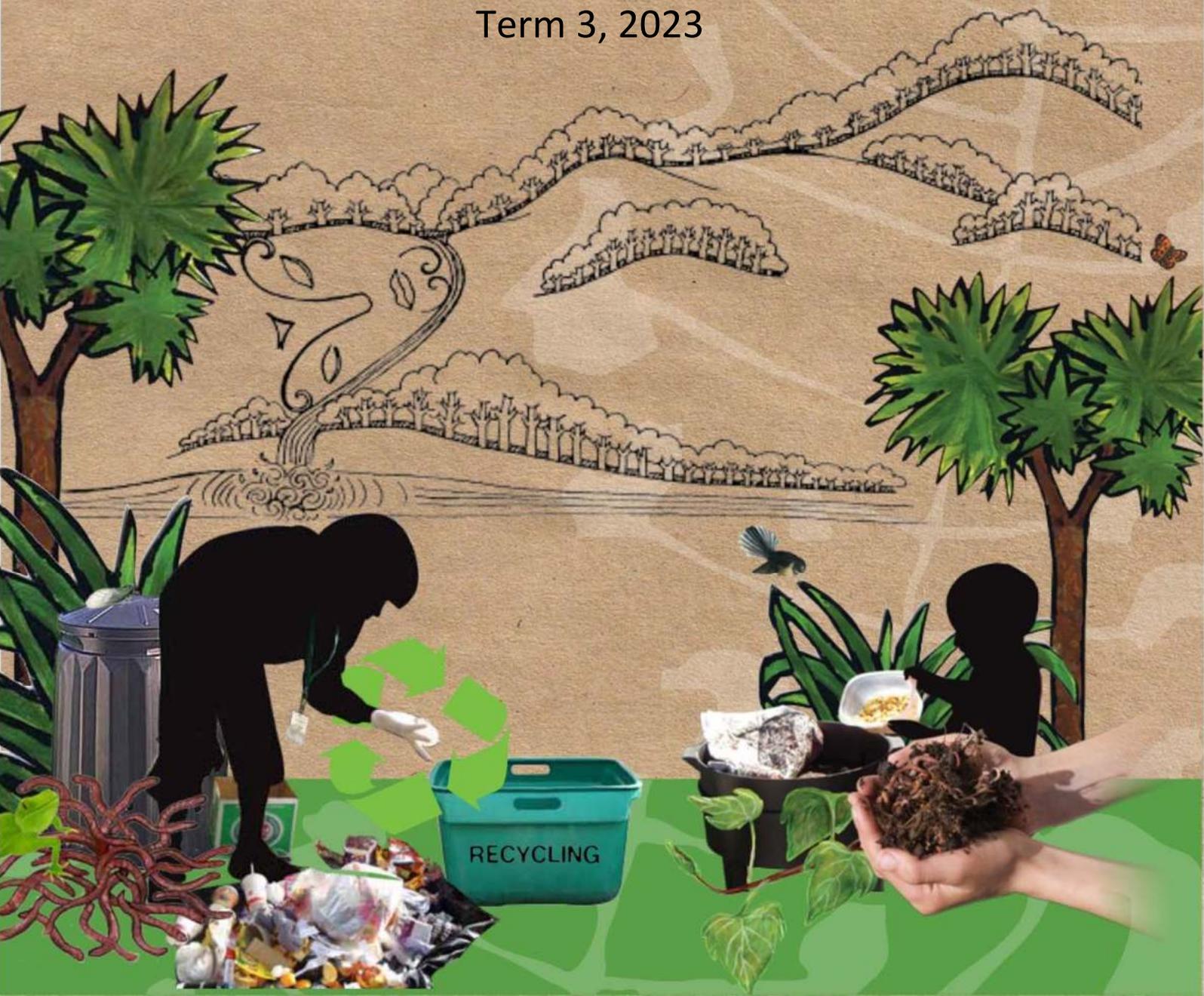




Celebrations

TARANAKI

Term 3, 2023



Index

Pg 3

What's been going on

Pg 8

Highlight on the schools

Pg 14

Highlight on the kindergartens

Pg 17

What's on offer



Nau mai, haere mai te kāranga o te tau hou o Matariki

We acknowledge the wisdoms of taiao, nga Atua and the expertise and wisdoms that tangata whenua hold across this place and all the areas wherever you may be reading from.

