

WaiRestoration skills learned

The future of Northland's waterways took a big step forward in May with a WaiRestoration professional development day for schools. Now in its second year in Northland, this event was attended by 55 teachers, principals, caretakers, community members and also representatives of organisations such as Fonterra and the Department of Conservation.

The WaiRestoration Northland pilot project aims to support farmers and engage young people and local communities in the restoration of waterways and biodiversity. The project is a joint venture between the Northland Regional Council, Papa Taiao Earthcare and The EnviroSchools Foundation.

This year's professional development day welcomed new schools to WaiRestoration and

included practical workshops, presentations of school case studies and a 'planning the project forward' session. The expert-led workshops covered five of the seven components of WaiRestoration:

- WaiNurseries: eco-sourcing seeds and growing riparian plants
- WaiPlanting: planting beside waterways and matching plants to terrain
- WaiMaintenance: identifying and controlling animal and plant pests
- WaiMonitoring: testing and tracking water quality
- Save a Species: restoring endangered plants and animals.

As a next step, The EnviroSchools Foundation has funded shade houses, along with advice on

how to make the most of them, for seven Northland EnviroSchools.

For other upcoming events (such as the caretaker workshops in September) see 'Dates to Diary' on the back page of this issue.



Kim Jones of Whitebait Connection leads the WaiMonitoring workshop

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1:

WaiRestoration skills learned
Pests put in their place

PAGE 2:

Kia ora koutou
EnviroSchools in the Early Years upskilling
Tauraroa Area School
Taipa Area School

PAGE 3:

Ruakaka School
Oromahoe School
Russell School
Onerahi School

PAGE 4:

Dates to diary
Whangaruru School

Pests put in their place

Project Possum has had a successful first six months of the year, with a total of about 65 students attending two-day skills camps and one-day assessment workshops in April and June respectively.

Project Possum involves senior secondary students learning, practising and being assessed on skills and knowledge related to possum trapping, skinning, fur and pelt recovery, possum biology and their environmental impact. The course offers level 2 and 3 NCEA unit standards.

The next Project Possum events take place in September – see 'Dates to Diary' on the back page.



Kia ora koutou FROM THE REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

Welcome to the second Enviroschools Northland newsletter for 2014!

It is an absolute delight to see the Enviroschools kaupapa alive and thriving in a variety of ways throughout our region. From plant nursery construction to possum fur sales to connections with Papatuanuku, the well-being of communities and eco-systems is indeed being nurtured by young people, schools and whanau.

Be inspired by the success stories and be congratulated for the part you are playing in working out how to live so that our society and

economy flourish to nourish the natural systems that give us life.

*Ma te huruhuru ka rere ai te manu
It is feathers that enable the bird to fly*

Noho ora mai



Susan Karels
Enviroschools
Regional Co-ordinator

Enviroschools in the Early Years upskilling



Six Northland Enviroschools kindergarten teachers and Enviroschools Regional Co-ordinator Susan Karels participated in the inaugural national hui for the early childhood sector, held in

Papamoa in late April-early May. The programme incorporated sharing knowledge, exploring sustainability and Māori perspectives, visiting local Enviroschools Kindergartens and inputting into programme development.

Earlier in the year, a cluster meeting was organised by and held at Kerikeri Kindergarten. Approximately 20 people participated in the professional development focused on exploring ways to connect with Papatuanuku (earth mother/land). Participants created habitats, took part in a sensory walk, worked with environmental photos and discussed briquette making.

Tauraroa Area School



Year 5 and 6 students made three-tiered worm farms out of recycled icecream containers for sale at the gala, using worms from the school's

overflowing worm farm to inhabit the new mini-farms. These sold out very quickly, along with bottles of amber-coloured worm juice.

Tauraroa also has two new beehives this year, which have produced a surplus of honey that has enabled the school to package individually designer-labelled pottles of honey to sell at the school gala. The funds raised will be used to buy more beekeeping equipment – the school already has 15 bee veils, although students are working around the bees all the time and have become really relaxed when observing an open hive.



Out & About

Taipa Area School



Thirty-five Taipa Area School students from Years 3 to 13 worked alongside members of the Doubtless Bay community to plant about 1000 native trees and shrubs as part of a wetland restoration project at Kate's Bush near Taipa.

