

More bad news for possums!



Geoff Allinson from CanTrain NZ explains how to use cyanide safely.

Adult pest eradicators have given the thumbs-up to Controlled Substance Licence (CSL) training courses held recently in Kaikohe, supported by CanTrain NZ, Northland District Health Board and the Department of Conservation.

It's illegal to handle poisons for pest control, such as cyanide, without a licence, so the CSL qualification opens up new work opportunities.

Participants plan to use their new practical and theoretical skills for the benefit of the environment and/or to make a living.

Predator control in forests as part of restoration projects, voluntary possum and rodent pest control, and possum fur and pelt recovery are listed among their anticipated activities.

"It's an awesome course and I highly recommend it," says one participant. "It was a fine workshop and the trainers deserve top marks."

Dates to diary

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

SEAWEEK
FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 5
Free beach clean-up kits

PROJECT MUSTELID
MARCH 7-10
In-school theory days
MARCH 14-16
Skills workshops

WAIRESTORATION - WaiFencing
MARCH 28-30
Skills workshops

NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS FUND
APRIL
Applications open

PROJECT POSSUM - Stage 2
APRIL 20
Controlled substance licence training day



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Enviroschools Northland

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Putting school grounds to good use

School caretakers, working alongside teachers and students, can have a big part to play in instigating a school-wide approach to sustainability.

Recognition of this came at a recent 'school environments' workshop where Hukerenui School students showed caretakers and teachers how they use most of their school grounds sustainably for educational purposes.

They explored beekeeping, EcoSolutions waste management, Northland Regional Council biosecurity animal pest control, lavender farming, native bush areas and farming animals at school.

Other practical suggestions included caretakers involving students in their work, using worm farms, creating name plates for native trees as a means of learning their names, and making chutneys and jams out of produce grown in school gardens.

Participants from as far afield as Kohukohu and Ōtamatea took part, exploring a range of ideas as well as sharing problems and solutions related to school property management.



Left to right: Kohukohu School teacher Kim Wilson, Hukerenui School student Kaia Stevens and Northland College caretaker Rob Paewhenua take a hands on approach to lavender farming at the recent Enviroschools Workshop at Hukerenui School.

The workshop is the fourth held by the regional council in recent years, the last was held two years ago in Dargaville.



New Enviroschools in the making

New schools are lining-up to join Northland's Enviroschools' programme following the Northland Regional Council's recent increase in funding for the popular initiative.

There are 30 schools on the Enviroschools' waiting list, and 12 of them have already joined-up.

Among the diverse responses received from potential Enviroschools all over the region, Te Kura o Hata Maria o Pawarenga wants to "take on the role of kaitiaki to our local awa and give full support to the protection of our inanga spawning site".

Totara North School wants to make a positive impact on the local environment by teaching children "the skills and understandings they need to create a sustainable future", and Maungakarama School wants more direction/structure to help develop its existing environmental programme.

As a big school, Kerikeri Primary feels it has an important part to play in creating a more sustainable environment.

Other schools can register their interest in joining the Enviroschools' Northland whanau at www.surveymonkey.com/r/EnvSchool/Survey



Hora Hora School's first encounter with the Enviroschools Programme - 'Art for Earth's Sake' Enviroschools Expo.

Funding fosters environmental projects



Tikipunga High School students plant harakeke (flax) in a wetland area behind Pehiaweri Marae in the Hatea River headwaters.

Schools around the region are making good use of this year's Northland Regional Council Environmental Leaders Fund. Innovative projects are springing up all over Northland.

From native tree planting to wetland creation to possum fur recovery and recycling initiatives, school students are busily learning about and taking action for their environment with the help of motivated teachers.

The projects are at varying stages of completion at the 17 schools that successfully bid for funding and the students are capturing their progress through blogs, videos and photos.



All hands on deck - Hurupaki School's Enviro students are enthusiastic and raring to go!

There are excited reports about projects such as possum and rat trapping, raising seedlings, splitting harakeke (flax), creating butterfly habitats and learning about Māori medicinal plants.

This year's funding round attracted a record number of applications, an indication of the popularity of the school-based sustainability projects.

Applications for next year's funding round opens in April.

Kia ora koutou

Meri Kirihimete Enviroschools Northland whanau!

This issue, we have multiple causes for celebration...

Haere mai, nau mai! to the newly elected Northland Regional Council – we look forward to working with our councillors to help grow the next generation

Congratulations! to the school communities who have recently deepened their practice – Whangarei Heads (Green-Gold review) and Totara Grove (Bronze)

Tau ke! to Eden Hakaraia, one of our Enviroschools facilitators, who recently sat on the judging panel for the Prime Minister's Science Teacher prize and has joined the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust in an education advisory role

Wahoo! to CoastCare Northland which is celebrating 10 years of community coastal action

Nga mihi nui for your mahi this year towards creating a healthy, peaceful and sustainable world.

Ka tupu ake ka puawai i te taiao ma nga tamariki mokopuna ki nga ra kei te heke mai.

If children are immersed and nourished in the environment, they will ensure its survival.



Nga mihi nui
Susan Karels
Enviroschools
Regional
Co-ordinator

Out and about

Tūrangawaewae sparks Taipa vision



Taipa Area School's vision is to create senior school students strongly aware of their place in the world as a result of project-based learning to build their sense of connection with the local environment.

Through a new pilot programme supported by Enviroschools, the students will take part in a series of environmentally-based, cross-curricular projects that link in with local industries such as horticulture, aquaculture, forestry, agriculture and eco-tourism.

The new approach is expected to improve the students' engagement and enjoyment in their learning and connect them with local, sustainable work.

Got the Bronze, now it's time for Silver



Aquila and Toha separate harakeke (flax) ready for repotting.

There's no stopping the Bay of Islands International Academy – it's celebrating its Enviroschools Bronze and is already aiming for Silver next year.

The school involves the wider community in its projects that include establishing a native tree nursery from scratch and sowing, growing, harvesting and eating vegetables and herbs from its own gardens.

A worm farm makes short work of food scraps and some paper towels, and the worm wee and compost is used in the gardens and for science experiments.

Pumpkins, strawberries and lots of bugs

Totara Grove School's Tupu Tah team is living up to its vision of 'growing together, standing strong and reaching high', culminating with achieving Enviroschools Bronze this year.

Students throughout the school are learning about their environment with a "huge focus" on planting programmes, including an orchard tree planting plan.

Learning lots about growing pumpkins and potting strawberries was fun, with every child taking home a strawberry and pumpkin seedling with instructions for their care.



Totara Grove students enjoy their discoveries on insect investigation days.

An insect investigation yielded some very interesting 'finds' with aphids and ladybugs looming large beneath the magnifying glass.

Gardening teaches valuable skills

Whangarei Primary School students who speak English as a second language are finding out more about the New Zealand way of life through activities associated with the garden.

They are creating vegetable gardens and learning how to grow and tend a variety of fresh produce including beetroot, lettuce, spinach and tomatoes.

Other activities include building compost bins using recycled materials, recycling plastic bottles as bird feeders to attract backyard birds and using old tyres and wheelbarrows as containers for small gardens.



Whangarei Primary School ESOL students build their garden containers and grow the seedlings for their beautiful crop of vegetables. From left are Shruti Maharaj, Mahi Khandakar, David Cho and Duy-Anh Vu.

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