

Enviroschools

HAWKE'S BAY OUR REGION OUR WORLD

April 2018

GETTING IN TOUCH AND TOUCHING THEIR ENVIRONMENT

- STUDENTS FROM ESKDALE SCHOOL

How would Nature send positive messages to people, encouraging them to consider and explore sustainable feelings, practices and actions? Seen here are students from Eskdale School sitting with nature. Time spent reflecting on their annual beach clean up from the perspective of how nature feels when we dump rubbish in their home. This is a way to create caring, reflective messages for nature, which encourages positive sustainable behaviour.



Kia ora koutou

We know you know Environmental Education is important. Does your school community know you are an Enviroschool? Do you promote this in your school newsletters, on your website or Facebook page or as part of your strategic plan? If you would like any assistance in making this happen then please get in touch. We also have Enviroschools logos and artwork you can use.

International Biodiversity Day is Tuesday 22 May. Do your students have an opportunity to focus an activity on this day? The theme for 2018 is "Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity". This day will also see the launch of the Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2020. As the action plan gets underway, we will keep you informed on opportunities for your students and whanau to become part of this exciting focus for our region. For more information check out the HBRC website #biodiversity. <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/hawkes-bay/biodiversity/biodiversity-strategy/>

Finally – please enjoy the holiday break and remember share your stories with us, either with your facilitator or myself.

Mā te wā

Sally and the
Hawke's Bay
Enviroschools team



Holistic Reflection Workshop for schools

This workshop is a requirement for those who wish to reflect this year.

Wednesday 9 May 2018 at
Eskdale School, 1 pm – 5 pm.

See the enclosed flyer for
registration details.

We can also offer a partial
subsidy for teacher release.



Enviroschools HAWKE'S BAY OUR REGIONAL



NEWS FROM NORTHERN HAWKE'S BAY

JENNI SCOTHERN-KING, FACILITATOR

RIVERS

In Wairoa this term there has been a lot of interest in water quality – both fresh water and marine. Not surprising since we have a high proportion of waterways here in Northern Hawke's Bay.

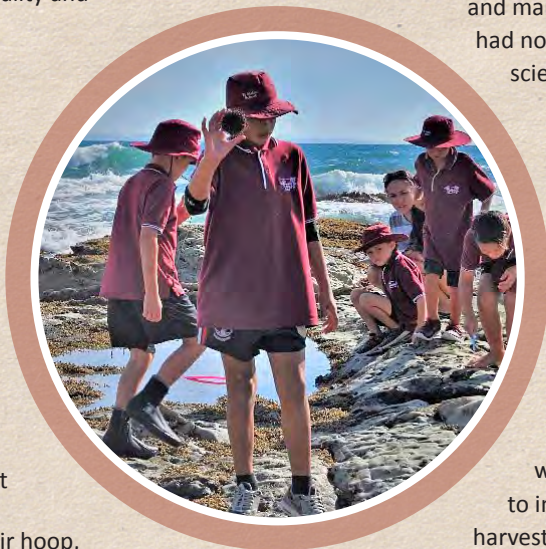
Students from Mohaka Kura have been focussing their inquiry learning around the Mohaka River. This river begins its journey in the Kaweka ranges and travels approximately 124 kms before it reaches the tiny coastal settlement of Mohaka, south of Wairoa.

<https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/hawkes-bay-region/river-quality/mohaka-river/>

Students visited their river in February and found it in good shape. All students came to investigate and observe. First the seniors arrived at the site and assessed the riparian habitat through observation (Water of Life p67 to 69). Next, using the mm2 approach, which had been practiced back at school the previous week, they investigated the life by and in the water. They competently used the SHMAK equipment to check the water quality and flow.

It was clear that the preparation done at school was effective. Senior students also brought samples of their rural home water supplies and tested them.

The juniors began by working in pairs and studying what was in their hoop. They had practised at school looking at what was living on the field within the area of their hoop,



so had learned to look without disturbing the area under investigation. Next they probed the area gently to see what was hiding there. To their delight they discovered small creatures they had not observed before! We repeated this twice more as we moved closer to the river's edge, then right on the river's edge. Using the mm2 concept to focus attention where it was needed proved to be a winner.

