

WaiNurseries project blooming

Plant nurseries are popping up at more Northland schools as the WaiNurseries programme starts to bloom.

WaiNurseries – a component of the WaiRestoration project – aims to help schools set up nurseries to cultivate their own riparian and endangered plants, many of which are eco-sourced.

Enviroschools Facilitator Julie Holt says a recent professional development day highlighted some of the great WaiNurseries developing under the WaiRestoration project.

“We had a fantastic turnout of 28 teachers and community members, who participated in a range of practical workshops and discussed real-life WaiNurseries examples from five schools.”

Kokopu School’s recent nursery construction has been an empowering learning opportunity. Students planned, designed and built the nursery and in the words of one student, “although it took ages, it turned out really good!”

Tauraroa Area School has embraced the whole WaiRestoration ethos with planting along waterways, so WaiNurseries was the next logical step. The school’s shadehouse was quickly constructed, and they’re now working on the internal infrastructure and continuing to germinate plants ready to go into the nursery.

Enviroschools Facilitator – and nursery expert – Jacque Knight says Hurupaki School has eco-sourced plants from its own wetland and has a successful growing programme in place. Better still, the school has produced a dynamic, engaged group of plant growers.



Kokopu School students get hands-on with construction of their plant nursery.

Mangakahia Area School’s level 2 horticulture class has been busy setting up and maintaining the school’s nursery which was constructed last year. The plants will be used along local waterways to help restore degraded freshwater.

Kamo Primary School’s caretaker took a lead role in the design and construction of its new nursery. A team of enthusiastic students has been eco-sourcing seed from a nearby park and the school’s own native reserve, and they have now planted kaka beak, pohutukawa and other native seeds.

Jacque says Maungaturoto, Okaihau Primary, and Otaika Valley schools are also on the way with WaiNurseries.

“It’s really exciting to see all these WaiNurseries grow from strength to strength as more schools embrace the project.”

Enviroschools Facilitator Jacque Knight shows teachers how to pot up native seedlings at the recent professional development day.



Kia ora koutou FROM THE REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

Welcome to the Enviroschools Northland newsletter for Term 2, 2015.

Haere mai, nau mai ki Toimata Foundation! In May 2015 the name of The Enviroschools Foundation changed to Toimata Foundation. The Enviroschools Programme retains its current name, logo and identity.

Over the last 15 years the Foundation has grown from supporting a handful of primary schools to supporting nearly 1000 schools, kura and early childhood centres. Along with students, participants include post-school youth and communities in both English and Māori settings. The Foundation works with this wide network through two programmes: Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools.

Make a date and go for Bronze, Silver or Green-Gold! The Enviroschools census showed that as schools deepen their practice by moving through the Enviroschools stages their impact – environmentally, culturally and socially – expands. Book in for your school's reflection by contacting your Enviroschools facilitator (see back page for contact details).

Keep up the great mahi!

"That which is not good for the beehive cannot be good for the bees." – Marcus Aurelius.



Nga mihi nui

Susan Karels
Enviroschools Regional
Co-ordinator

57 take on fencing workshops

Another 57 senior students from seven secondary schools added fencing to their skill set during the latest round of WaiFencing skills workshops.

A total of 187 students from around Northland have now been through the WaiFencing training since it kicked off in 2013. The training aims to boost participants' qualifications and future employment opportunities, as well as better protect the region's waterways from stock.



Glenis Rogers, from Northland College, helps her team construct a horizontal stay assembly.



Hagan Skelton, from Tauraroa Area School, uses a homemade electric fence tester to locate a fault.

The students participated in practical sessions covering fencing knots and ties, fence repair and construction, electric fencing, fencing equipment and strainer assemblies.

Attendee feedback from the workshop was positive – in the words of one attendee, "it was good to learn new skills for fencing and it was cool."

Northland Regional Council's land management team provided a presentation on fencing to protect waterways and also assisted the fencing tutors.

Mangakahia students' slippery endeavours

Senior 'Education for Sustainability' students from Mangakahia Area School got hands-on with tuna whakaheke (eel) in their river catchment in late May.

Students spent the day with scientists and local hapu members to look at strategies around declining tuna whakaheke numbers and habitat in the Hikurangi catchment. They then spent the afternoon tagging and releasing

tuna caught at the Wairua Hydro Scheme in Titoki.

