

Waikato ENVIROSCHOOLS

He mihi

Welcome to the Waikato Enviroschools newsletter.

This summer edition is packed with useful information to keep you up to date with the inspirational mahi happening in our rohe.

The extreme weather events over the summer have highlighted the growing importance of the Enviroschools sustainability kaupapa as our climate changes.

To help you continue your Enviroschools journey, we have some super online and in-person events planned for both teachers and students.

Your facilitator will be touch regularly to offer support, and they'll be eager to tautoko all your sustainability projects, inquiries and kaupapa throughout 2023. Please call on them when you need support, or get in touch if you spot an opportunity in your area.

Enjoy the read and please forward this newsletter on to any interested colleagues.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui

Ngā mihi,

The Enviroschools team



Tā mātou mahi | What we do

Enviroschools is a nationwide programme supported by Toimata Foundation, founding partner Te Mauri Tau and a large network of regional partners, like us here at Waikato Regional Council. The programme helps support early childhood centres and schools on their long-term sustainability journeys, teaching a generation of young people to value and nurture their natural environment.

Our vision is to create a healthy, peaceful, sustainable world through learning and taking action together.

14 Regional Partners

201 Enviroschools

50
ECE centres

151
schools

45,800
tamariki and students

14% of early childhood
54% of primary and intermediate

38% of secondary
63% of composite and other

3 collaborators

Waikato Enviroschools acknowledge our funding partners. Their ongoing input and funding is essential to the success of the Enviroschool programme throughout our region.



Ngā kaupapa e haere ake nei | Opportunities



After some engaging annual reflections and goal setting in term 4, we're excited to share even more great opportunities for staff and students. We've already started the 'Enviroschools 101' professional learning and development (PLD) series and we loved connecting with so many of you to share ideas and stories.

Dates and details for local events will be confirmed by your local Enviroschools facilitator.

For students

The Water of Life Interactive Expo

22 March; National Trout Centre, Tūrangi
9.45am-12pm or 11.30am-2pm

Providing an interactive experiential learning opportunity for students and teachers to gain a deeper appreciation of the vital role clean water plays in our community, and our role in both protecting and restoring it. The event will feature a broad range of experts presenting interactive sessions (with groups of students rotating through at least seven activities), followed by a sausage sizzle. Free bus transport will be available for Taupō and Tūrangi schools.

Register your interest [here](#).

Māra Kai Challenge

Terms 1 and 2. Challenge events in Hamilton, Taupō and Eastern Waikato early in term 2

The challenge is for students to use at least five ingredients from their school garden to create a healthy, tasty lunch! Student teams will grow, prepare and present a cooked dish, a salad and a dessert or drink, which will be judged by chefs.

Start planning your gardens and dishes in term 1, ready for the cook-offs in term 2.

Each team will be made up of four students, including cooks and gardeners. Your facilitator will be in touch with the details to get you started in term 1, and those that sign up will receive ongoing support through resources and facilitation.

Find out how our student chefs got on [last year](#). And register your interest by 31 March, [here](#).



Climate Action Camp

27-28 March; Pirongia Forest Park Lodge

Waikato Enviroschools and the Rangatahi Voices youth forum invite secondary school groups to our two-day Climate Action Camp. Through a variety of fun activities, youth will connect to te taiao and build their capacity to educate their peers about climate change.

The camp will include:

- workshops and panel discussions with climate experts and scientists
- outdoor team-building and nature connection activities
- workshops developing climate action projects to take back to school
- an overnight stay in an awesome location
- a leadership skills day for all student attendees (held post camp in Hamilton on 10 or 11 May).

We're inviting senior enviroleaders and passionate junior students, accompanied by a teacher or teacher aide, to take part in this exciting opportunity.

Registration for Enviroschools in the Waikato are open until 1 March 2023. Places are limited and will be confirmed on receipt of the completed paperwork.

Register your interest, [here](#).



For teachers

World Water Day

22 March; Fairfield Project, Hamilton
1.30pm-4.15pm

Join us for an afternoon of resource sharing to support learning and action about te wai. The event will include:

- an exploration of stream life and health in the Kuketāruhe gully
- the launch of new [Smart Water](#) resources for schools
- demonstration of an interactive water model, which is available for schools in the Hamilton rohe to learn about our stormwater, drinking water and wastewater.

