

Kids Discovery Plant-out 2019 Activities Report

Te Ara Kākāriki – Canterbury Greenway Trust

The Kids Discovery Plant-out programme is a successful collaboration between Te Ara Kākāriki and Enviroschools and has been delivered to Selwyn schools for the past six years. Students have the opportunity to learn about native biodiversity through hands on experience in adopting a long term relationship with a native ecosystem close to their school. Through planting and monitoring days the students take on a role of tiaki tamariki, caring for their special biodiversity restoration site and together contributing to restoring native ecosystems across the Canterbury Plains.

Enviroschools aims to support integration of sustainable practise throughout the school curriculum. During a Kids Discovery Plant-out day students lead action to restore habitat for biodiversity. This action is carried out within the context of their whole school inquiry focus. In 2019 the majority of teachers shared their focus with Matt Stanford, their Enviroschools Facilitator, allowing him to create a bespoke programme of hands-on activities that supported their curriculum focus.



Activities are led by enthusiastic experts and are hands-on opportunities to investigate biodiversity at the site, reflect on and problem solve an issue and / or create something meaningful to the student.

Activities offered in 2019 included searching for terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, learning about rongoā rakau (native flora herbal preparations), learning to weave harakeke, propagate native seedlings from cuttings and monitor pests. Activity leaders include Mike Bowie and his Conservation Ecology degree students from Lincoln University and Kaumātua Daphne O'Connell from Ngāti Moki marae. These people work hard to increase the student's knowledge of New Zealand's special heritage and ways we can all help look after it.

The Kids Discovery Plant-out day is a full day of activity. In 2019 the programme was offered to fourteen schools, with 1,329 students planting a total of 5,479 eco-sourced seedlings at sites throughout the Selwyn District.

We continue to work towards building stronger bonds with our partners, funders, facilitators and schools.

Kids Discovery Plant-out 2019 – the data

- August, **Burnham School** at Burnham Military Camp Golf course. 155 year 0-8 students planted 751 native seedlings. Students participated in activities to learn about community and connections present in a thriving native ecosystem. They went on a Minibeast Safari and created bird nests to understand how invertebrates and birds help the native forest, learnt ways Maori traditionally valued native plants through weaving harakeke and practising rongoā rakau. They also learnt about pest threats to New Zealand's forest communities
- August, **Ladbrooks School**. 100 year 3-8 students planted 450 eco-sourced seedlings along the Huritini River at Stackwoods Bend. In class the students had been learning about native birds (their unique features and adaptations) and today gave nature a helping hand by taking softwood cuttings of mature karamu. They learnt about threats to biodiversity and set up monitoring chew cards
- August, **West Melton School** at Kowhai Sanctuary, Thompsons Road. 60 year 6 students planted 430 eco-sourced seedlings to extend the dryland habitat. Through activities the students discovered how invertebrates and native birds help the native forest and were introduced to the traditional Maori practice of rongoā rakau
- August, **Tai Tapu School** at Woodgate property, Huritini / Halswell River. 52 year 5 & 6 students planted 350 eco-sourced seedlings along the river corridor. The students investigated invertebrate life in the waterway and forest. They learnt about the role of native birds in supporting forest regeneration.
- September, **Rolleston Christian School** at Foster Park. 70 year 3-6 students planted 200 native dryland species. They extended their class learning about food by participating in activities about insect pollination, rongoā rakau and sustainable packaging.



- September, **Ararira Springs School** at Ararira waterway. 130 year 0-8 students planted 400 native seedlings. The students investigated fish and aquatic invertebrates living in the waterway, learnt how native birds help create new forest and wove fish from harakeke. This supported their curriculum focus on water.
- September, **Broadfield School** at Broadfield Reserve. 98 year 4-8 students planted 400 eco-sourced seedlings. The students investigated what is living in the waterway and learnt how this can indicate water quality. They were challenged to consider how water should be used through an Enviroschools activity. They also learnt the traditional Maori art of harakeke weaving.
- September, **Lincoln Primary School** at Yarrs Flat Reserve. 160 year 5 & 6 students planted 448 eco-sourced seedlings. The students learnt about the role of native birds in a healthy ecosystem and gave nature a hand by taking soft-wood ngaio cuttings to grow on. They investigated aquatic life in the Ararira and searched for invertebrates involved with decomposition of old logs. They also helped monitor pests that threaten biodiversity around Te Waihora
- September, **Glentunnel School** at Joyce Reserve. 107 year 0-6 students planted 300 eco-sourced seedlings. The students investigated aquatic invertebrates living in the Waikirikiri and searched for terrestrial invertebrates along the river banks. They also learnt how native birds help to regenerate forests
- September, **Springston School** at Yarrs Flat Reserve. 46 year 3 & 4 students planted 300 eco-sourced seedlings. In class students had been learning about the impact of Maori and early European settlers on native biodiversity. At Yarrs Flat they participated in a Story Walk to discover why some bird species have become extinct and why others are threatened. They helped to monitor pests present around the lake and learnt to take soft-wood cuttings to increase habitat for biodiversity