It seems we've zoomed into the middle of the year with so much to keep us busy. Our kindergartens and schools have continued using the Holistic Reflection process to reinvigorate some of their enviro actions whilst others have enjoyed the opportunity to pause and reflect on the changes around them both internally and externally.

We've come to the end of our Deep Dive experiment and thank those who have enjoyed the extra attention over the last 18 months.

We've really enjoyed sharing the Enviro Hub with a number of you. We loved collaborating on the Biodiversity event and at the time of writing we're still working through some simple swaps for Plastic Free July.

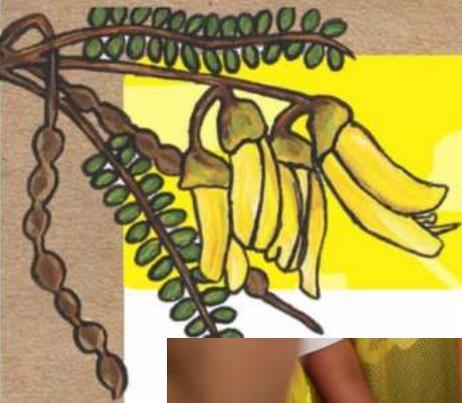
Our soil investigations have continued and we've made a few short films that can help inspire the rangitahi in the huge number of land use options available to them when they leave school.

So let's kick into it!

Nga mihi nui

*Leena, Debbie, Helen,
Esther, Richard, Sue
and Lauree*

xxx



What's been going on?



Building a solid team

Taranaki Regional Council has been working alongside its District Council counterparts to ensure our district's Enviroschools can continue to be supported. This means through the proven successful model of facilitation.

As of May 2023 our long-term contractors are now TRC employees with the support of the three District Councils.

Huge shout out to all xxx

Puanga (Puaka) and Matariki

Our national ECE team pooled some resources to help unpack Puanga within our spaces. A copy of that is here for reference. [ECE activity sheet](#)

Our team also ran a workshop building skills in our kaiako through weaving harakeke into whitu (stars) and putiputi (flowers). Kaiako took their skills and learnings back to the tamariki to share.



Thanks to the One Billion Trees Programme for allowing us to help grow and extend action on the ground through holistic, ecosystem approaches in the Enviroschools network. Check the following page for a photo. 12 schools across Taranaki got nearly 1000 plants in the ground.



Planting out



Ōpunake High School & St Joseph's Ōpunake continue their support of the Ōpunake Loop Trail. They plant out around the lake, to prevent erosion near the coastline as well as maintain, monitor growth and manage pests in the area. Ōpunake High also works alongside the Community Kindergarten who love their tuakana teina relationship.

On this occasion, students from Ōpunake High planted out 100 trees provided by Enviroschools from its One Billion Trees funding.

Agriculture & Horticulture investigations

With some funding from the L A Alexander Trust and a partnership with Dairy Trust Taranaki, (DTT) ākonga (students) have been able to do some in-school learning as well as field trips. These have been continuing the learning about building great soils and finding out about innovative practices happening across the four demonstration farms which DTT run. Our investigations continue for the rest of the year with a deep dive into World Soils Day in early December, some in-school learning info and the sharing of our videos of other land-use operators.



World Biodiversity Day

150 tamariki joined staff and volunteers from Rotokare, the Department of Conservation, Puke Ariki, the Towards Predator-Free Taranaki team and TRC's Education and EnviroSchools teams to celebrate and learn about action for biodiversity conservation.



