

Enviroschools Connections

Ngā Hononga a Enviroschools - He Pānui



Welcome to Enviroschools Connections 2015

What inspired me most about Enviroschools in 2014 was constantly hearing stories of empowerment and action resulting in change across early childhood and school communities. It is heartening to see the ongoing commitment to implementing the kaupapa, or touchstone, of Enviroschools - and to know that people are working together to make a difference.

Before you launch into what will undoubtedly be another busy year, can I ask you to take a moment to be inspired once again by that touchstone;



Our touchstone is creating a healthy, peaceful, sustainable world through people teaching and learning together. Each of us brings unique perspectives and gifts, and it is by combining them that sustainable communities will be created. Many solutions will come from people working together intergenerationally, combining ancient wisdoms with new understandings. Solutions will also be found by working with nature and allowing nature to teach us. By learning together in practical ways, sustainability becomes an integral part of what we do throughout our schools and communities. Caring for our place and the whole planet becomes a living curriculum where schools can be catalysts for change. (Pg.4 Enviroschools Handbook)

I would also like to personally thank all of you who took the time to respond to the National Enviroschools Survey at the end of 2014. Over 85% of Enviroschools in our region completed the survey during a particularly busy time of the year. Significantly, this was first time that The Enviroschools Foundation was able to carry out a nationwide census of the actions and outcomes happening across the network. We are all looking forward to seeing the results of the survey which will undoubtedly help inform future planning of the programme.

Have a great year. Make sure you connect with the growing number of Enviroschools in our region. Take inspiration from the stories others have to tell of what is happening in their place. Kia kaha.

Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi
With your basket and my basket the people will live

Ngā mihi nui
Sandy Bell-Jameson
Enviroschools Regional Coordinator
09 890 4102 or 027 3055 815



Enviroschools taking the lead **Enviroschools - he kaiaarataki**

On 5 December 2014, twenty-six schools and early childhood centres from around Tāmaki Makaurau gathered for Auckland Enviroschools Celebration at Royal Road School.

Each year, early childhood centres and schools that successfully complete a formal reflection on their Enviroschools journey are invited to this annual event to acknowledge and celebrate their achievements.



Royal Road School were superb hosts for the event. Their hospitality, warm welcome, cultural performances and tour of the school were simply outstanding. We know participating students and teachers benefitted from seeing and hearing about their unique Enviroschools journey.

We would like to give a special mention to the talented Royal Road Drumming group and to the

Congratulations to all those Early Childhood Centres a



Bronze Schools

Ararimu School
Arohanui Special School
Howick Intermediate School
Milford School
St Francis Catholic School
Vauxhall School
Waiheke Primary School



Silver Early Childhood Centres

Avondale Kindergarten
Chelsea Kindergarten
Colwill Kindergarten
Early Discoveries Centre
Freemans Bay Kindergarten
Glenfield Kindergarten
Milford Kindergarten
Pt Chevalier Kindergarten
Takapuna Kindergarten
Waiheke Kindergarten

Silver Schools

Dawson Primary
Pakuranga Heights School
St Leo's Catholic School
St Thomas's School
Taupaki School



moving performance from the Cultural group. Both performances added a unique flavour to the event.

Student emcees Joanne Lamositele and Connor Akroyd from Massey High very successfully wove the event together and showed that they are inspirational role models for young people in the Auckland Enviroschools network. They did a fantastic job!

We were delighted that the Deputy Mayor Penny Hulse attended the event and congratulated all those involved. It was also a privilege to have councillors Wayne Walker and Linda Cooper as well as Local



Board chairs Andy Baker, David Collings, Mike Cohen and Vanessa Neeson in attendance. We want to thank them once again for their support and recognition of the significant work that students and teachers are doing across the region.

Considering reflecting on Bronze, Silver, Green-Gold or reviewing Green-Gold in 2015? It's time to start talking to your facilitator now.



and schools that completed a formal reflection in 2014



Green-Gold Schools

Elm Park School

Forrest Hill School

Western Springs College

Green-Gold Review

Grey Lynn Kindergarten



Empowered students taking action in Early Childhood

**From our Early Childhood Coordinator
Katie Higgins**

Last year Enviroschools in Auckland experienced significant growth in the Early Childhood Sector (ECE). An aspect that has stood out is the support the ECE Enviroschools network provides to one another. There is a real sense of whanaungatanga amongst this sector, with kindergartens and early learning centres from all over Auckland sharing and working together.

There are several areas of Auckland where all sectors of education, from early childhood to secondary, are Enviroschools. This provides an exciting opportunity to develop reciprocal relationships to support transition from one sector to another. The children and whanau transitioning into primary schools from an Enviroschool ECE will have experiences and knowledge to build upon.

We are thrilled to welcome the following seven early childhood centres into our Enviroschools network this year:

**Hibiscus Coast Kindergarten,
Rangitoto Kindergarten,
Hobsonville Point Early Learning Centre,
Carol White Family Centre,
Hillpark Kindergarten,
ELCM Alfriston College,
Weymouth Early Discoveries Centre.**

We have a number of ECE workshops in the pipeline including a "Getting Started" workshop for the new centres, Maori Perspective in ECE and a workshop for those centres intending to complete a reflection. There will also be an opportunity for all ECE Enviroschools to participate in a one day hui. Details will be provided at a later date.

**Katie's contact details: phone 021 562 824,
katie.higgins@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.**





Te whakamana i ngā tauira

At Tuakau Kindergarten we have made a significant reduction in the amount of waste from lunch boxes. When each child starts they are invited to choose a free reusable sandwich wrap and are encouraged to use these each day. The sandwich wraps are made by the teachers and we also sell them for fundraising purposes.



