

# Enviroschools TAIRĀWHITI

September 2014

## KIA ORA KOUTOU

Finally, Nature is stirring and quickening into life. Hens have resumed laying. Beautiful drifts of blue forget-me-not swathe my garden, unbelievably bright cinerarias make everyone smile. Blossom sparkles on the trees. Little Grey Warblers (Riroriro) sing their merry tune and Tui finally adorn me with their presence. Red karo flowers peek sneakily from the dark leaves. Light has begun to increase, the energy is rising...

## TAIRAWHITI ACTION FUND

Just a reminder these projects must be completed and the final reports and invoices in to Anne Lister before the end Term 4. Any publicity, as per the agreement must acknowledge the major sponsor Eastland Port. The better your report, the more chance you will have of securing funds again next year.

All funds applied for must be fully spent and the project completed by the end Term 4, 2014. This means that you must have received whatever goods or services you have paid for using these funds. **No funds can be carried forward.**

Please copy and fill in the blank action learning cycle (in your Enviroschools kit) as the project progresses and submit it with your report at the end of the project.

## AWAPUNI NATIVE TREE AREA

Using money from our Action Fund, Awapuni school planned a whole school day planting native trees along their fenceline. Because of the very sandy soil, they had to dig enormous holes and add mushroom compost, topsoil and crystal rain to help them survive over summer. It was great to have principal, David Langford out working with the kids all day. "Our children have developed a real appreciation for the trees and a connection to nature."

## ENVIROSCHOOLS EAST COAST IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:

Gisborne District Council, Department of Conservation, HB Williams Turanga Trust and JN Williams Memorial Trust.

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## WAIKIRIKIRI SCHOOL

Enviro group have recently presented their ideas to their BOT to brighten up the entrance to their maara kai and orchard area at the front of the school by choosing colours to paint the pole structure.

(Right) Deighly Pewhairangi shows off his ideas.

## Nga pou

I tipako au enei kara o nga whurutu  
I roto I to matau mara ko te kakariki te  
kara o nga feijoa, ko te kara araani m  
nga arani. ko te kara where mo nga  
aporo, me ko kara waiporoporo mo  
nga kerep, e ko te tuanui he pango no  
te mea ko tera te kara o Hinenuitepo  
ka

Pirgani matau te taiao ropu ki te painta  
Nga pau me te tuanui kai titiro nga  
tamariki I to matau marakai me ka taea  
ki te haere ki roto



## SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS

Well done Cayla Upston from Makauri School for winning the annual Tairawhiti Enviroschools prize worth \$100. Titled 'What is the best material to absorb a oil spill?', the project explored a very relevant and local environmental issue in a practical manner. Super presentation and clear scientific thinking.

Ka pai to these projects that we thought were super amazing too.

- **Raupo Improves Water Quality in a Wetland** – Marama Priestley, Deighley Pewhairangi and Josh Wanoa – Waikirikiri School. Great context
- **Rats be Gone** – Oscar Harnett – Matawai School
- **Bio Gas** – Whai gear – Makauri School
- **Ecofriendly Wool Dyes** – Hazel Benson – Makauri
- **Harakeke Fibre Strength Testing** – Daniel Guyton – Ngatapa School
- **Waipaoa River Sedimentation** – Troy Wharepapa – Ngatapa School
- **Air Pollution Monitors** – Cole Baun – Gisborne Intermediate
- **Waste for Energy** – Campion college.

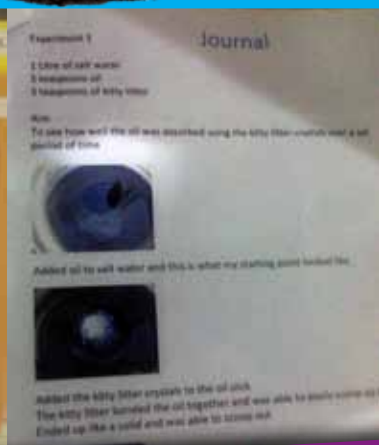


## MURIWAI MURALS

Muriwai tamariki have been exploring their kura through the "Me in My Environment" enviroschools unit this term. They are discussing the whole schools most popular idea of creating a "colourful and welcoming kura" with murals and carvings with Matua Steve Gibbs on the big wall at the front of their school – We can't wait to see what creative mural will soon adorn these walls!