- September, **Darfield High School** at Joyce Reserve. 118 year 9 students planted 500 eco-sourced seedlings. Craig Pauling spoke of how Waitaha iwi traditionally used the area and Aunty Daphne O'Connell shared her knowledge of harakeke weaving. Jocelyn Pappriill helped the students investigate life in the Waikirikiri and issues affecting water quality. The plant-out day supported their Social Science learning about water.
- September, **Springfield School** at their school. 45 year 0-6 students planted 500 eco-sourced seedlings. The students learnt about the interconnectedness of a native ecosystem, with birds and invertebrates helping with seed dispersal, pollination and decomposition. They also learnt to take soft-wood cuttings to help provide more habitat. The day supported the enquiry stage of their class focus on Plants & their Habitats.
- September, **Darfield Primary School** at their school waterway. 76 year 5 & 6 students planted 150 Carex secta along the waterway to create habitat for aquatic life. They participated in Story of an Awa, reflecting on the impact of pollution on water life and solutions. They investigated invertebrates living in the school waterway and helped monitor pests. The day extended their class learning about native habitats and pests threatening native birds
- October, **Leeston Consolidated School** at Yarrs Flat Reserve. 112 Year 3 & 4 students planted 300 eco-sourced seedlings. The students investigated invertebrates and their role in a healthy ecosystem. They also investigated fish and invertebrates living in the Ararira. They learnt about how pests threaten native biodiversity and participated in monitoring pest species. The focus on well-being of an ecosystem extended their class focus on self and community well-being.



Teacher Feedback about 2019 Kids Discovery Plant-out days

Rolleston Christian School Teacher Mandy Cleave said “The kids were so excited about the activities. They LOVED the bug hunting. They were fascinated by the rongoa and making kanuka tea. This extended our learning about food and their knowledge about our own school native forest”

Ladbrooks School Teacher Sarah Ridgeway said “It was awesome! Kids got to have a go at everything. I heard some children saying this is their favourite activity of the year”.

Broadfield School Teacher Michaela Gover said “Our students look forward to this fantastic outdoor learning opportunity every year. The day is super organised and each activity is well timed for maximum student involvement”.

Springston School teacher Allana Taylor said there was “great activities, brilliant instructors” and the day was “well planned and organised”.

Darfield High School Head of Social Science teacher Anna Lee rated the day as Excellent. She said “the day ran really smoothly” and “the cultural perspective was great”. The plant-out day supported the students’ learning as it presented a “tangible experience for students to connect to their own environment and community”.

Leeston Consolidated School teacher Lisa McClure loved the connection to the class focus of well-being. She said “the strong connection to well-being really helps to empower the children that they can make positive changes which affects not only their well-being but the well-being of our community”.



Monitoring Sessions

A group of Enviro-Club students from each school visits their native restoration site each year to monitor how the ecosystem is developing. The students are taught the skills to observe and record plant survival and the presence of native bird and invertebrate species. Students also learn to take photo points as a way of tracking plant growth. An iNaturalist site has been created for each school and students are guided to upload monitoring data and ask experts to identify any unusual species found. While on site students also do hand weeding and help to protect plants.

Monitoring results from 2019

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May, Broadfield School 10 students • May, Springfield School 17 students • June, Darfield Primary School 11 students • June, Glentunnel School 10 students • June, Ladbrooks School 8 students • August, Lincoln Primary School 7 students | <p>Recorded 98.9% survival rate of their plants</p> <p>Recorded 99.75 % survival rate of their plants</p> <p>Recorded 98.5% survival rate of their plants</p> <p>Recorded 99.4% survival rate of their plants</p> <p>Recorded 99.25% survival rate of their plants</p> <p>Recorded 92% survival rate of their plants</p> |
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Average plant survival rate after nine months is **98%**

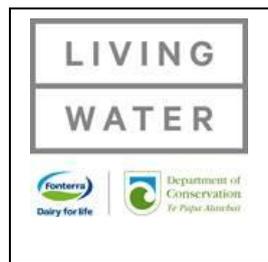


Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Awards 2019 – runner up



Acknowledgements

Thank you to our Funders:



Programme Facilitators

Lou Drage - Te Ara Kākāriki Kids Discovery Plant-out Coordinator

Matthew Stanford - Enviroschools Facilitator

Thanks to our fantastic Activity leaders

Aunty Daphne O'Connell, Ngāti Moki marae

Jocelyn Papprell, Youth Engagement and Education Advisor at Environment Canterbury

Gary Boyd, Department of Conservation

Denise Ford, General Manager, Waihora Ellesmere Trust

Mike Bowie, Entomologist with Lincoln University

Rebecca Dollery, Post Doc Restoration Ecology, Lincoln University

Sarah Visser & Flora Wang - Conservation Ecology degree students, Lincoln University

Fundraising and planning (and activity leaders) Letitia Lum & Elizabeth Guthrey, Te Ara Kākāriki Coordinators

Te Ara Kākāriki Trustees hands on with KDP Peter Joyce, Pam Aldersley & Mike Bowie

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Les Wanhalla, Murray Lemon, Iaeen Cranwell & Fiona McDonald