And a huge big thanks to Mother Earth products for the yummy snacks for both adults and children

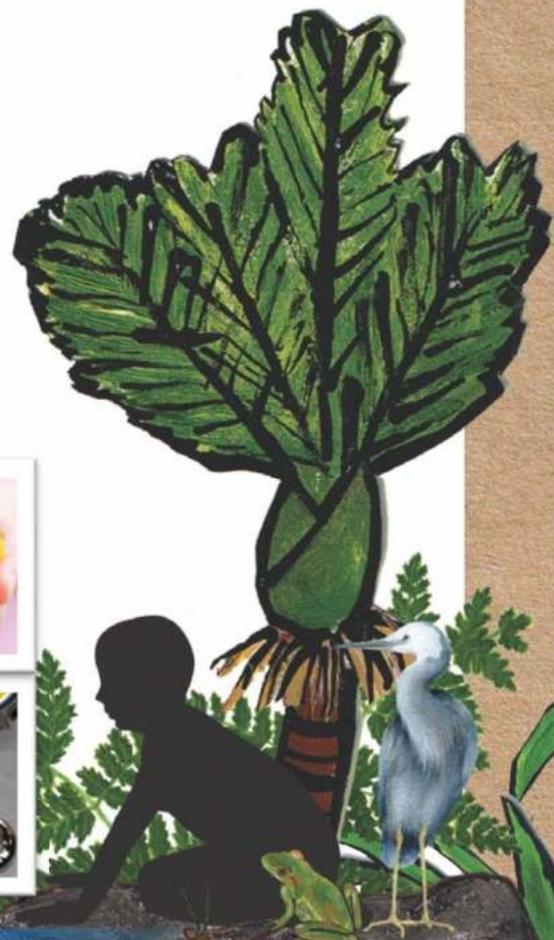


To find out more about the macroinvertebrates found with Dr Emily, then check out [iNaturalist here](#)

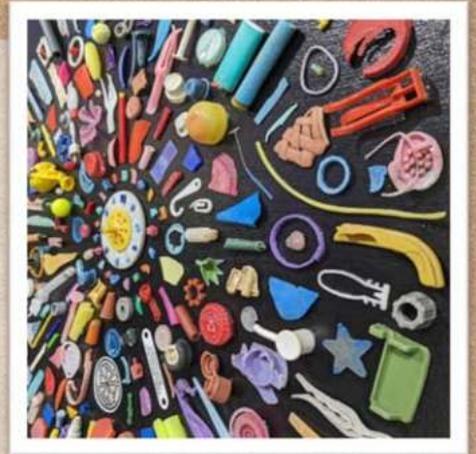
Student Action Day @ Enviro Hub

60 students from around Taranaki took part in an action day to help decorate the Enviro Hub, which is next to Brooklands Zoo at Pukekura Park. Students made bottle top art, screenprinted nature bunting, recycled windchimes, filled eco bricks, made T-shirt bags, made brooches and built this really cool insect hotel. Thanks team!

See you again next time.



PLASTIC FREE JULY



with Rethinking Plastic Revolution

Lorella Doherty from Rethinking Plastic Revolution and Lauree from Enviroschools started the community efforts in Taranaki in 2017. Since then there's been a number of events, a giant plastic bottle whale and now Lorella has made her 100 days of beach clean-ups into an exhibition. Lauree was honoured to participate in the exhibition discussion panel on how we can create change. We hope you got to see the exhibition and we encourage you to keep making changes yourself. Just pick up plastics as you go or make some simple swaps out of your life. Every little bit counts.

Pictured above is one of Lorella's artworks

Get involved! Garden Bird Survey NZ

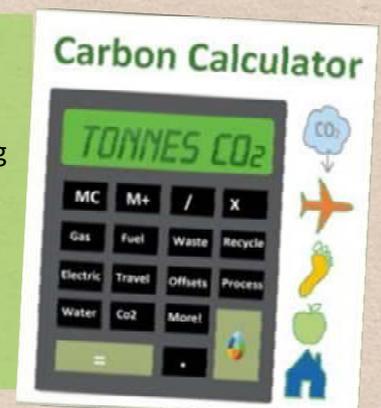
Thank you if you were one of the 155 people, families or groups in Taranaki who took part in the Garden Bird Survey this year. Did you see Dr Emily on Seven Sharp recently? [Watch it here.](#)



FutureFit NZ

Did you know you and your kura can get involved in tracking and reducing your carbon footprint? Auckland Council's [FutureFit NZ website](#) shows you how and helps you to celebrate your successes.