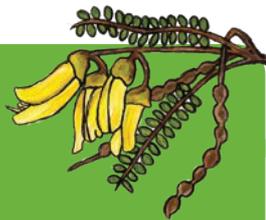
Register [here](#).

Teacher Reenergise

March; Te Awamutu, Hamilton, South Waikato and North Waikato

Teacher Reenergise is a half-day professional development session to inspire, support and energise new and experienced teachers and principals. You'll have the chance to reconnect with the Enviroschools kaupapa, hear inspiring stories from other local enviroschools and crowd-source solutions to the sustainability challenges your school may be facing.

If you're interested in hosting an afternoon at your school or you'd like to attend a local event, please contact your facilitator.



Enviroschools reflection workshop (online)

4 May, 3.30pm-5pm

If your school is interested in reflecting at Silver or Green-Gold or re-reflecting at Green-Gold in 2023 or 2024, please join us for this workshop. Lead Facilitator Adrienne Grant will demystify the process and share tips from other schools' experiences.

Register [here](#).

Get involved to help prevent abuse

We wanted to let you know about an opportunity to be involved in interviews or focus groups that are part of a nationwide ACC project to help deliver on the vision of Te Aorere kura, the New Zealand Government's national 25-year plan to eliminate family and sexual violence.

Diversity Counselling Aotearoa and Hohou te Rongo Kahukura are developing resources for preventing sexual abuse of ethnic, migrant and refugee children as well as takatāpui and LGBTQIA+ children, and they need your help.

They're working with parents, caregivers, teachers and others who look after children to find out what's going to be most useful to help them keep the children in their care safe.

Please email Camilla Carty-Melis at camillasustainablefuture@gmail.com if you're interested in taking part. All participants will receive a koha for their time.

NZ Association of Environmental Education (NZAEE)

NZAEE continues to offer webinars each term, matching subject experts and on-the-ground practitioners across a range of subjects.

Secondary Education: Sustainability and Regeneration (online)

7 March, 4pm-5.30pm

Explore case studies, research and resources to support the integration of environmental and sustainability education for years 9 to 13. This will be an interactive webinar, allowing for discussion, questions and knowledge sharing.

Facilitators: Becky McCormack (NZAEE) and Sophie Watson (EONZ)

Register [here](#).

Local Collaboration: Guidance and Discussion

15 March 15, 3.30pm-5pm

Facilitated by Thea DePetris, with stories from groups around Aotearoa, this interactive webinar is aimed at environmental education providers and organisations who would like support with local coordination and collaboration. It will include time for discussion and sharing ideas.

Register [here](#).

NZAEE will be hosting webinars and/or online discussion groups aimed at early learning and primary/intermediate educators in term 2. Access their professional learning catalogue and more great events [here](#).



Kia manatu | Reminders

Enviroschools fund

Waikato Regional Council's Enviroschools fund is there to assist Enviroschools with environmental projects. The fund provides one-off grants to projects that directly enhance and/or benefit the environment, or provide environmental education. There are two application rounds each year. Applications for the next round open 1 March and close 12 April 2023. Find out more about how the Enviroschools fund could support your school's next project [here](#).

When you're ready, please get in touch with your facilitator and they'll be happy to step you through the application process.



He tīwhiri | Quick sustainability tips



Start the year with a waste audit!

They're a fun outdoor activity and a great way to accelerate whakawhanaungatanga between students. Carrying one out at the beginning of the year creates a benchmark. You'll then have the rest of the year to learn, act and reflect on changes. Repeating a waste audit then also allows you to monitor changes over time and gives you a fabulous data set for numeracy learning. To arrange for your class to complete a waste audit this term, contact your Enviroschools Facilitator. They'll provide all the necessary equipment and can facilitate the session.

Ngā hua | Our stories

Very hungry helpers

When Hugh Gourlay made the long trip up to the Waikato from Canterbury, few would have suspected the curious contents he was carrying in a rather special suitcase.