The event, which took place on a magnificent Arbor Day in June, was a partnership between the school, the landowner, iwi, community groups, a NorthTec horticulture class, the Department of Conservation and Northland Regional Council.

Charles Adamson, whose family has owned the property on which the restoration is taking place for four generations, thanked all involved and invited the students to come back in the future to see how the trees have grown and recognise the results of their efforts at the planting day.

Out & About



Ruakaka School students Amaia Martinez de Trevino (left) and Bree Munford get started on the school's olive-picking day.

Ruakaka School

Ruakaka School's students got an insight into the olive-growing business in April when they picked the trees at an olive grove owned by school parents.

The students worked hard, taking care not to include any leaves or twigs, and ended up with 25 trays of olives, weighing a total of 227 kg. These were pressed, at no cost, by The Olive Place, near Wellsford, yielding a generous 53 litres of oil. This was bottled and offered for sale to families of the school first, with the remainder to be sold at the school's gala day in November.

Oromahoe School



This photo of students from Oromahoe School energetically cleaning up Te Ti Beach near Paihia was the winner of the Seaweeek photo contest.

Seaweeek 2014 took place in March and is an annual nationwide series of events dedicated to marine education, action and awareness, with this year's theme being 'our fragile, finite taonga'. Seaweeek is hosted by the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education and supported by the ASB Community Trust.

Free beach clean-up kits were provided to schools and communities throughout Northland by Enviroschools Northland and CoastCare.



Northland Regional Councillor Dover Samuels presents students from Oromahoe School with their prize.

Russell School



Russell School was the winner of a new 46-inch Samsung LED smart TV/home theatre system in the Upper North Island section of the Enviroschools TV TakeBack challenge.

The Enviroschools Challenge was a competition organised by the Ministry for the Environment and the Enviroschools Foundation to raise awareness among school students and their communities of the need to recycle televisions.

It was part of the Government's TV TakeBack programme, which resulted in more than 200,000 TVs being collected for recycling, keeping thousands of tonnes of recyclable material out of landfills.

Onerahi School

Onerahi Primary School students gathered lemons and honey and made kawakawa balm and other items, then held a successful week of selling, so far raising more than \$500 for the school's environmental projects.

One of the most popular products has already sold out. The kawakawa balm, which helps moisturise skin, clear up rashes and calms itching from insect bites, uses kawakawa leaves from trees at the school and beeswax from the school's beehives.

Students, teachers and parents from Onerahi Primary are excited about the potential for the market to become part of everyday life at the school, with one 10-year-old commenting: "I like having a market because it gives kids a chance to learn other skills outside the classroom."



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
12

WAIFENCING

Assessment workshop – Northland Regional Council property at Flyger Road, Ruakaka

Aug
13 & 14

WAIFENCING

Assessment workshops – Northland College dairy farm

Sept
2 & 4

PROJECT POSSUM STAGE TWO

Controlled substance licence – Trefoil Park. For students and community members 17 years of age and over

Sept
25

CARETAKER WORKSHOP
– Dargaville Intermediate

Term
3

ENVIROSCHOOLS BRONZE, SILVER AND GREEN-GOLD REFLECTIONS

Sharing and decision-making sessions

Oct
8-10

NATIONAL ENVIROSCHOOLS HUI
St Peter's School, Cambridge

Term
4

ENVIROSCHOOLS BRONZE, SILVER AND GREEN-GOLD CELEBRATIONS

Nov
4

ENVIROSCHOOLS EXPO
On the Water – Whangarei

Nov
6

ENVIROSCHOOLS EXPO
On the Water – Far North

Whangaruru School

Gardening has become an exciting part of every day at Whangaruru School.

The school's gardens were overgrown with weeds, so the project began with weeding, adding new soil and planting cauliflowers, broccoli, leeks, celery and silverbeet. The vegetables were ready to be harvested by the start of Term 2, and the school's Year 5 and 6 students wrote: "It was great fun to pick them and to make coleslaw, broccoli soup and cauliflower cheese. We have shared our beautiful vegetables with our whanau."



ENVIROSCHOOLS NORTHLAND TEAM

www.nrc.govt.nz/enviroschools



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