There are three baskets placed on each kai table with a photo on each. One is for scraps for the kindergarten worms and compost, another for our chickens and the third for recyclable items such as yoghurt pots. This is encouraging children to sort their rubbish and develop an understanding of how they can help to divert our waste from the landfill.



We are seeing the results of our efforts in that we are now only putting out two small wheelie bins each week instead of two small and one large one. Not only is it reducing waste that goes into landfill but is also saving us money.

Our next challenge is to create some actions around reducing the plastic wrap or other wrappers that come to kindergarten in lunch boxes.

Rhanae Ngawaka Year 13 (2014) Waste Wise Leader at Western Springs College

Why is the Enviroschools kaupapa important to you?

The Enviroschools kaupapa is important to me because it provides a new way of learning and understanding. It teaches our tamariki about big picture thinking, about how what we do as a society effects the environment around us, and about how we can change our actions to make a difference and move towards a healthy, peaceful, sustainable world. I like how the kaupapa is about 'people teaching and learning together' because it is inclusive, and shows that learning is a journey that we are all on together.



What projects or actions are you currently involved in at school?

I am currently involved in the Waste Wise programme at Western Springs College whose aim is to achieve a zero waste school, raise awareness on the issues waste causes, and educate others on how to make a difference. We work alongside other groups inside, and outside the school to move towards a more sustainable community. At the moment we are looking forward to our celebration of achieving Green Gold status where we will have an eventful week filled with fun activities to promote sustainability. I am also involved in a few activities for Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week where we are planning to take a few students down to clean up a local stream.

In this edition we are featuring a great role model who is an example of the outstanding talent, dedication and passion that exists in the Enviroschools programme.



What do you like about Enviroschools?

I like how Enviroschools provides fantastic support for schools on their journey towards a more sustainable community. I also like how through Enviroschools you can connect with other schools who are at different stages, but on the same journey. It is through this networking, and the sharing of ideas that helps to keep us inspired.

What are you most proud of about your involvement with Enviroschools so far?

I am most proud of having the opportunity to be a part of our Green Gold reflection process this year. To sit inside our whare surrounded by people who had been on the journey longer than I had, to share in the past experiences, and to look toward the future was definitely a mind blowing experience. Achieving Green Gold status was a very proud moment, and I was honoured to be a part of that.





Has Enviroschools changed the way you think and/or act?

Enviroschools has definitely changed the way I think and act. I always held the sustainability kaupapa close to my heart, but Enviroschools has opened me up to a greater world of understanding. I now know that it is just as important to share your successes on your journey, as it is to achieve them. It is not just about you making a difference for your community, it is about inspiring others to make a difference in theirs.

What excites you most right now at school?

What excites me most about school right now, is knowing that our year is coming to an end, and seeing all our students thinking ahead. They know that next year they can take on bigger challenges, achieve greater goals, and consistently work towards a healthier community. You always wonder how they will cope with the next year's challenges, but it excites me to see them so enthusiastic, and ready to take on what the next year brings. I know they will do wonderful things and continue to make a difference with the help and support of not only the rest of their school community, but the Enviroschools community as well.

What is your personal vision for a sustainable future?

I personally want to see our country carbon neutral, running completely off renewable energy. I want to young age, growing up knowing how to grow their own

garden, look after their own animals, and experiencing nature. I want to see our native species protected and thriving. I want to see strong communities, sharing, living, and learning together. I want to see New Zealand leading the way and encouraging other countries to embark on the same journey.

Do you have any advice for others wanting to get involved or do something similar to what you are doing at your school?

If you are thinking about getting involved with Enviroschools, I strongly encourage you to do so. It is such an amazing programme and I am proud to be involved in it. If anyone wants to find out more about Western Springs College's journey and successes we are more than happy to share. We enjoy having visitors, and love answering any questions. Just get in touch!

Any other comments you want to make about your work, your school, or Enviroschools:

Enviroschools wouldn't be such an amazing programme without the fabulous people within who drive it. I would like to thank all those involved in the programme for the constant support and guidance you all provide for the schools of Aotearoa. Tika ana te korero, "Mei kore ko koutou, ka kore ko matou." It is rightfully said that without your support we wouldn't be who we are today.

Latest news from the national Enviroschools office
Ngā kōrero o te wā mai i te tari matua o Enviroschools

Enviro Theatre in Schools with New Zealand Playhouse Ltd

Jack Flash and the jumping beanstalk is an interactive adaptation of Jack and the Beanstalk with an environmental message. The play is for ages 5-13 and will be touring New Zealand in 2015.

www.newzealandplayhouse.co.nz/tours



Orientation Aotearoa

Orientation Aotearoa - www.ora.org.nz is an 8 month, innovative and hands-on education for aspiring change makers (aged 18 -25). The Wellington-based residential programme provides a diverse curriculum delivered by leading minds from around NZ, supporting young people to understand local and global challenges, and empowering them to take meaningful action in the world.

Contact
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IDEC Aotearoa - conference to be held in Nelson 9-12 April 2015

This 4-day open-space hui is based around the experience of interactive natural ways of learning. Engage in a multitude of hands-on and heartfelt approaches to explore questions like, 'how we want to learn and teach in the future?' and 'how can we work together to provide learning experiences that support resilient community development and true democratic values?' in an environment of trust, equality and enjoyment. www.idec2015.org/registration



To find out more, phone 09 301 0101 or for the Enviroschools Regional Coordinator, phone 09 890 4102 or 027 3055 815 or visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/educationforsustainability