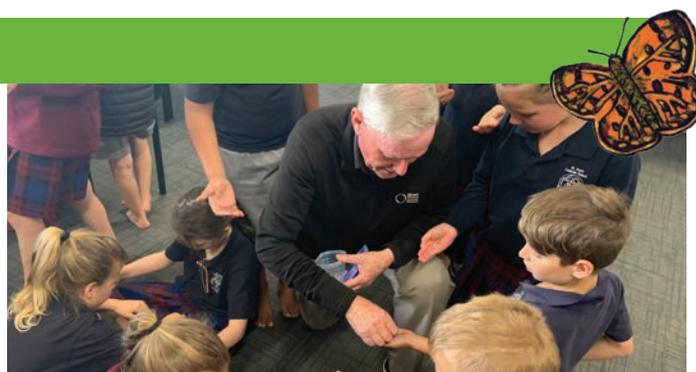
The Entomologist and Senior Technician at Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, who has studied and raised biological control agents for over 40 years, had a very special mission in mind late last year for students at Ngāruawāhia Primary, St Paul's Catholic and Ruawaro Combined Schools.

The rangatahi waited with bated breath as Hugh slowly opened the suitcase before them to reveal an army (to use the correct collective noun) of very hungry caterpillars.

Larvae of the Honshu White Admiral butterfly (*Limenitis glorifica*) are a natural predator of one of New Zealand's most invasive pest plants, the Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*).

The students' mission, which they eagerly accepted, was to raise them and learn more about their important role in keeping these problem weeds under control.

All three schools faced a steep learning curve, as the delicate creatures had only once before been successfully raised for



intentional release – at the Karangahake gorge near Paeroa. What surprised the students, was their short lifespan.

Naturally, the children were upset when the butterflies died and, unfortunately, many thought they had done something wrong.

"We learnt these butterflies don't live very long – only five to 10 days; they lay eggs and then they die," said students at Ngāruawāhia Primary School.

Curiosity was definitely sparked, though, and all classes wanted to continue trying to raise more butterflies this year.

The project was initiated by Waikato District Council and Waikato Enviroschools and funded by the Waikato Regional Council's Environmental Initiatives Fund to support hands-on learning about insects as bio-control agents.

Reflecting on our journey together

Congratulations to Te Miro School on reflecting beyond Green-Gold in December, and Marotiri School, Tirau Primary and Rotokauri School on reflecting at Bronze in 2022!

Reflection is an awesome way to acknowledge the efforts schools are making at whatever stage they may be in on their sustainability journey. It's also an integral part of the EnviroSchools learning cycle, helping us to make sense of our experiences, deepen our learning and gain direction for the journey ahead.

Here's what one student from Te Miro had to say about their last reflection and what it meant to them:

"I loved talking about the bush and the work we do, how we plant trees and the celebrations we do. The best thing about today was showing you guys around the school, because I'm really proud of the school and how we treat it."

It is exciting to see a number of EnviroSchools across Waikato are planning a holistic reflection on their EnviroSchools journey in 2023.

If your school is interested in reflecting at Silver or Green-Gold or re-reflecting at Green-Gold, please check out the EnviroSchools reflection workshop in the Ngā kaupapa e haere ake nei | Opportunities section of this newsletter.

You can also find out more about Te Miro's journey to Green-Gold [here](#).



Pukenui zooms ahead

Teaching during the lockdowns was tough, and it's tempting to put the whole experience firmly in in the rearview mirror.

But out of adversity, as they say, comes opportunity. And the convenience and efficiency of hybrid learning is something schools like Pukenui are now seizing the opportunity to accelerate.

In 2022, they'd been growing their connection to and understanding of the native bush track within the school grounds, Te Ara Poutama.

Through online visits from their facilitator, Camilla Carty-melis, which were the only option available during the red alert level setting, they were given planned and self-directed activities, including vision mapping, biodiversity explorations and tree planting opportunities.

They found that some trees were suffering from insufficient water supply, especially during the summer months, and came up with a range of possible solutions.

One was the installation of rainwater harvesting kit, drawing on funding support from the EnviroSchools fund. This, in turn, spurred other interesting avenues of enquiry and learning opportunities around water conservation, efficient watering and irrigation.

The rangatahi, supported by their teacher, Mrs Crown, and facilitator, Camilla, made a plan to work with the caretaker in term 3 to purchase and install a rainwater harvesting system.

Their experience demonstrated how a deep-dive project, with a range of different learning opportunities, could be effectively delivered even when in-person visits aren't an option.



