been busy with

innovative ELF projects throughout the region. Their 'Honey Meadow' Project has created a special area for bees and butterflies in their school grounds.

Among the other ELF initiatives coming to life around the region are native tree nurseries, wetland restoration, beehives and beekeeping, stream health monitoring, and pest management projects.

More information is available at www.nrc.govt.nz/elf



Some of Ruakaka School's Honey Meadow team



Kia ora koutou

Nga mihi mahana ki a koutou



Nau mai, haere mai! We have eight new Enviroschools – Maromaku and Whau Valley schools, Doubtless Bay, Hurupaki, Mairtown, Mission Place (Kaitia), Paihia-Waitangi and Selwyn Park (Dargaville) kindergartens



Congratulations! Five Enviroschools recently and successfully reflected at various Enviroschools stages – Anne West Kindergarten (Bronze), Dargaville Intermediate School (Green-Gold), Mangawhai Beach School (Bronze), Ruawai College (Bronze) and Whangarei Girls' High School (Bronze)



Tēnā rawa atu ki a koutou! Dargaville Intermediate School and Ruawai College students ably demonstrated their WaiNurseries propagation skills at the Northland Regional Council's site at the Northland Field Days



Have your say about Enviroschools funding through the Northland Regional Council's Long Term Plan – feedback is due by 17 April by attending a 'Have your say' event or writing a submission: www.nrc.govt/ltp2018



Nga mihi nui! 1,000's of students will be carrying out Seaweed beach clean-ups during Term 1 – remember to enter the photo competition and rubbish audit prize draw: www.nrc.govt/seaweed



Well done! The Enviroschools WaiRestoration project is rolling out nationally with a professional development hui at the end of March – thanks to all the Enviroschools communities who continue to contribute to this important mahi.

"Toitu te marae a Tane Toitu te marae a Tangaroa Toitu te iwi – If the land is well and the sea is well, the people will thrive".



Nga mihi nui

Susan Karels
Enviroschools Regional Co-ordinator

Bush tea, mangals and shore surveys



Bobby Leef, from Mana Kai, demonstrates the workings of a beehive at the annual WaiRestoration professional development day.

The coastal environment was the focus for the annual WaiRestoration professional development day, enjoyed by keen teachers and school community members at Aroha Island near Kerikeri.

Enviroschools Regional Coordinator Susan Karels says the coastal theme was introduced because all awa (rivers) lead into the moana (sea) so the coastal riparian environment is both important and relevant to schools' WaiRestoration actions.

Participants could choose to attend four out of five practical workshops designed to stimulate, enthuse and provide a kickstart for school-based WaiRestoration projects next year.

Whananaki School students helped lead the Marine Metre Squared workshop, talking about how exciting it was to become a citizen scientist and survey what was found within a set quadrant on the seashore.

The native bush workshop provided a hands-on experience with participants taught how to identify leaves that could be steeped in hot water and made into tea.

The tracking and trapping pests workshop showed participants how to use a simple tracking device – a tunnel with bait in the middle and ink either side.

"Mangals, (mangrove forests), are awesome places", wrote a person on the 'save a species' workshop where birds, fish and plants were identified in the mangrove ecosystem.

In the bee plants and beekeeping workshop, participants were interested to learn about the link between manuka as a riparian plant species and manuka honey.



Out and about

Full steam ahead for new Enviroschool

Whangarei Girls' High School, has leapt into environmental-based learning by partnering with Bream Head Conservation Trust (BHCT) to help develop the reserve while learning all about environmental management.

Enviroschools facilitator Jacque Knight, who has written curriculum-linked units specifically for the BHCT, says the students are looking forward to replanting a wetland and stream side and learning more about the area of ecological significance.

They plan to design and build a teaching hub and create plant identification walks through the bush, all as part of their mainstream education.



Whangarei Girls' High School easily achieved Bronze by the end of its first year as an Enviroschool last year, with the help of science teacher Tamara Phillips and the environmental prefects.

