

Enviroschools Ōtakou Newsletter Huitanguru 2018



Nau mai haere mai

Enviroschools had a busy 2017. We ran four student hui on topics as diverse as Puaka/Matariki, Leadership, and Energy. We held three teacher workshops across Ōtakou, as well as facilitating numerous cluster meetings. Nine schools conducted a whole school holistic reflection, including three at Green-Gold! And then we had the census in term four. We had a fantastic 85% return rate for the Enviroschools Census in Ōtakou which will give us great data to continue shaping the programme to support your school's plans and aspirations for sustainability.

Sadly Anna Hughes and Simon Williams have both left Enviroschools. Anna has moved to Nelson to be closer to family and Simon is pursuing his other passion of photography. Their experience, enthusiasm and energy will be missed. Happily we have some knowledgeable and enthusiastic new blood joining our team; Nicky Gray, Damian Foster and Janet Young. Nicky will be facilitating the Queenstown Schools and Damian will be working with Wanaka Schools. Janet will be sharing the facilitation role in Dunedin with Daniel.

Waitaki District Council has agreed to fund Enviroschools which is another huge step forward for our team. We are in the process of recruiting schools and a facilitator.

Enviroschools now covers all of Otago which is really exciting.

We would like to welcome the new key teachers and thank the continuing key teachers – you are the heart of Enviroschools in your school. Your facilitator is your best resource. They are here to help you so please do not hesitate to contact them.

This newsletter highlights just some of the amazing mahi that is going on in this region. We are looking forward to supporting you and your school's sustainability journey in 2018.

Robyn Zink
Regional Coordinator

A Principal's perspective on Enviroschools

Bernadette Newlands is the principal at **Macandrew Bay Primary School** on the Otago Peninsula. Macandrew Bay School joined Enviroschools in 2006. Bernadette values Enviroschools as it provides an authentic learning context for students and it guides the decisions they make at the school and the way they do things. Enviroschools also connects the school with the wonderful place they live and learn in. Bernadette says they have been able to connect much more closely with the Peninsula community through learning around the environment.

Principals are crucial to the success of Enviroschools as their support enables staff to integrate the **guiding principles** into their teaching and students to take action on issues that are important to them. As Bernadette says, principals have an important role to play in ensuring that sustainability guides the whole school's decision making and the way schools do things.

A big mihi to all of the Enviroschools' prin-



cipals. Enviroschools continues to flourish in Ōtakou because of your on-going commitment to the programme and the support you give to your staff and students.

Students exercising their citizen muscle Businesses changing their practice because of student action

Year two students at **Queenstown Primary School** spent a term looking at the damage plastic does in the environment. They organised a march down the Queenstown Mall to inform the public about the impact plastic is having on wildlife and organised a beach clean-up in Queenstown Bay. They also wrote of their concerns about plastic straws

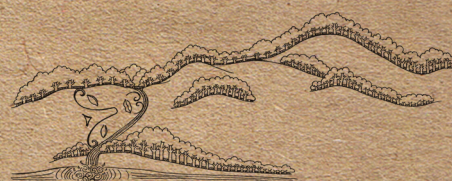
to two local Restaurant companies that own six bars and restaurants between them. This prompted the companies to make a number of changes including moving to compostable straws and they are reviewing their business practices to make sure they are making better environmental decisions.

Students exercising their citizen muscle Getting reusable bags out into the community

Many schools make re-usable bags. **Dunedin North Intermediate** has taken the idea a step further and set up a bag library in conjunction with the Gardens New World supermarket. A box for the bags sits at the main entrance of the supermarket. The bags have proven very popular and the school is trialling different methods to encourage people to return the bags.



Dunedin North Intermediate School's bag library at the Gardens' New World supermarket



Vision maps

Does your school have a Whole School Vision? Is it still relevant, or is it time to dust it off and re-do it?

A Whole School Vision sets out your desired future for the school. Along with a vision statement and some guiding principles, many schools create a vision map. Developing a Whole School Vision involves everyone in the school producing a Pool of Knowledge / Puna Mātauranga about how they currently view their school surroundings, and the health and sustainability of their environment. This includes what is good now and changes students and staff would like to make. From this Puna Mātauranga students can design and make a map representing their vision. Putting the map somewhere conspicuous reminds everyone of the vision and helps keep the momentum to realising this vision.

Musselburgh Primary School in Dunedin completed stage one of their vision map at the end of 2017 and it takes up most of one wall in the school hall. The Year 5 students created

the map out of materials that were recycled (cereal & Fonterra milk boxes), found (popsicle sticks, scrap paper) or natural (sand, rocks, wood chips, flax).

Funding for Stage two has been approved by the BOT (after a presentation by 4 students) and will include a circuit board, conductive paint & copper elements to enable sound recordings to play when touched. The children have already requested the school waiata, oral history of Rakiatea (the stream that was once where the school stands), birdsong and their hopes for the future. 12 audio clips will be possible and the school's ICT guru will help to link this mahi to the new Digital Tech curriculum strand - Designing & developing digital outcomes.

We have lots of ideas and resources to help you develop your school vision. Talk to your facilitator about this.

"The visions that we have of the future affect what we think is worth doing in the present".



The creators of the Musselburgh School Vision map



Holistic reflections

Nine schools reflected in 2017. **Kavanagh College** (Dunedin), **St Joseph's** (Queenstown) and **St. Gerard's** (Alexandra) all reflected at bronze. **Carisbrook**, **Dunedin North Intermediate** and **St. Brigids schools**, from **Dunedin**, reflected at silver. **Otago Girls' High School**, **Macandrew Bay** and **Waitati primary schools**, also of Dunedin, reflected at Green-Gold.

