

# CHATTERBOX

March 2017



## Authentic learning at Enviro-leaders Camp



60 students from 12 schools across Waitaha/Canterbury enjoyed the Akaroa Harbour and spectacular Hinewai Reserve at our Enviro-leaders camp at the end of last year.

We were fortunate to have local expertise from Hugh Wilson (Hinewai Reserve Manager) Marie Hayley, Wild-side Coordinator for the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust as well as Department of Conservation Ranger Tom McTavish. Students explored Hinewai with experts learning about the rich biodiversity of the area, threats to it and how to protect it.

Mel Tainui from Onuku Marae enthralled all with her tales of Takapuneke bringing history to life with her story telling. Did you know this was once a thriving place of industry where rope was woven and exported afar?

A cruise on the Black Cat and viewing Hector's dolphins was another highlight for many. Sadly we also viewed plastic bags in the harbour which the Black Cat crew picked up explaining how they endanger marine life as they mistake it for food.

We were warmly welcomed by Akaroa Area School and many photos were taken as students led us on a tour of their sustainability initiatives. Including a beautiful Tūi garden, see-through worm farm, murals and creative living sun shade in the making.

Kevin Simcock and Pam Richardson from the Banks Peninsula Zone Committee ably chaired our evening mock water zone committee meeting. Students and teachers were well prepared for their role play which explored a real local issue – the disposal of wastewater into the harbour or to land. The discussions highlighted the complexities of water management and the importance of science and cultural values. Students did a fantastic job of giving differing perspectives and had fun getting into character – as you can tell by the images!



Little River students use the Banks Peninsula Freshwater Invertebrate Chart to identify critters in the Okana River

## Fantastic tools to measure water quality

Thanks to EOS Ecology, schools on the Banks Peninsula now have their own Nature Agents kits to monitor water quality, stream habitat and invertebrates in their local waterway. Banks Peninsula streams are home to some unique invertebrates and now schools have a Freshwater Invertebrate Identification Chart specific to this area.

Toni Watts (Enviroschools Facilitator) has been assisting Enviroschools to utilise these kits.

For more information [www.eosecology.co.nz](http://www.eosecology.co.nz)



In partnership with



Co-ordinating agency:



# Rich reflections and celebrations



Kidsfirst Kindergartens Lincoln celebrate green-gold with a beautifully decorated cake while Andrew (Solid Waste Manager, Selwyn District Council) and his colleague, Jess looks on.

Congratulations to **Kidsfirst Kindergartens Lincoln** staff who together with their community reviewed and reflected on their **green-gold** journey since their last review in 2012. Everyone agreed they are still proudly working at the green-gold level and together set some aspirational next steps to continue their journey.

**Swannanoa Preschool** is looking forward to unveiling their **silver** Enviroschools sign to mark their success at achieving silver. Staff have worked hard over a number of years to weave the guiding principles of the programme throughout the teaching and learning and should be very proud of the learning environment and culture they have established.

**Waitākiri School** celebrated **bronze** at the end of last year. The very capable student group – Enviroferns led the reflection day clearly articulating the journey they have been on towards creating a more sustainable community. Students had many inspiring ideas for next steps which will be captured on their vision map – well done!



## Korowai (cloak) marks important milestone



Korowai are the most highly prized of all traditional Māori garments and are regarded as family and personal heirlooms.

Finishing Kindergarten is an important milestone in children's lives. It is a time of celebration and anticipation. It is also a time of sadness for those who say goodbye. Traditionally korowai (cloaks) are worn as a mantle of prestige and honour. It will give mana for the person who wears it. To acknowledge the child's last day at kindergarten, and to celebrate who they are, children will be invited to wear this korowai at their mat time celebration.

The Ministry of Education's 2013 document Ka Hikitia – Accelerating Success reminds us that tamariki Māori do much better when education reflects and values their identity, language and culture.

Kindly shared by Kidsfirst Kindergartens Lincoln.

## No-wrapvember Challenge



Marshall of West Melton School proudly receives the No-wrapvember trophy from Enviroschools facilitator Matt Stanford.

This fun challenge was developed by the team at Kidsfirst Kindergartens Lincoln to encourage local schools and early childhood centres to reduce their non-recyclable food wrappers over the month of November. In other words reduce the rubbish that is generated in wrapping food.

West Melton School, Lincoln University Early Childcare Centre and Springston School all enjoyed the challenge encouraging families to save money and the environment by buying in bulk, changing their packaging techniques and thinking before purchasing.

Congratulations to the Pukeko's (y3/4) at West Melton School for reducing their packaging the most throughout the month of November. They get to look after a special koru shaped trophy carved by the tamariki of Kidsfirst Kindergartens Lincoln.

'Participating in the Nowrapvember Litter-free Challenge proved that our school could do better towards the environment. It makes everyone stop and think about the impact of the rubbish on the environment.' reflected a student from West Melton School.

# What lurks beneath the Village Green pond?

Waikari students have been learning about water in their place, the water cycle and issues around water. Lead teacher Debra Lydon wanted to extend this learning outside of the classroom and looked for areas with potential for longer term learning. The local pond was created by the community some time ago and there is still potential for further action and restoration work.