New Enviroschool hits the ground running

Raurimu Ave School is taking its new Enviroschools status seriously with a successful rubbish clean-up along Onerahi's Waimahanga walkway.

The students picked-up an amazing amount of debris including loads of polystyrene, paper, plastic drink bottles and other plastics.

They caught the CityLink bus outside their school to Old Onerahi Road and walked back to their school along the track, picking up rubbish as they went.

Raurimu Ave School has also signed-up for the Seaweed beach clean-up this year.

Slugs, slaters and spider webs



The Papāroa junior class found heaps of exciting things on their discovery walk around the schoolgrounds.

Paparoa School's junior class found lots to see when the children went for a discovery walk around their school grounds with Enviroschools facilitator Eden Hakaiaia.

The grounds include two paddocks and they were excited to see that last year's

riparian plants were growing well along the stream banks.

The children also found healthy walnut and chestnut trees with lots of nuts, tōtara berries, bracket fungus, slugs, slaters and spider webs, pest plants, lichen, karaka seeds that kereru had spread, and a fantail.



Raurimu Ave School children picked-up an amazing amount of rubbish from the Waimahanga walkway.

Community planting day teaches life values

Comrie Park (Matarau) kindergarten's WaiRestoration planting day embraced important life values for the more than 70 parents, children and community members who took part.

The families planted 300 native plants, provided by Ngā Kaitiaki O Ngā Wai Māori, on the Mangere catchment property of relief teacher Jenny Wiegiersma and her family, bringing a

sense of togetherness and connectedness to the experience.

"It was about 'community' and being involved in an initiative that supports someone who is special to them. Our children continue to grow their love, kindness and the feeling you get when you give back, help others and also help make a healthy awa (river)," said head teacher Anna Alexander.



The gift of learning and the joy of giving was part of Comrie Park Kindergarten's WaiRestoration planting day.

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Sharing kindergarten journeys

The beautiful grounds of Comrie Park (Matarau) kindergarten provided the backdrop for Northland Kindergarten Association's recent professional development day.

Each of the kindergartens – Comrie Park, Ruawai, Portland and Kerikeri - shared their Enviroschools journeys and inspired the 51 participants, learning more about each other as they exchanged information and ideas.

Bream Bay Kindergarten teachers check out the Enviroschools resources.

They talked about how they imbedded the Enviroschools' kaupapa into everyday kindergarten mahi, noting that each Enviroschools journey is different because it reflects individual kindergarten communities.



Dates to diary

March 14 – 15

PROJECT PEST CONTROL – skills camp 1
(Y11 – 13) Kai Iwi lakes, Kaipara

April 9

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS FUND
Applications open to all schools

April 10-12

WAIRESTORATION – WaiFencing skills workshops
10th Rangiputa, 11th Kapiro, 12th Titoki

April 18-20

NZAE (New Zealand Association for Environmental Education) Conference
Wellington

May 9

PROJECT PEST CONTROL – Assessment workshop 1
Kai Iwi Lakes, Kaipara

May 16-17

PROJECT PEST CONTROL – Skills camp 2
Tangihua Lodge, Whangarei

May 22

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS FUND
Applications close

May 30-31, June 1

WAIRESTORATION – WaiFencing assessment workshops
30th May Rangiputa, 31st May Titoki,
1st June Kapiro

June 13-14

PROJECT PEST CONTROL – Skills camp 3
Lonsdale Park, Kaero

June 28

PROJECT PEST CONTROL – Assessment workshop 2
Tangihua Lodge, Whangarei

July 2

SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CAREERS DAY - TBC

July 23-28

WISE UP TO WEEDS – workshops
Dates and locations TBC

Oct 9-11

NATIONAL ENVIROSCHOOLS IN THE EARLY YEARS FACILITATOR HUI
St Cuthbert's College, Auckland

Oct & Nov

ENVIROSCHOOLS EXPOS – Ecotourism
31st Oct Mid North, 2nd Nov Kaipara,
7th Nov Whangarei

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
Bronze, Silver and Green-Gold reflections



Enviroschools Northland Team



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