If unpacking this with your tamariki is something you'd like to do, our Facilitators have an interactive and fun carbon credit game.



Holistic Reflection

Celebrations and journeys



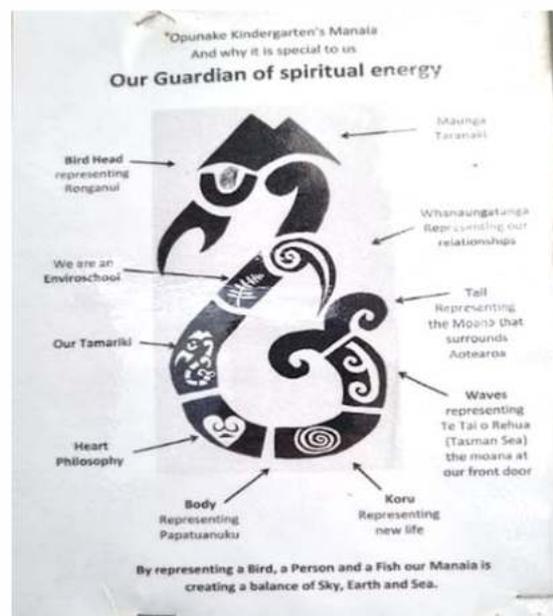
We really enjoyed being a part of some kindergarten's and school's EnviroSchools journeys and were impressed with the depth of understanding and high level to which they have unpacked what sustainability means to them.

In this half of the year we've seen the following:

BRONZE: Devon Kindergarten

BRONZE: Midhirst School

GREEN-GOLD: Ōpunake Community Kindergarten (images this page)



Ōpunake Community Kindergarten:
(Right): Celebrating Puanga safely with fire and (far right) a reusable nappy service in-house.



Midhirst School

Celebrating being a Bronze EnviroSchool



Over the past few years Midhirst School akonga and kaiako have been on their EnviroSchools journey, most recently championed by Jasmine Webster. They have been working away on a number of fronts, implementing ways to deal with waste, establishing a food forest, developing native plantings in the grounds and doing lots of learning around te taiao. Last term a group of keen students reflected on how far the school has come and identified some next steps that they would like to implement.

This term they held a community working bee and shortly after, celebrated becoming a Bronze EnviroSchool with a presentation at a whole school assembly. They now have a shiny new EnviroSchools sign to let the school community and the wider Midhirst community know.

Tino pai rawa atu Midhirst School!





Waitotara School

Waitotara School students, staff and whanau have been busy all year working on projects which support their Garden to Table programme. In term one they prepared some amazing kai using seasonal produce: tomato relish, bottled beetroot, lemon honey, potato rosti, pizzas, apple crumble and feijoa muffins.

They have also been busy constructing a compost bin to make compost for their hothouse gardens, setting up a worm farm to help deal with food scraps from their school lunches, and they worked with parents and whanau

to construct two new raised gardens for growing herbs and strawberries. These were made out of recycled clear plastic police shields! This has enabled the students to clearly see the cross section of lasagne garden layers of carbon and nitrogen mulch materials they have used to fill each bed. Waitotara students will also be growing seedlings to put out on their plant stand for the community to buy.



Tino pai to mahi Waitotara School



St Joseph's School Ōpunake



St Joseph's School in Ōpunake has been busy working on areas of the Ōpunake Loop Trail as part of its mission to give back to the Ōpunake community. They have adopted two sections of the trail for planting and maintenance and begun the planting in 2022.

Starting last term, they planted approximately 100 more trees to fill both areas and weeded the areas. Now these areas are looking amazing and are a great step towards restoring biodiversity in Ōpunake, creating beautiful nature spaces for current and future generations to enjoy. They have also set up a trap line on the trail with Toward Predator-Free Taranaki and are regularly checking and rebaiting these traps. So far they have caught a couple of huge rats and a mouse.

