

WaiRestoration update

Here is some of the latest action in WaiFencing and WaiNurseries – two components of the WaiRestoration project.

Building skills with WaiFencing



Summer Cassidy-Maeva (right) of Kamo High School works on a fencing knot at the Flyger Road WaiFencing assessment day, with supervision from Joe Mahanga.

Students from 11 secondary schools had their fence construction skills put to the test during three WaiFencing assessment days in August.

WaiFencing aims to boost participants' qualifications and future employment opportunities, as well as better protect the region's waterways from stock.

Regional councillor Craig Brown, regional council staff and Cantrain NZ worked with the senior secondary students to construct fences on the council's Flyger Road property and at the Northland College dairy farm.

The students were assessed on specific fencing skills, including fencing knots and ties, strainer assemblies and running a multi-wire fence line.

WaiNurseries takes root

The WaiNurseries programme is beginning to take root as new plant nurseries are being set up at seven schools across Northland.

The nurseries will be used to grow riparian and endangered plants, many of which will be eco-sourced. Shade house materials and expert nursery advice have been supplied to the schools, thanks to funding from The Enviroschools Foundation.

After deciding on where to build its shade house, Hurupaki School agreed on a pre-made structure which could be a combined shade house and poly-house.

Enviroschools lead teacher Katy Howett says fellow teacher Shane Nicholas has done an amazing job of inspiring students to use and visit the shade house.



Hurupaki students check out plants in the school's new nursery.

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"The nursery project to date has really snow-balled with student ownership and buy-in really keeping up the momentum."

Nurseries are also going up at Kamo Primary, Maungaturoto, Okaihau Primary, Otaika Valley, Kokopu and Tauraroa area schools – watch this space for more updates!

Kia ora koutou FROM THE REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

Welcome to the 2014 Term 4
Enviroschools Northland newsletter!

First up I'd like to congratulate Peria School for going solar – what a leading light you are!

Since the Enviroschools network was established more than a decade ago, a huge amount of exciting mahi (work) has been happening in school communities throughout New Zealand.

We're now gearing up for the first ever nationwide Enviroschools census – and we need your help!

The census, which is supported by the Ministry for the Environment, will take stock of actions and outcomes across the national Enviroschools network.

Jan Cox, national manager of the Enviroschools Programme, has contacted all Enviroschools about the survey.

Every school's input is important so please contact your Enviroschools facilitator, or myself, if you'd like a hand with the survey.

"He that plants trees loves others besides himself."
– Thomas Fuller



Nga mihi nui

Susan Karels
Enviroschools Regional
Co-ordinator

Caretakers gather to learn, share ideas

Sixteen participants from around Northland gathered in Kaipara for a special Enviroschools Northland caretaker workshop in late September.

The regional council's chairman Bill Shepherd – who opened the event – says the free day-long workshop at Dargaville Intermediate School investigated ways caretakers could support their school's Enviroschools journey.

"The workshop is designed to recognise the value of caretakers, the role they play and encourage them to incorporate some of the ideas children attending their schools may have to enhance their school environment."

Participants from as far afield as Kaeo explored a range of sustainable practices and shared problems and solutions to school property management.

There was also a focus on 'WaiNurseries', a component of the WaiRestoration project through which schools grow riparian plants.

Guest speakers included CBEC EcoSolutions' educator Anton Bowker, regional council land management advisor Bruce Griffin, Dargaville Intermediate Deputy Principal Diane Papworth and caretaker Dennis Hewetson, and Hukerenui caretaker Alister McDermid.

Attendee feedback from the workshop highlighted the value for caretakers in being able to network with their counterparts from other schools, share ideas and hear how others are dealing with similar challenges.



Bill Shepherd, chairman of Northland Regional Council, had a tour of Dargaville Intermediate's nursery during the September caretaker workshop.



Tauraroa Area School caretaker Greg Walker with Dargaville Intermediate student Adam McCarroll.

Planting at Lake Owhareiti

Year 6 Oromahoe student Oona Rodenburg-Broido describes a riparian planting day at Lake Owhareiti in early September.

"A gloomy day. Though high-spirited, we (60 Oromahoe School pupils) went planting at Lake Owhareiti.

