

Enviroschools NORTHLAND

NEWSLETTER
Issue 21 | Term 4, 2015

Snapshot: Our year in action

ENVIROSCHOOLS CENSUS

NORTHLAND HIGHLIGHTS 2014

NZ'S LARGEST
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION SURVEY

69%
RESPONSE RATE

STRONG COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS
IDENTIFIED

ALL DECILES
INVOLVED

10,546
TREES
PLANTED



WORKING
WITH
COMMUNITIES

7,305m
OF RIPARIAN
PLANTING IN
NORTHLAND

75%
OBSERVED
CITIZENSHIP &
ECOLOGICAL
OUTCOMES

VARIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

100%



WASTE

98%



BIODIVERSITY

95%



FOOD PRODUCTION

82%



WATER

70%



ECO BUILDING

45%



ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION
increases as schools' journeys progress

GETTING STARTED 7*

INITIAL STAGES 14*

WELL DEVELOPED 18*

DEEPLY EMBEDDED 22*

* number of actions on average

LAST WORDS

"... it affects our planning and makes learning authentic and hands on. Relevant. Culturally aware."

"Connections and links are made with the wider community and whanau. The students' efforts are being recognised by the community and the students value the importance of contributing and improving biodiversity and healthy waterways."

Kia ora koutou FROM THE REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

First up, congratulations to Hukerenui School's problem solving team who recently became world champions at the International Future Problem Solving Finals in the United States!

Congratulations also to the 13 Enviroschools that received a total of over \$8,000 from the Northland Regional Council Environmental Curriculum Awards. Projects ranging from WaiNurseries to stoat and rat traps to chemistry equipment have been funded.

Julie, Jacque and I are looking forward to the upcoming Enviroschools reflections. It's fabulous to see school communities moving through the stages, deepening and broadening their environmental actions along the way.

Check out 'Dates to diary' on the back page of this newsletter and mark the date for iEnergy – the 2015 Enviroschools Expos for primary and intermediate schools. iEnergy will be full of exciting hands-on experiences including electric cars and bikes, and photovoltaics, plus electric versus conventional car-racing. Registration forms for these popular annual events will be winging their way to your school soon.

*"Ma whero ma pango ka oti ai te mahi"
With red and black the work will be complete*



Nga mihi nui

Susan Karels
Enviroschools Regional
Co-ordinator

Working together for a healthy river

In August, Kokopu and Poroti schools joined the council's Mangere Catchment Group in planting 600 plants alongside the Mangere River.

Rain was forecast, but all four species of riparian plants were in the ground in just over an hour – right before the heavens opened! A big thanks to Reconnecting Northland who funded and laid out the plants.



Mangere Catchment Group Co-chair, Royce Kokich, gives advice to a keen student planter.

The Mangere Catchment Group then presented Kokopu School with a trophy for safekeeping – at the 2014 River Awards, the council received 'the most improved river award' for the Mangere River.



Back at school, gumboots and spades 'speak' of the planting action.

Next, the school's Envirogroup gave a tour of their WaiNursery where their riparian plants are grown from eco-sourced seed. One day these plants will also be planted out along the Mangere River.

The students' community efforts were rewarded with sausages and icecream – both tasting extra delicious after a physical day in the outdoors.

Loving our water with Sustainable Coastlines

More than 600 students from six Northland schools recently participated in 'Love your Water' sessions by Sustainable Coastlines, a New Zealand charity on a mission to inspire, educate and enable others to look after the places they love.

While in Northland, Sustainable Coastlines also teamed up with Whitebait Connection,

Northland Regional Council and others to plant 800 trees at Balmoral Reserve, in Tikipunga, Whāngārei.

This ongoing project, initiated by Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Rawhitiroa is helping provide habitat for native species and protection from runoff.

Tauraroa Area School student, Samuel Parry, was inspired by the Sustainable Coastlines presentation at his school to help out at the community planting day.



Out and about

WaiNurseries takes off at Dargaville High



Dargaville High School's riparian plants ready for planting out.