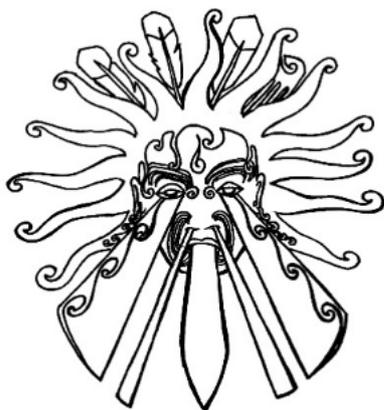
Fantastic mahi St Joseph's School!



Nature Day at Bushy Park



In May Kakaramea School seized the opportunity to participate in an activity day at Bushy Park in Whanganui. They got to enjoy a range of activities, including a forest walk where they got to see some of Aotearoa's endangered bird species such as toutouwai, tieke and hihi, as well as Ratanui the massive rimu tree in the heart of the forest. They also did an invertebrate study at the wetland and potted up native trees for future planting in the reserve.



Tamanuitera was out and students, parents and teachers enjoyed a fabulous nature day in the sun. A big thank you to the Bushy Park Education team for leading this day.

Bushy Park
Tarapurui
Forest Sanctuary & Historic Homestead

 **Forest & Bird**
TE HĀO O TE TAIAHO | Growing Nature & Place
CELEBRATING
100
YEARS 1923-2023



Pembroke School



Action Day

Tuesday 6 June dawned bright and clear for Pembroke School's Action Day to celebrate Arbor Day. The whole school, including a group of willing parents, took up their implements. They were divided into teams and set out on a variety of missions for the day. Music emanating from a speaker in a staff room window added to the carnival atmosphere. At regular intervals the bell rang to signal time to move to a new activity.

Enthusiasm was high and together everyone achieved so much for the school. Trees were planted (native and fruit), weeds were removed, compost was made, a concrete path was formed and poured, to name just some of the missions accomplished. Lunchtime saw students cooking and serving sausages to keep the energy up for the afternoon.

Tino pai to mahi Pembroke School...what a team!!



Stratford High School Teen Parent Unit

New Skills

The young women at SHS Teen Parent Unit have been keen to add some new skills to their kete over the past term, including preserving fruit and making chutney, preparing (hard yakka!) and planting a vege garden, sowing seeds to be able to add seedlings to the garden later and painting and planting pots to enhance the environment in their room.

Tino pai to mahi koutou.



Te Pūtahi Kūra Pū hou o Taranaki

Inglewood Kindergarten: Zero Waste.

Here at Inglewood kindergarten we were looking for ways to become more sustainable and to generate less waste. One of the ways in which we chose to achieve this was to stop using paper towels to dry hands and to use washable hand towels instead. These were made by Whaea Tania using recycled sheets from op shops. Our tamariki adjusted straight away to using these, Kaiako too. They are easy to access hanging on the chain above the wash basket, and we have spare chains ready to go!

Inglewood teaching team, Tania, Jan, Julia, Eme, Anna and Debs.



Bronze Holistic Reflection

Devon Kindergarten

Devon Kindergarten recently underwent a Bronze Holistic Reflection alongside EnviroSchools Facilitators Helen Smithies and Leena Thomas. The team took the time to reflect on the ngā mātāpono, EnviroSchool's principles, Empowered Students, Sustainable Communities, Learning for Sustainability, Māori Perspectives, and Respect for the diversity of people and cultures. Ka haere kei mua the team would like to work towards a shared centre vision plan to support creating a sustainable environment ki Te Pūtahi Kura Pūhou o Devon.



Hapai Oho: Te Wao o Papatūānukū

Te Ao Māori Perspectives: Making a Lasagne Garden.

Our Hapai Oho Kaiako Māori ropū had an amazing day working in te taiao, spending time not only ki waho, outside, but also learning how to plant and hauhake around the phases of the moon or maramataka.



Pounamu Skelton who descends from Te Ati Awa, Taranaki, Ngati Ruanui iwi facilitated on her tupuna whenua, the creation of a lasagne

garden. Step by step kaiako laid the foundations for the mara starting with a layer of cardboard, followed by compost, before adding the last layer of fresh hay on top. Once the māra called Te Poutama was completed seedlings were planted and karakia shared to ensure that the huawhenua experienced optimal growth.