SCIENCE





## WAINUI FRUIT TREES

Wainui school had a great afternoon planting fruit trees around the school. Each class got to choose what tree to buy and will look after it. Some of the trees even got named!



## RIVERDALE ENVIROGROUP

The Riverdale envirogroup created a great powerpoint showing the school what awesome green things they had been up to. I really like this line "Are you up for the challenge? Let's work together to keep our place clean and waste free."



## TINIROTO VEMICULTURALISTS

The children of Tiniroto School had an awesome spring day building their own worm farm with an old bath. They are all super excited about the production of worm wee to trade with their community which links in with their "trade me" Term 3 concept.



## TE HAPARA PATHWAY

Te Hapara School have been having lots of lunchtime working bees planting and weeding around the native trees. A group of boys has been working hard mulching the new pathway through the forest. Students are ridiculously happy to be allowed into the forest and it's been great having a pathway for them to stay on. It seems to also encourage them to pick up litter in there. Win win. Another great project funded by Tairāwhiti Enviroschools and Eastland Port.



## MAKARAKA TRAPPERS

Sam Gaddum, Hayden Swann and William Matthews from Makaraka School are ecstatic with their rat and stoat found in the same trap whilst checking the traplines. "It was awesome because we got to hold the stoat and four rats we caught from seven traps. We were trapping to help the native birds at Waihirere Domain". Makaraka School are one of our Enviroschools taking part in the community initiative of restoring Waihirere Domain.







The Bee Lady from Auckland



Paddy Cowan - Local Bee Keeper



Salt Dough Bee Modelling

## BUZZY TE KARAKA



Students planted bee friendly plants like borage, rosemary, lavender and phacelia around fruit trees in the orchard. **Here is an article Tara O'Neill wrote about their inquiry.**

Bees are dying, why should we care? This was the question posed in the Early Years Learning Community last term. This community from Te Karaka Area School has 60 students ranging from Year 1 to Year 5. We are 97% Maori. Three teachers were involved one afternoon a week for one term. We all learnt together as a group. No separation of ages. The topic became integrated throughout the day in reading, writing and math as the rest of our teaching team picked up on the student's enthusiasm. Bee Fever spread like wild fire!

Firstly we engaged with the topic – Bees. Many of the students were interested straight away as bees fascinated them. For others their interest took longer.

Then we started to explore. This was done in an investigatory way. 1. A critical honey tasting experiment. 2. Labeling parts of a bee 3. Watching a New Zealand Documentary called The Plight of the Bee. 4. Dissecting flowers to find the pollen. A Bee a Questioner sheet went on the wall and students could write their questions up at any time during the day.

Our investigation led us to find out why the bee was in danger. Firstly we skyped "The Bee Lady" from Auckland, and the students had a very engaged time asking her questions. Secondly we invited a local Bee Keeper. He told us a lot about what was involved with bee keeping.

One of the hooks, which got the students interested, was the thought of having our **own Bee Hive**. Would it be possible? We hoped so. Maybe having a beehive will help save the bees?

The next stage of our inquiry was a team effort to investigate and learn more about bees but most importantly to engage with real life communities and activities, each student passionate about their choice of project. There were 14 to choose from, here are some of them:

**Bee a Carpenter** – they ordered and made some bee frames and organized for every one in the class to have a go.

**Bee an Author** – they made a book about bees to share with the local pre-school.

**Bee a Chemist** – they found out how to make Lip Balm, including a local business lady from Manatuke Herbs coming in and showing them some of her secrets.

**Bee a Fundraiser** – this group were in charge of raising enough money for some Bee Suits. They choose to do a sausage sizzle.

**Bee an Athlete** – this group invented three bee games for the class to play outside. Bee, Bee, Wasp was one of the favourites.

