

Enviroschools NORTHLAND

NEWSLETTER
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Northland Enviroschools score Silver and Bronze

Two Northland schools had their sustainability efforts recognised when they received Silver and Bronze Enviroschools Awards in December.

The road to Bronze

Umawera may be a small school, but a lot of environmental action goes on there.

"We started by simply walking across the road, to get a good look at our school and visualise how we wanted it to be," says Principal Christine Gilmore.

"Then it was about finding out what we needed to know so we could make those things happen."

The school has really laid the foundations towards becoming a sustainable school. They are raising chickens, have planted an orchard and vegetable gardens and have erected a bamboo-insulated shade house and composting bins.



Umawera School.

"The kids are very involved in coming up with ideas and deciding what we're going to do, and our staff members are all really committed to supporting and motivating them," says Christine.

Umawera joined Enviroschools so they could share their ideas and learn from other schools, and it wasn't long before they decided to go for a Bronze Award.

With that award now under their belt Umawera School is well on its way to a sustainable future – so where to from here?

"Our goal is to sustain what we've got going and develop on that further, and we'll be aiming for a Silver next," says Christine.

"We still make trips across the road now and then, so we can picture where to next for our school – and then get on and do it."

Ruakaka scores Silver

Going for a Silver Award was a natural progression for Ruakaka School, says Principal Marilyn Dunn.

"Sustainability has become an integral part of everything we do, so we're always looking at keeping things going and where to next."

Students recognise that the essence of sustainability is about looking after something so it keeps going, and that's what they've been putting into action.

The school's many projects include beekeeping, chooks (including a state-of-the-art chicken mansion!), a food forest, a monarch butterfly motel, composting, worm farming, an irrigation system, hot house and class vegetable gardens, all of which are integrated into their teaching and learning.

The school's Envirogroup has become a real driver for action. Two students from each class meet fortnightly to keep the momentum going, with help from parents and special guests.

"Lots of our students have taken what they've learned and set up edible gardens at home, which is fantastic.

"We'd love to take the next step and set up a community garden – as well as bringing people together, it's about helping families have access to good, healthy food."



Ruakaka School.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1:

Northland Enviroschools score Silver and Bronze

PAGE 2:

Kia Ora Tatou
Recommended resources
Scrapbook Cover Competition
10 years of Enviroschools

PAGE 3:

Out and about

PAGE 4:

Dates to remember
Summer Jam
Enviroschools Team

Kia ora koutou FROM THE REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

Welcome to the first Enviroschools Northland Newsletter for 2012!

A great kick-start to the new year was the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAAE) conference held in January – it was inspiring, informative and energising.

This sixth biennial conference was held in Hamilton with the theme of 'Changing Course for a Sustainable World'. Keynote speakers included Canada's Joseph Cornell, creator of many well-known (and well-loved) experiential learning activities. Check out some of his resources in the 'Recommended Resource' section of this newsletter.

We were spoilt for choice with workshops and papers – all running in the streams of early childhood, schools, tertiary, central and local government and societies and communities.

The field trip 'menu' was also extensive and included eco-building, a dinosaur forest, lake restoration, permaculture, urban ecology, school-based environmental education and the famous Maungatautari mainland island.

Take a look at the newly updated Enviroschools web pages on the Northland Regional Council website: www.nrc.govt.nz/enviroschools

I look forward to working with you and yours throughout 2012.

"Whangia ka tupu, ka puawai."
– That which is nurtured, blossoms and grows.

Noho ora mai, Susan Karels
Enviroschools Regional Co-ordinator

Three in a row! Scrapbook cover competition

An awesome design from Ruakaka School's Joel Tolley has taken out the 2011 Scrapbook Cover Competition, making it three wins in a row for Northland.



Winner Joel Tolley (right) and one of four runners-up Lily Matenga with their designs.

An awesome design from Ruakaka School's Joel Tolley has taken out the 2011 Scrapbook Cover Competition, making it three wins in a row for Northland.

The scrapbook is an annual snapshot of what Enviroschools across the country have been doing, and each year a competition is held to find the design that will grace its cover.

This year's designs were required to reflect the New Zealand environment based on the kaupapa 'Earth to Earth'.

Joel joins the previous two years' winners, Tallulah Scott of Riverview School and Sarah Clifford from Okaihau College, to cement Northland's third consecutive win for the competition.

Enviroschools Regional Co-ordinator Susan Karels says the wins reflect the hard work

Recommended resources



Sharing Nature With Children
by Joseph Cornell

Sharing Nature With Children is a powerful – and fun – approach to nature education.

This treasury of games and

activities for adults and children to learn about nature has spread around the globe. There is now a second Sharing Nature With Children book, several audiovisual resources, and a network of people around the world teaching Sharing Nature.