Sustainable communities through kai and reconnecting to te ao Māori ways of knowing, being and doing has prompted Kaiako to think about how to create a māra kai alongside of tamariki to provide a healthier and sustainable food system.



Puanga

Pātea Kindergarten

Pātea Kindergarten celebrated Puanga on the 29th of June. Esther Ward-Campbell and Sue Rine from Enviroschools spent time with the Kaiako, tamariki, and Whānau sharing their skills in raranga. The whānau really enjoyed weaving putiputi, flowers, and kete, baskets ending this special day with a shared kai.



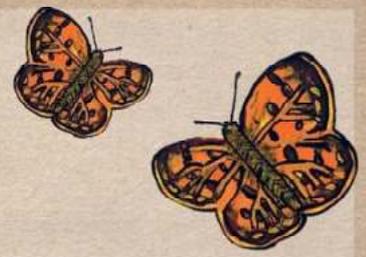
We celebrate Puanga in Taranaki, and not only do we welcome in the Māori New Year, but we also spend time reflecting on the past, honouring our tīpuna, those that have passed, and looking forward to what lies ahead, setting intentions around where we want to travel on our ara.

Ngā mihi kia kōrua Esther and Sue for making this a special day for all at Te Pūtahi Kura Pūhou o Pātea.



Harekeke





Student events to get involved in

Terms 3 & 4, 2023

Term 3

Conservation Week activities with DOC
14-20 AUGUST. Beach cleans planned between Urenui and Omata

Enviro Action days
SEPTEMBER

5th Ahititi / 6th Midhirst / 7th Turuturu
Years 1-8

Term 4

Sport Taranaki Day
14th NOVEMBER

Healthy Active Learning: connecting to nature day. More details to come.



Money & fruit trees

Mitre 10 MEGA

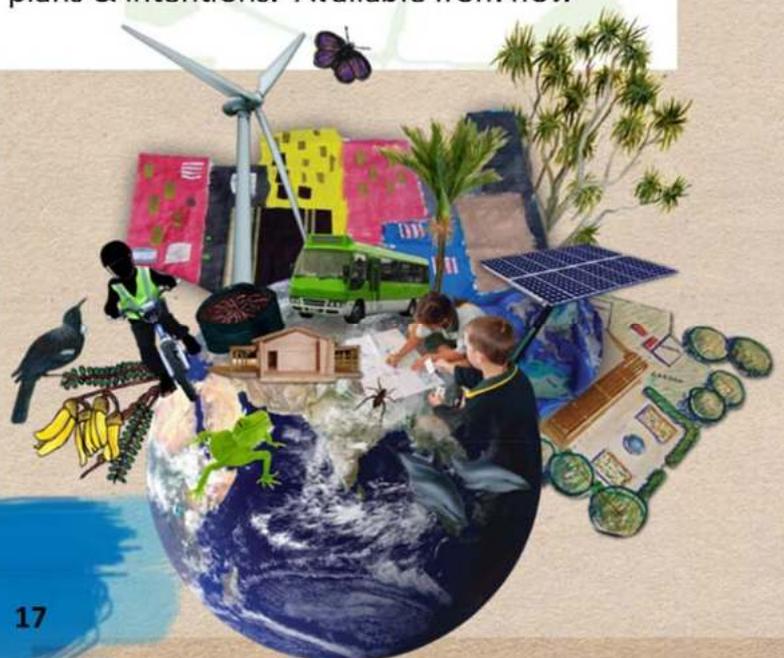
Enviroschools & [Mitre 10 MEGA](#) want to support your Living Landscapes. The competition closes Monday 7th Aug. Open to any Taranaki schools or ECE.

Sport T

[Tu Manawa funding](#) – confirmed ok for schools to apply for items relating to gardening (tools & other needs). Round closes 4th August.

Fruit trees

Enviroschools are about to purchase a bunch of fruit trees & food producing plants. Our [Sustainable Communities through kai](#) kaupapa involves supporting schools being the hub of their community. If you are keen on fruit trees let us know. Tell us about your plans & intentions. Available from now until 31st August.