**Bee a Bee Feeder** – this group researched what plants bees like and planted some in a bathtub.

**Bee an Artist** – they made paper mache beehives.

**Bee a Photographer** – they took the photos to record our journey.

**Bee a Media Officer** – they wrote the letters to do with setting up a beehive, talk to the media.

These groups were a big hit and the engagement and enthusiasm went through the roof. It was really important to trust the learners to learn. Not to over manage but to allow the journey to unfold.

We now have bee frames ready, yellow bee suits and wax sheets waiting for the arrival of our first beehive. We plan to have our own label "Sticky Fingers" which we will sell honey and lip balm and other products under. More importantly, we hope to be part of the solution to help save bees into the future.



## TAIRAWHITI ENVIRONMENT CENTRE WORKSHOPS

To register for any of these workshops, phone the Tairawhiti Environment Centre on 867 4708 or email [tairawhitienvcentre@gmail.com](mailto:tairawhitienvcentre@gmail.com).

Need a compost bin by the school garden?  
Register for their upcoming

### Compost Workshop

8 November, 12-1pm.

Get a free compost bin and learn all the tricks to making beautiful compost.

### Learn how to grow food

Saturday, 4 October, 1-2pm

Tutor - Leigh (Supergrans)

Cost \$5 (unwaged) \$10 (waged)

Learn the basics of how to plant your summer garden in this practical workshop. A must for those new to gardening.

Want to upskill your worm farmers at school.  
Invite them to:

### Kauri's Worm Farm Workshop

Saturday, 4 October, 12-1pm

### The Secret Life of Plants

Saturday, 18 October, 12-1pm

Tutor - Kauri Forno

Cost \$5 (unwaged) \$10 (waged)

An introduction into how plants make food using the sun's energy. Discover the basic science behind the solar power of plants.

### Green Cleaning Workshop

Saturday, 15 November, 12-1pm

Tutor - Heera Rigney

Cost \$10, with a take home product

Transform your cleaning regime with environmentally friendly household ingredients and essential oils.

### Advanced composting

Saturday, 22 November, 12-2pm

Tutor - Bridget Scully

Cost \$5 (unwaged), \$10 (waged)

Learn how to make a bio-intensive compost heap using lots of high carbon material to create a humus rich compost.

### Companion Planting

Saturday, 29 November, 12-1pm

Tutor - Leigh (Supergrans)

Cost \$5 (unwaged) \$10 (waged)

Did you know some plants are friends and others repel each other? Reduce pest numbers in your garden by growing flowers and herbs amongst your vegetables.



## REGIONAL HUI -TIKI TOUR

We have listened to your requests for a Tiki Tour around other Enviroschools. This is your chance to see what other schools are doing and get lots of inspiration. This will be a whole day event: 6 November, 9am – 2.30pm starting and finishing at Mangapapa School. We will bus students and teachers to Te Wharau, then on to Wainui school, and then back to Mangapapa. More details to follow.

## EVALUATION SURVEY

You will be receiving an Evaluation Survey from The Enviroschools Foundation in Week 1 of Term 4. It will need to be completed within a couple of weeks. Kirsty and Kauri will be available to help with this.

The information is vital as it will be part of the reporting on all the funding we have had in the last 3 years from the Ministry of the Environment to support Enviroschools in this district, by offering PD, events and workshops.

There are a few schools that have not been supporting any of these opportunities. These schools need to ask if they want to step away from the programme and free up time for the facilitators to take on other schools. Perhaps they just wish to be 'Friends of Enviroschools'. Your facilitator will discuss this with you.

## FIRST EVER NATIONWIDE ENVIROSCHOOLS CENSUS

It is happening in term 4 this year and your help is needed!

There are now nearly 1000 schools and early childhood centres that are part of the Enviroschools network – Wow! For the first time ever The Enviroschools Foundation is able to carry out a nationwide census of the actions and outcomes that are happening in across our network. This is thanks to the funding the Foundation has from the Ministry for the Environment.

Our region is fully behind this important survey, which has been extensively trialled. Jan Cox, National Manager - Enviroschools Programme, will be in touch with each school just before the surveys are sent out at the start of Term 4.