The unique, collaborative experience blended science with local cultural knowledge and was thoroughly enjoyed by all students.

Hoori Tuhiwai showing senior Mangakahia Area School students how to check for tags in anaesthetised tuna. Hoori is also a representative on the regional council's Waiora Northland Water Mangere catchment group.



Out and about

Focus on waste for Waiharara



Jade Lynch and other students from Waiharara School build huts from natural materials as part of a project to reduce waste.

What happens to our waste? That's this year's focus for investigation at Far North's Waiharara School.

The topic has opened many doors for learning opportunities, with students discussing and exploring strategies to combat the issue of too many things being thrown away.

Some of the students' innovative problem-solving includes making masks and creating toys out of recycled items, building huts out of natural materials and taking that knowledge on to building 'real' huts in the playground, and a local beach clean-up and sorting session.

Butterfly flutter at Parua Bay



A new butterfly garden initiated by Parua Bay students is creating novel learning opportunities and enhancing the community's unique environment.

Students investigated and developed designs for a butterfly garden that would not only make use of an otherwise 'wasted' space, but also enhance the school's plan to create more habitats for the wildlife.

The new garden has certainly attracted a lot of interest, and not just from the butterflies. It's a place that many students check out each day – observing, watering the colourful plants or doing more planting.

Portland Kindergarten's forest regeneration takes root



Kaumātua Fred Tito leading Portland Kindergarten children through the whakawātea cleansing of the land – they plan to regenerate.

Portland Kindergarten's vision to restore and regenerate bordering native forest is taking root, thanks to the strong support of the local community.

Individuals and organisations have donated their time, machinery, people-power and support to clear non-natives and get native forest regeneration on its way. Local nurseries have donated plants, and a next step is to organise a community planting day.

To ensure the forest's new seedlings survive, the kindergarten students have also been learning about trapping pests and the effect pests have on native life.

Onerahi market scoops 'Plants for purpose' prize

Onerahi School's enterprising weekly market – at which produce and products grown or made at school are sold – has won the school \$2000 worth of garden supplies.

The school entered and won Mitre 10 and More FM's 'Plants for purpose' competition in November.

The \$2000 prize funded plants, compost, garden art and Macrocarpa sleepers for tables and chairs. Mitre 10 staff helped out at the school's planting day, which was held early this year, having drawn up a landscape plan based on the students' food forest concept.

Students pitch in at the planting day, following Onerahi School's 'Plants for purpose' competition win.



More bad news for possums!

Look out possums – another 82 students from a dozen Northland schools have gained hands-on knowledge of possum trapping, fur and pelt recovery as 'Project Possum' enters its fifth year.

The popular training is designed to give participants the chance to earn NCEA Level 2 and 3 credits as well as create potential jobs and reduce a harmful pest.

Students from a dozen Northland schools took part in one of three overnight training camps held at Trefoil Park in late May.

Feedback from those who attended highlighted the emphasis on practical skills, with most rating the training as excellent. A follow-up workshop in July will allow participants to judge how they have been putting what they had learned into practice and also check written assignments they were given.



Magnus Jeffery (left) of Whangarei Boys High School gets a lesson in setting a leg-hold trap from Northland Regional Council Biosecurity Officer Mike Knight.

Dates to diary

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

Jul 9-10 **SECONDARY ENVIROSCHOOLS HUI**
National professional development,
Wellington

Jul 28-30 **PROJECT POSSUM Stage One
Assessment Workshops**
Trefoil Park

Sept 1,3 **PROJECT POSSUM Stage Two
Controlled substance licence**
Trefoil Park

Sept 2 **PREPARATION FOR FIREARMS
LICENCE TRAINING**
Trefoil Park

Oct 15 **SHAKEOUT! NATIONAL
EARTHQUAKE DRILL**
Sign up at www.shakeout.govt.nz/
register

Term 4 **BRONZE, SILVER, GREEN-GOLD
Reflections**

Nov 3,5 **ENVIROSCHOOLS EXPOS**
Nov 3 Whangarei;
Nov 5 Far North

ENVIROSCHOOLS NORTHLAND TEAM

www.nrc.govt.nz/enviroschools



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