Planting trees on the edges of waterways stops erosion and creates a filter which

prevents animal excretions and chemicals from fertilisers from getting into the water.

With our gumboots and coats on, and our spades nice and sharp, we planted lots of native trees.

It was a muddy messy day but we got it all done before the rain came. We are very proud of our work!!"



Out and about

Dargaville Intermediate digs in

Students from Dargaville Intermediate joined other community members to plant 900 native plants recently at Aoroa Farms near Dargaville.

The business-savvy school propagates native plants and supplies them to its main customer IKHMG (Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group). The IKHMG is a multi-agency group focussed on creating a healthy and productive Kaipara Harbour – Aoroa Farms is one of the group's flagship sites.

This is the third year Dargaville Intermediate's students have planted their plants on Aoroa Farm. This year's focus was largely on a wetland area, planting cabbage trees, flax and manuka.



Dargaville Intermediate students Harmony McGregor-Cassidy (left) and Aaliyah Robertson planting natives in a wetland area on Aoroa Farm.

Toutouwai released in the Bay

Oromahoe student Andre Aslund recaps Project Island Song's toutouwai (North Island robin) release on Moturoa Island in June.



Toutouwai being transported for release on their new home, Moturoa Island.

"A flash of grey and black feathers, an excited twitter, a rustle in the trees... then...silence.

Ten minutes later you hear them in the distant hills. A toutouwai screams.

I was one of two children selected to go on the toutouwai release trip. Project Island Song was responsible for arranging for 50 North Island Robins to be caught in the Pureora forest and released in our beautiful Bay of Islands.

There were more males than females so hopefully we will be hearing a lot more happy toutouwai calls in the next few summers."

Riverview students head offshore

Five 'eco-warriors' from Riverview School had a magical day out planting native trees on Urupukapuka Island during May.

Riverview was one of seven schools that spent the day planting on the island alongside the Project Island Song group.

Along with tree planting techniques, students also learned about biosecurity on the island. Bags were checked for creatures like ants, mice and rats to help keep the island free of pests and enable native plants and animals to thrive.



Riverview School's 'eco-warriors' gear up for a planting day on Urupukapuka Island in May.

Whangarei Primary's environment focus

Whangarei Primary's recent pond development has kick-started a chain of learning and action centred on sustainability across the school.

Every class identified a project or area to develop, with ideas varying from a 'touch garden' (using plants of different textures) to developing a woodland area under the big oak trees on Bank Street.

The school also held a successful working bee to make a good dent in the 'to-do' list. Jobs included moving the worm farms so students could interact with them more easily, painting, composting, planting and creating gardens.

A woodland area will be developed under Whangarei Primary's big oak trees.



Project Possum poison training

Forty senior secondary students and community members received specialist possum poison training in early September as part of Enviroschools Northland's popular 'Project Possum'.

The day-long Controlled Substance Licence (CSL) training enables people aged 17 or older (provided they meet certain criteria) to lay possum-killing toxins like cyanide. Without the licence it's illegal to possess, use, store or manufacture the poisons.

Regional councillor Joe Carr, a farmer who has previously trained for his own Controlled Substance Licence, helped out at the CSL training.

"While it can be a relatively difficult qualification to obtain, it's worth the effort," says Joe.

"As well as being equipped to kill possums in large numbers, licence holders also have the potential to make income from it."

Feedback from those who attended highlighted the emphasis on practical skills, with most rating the training as excellent.



Josh Nilsson (right) of Dargaville High School has his CSL application witnessed by regional councillor Joe Carr (who is a JP).

Dates to diary

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

Nov
4, 6

ENVIROSCHOOLS EXPO 'ON THE WATER'
Nov 4 Bay of Islands Yacht Club, Waitangi
Nov 6 Marsden Cove, Whangarei

Nov/
Dec

BRONZE AND SILVER
Reflections and celebrations

Feb
28 -
Mar
8

SEAWEEK
Free beach clean-up kits to schools and community groups

Mar
10

WAIRESTORATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Trefoil Park (near Kaikohe)

Apr
22-24

WAIFENCING SKILLS WORKSHOP
Trefoil Park

May
19-26

PROJECT POSSUM SKILLS CAMPS
Trefoil Park

ENVIROSCHOOLS NORTHLAND TEAM

www.nrc.govt.nz/enviroschools



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