

Enviroschools

TE TAI POUTINI

WEST COAST

TERM 3
2016



Kia ora koutou.

When I came to compile this newsletter, it was with bubbling excitement - the normal two-page newsletter was out the window. Despite the demands of school and centre life there are so many excellent Enviroschools projects taking place along Te Tai Poutini. This is testimony to the enthusiasm, dedication and creativity of kura staff and tamariki.

As Term 2 winds up remember to keep coming back to the basics and the core of Enviroschools: the Guiding Principles, The Whole School Approach and the Action Learning Cycle.

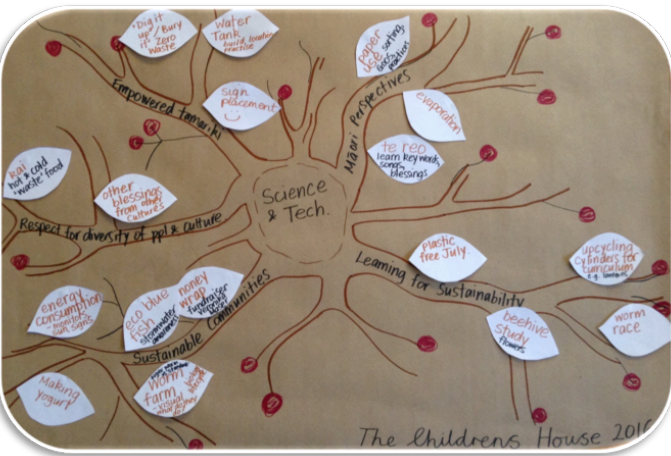
This newsletter is focussed on the 'Whole School Approach' – the four key areas of school/centre life that have an effect on sustainability and student learning. I hope you enjoy sharing the mahi of our West Coast Enviroschools.

Nāku noa na,
Zoe Watson

1. Programmes / Kaupapa Ako

Planning for Sustainability

The Children's House in Hokitika held a team meeting to look at how they could infuse the Guiding Principles of Enviroschools into their monthly plans. They used the GP's tree on page 8-9 of the ECE handbook to frame their thinking. Check it out!



2. Practices / Tikanga

Taking Charge on Pottles and Bottles

Scenicland Hokitika Nursery & Pre-school have targeted yogurt waste and packaging. The centre created an eye-catching display of one weeks worth of pottles - a whopping 67. They have decided to take action by making yogurt with the children using donated Easi-yo makers. Teachers say this has multiple benefits: less yogurt wastage, less pottles going to the landfill, less sugar and less gunk to clean up! They've also started recycling the glass baby food jars now that they know glass is reused in Westland.



Left: Scenicland children with their yogurt pottle display

Enviro Rangers Take Action for Compost

Reefton Area School enviro-rangers held an Enviroschools Action Day during Term 2 to create a school wide compost system.

The 13 students, representing different classes across the school, had identified an issue with how much compost there was in classroom rubbish bins. This spurred them into action and they dedicated a day to improving their compost system to process student's lunch waste and green waste in the school. The students visited local Garden Club members Margaret and Rex Crook, based in Mawheraiti, to see what a successful compost system looks like. They were then treated to a demonstration on how to layer different materials in the compost bins.



Armed with this knowledge, the enthusiastic and motivated students went back to school and started putting a system into place: ensuring each class had a compost bin, making signage, working out a roster, writing and filming an informative skit, setting up pig bins for items that can't be composted, and collaborating with the hard materials students to design and build a double bin system.

Reefton Area Enviroschools lead teacher Kate Hawes, said the students were looking forward to seeing a reduction in landfill waste with the improvements to the way the school composted waste.

Chloe May Estoque a year 13 student said that it was an action-packed learning experience. "We learnt a lot of things; especially with composting. We have a strong team of Enviro Rangers this year and I can't wait what else is in store for us."

The filmed skit can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/QpNTDvAW6Ak>



3. People & Participation / Tangata

Fish on Drains in the Pipeline

The Envirogroup at **Kaniere School** has been involved in a 'fish on drains' campaign for several years to raise awareness of what goes down the drain ends in the ocean. Although the school is located 6km from the ocean, the campaign stemmed from a junior class's desire to protect and conserve whitebait, one of their favourite fishes (and for some dishes!). It has had many run on effects, and new questions and actions have resulted.

Three members recently presented at a Westland District Council meeting. The Envirogroup is currently approaching local businesses and organisations to sponsor a fish, so that they can extend the initiative into the Hokitika Township and beachfront.

Teacher Kristine Hickford says, "This work organically developed over several years through revisiting the action learning cycle. Different classes and the Envirogroup have worked on varying but complementary projects and actions. The result is that our children have been empowered, and have formed a strong connection with their waterways and the species that live in them. I've had parents come up to me and say they they've lived here their whole lives, and never knew we had penguins on the beach. That's pretty exciting stuff where not only our children but our whole community is benefiting from simple but effective actions."

Georgia Ritchie, Envirogroup representative, says that, "We are really proud of our fish on drains campaign. It's pretty cool walking around our neighbourhood and seeing the fish. I'm pretty excited about doing them in town. It shows our school really looks after our environment and the creatures in it."

Paroa School Joins the Programme

A big welcome to our newest EnviroSchool! **Paroa School** has become part of the EnviroSchools network. Their enviro committee launched into action with a waste audit (photo right). We look forward to seeing the actions you take from this Paroa.



ABOVE: Planter boxes constructed by Kidsfirst Karoro children. Note the recycled library shelf!