So what makes Sharing Nature With Children a good resource? In the author's own words:

... In addition to teaching ecology creatively, these games help people experience a profound sense of joy, serenity, and belonging to the natural world."
—Joseph Cornell

To order:
Visit the Sharing Nature website:
www.sharingnature.com/resources/

and commitment throughout Northland's Enviroschools.

"We have such a great bunch of talented young artists and inspirational teachers throughout our region – they're doing great things and the sky's the limit!"

10 years of Enviroschools

Happy birthday Enviroschools! In December we celebrated 10 years since Enviroschools was launched as a nationwide programme – and oh my, how we've grown:

- Across the country, 818 schools, kura and early childhood centres are involved in Enviroschools and Te Aho Tū Roa.

- 73 organisations across 16 regions support the programme.
- In Northland, 60 schools, kura and early childhood centres are involved – that's 37% of all our schools/kura!
- Inspirational young leaders are emerging throughout the country with knowledge and skills about environmental, economic and social change.

Congratulations to everyone for the ongoing energy and action in our schools and communities!



Heidi Mardon (Enviroschools National Director) and Heidi Mardon (National Manager, Te Aho Tū Roa) at the birthday celebration held in Hamilton in January.



All in the family

Oromahoe School's community garden has moved into a new era where the students are working – and learning – alongside their parents.

A healthy harvest is not the only reward – ultimately, the garden is really bringing families and the community together.



Weta motels

Building weta motels is one of the jobs that Kamo Intermediate School has been working on for its Islands of Life project.

Another successful year has also seen the butterfly garden blooming, lots more flax and kowhai planted, and veggies produced. The next big challenge is their eco-pond overhaul – so watch this space!

The big picture

What started as a back-drop for Karetu School's play has now morphed into a very special mural for the whole Kawakawa community to enjoy.

The incredible mural took its inspiration from the environment and Maoritanga, and was influenced by the artist Hundertwasser who had lived in the community.



Out and about

Check out some of the great action going on in Northland's EnviroSchools.



Role models

'Bring in the experts' is Ohaeawai School's philosophy, and it means valuable learning opportunities for students as each term has a different environmental theme covering a range of sustainability topics, including forest, earth, sea and sky.

The school's revamped vege garden is fertile ground for the students to learn about what and how to plant, and how to make good use of the produce.

Parents are keen supporters at Ohaeawai – they're heavily involved in all the students' projects, providing strong role models and keeping environmental action going in the community.

Creating a buzz

After making a wild garden, students at Mangamuka School are now creating a buzz. With support from a local beekeeper, they have set up beehives to help them learn more about what lives in our habitat.

The students are already planning how they will use the honey. The action is on to keep the gardens going too, as cooking and eating are things everyone likes to be involved in!



Garden gurus

Big congratulations to Oturu school – its innovative approach to gardening has won it New Zealand Gardener's 2011 School Garden of the Year!

As well as growing sustainable produce and keeping bees, Oturu's entrepreneurial students are selling products out of their registered kitchen. A big product right now is their own nit remedy, *kutu ka kite*. The money they make goes back into the school and the garden.

It's hands-on learning where the students' decision-making and involvement keeps their sustainable journey going.



New Zealand Gardener

Summer Jam!

In January, 74 people from around the country – including three Northland students – came together for the fourth ReGeneration Summer Jam in Taupo.

Daniel Clark (Mangakahia Area School), Katie Walker (Ōtamatea High School) and Josh Hill (Kerikeri High School) represented Northland at the annual event which is all about sharing practical skills, knowledge, ideas, stories and visions for creating positive change.

A huge range of topics were covered at

the six-day event, including global poverty, climate change, Antarctica, fair trade, harakeke weaving, electric bike-building, native plant identification, project planning, facilitation skills, working with the media and making good decisions.

A celebration night gave people a chance to show off an extraordinary range of skills – which included some “mean as” rapping from Northland’s own Daniel Clark!

We can look forward to seeing these future leaders making their mark on the world.



ReGeneration Summer Jam 2012 participants.

Dates to remember

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

March
1-3

NORTHLAND AGRICULTURAL FIELD DAYS

Dargaville
Enviroschools community garden
Enviroschools Project Possum display

May
7-18

PRIMARY CLUSTER MEETINGS

Five Northland locations to be advised

May
15-18

PROJECT POSSUM TRAINING WORKSHOPS

15 May, Lonsdale Park
17 May, Tangihua Lodge
18 May, Tangihua Lodge

May
29-
June
6

PROJECT POSSUM ASSESSMENT CAMPS

29-30 May, Tangihua Lodge
31 May-1 June, Tangihua Lodge
5-6 June, Lonsdale Park

June
19-21

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS BUS TOURS

19 June, Whāngārei
21 June, Kaitiāia

August
14

CARETAKER WORKSHOP

Whāngārei

Oct
30-
Nov
1

GONE BUSH EXPOS

30 October, Whāngārei
1 November, Mid North



ENVIROSCHOOLS NORTHLAND TEAM www.nrc.govt.nz/enviroschools

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