In just 18 months, Dargaville High School has turned two old shade houses into a thriving plant nursery.

This winter, the school produced enough plants to sell to a Poutō restoration group, motivating it to grow more plants for more community waterway plantings in 2016.

A WaiRestoration professional development for teachers and an in-school nursery workshop with students have helped bed in the successful nursery.

Next year may also see the school offering more horticultural courses and partnering with the Department of Conservation to monitor the rare Bittern on a local farm.

Community focus, at home and away

Students from St Francis Xavier Catholic School have created two beautiful blankets for the earthquake-stricken people of Nepal. Reusing wool from old garments and wool donated from the school community, the students knitted peggy squares to form the warm blankets. A Habitat for Humanity team leader will take the blankets to Nepal.

Closer to home, during 'Keep New Zealand Beautiful' week the school cleaned up nearby Kensington Park where students picked up all the rubbish and recycling they could find – 10 bags in total.



St Francis sticks to its knitting.

Pests beware!

Animal pests don't stand a chance at the Bay of Islands International Academy! Large numbers of rats, mice and hedgehogs – plus one stoat – have been baited and trapped by the school's students.



Bay Of Islands International Academy students, Chay Edwards, Aidan McDermott, Joshua Kennedy and Matthew Kennedy with the camouflaged kiwi boxes.

The school is also helping local kiwi to thrive by organising special boxes to be built by the inmate workshop team at the Ngawha Corrections Facility. The boxes, which emulate hollow logs, help protect kiwi and their young from predators.

Students painted the kiwi boxes in camouflage colours and await their deployment to locations on the Purerua peninsula.

In addition, Bay Academy is developing a pollination garden for beehives kept on the school grounds. The garden will double as a quiet sanctuary for students, staff and the local community to enjoy.

Down on the farm with Karetu School

Karetu School students recently donned gumboots for the day and investigated how a dairy farm can be environmentally friendly, thanks to an invitation to visit the nearby Crawford farm.

On farm, students and whanau saw – and smelt! – how the effluent ponds work and are recycled to wash down the yards. This and

other hands-on learning experiences were enjoyed by all, particularly when students tasted the fresh milk.

The day on the farm proved to be a very worthwhile extension to the students' classroom learning about sustainable agriculture.

Karetu School students Maketu Puru-Clarke and Ethan Pickford investigate 'super silage'.



From small beginnings come great things

It's never too early to start the journey towards sustainability, as highlighted in Kerikeri Kindergarten's highly successful Enviroschools Bronze sharing and decision-making session.

Helping out at the Kerikeri community garden, recycling, planting native grasses, fire pit fun, turtle hatchings, weta hotels, kai gardens, seed collecting and additive-free foods are just some of the actions taking place at Kerikeri Kindergarten.

A reflection team including educators, parents and children reviewed evidence to find that Kerikeri Kindergarten is committed to the Enviroschools journey and is taking a wide variety of actions towards a sustainable future.

The kindergarten will celebrate its Enviroschools Bronze achievement with Northland Regional Council early in Term Four.



Kerikeri Kindergarten students add 'leaves of evidence' to the Enviroschools Guiding Principle tree.

Dates to diary

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

Term
4

BRONZE, SILVER & GREEN GOLD REFLECTIONS

Sharing and decision-making

Nov
3,5

ENVIROSCHOOLS EXPOS

Nov 3 Whangarei;
Nov 5 Far North

Feb
9-12

NZAAE CONFERENCE

Auckland; register at www.nzaaeconference.co.nz

Feb 27
- Mar 6

NZAAE SEAWEEK

Theme: Toiora te Moana, Toiora te tangata - Healthy Seas, Healthy People

Mar
15

PROJECT MUSTELID

Trefoil Park, near Kaikohe

Apr
5

WAIRESTORATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

May
3-5

WAIFENCING SKILLS WORKSHOP

Trefoil Park, near Kaikohe

ENVIROSCHOOLS NORTHLAND TEAM

www.nrc.govt.nz/enviroschools



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