Teacher PD to get involved in Terms 3 & 4, 2023

Term 3

Teacher PD

- Spring garden prep - what to plant, preparing your soil etc. 2 workshops available. Book now to host in Sept
- Planting for success over Summer – Book now to host in Sept

Term 4

Teacher PD

- Teaching Climate Education
Tuesday 24th Oct 3.30-5.00 RSVP's required by 5pm 18/10. See separate flyer
enviroschools@trc.govt.nz

You don't just
TEACH
You INSPIRE

Climate Education Teaching for a changing climate

Climate change is a focus of learning in the refreshed curriculum

Empower yourselves as we share advice & support from expert educators [Chris Eames](#) & [Sian Carvell](#)

We'll talk about the science, students well-being, having courageous conversations & dealing with different perspectives

RSVP: enviroschools@trc.govt.nz



FUTURE CURIOUS

Tuesday 24th October 2023

3.30-5pm

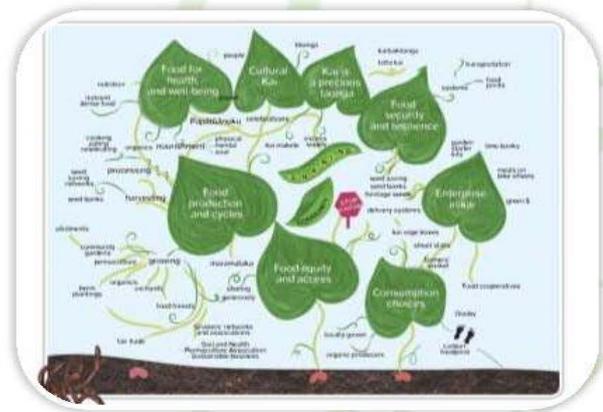
Stratford based or via Zoom

Support for you in Terms 3 & 4

In school support terms 3 & 4 from us

We're here to support you. You can choose from the topics below

- **Gardens** get ready for Spring
- **Waste** systems & **compost** beds
- Connection to **nature hikoi**
- **Eco building** – teepees, bird/bat houses
- **Vision Mapping**
- **Student leadership** activities
- **Conservation** activities

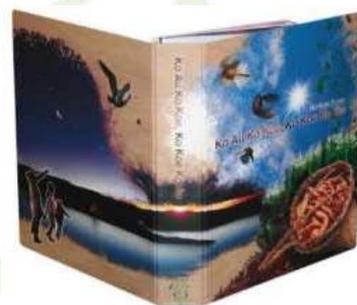


Just get in touch with your Facilitator for support. Contact details are at the end of this document.

Resources & immersion



All EnviroSchools resources are available to purchase online at www.enviroschools.org.nz. Lauree may have stock of some items



Our sister programme Te Ahu Tu Roa supports learning & resources for bilingual & full immersion teachers. To access this, please register to attend a whakangungu at Te Mauri Tau in Whaingaroa (Raglan)

<https://www.teahotuoroa.org.nz/whakangungu>



Enviroschools

Private Bag 713
Stratford 4352
Taranaki
New Zealand

Phone: 06 765 7127
Email: Enviroschools@trc.govt.nz
www.enviroschools.org.nz



To know more or register for any events listed, please contact us or visit

- | | | |
|----------------------|--|----------------|
| Lauree Jones | ✉ Enviroschools@trc.govt.nz | ☎ 027 245 6119 |
| Esther Ward-Campbell | ✉ esther.ward-campbell@trc.govt.nz | ☎ 027 343 4484 |
| Richard Carr | ✉ richard.carr@trc.govt.nz | ☎ 027 208 6521 |
| Sue Rine | ✉ sue.rine@trc.govt.nz | ☎ 027 451 1286 |
| Debbie Vertongen | ✉ debbie.vertongen@kindergartentaranaki.co.nz | |
| Leena Thomas | ✉ leena.thomas-st@kindergartentaranaki.co.nz | |
| Helen Smithies | ✉ helen.smithies@kindergartentaranaki.co.nz | |

www.enviroschools.org.nz



Don't forget to like and follow us on Facebook:

Taranaki Enviroschools / Boomerang Bags for Taranaki Enviroschools / Plastic Free July Taranaki

Taranaki Enviroschools is proudly supported by