4. Place / Wahi

Transforming Kidsfirst Karoro Kindergarten

Kidsfirst Karoro Kindergarten has been working wonders at their centre. As a result from discussions and learning with their tamariki, staff dedicated time over the Term 2 holidays to do an overhaul of the inside and outside environment, clearing out spaces, introducing many natural materials and display areas, and setting up a mud kitchen. The result is the grounds are a learning resource and a site for student action. Plans are underway to develop the entrance to the Centre and children are sharing their ideas for how this area should be used. Watch this space!

A Facelift for Granity School

Granity School teacher Jendy Price applied to Mitre 10 for help to construct a new chicken coop - the result was a complete garden and playground makeover! The children had some input into the planning stages and some came along with parents to help with shovelling, planting and gardening on the weekend the makeover took place.

In two and half days of tumultuous weather, the playground was completely re landscaped. Fences and playground were painted, a recycled surf board seat was built, a climbing wall made, 60m of new path, a pergola built, huge deck and viewing platform, an old boat repurposed as a playground feature, new sign, whare, a sculpture, and a brand new chicken coop!

Teacher Penny Madden said the envirogroup have continued to muck in, getting the vege beds prepared amongst other projects. "Since the makeover our enviro group has collected stones from the beach, cleaned and painted them and arranged them in the shade area as stone flower art to brighten things up. They've also looked into what native trees to plant to encourage more native birds into our school. There has been lots of planting of natives and we have installed a bird house too. The children are really motivated by recreating their place."



Dates to Diary



Term 3

Date	Event	Description & website
18 & 19 August	Outlook for Someday FREE Film Making Workshops Greymouth 18th Hokitika 19th	This free one-day workshop is open to students from school years 7 to 13 (age 11 to 18), as well as teachers and youth workers who want to engage with The Outlook for Someday as a vehicle for sustainability film-making. Check out the flyers below and register here: http://www.theoutlookforsomeday.net/about/workshop-series/
1 Sept	Enviroschools Movie Night in Hokitika	A special screening of 'Project Wild Thing' for Enviroschools teachers. Venue: Reynolds Room, Hokitika Regent Time: 5:30-7pm Please RSVP to Zoe
10 -18 Sept	Conservation Week	Get into nature this Conservation Week! Go to http://www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/conservation-week/ for some great ideas.
12 - 18 Sept	KNZB Clean Up Week	It's easy to get involved, simply join an organised Clean Up Event in your area, or set up your own Clean Up Event that other people can come along to. Check out the details here: http://www.knzb.org.nz/cleanupweek
14 Sept	West Coast Penguin Trust Education Workshop	Venue: Hokitika Primary School Time: 3:30 - 5pm Cost: Free! Not to mention delicious refreshments. Suitable for educators, youth group leaders, and community groups wanting to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become familiar with the content and benefits of the West Coast Penguin Trust's new education resource, 'Blue Penguins & Other Seabirds' • Learn about activities to inspire the group you are working with to take action • Learn how to use an Action Framework / Inquiry process • Develop a sustainable action plan
18 Sept	Waste Free Parenting Workshop with the Nappy Lady	Venue: WestREAP Hokitika Time: 2:30-4:30 Join Kate Meads for this fun and informative workshop. See the flyer below for more info. Subsidised by Westland District Council, and supported by WestREAP and Enviroschools.
21 Sept	Enviroschools Cluster Meeting Hokitika 'Working towards zero waste'	Venue: TBC, Hokitika Time: 3:45-5pm, Topics: 'Working toward zero waste & litterless lunches' Jade Winter a nutritionist from CPH will be speaking.
27 Sept	World Rivers Day	www.worldriversday.com/resources



**PLUS
GET A FREE
STARTER
PACK**



WASTE FREE PARENTING

with the Nappy Lady

Hokitika – Sunday 18th September 2016

Venue: WestREAP
72 Tudor Street, Hokitika

Time: 2:30 – 4:30pm

Cost: \$25 for an individual or couple
Light refreshments will be provided

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT NAPPIES, LEARN ABOUT:

 Save money with Waste Free methods	 The environmental impact of how we live	 Some of the modern nappy options	 Laundry & Bathroom environmental options available	 Other ways to reduce your waste with little ones in the house
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BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Book now at WestREAP
03 755 8700 / 72 Tudor Street, Hokitika
 Or call Kate, The Nappy Lady on 07 549 2955 for more information



FREE ONE-DAY FILM-MAKING WORKSHOP HOKITIKA

This free one-day workshop is open to students from school years 7 to 13 (age 11 to 18), as well as teachers and youth workers who want to engage with **The Outlook for Someday** as a vehicle for sustainability film-making.

All workshop participants will make short films and screen them at the end of the day.

Each student will also come away with a story idea in development - one that is meaningful to them and which they could then turn into a film as an entry to **The Outlook for Someday** film challenge.

Venue: St Johns Hokitika
 Date: Friday 19 August 2016
 Time: 9am - 4.30pm

Please register online as spaces are limited to 25 participants per workshop.

Register online at:

www.theoutlookforsomeday.net/workshops



FREE ONE-DAY FILM-MAKING WORKSHOP GREYMOUTH

Venue: Karoro Learning Centre
 Date: Thursday 18 August 2016
 Time: 9am - 4.30pm

More info and registration at:

www.theoutlookforsomeday.net/workshops



Did you know?

If every baby had just one cloth nappy change per day, this would prevent 1 Million disposables from going to land fill every week in New Zealand's. Whoa mumma! From the *Nappy Lady* website <http://www.thenappylady.co.nz/>



Honey. I Shrunk the Kids Lunchbox Waste!

Looking for an eco-friendly fundraiser? Support local artist Veronika Maser and her divine 'reusable food wraps'. These beeswax wraps are an alternative to plastic wrap for food. Contact Veronika veronika.m@clear.net.nz



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MĀWHERA
GREY
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



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