Bernadette Newlands, Macandrew Bay's principal, said it was great going through the holistic reflection process as it made the school think hard about all of the things that had happened since the last reflection and identify new developments as well as identify projects that had been started but needed to be revisited. She said they have established a clear path for their next steps on their sustainability journey. *"We are very happy we stopped putting off the reflection process and got on*



St. Brigids students collecting evidence

with it as we found it very helpful".

Thinking about reflecting in 2018? Talk to your facilitator and set a date for it now.



St. Gerard's and The Terrace students with their bags

Alexandra Thyme Festival

Five schools participated in the Enviro-schools hub at the Thyme festival. Redesigning our world for less waste and learning about our local biodiversity were just two of the themes covered in three very busy days. Each school brought activities to share, including work on social justice, and reusable bags made from t-shirts.



Waitati School with their Green Gold certificate



Carisbrook School on their Silver Reflection



Empowerment Fund

Last year seven schools were given Enviro-school's Empowerment Grants. The diversity of projects schools applied for was amazing. **Opoho Primary School** used their Empowerment Grant to establish a lizard garden in their school. The students did not find any lizards when they assessed the biodiversity in their school grounds and surrounding area. The students researched and designed a lizard habitat, presented their design to the BOT, selected plants, sourced rocks and logs, and worked with some parents to build the habitat. They are hoping to attract the Southern Grass Skink and will keep monitoring the area.

Poolburn School used their Empowerment Fund grant to provide new entrants with Nude Food lunchboxes. The students have been working hard to find ways to reduce rubbish at school and food wrappers in lunch boxes was found to be one of the biggest sources of rubbish. The new entrants receive an information pack put together by the students to help them, and their parents, make waste-free lunches.

Waste was also the theme for **Bayfield College's** Empowerment Fund grant. The Envirogroup has been working on a complete overhaul of the school's waste system with the aim of reducing waste as well as making sure organics, recycling and waste are sorted correctly. The grant went toward a paper shredder

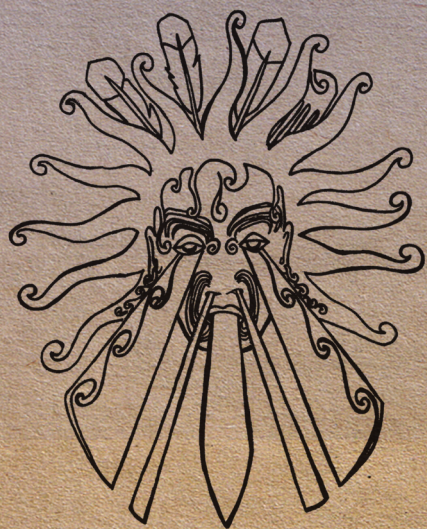


Opoho students sorting rocks for the lizard garden so school documents can now be composted.

Unfortunately we are not able to offer Empowerment Fund grants in 2018, but your facilitator can point you to other funding sources.



Isal and Te Huri with their new lunch boxes



Keep in touch

Keep in touch with Enviro-schools via the facebook page
www.facebook.com/groups/Enviro-schoolsOtago/

Check out all of the ideas and resources on the Enviro-schools webpage
www.enviroschools.org.nz/

Student Hui and teacher workshops

The second half of 2017 was busy with student hui and a teacher workshop. Puaka Matariki was celebrated with Year 7 – 10 students in Dunedin. We learnt about the night sky during the Māori New Year at the Otago Museum Perpetual Guardian Planetarium and then learnt how to make kites / manu tū. Puaka Matariki is a time of planning as well as celebration and we worked with students to plan their next planting season. We also had two student hui on energy. Learning about all of the ways we use energy every day was a key theme for both hui. In Dunedin students also learnt about transport energy and insulated model houses finding out where heat can escape. In Clyde students from Central Otago and the Queenstown Lakes area built solar ovens and baked SMORES, then visited the Clyde Dam. Anna and Simon ran a Climate Conversation for the September teacher workshop. They screened the documentary *Thin Ice: the inside story of climate science* and followed this with a discussion on teaching about climate change. This New Zealand film comes



Students with their solar oven and SMORES nearly ready to eat

with a series of supporting teaching resources. <https://thiniceclimate.org/>

Finding out about Lizards

Opoho school was not the only school interested in lizards in 2017. **St. Gerard's** in Alexandra and **Clyde Primary Schools** ran a monitoring programme in their schools and found they had skinks as well as the usual predators. Both schools want to carry on with their monitoring work and Clyde school is developing a trapping programme to control the predators so the skinks can flourish. Clyde primary finished their lizard monitoring with a visit to Butcher's dam to see skinks and geckos in their natural habitat.



Welcome to our new facilitators



Originally from the UK, Damian Foster has been in New Zealand for 10 years. He has a background in primary teaching, special needs, early childhood education, training and curriculum design. Alongside his role as an Enviroschools facilitator he works as graphic designer for Wastebusters.



Nicky Gray lives in Queenstown with her husband and dog. She also has two grown up sons. Nicky has been teaching at Queenstown Primary for the last 12 years and was the Enviroschool Key Teacher for QPS for the last 10 years. She loves walking, gardening, cooking and reading.



Janet Young is a dual Canadian/New Zealand citizen. She fell in love with Dunedin while on a university exchange in 2006, and permanently shifted to New Zealand after graduating in 2007. Janet has worked for five years in the environmental education sector. After traveling the Americas by motorcycle, Janet has returned to Dunedin to have her first child and settle down.

The Enviroschools Census

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Enviroschools census. The data from the census helps us to keep developing the programme to meet your needs and it helps us tell the story of the amazing

sustainability work you are doing in your schools and communities. **Queenstown Montessori, Clyde Primary School, Clutha Valley Primary School and Columba College** won the hampers for their staff rooms.



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