Back at school the follow-up writing and drawing indicated the power of interactive experience in the outdoors as a source of motivation!

AND ROCK POOLS

Continuing the popular water theme both Ruakituri School and Te Mahia School investigated rock pools on the Mahia peninsular at low tide.

The decline, over the last 20 to 30 years of kina and mussels is obvious, which was confirmed when sharing this experience with whanau. We did however find diversity, and many children discovered life they had not noticed before (when less scientifically focused).

Back at school the seniors prepared their data for graphing and the juniors made salt dough creatures and seaweed. Next they will create a diorama of a rock pool.

Perhaps the students will be able to offer ideas to improve the kaimoana harvest for their future.



NEWS FROM CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY

KATE LUFF, FACILITATOR

WE INTRODUCED KATE TO YOU ALL AT THE END OF LAST YEAR. TODAY WE FIND OUT HOW SHE HAS BEEN GETTING ON...

The new Enviroschools Facilitator for Central Hawke's Bay, Kate Luff, pictured here in the pink cap, has been busy getting to know Central Hawke's Bay's Enviroschools. Spending time both in and out of the classroom with students as they take action and learn about sustainable living.



"It's been a delight to meet the students and see some of the environmental action and sustainability initiatives going on - such as restoration projects at scenic reserves, beaches and wetland areas," says Kate. "These projects usually start with the students gathering and propagating the seeds themselves, so they are getting to see the whole plant life-cycle in action, and to see how their hard work has real results at the end of the process".

Another aspect of the programme for most schools is taking a good look at every day practices. Students are quick to spot ways to reduce waste, save energy, and take action around their school. For example, students at one school initiated a "lights off" campaign, aimed at reducing power usage – a move that will not only save the school money, but also help the environment.

"I think we can all see how learning to be a kaitiaki, or a guardian, of the environment is empowering for children, and good for our world," says Kate. "It is also wonderful to see how the community is getting behind the programme, with support from individuals and businesses who all have something valuable and unique to contribute."

The Enviroschools Programme is an action-based education programme where young people plan, design and implement sustainability projects and become catalysts for change in their communities.

The aim is to foster a generation of people who instinctively think and act sustainably. The programme operates nationwide through partnerships with Councils.

There are currently eight Enviroschools in Central Hawke's Bay - six primary schools (Argyll East, Pukehou, Sherwood, Flemington, Omakere, and Elsthorpe) and two kindergartens - Waipawa and Lakeview.



The latest themed area booklet, Living Landscapes, offers case studies and project ideas on how to immerse young people in their environment.





NEWS FROM NAPIER/HASTINGS.



SONYA SEDGWICK, FACILITATOR

Thanks to Rachel Huggins – Principal at Patoka School for sharing highlights from their term one kaitiaki units

Our Year 1 and 2 students are focusing on the environmental perspective of the Lorax and are using art and literature as a discovery tool. The kids are so fired up about that bad Once-ler and the terrible effect he had on the beautiful environment!



Years 3 and 4 are focusing on native bush, what makes it so special, and why we should care about native plants. They are also learning to identify the native plants we have at school. A trip to Balls' clearing took place this term where students had an opportunity to identify plants and talk about the forest canopy layers. This will culminate in the creation of a short film to express the importance of native bush. Miss Caroline, our Teacher Aide and a former student of Patoka School, gave the students a walking tour of the school explaining some of the history of the special plants in our gardens. They then went to Balls Clearing and walked through the tracks taking notice of the native plants and testing their plant identification skills.

Room 3 have collected and planted kakabeak seeds from our garden, under the advice and supervision of Billie Herries. The class also completely cleaned out the shadehouse to provide optimal growing conditions for the seedlings. Some of the seeds will be donated to DOC to further the conservation efforts of this important plant. The students have also been creating short documentaries about the kakabeak plants to share with our Room 1 students.

The students spent the day in the bush where they learned about predator trapping as well as the tracking and monitoring of kiwis. We are grateful to Billie and Dan Herries' expertise as well as Mary Gray who volunteered from DOC.

"This term has been our first deep exploration of teaching an inquiry unit and embedding the theme into their literacy and numeracy where possible. I must say how proud of the staff I feel!" Rachel Huggins.



Tell us your Enviroschools story:

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