The students, assisted by Jocelyn Papprell (Youth Engagement Advisor, ECAN) and Enviroschools Facilitator, Matt Stanford undertook water quality testing to provide a baseline data set. Using magnifying glasses and microscopes children were able to identify invertebrates and assess the health of the pond.

Students were surprised to find lots of creatures including back swimmers or water boatmen, worms and snails however these invertebrates are not particularly sensitive species and do not need high water quality to survive. Children learned about what is needed to create good habitat for more sensitive creatures such as stonefly and mayfly larvae.

In 2017 Waikari School will be exploring ways to take action for this place alongside community members.



Rosie at Twizel Area Kindergarten carefully relocates a centipede to the bug hotel.

## Ashley School captures their vision

The vision map is the culmination of their 2016 'Me in My Environment' inquiry. The ideas collected will help make Ashley an even more sustainable school. Some of these ideas have already been implemented. Yahoo Ashley!



# Lincoln High School success in EVelocity Competition



'The Wright Way' team, Lincoln High School.

The EVelocity school competition is an opportunity for students to design, build and race an electric vehicle. "Enviroschools is a partner in this event which has been running for three years. I am excited about the learning opportunities around sustainable transport and it is great to see innovative student-led design resulting in a real vehicle that can be entered into a national competition" Matt Stanford, Enviroschools Facilitator.

Tim, Callum, Jack and Sofia - from team 'The Wright Way' raced to success winning several categories at last year's school competition, travelling at 31kph to win the fastest head to head drag as well as best deceleration and overall performance.

Cashmere High School's Sustainability Council did a superb job of manning an exhibit sharing their impressive energy efficiencies and sustainability initiatives with members of the public.

For more information and to get involved in 2017 visit [www.evocity.co.nz](http://www.evocity.co.nz)



Cashmere High School Sustainability Council members – Beth, Nola, Bidy and Saoirse with Toimata Foundation Chief Executive, Heidi Mardon.





# Coming up

## Enviroschools events

**1st March** Reflecting on your Enviroschools journey – interactive workshop FULL

**30th March** – Student-led tour of Waimakariri Enviroschools

**10th May** Early Childhood Education Hui – Waitaha me Te Tai Poutini

**26-27th October** Enviro-leaders Camp @ Koukourārata Marae (Port Levy)

## Websites we love!

[www.beegap.co.nz](http://www.beegap.co.nz) BeeGAP is a program that has been established to help raise awareness around declining bee populations, assisting Kiwis to both encourage and add pollinators to their very own gardens.

[www.christchurchcitylibraries.com/ti-kouka-whenua/map/](http://www.christchurchcitylibraries.com/ti-kouka-whenua/map/)  
Fantastic website – hover over a location on the Canterbury map to find out the Māori history of this area.

[www.nzonscreen.com](http://www.nzonscreen.com)  
Online showcase of New Zealand television, film and music video, incredible collection - will enrich any learning.

[www.recycling.kiwi.nz/soft-plastics](http://www.recycling.kiwi.nz/soft-plastics)  
Soft plastics recycling – Did you know if you can scrunch it you can now recycle it? This includes bread bags, biscuit packets, frozen food bags and more. Find out where your closest collection centre is and share with your community. But remember it is still better to reduce before recycling, so think carefully about what you purchase and how it is packaged. Generally healthier food choices are good for you as well as the environment!

[www.solarbuddy.org](http://www.solarbuddy.org)  
Solar Buddy is now in NZ! A programme helping students to develop a deeper understanding of energy poverty and the challenges faced by children and families living in developing countries. Students build solar lights and then gift them to children in need.

[www.wildeyes.co.nz](http://www.wildeyes.co.nz)  
Nature missions for kiwi kids, exchange square eyes for wild eyes!

## Waste Audit revealing...



Enviroferns at Waitākiri School helped to complete a comprehensive Enviroschools waste audit this month. The good news was compared to two years ago they have dramatically reduced their waste to landfill and contamination of waste streams was minimal. This means the number of times the skip is emptied can now be halved which will result in a significant cost saving in 2017. Students believe promoting 'hood food' lunches and the success of their reusable coffee cup campaign has made the difference. They have identified further improvements that can be made e.g. setting up systems to ensure both sides of paper is used before recycling, providing more worm farm containers and encouraging healthier lunch choices that don't include wrappers.

## Welcome to ....



Isleworth students assist Matt Stanford, Enviroschools facilitator to plant a Ti kouka/ cabbage tree which was gifted by the Department of Conservation to mark the beginning of their Enviroschools journey.

### Isleworth School

To raise awareness and funds for their enviro group students organised a green mufti day and have been working on their vision. Following a comprehensive waste audit they plan to take action to reduce the amount of non-recyclable packaging coming into their school, one idea was to highlight the issue by using the packaging collected to make a piece of art.

**Amberley School** has just joined in the Hurunui – watch this space, they have some fantastic ideas already!

**Geraldine Primary School** recently joined in the Timaru District and eager to get started in 2017!



Students from North Loburn enjoy exploring their natural environment to celebrate 2 years at Green-Gold as well as Conservation Week



### Facilitators

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