Due to the success of the regular zoom sessions they've had with Camilla over the past few years, Pukenui has now adjusted their plan for the end of 2022 and beyond to incorporate regular 'online visits' as well as in-person sessions.

As a result, they now have greater access to their facilitator for classroom activities and student interaction, supported by in-person visits as required.

Camilla said: "Less travel time means more facilitation time. At Pukenui, we worked with Mrs Crown during the pandemic to come up with an alternative that ended up supporting students even better than expected.

"It allowed for more efficient use of time and resources, and actually increased student engagement with the EnviroSchools kaupapa. More teachers are now showing an interest in the hybrid delivery model and I think it's a great option to consider."

Talk to your facilitator to find out more about how this might work for your school. Ka mau te wehi Pukenui!

Kāhui Ako teachers only day

Following postponements last year, the Waikato Catholic Kāhui Ako managed to connect in February, hosted by St Columba's School in Hamilton.

Teachers heard from inspiring speakers and took part in some engaging workshops, including one delivered by the EnviroSchools team.

Our workshop showcased the great range of resources and support on offer to schools to integrate sustainability seamlessly into local curricula and contexts.



We also focused on creative and culturally responsive approaches to teaching and learning, exploring ways to weave together key threads, from Māori perspectives, to action competence and literacy.

It was such a pleasure to take part in this event, to reconnect after the summer break and to meet with new teachers. If you have a Kāhui Ako event coming up, we would love to take part. Please contact Michelle Daly or your local facilitator to find out more.



He rauemi | Resource spotlight

Student wellbeing

Student wellbeing is at the forefront of our minds as they settle into a new school year, especially after consecutive years of disrupted learning. We know learners have diverse needs, and that teachers go above and beyond to support their students.

On the EnviroSchools website, we have a growing bank of activities, ideas and case studies exploring how schools can support student wellbeing and learning needs through their education for sustainability curriculum, found [here](#).

Universal design for learning

We've found the 'inclusive education' section of the MoE website to be a great resource related to the wellbeing kaupapa. We highly recommend checking out their [universal design for learning](#) pages, which set out an approach that intentionally values and plans for diversity and inclusion.



Inclusive Education

All guides Search

Guide to Universal Design for Learning

Understand

Why UDL is valuable → Find out about UDL ↓

Strategies for action:

- Provide multiple means of Engagement ↓
- Provide multiple means of Representation ↓
- Provide multiple means of Action and Expression ↓

How to plan using UDL ↓

Design considerations in primary settings ↓

Design considerations in secondary settings ↓

Key resources:

Resources for Universal Design for Learning ↓

Universal Design for Learning

Design learning to meet the diverse and variable needs of all students in your classroom.

Understand Strategies for action Key resources

Why UDL is valuable

Learn about how UDL can help us realise the vision of

Ngā ringa hāpai | Enviroschools Waikato schools facilitation team



Clockwise from top left: Adrienne, Anna, Alex, Ruairi, Jennifer, Camilla and Michelle.

Contact Details

Adrienne

adrienne.grant@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Lead Facilitator, Waikato and Hamilton)

Anna

anna.cunningham@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Facilitator, Ōtorohanga, Waikato and Hamilton)

Alex

alex.daniel@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Facilitator, Waikato, Waipā and Hamilton)

Ruairi

ruairi.kelly@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Facilitator, Matamata Piako, Hauraki and Thames Coromandel)

Jennifer

jennifer.scothern-king@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Facilitator, Taupō and Rotorua)

Camilla

camilla.carty-melis@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Facilitator, South Waikato, Waipā and Waitomo)

Michelle

michelle.daly@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Waikato Regional Coordinator)



Find out more

enviroschools.org.nz

Check out the great selection of national news, resources and ideas in the team area. To register, head to 'team area login' and click 'register'. Please note you will need your school/centre's MoE number to complete the registration process. You can find this here: educationcounts.govt.nz.

Waikato Enviroschools Facebook

facebook.com/groups/waikatoenviroschools

Join our friendly and supportive closed forum to share inspiration, thoughts, learnings and more.

Waikato Enviroschools acknowledge our funding partners. Their ongoing input and funding is essential to the success of the Enviroschool programme throughout our region.

