

Enviroschools

Taranaki - Term 1, 2021



Welcome back to school. Time got away from us late last year and we decided to wait until now to celebrate and share some of the amazingness that's been happening within our rohe. Term's 1 & 2 calendar of events is attached separately with relevant flyers so have a look through those to see what may help you. In the meantime, let's have a look at some environmental education for sustainability in ACTION!

What's the Enviroschools team loving at the moment?

The Sustainable Backyards Trail, action in the environment, building resilience within school and kindergarten communities & so much more!

[Here's](#) a bit of a story on a variety of mahi that a handful of Taranaki Enviroschools has been up to lately.

Let's see what a few of our schools and kindergartens have been up to ...

Whenuakura School

Never underestimate a small school! This awesome little school is carving out their Enviroschools journey with loads of fun action. PLUS they have been building and selling over \$2,000 worth of traps to support the Predator Free mahi happening here in Taranaki.



Ngamatapouri School

Silver Enviroschool



Staff and students ended 2020 by reflecting at Silver on their Enviroschools journey. It has been an epic year for the kura as Covid 19 and more recently, extreme weather has cut this remote community off from the main centres. However, this resilient kura pulled together by sharing resources and person-power. The school community worked together to ensure their learning experiences made the most of the natural resources available to them, were sustainable, and allow them to contribute back to their local community. This includes sharing out their eggs to different whānau, growing seedlings, weaving kono and making soap for Pet Day, and using their own vegie and fruit harvest to create weekly meals for their students.

Senior students joined the teaching team to discuss their progress since reflecting at Bronze and shared their ideas about what they would like to do on the next phase of their Enviroschools journey. Ongoing Principal Heather Dallas is moving to Waitomo for 2021 but her mahi over the past few years has laid a strong foundation for the incoming principal. We wish Heather, and the departing senior students, all the best as the head off on the next stage of their journey.

Facilitator – Esther Ward-Campbell

Oakura School

Bronze Enviroschool



Congratulations to Oakura on becoming a Bronze Enviroschool in Term 4, 2020. So much is happening in the Kaitake taiao and we look forward to supporting this mahi.

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Marfell School



Marfell Community School in New Plymouth has recently partnered with Enviroschools and have really impressed with their enthusiasm and commitment to the kaupapa.

Classes have been learning about the flora and fauna in their own 'backyard' by examining biodiversity and pest control, as well as exploring other themes such as energy.

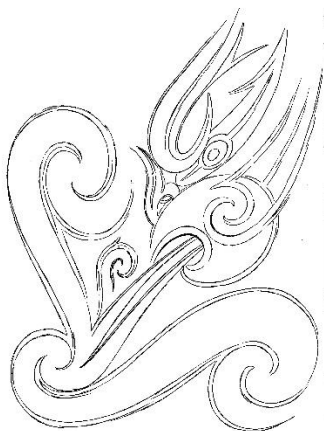
This term Room 3 students (teacher Catherine Steenson with yrs 3-5) have been exploring the theme area of Energy.

Using student lead investigation of a range of ideas that they wanted to explore, they have written reports, invited an energy expert from Powerco to give a presentation, held workshops constructing various machines that use wind and solar energy as power sources and explored how the theory of electricity works to make working electrical circuits.

Catherine is really keen to use this as a launching platform for further energy investigations and how renewable energy sources could be used within the kura.

Watch this space as I'm sure that the enthusiasm shown by teachers and students alike will see further amazing outcomes at Marfell.

Facilitator – Richard Carr



Opunake Community Kindergarten



Opunake Kindergarten celebrated becoming a Silver Enviroschool in October. Their Enviroschools journey began in 2015 and - since then- the staff, tamariki, whānau and community members have embraced the kaupapa and worked tirelessly to create an environment where nature, and interacting sustainably with it, underpin the learning experiences and foster curiosity within the tamariki. Earlier this year, the staff engaged the support of Sue Rine principles.

On the celebration day, guests were welcomed on with a beautiful powhiri and were then whisked away by groups of tamariki keen to show us around their awesome centre. Particular favourite areas were the basket willow hut, the chickens, the vege garden, wormfarm and they even let me help feed the 2 axolotl: Te Ao and Te Po. It was lovely to hear their enthusiasm and pride for their environment, and to bask in their hospitality. Ka mau te wehi!

Esther Ward-Campbell - Facilitator

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A big thanks goes to ...



We thank our awesome volunteers Jenny Kerslake, Meryl Henry-Schou & Carole Meredith for their significant contributions over 2020 and before with the Boomerang Bags. These bags are still hot property, especially with our Taranaki libraries, Bin Inn Waitara and Moturoa Four Square. 2021 will also see us creating loads of produce bags in anticipation of the vege bag ban.


Get in touch if you can help – material, sewing, cottons etc

Great tools and resources



- 🌱 [Enviroschools website](#) – don't forget to register yourself on the Enviroschools website to be able to access loads of case studies, resources and ideas from around the rohe. You just need your school email address. If you have any troubles, get in touch with Lauree or your Facilitator and we can help you.
- 🌱 We've got some really great life relevant resources being created all the time. Here's one on a [Circular Economy](#).
- 🌱 Don't forget that as an Enviroschool you get access to all that fabulous artwork that we use. This can be used on your newsletters, your enviro documentation, info you share with the community, your website and more. To access the Visual ID click [here](#).
- 🌱 We LOVE the [Science Learning Hub Pokapū Akoranga Pūtaiao](#) and think you will too ☺

To know more or register for any events or support, please contact us or visit www.enviroschools.org.nz

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