



Ōpiki School

Enviroschool Bronze Reflection

Friday 13th September

Biodiversity Project - Our Aim

Our groups aim is to encourage native birds and insects to our school. We can do this by planting lots more trees and flowers.

We have been creating a butterfly garden that will include nectar flowers and host plants for butterflies, such as swan plants, lupins, sweetpeas and stinging nettles.

We would also like to grow a small wild area and have scattered wildflower seeds.



Biodiversity Project - We have done

So far we have planted lots of seeds for the butterfly garden, watered them daily and planted some of them in the soil to grow. We have also wrote a letter to Mrs Gurney to approve some of our ideas, like a wild area.



Biodiversity Project - What difference we have made

We are increasing the biodiversity in our gardens and we are helping to teach kids all about it.

We hope to see more butterfly species in and around our gardens.

We are helping the community to learn what can be done in their own gardens.

We are learning about biodiversity and how everything is connected.

Blue butterfly



Monarch



Red admiral



Biodiversity Project - Our next steps

Our next steps are to grow a wild area to encourage more wildlife. We also want to make bird feeders, insect hotels and bird homes with old recycled materials and wood. Some of these things might be linked to our Ag Day. You can spot some of these around our school already.



Fruit and Vegetable Project - We have done

So far we have created multiple garden beds and planted many seeds.

We have made delicious soups and muffins and most of all worked together to grow healthy vegetables for kids to eat.

We have also made a koha shed for whanau to give what they can and take what they need. We have made \$50 to put towards growing more nutritious kai for our school whanau. We also made \$100 making and selling pumpkin soup with the profit going back to our garden.



Fruit and Vegetable Project - Our Aim

Our aim is to have a healthy environment to grow vegetables and fruits and grow lots of yummy produce.

We have increased our garden beds and added new soil.

We have also grown green crops in many of the beds to improve the soil. We used a blue lupin, oat and mustard mix.

The beds are now ready for this season.



Fruit and Vegetable Project - What difference we have made

By planting fruit and veggies we have made a difference as a school by showing lots of kids that you can grow fruit and veggies at home and you don't just have to buy them from the supermarket.

We have also helped to increase the biodiversity in the gardens.



Fruit and Vegetable Project - Our next steps

1. Firstly is to produce more fruit and vegetables that we know we can use and eat.
2. Secondly is to Increase the use of our produce within our school and have less being wasted.
3. Lastly is to plant some more fruit trees in our school garden area. We hope to grow feijoas, plums, mandarin and plant more strawberry plants.



Sustainability Project - Our Aim

Our aim is to reduce plastic by reducing waste, reusing and recycle. We also want to improve composting, conservation of energy and acting on climate change so that our whanau and wildlife are safe.



Sustainability - What we have done

We have been trialling making beeswax wraps. We have failed a few times but we also are making progress.

Ōpiki school had an Enviro Action day and there were multiple activities using recycled materials.

We made bug hotels, did flax weaving and made pots to plant seeds. Our hoa me te whanau learnt about our environment and the nature surrounding us.

For market day Ōpiki School are only using recycled material so no bought plastic or bought items. Ōpiki School also recycles paper by having a separate paper bin and then we work with Paper for Trees.



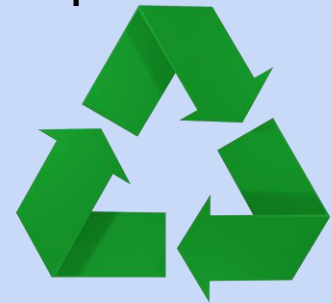
Sustainability - What difference we have made

As a school we have helped by making beeswax wraps and refusing the use of plastic. We are using less paper within our school. We are increasing the amount of trees in our school grounds and are planning to plant trees at the Poplar Road Reserve.



Sustainability - Our next steps

- 1 Improve the recycling systems in our school.
- 2 Get others involved and for them to enjoy planting trees, recycling paper, reducing waste and composting.
- 3 Reduce energy consumption by turning off lights and heat pumps when we do not need it.
- 4 Continue to refine the making of the beeswax wraps and look at selling them to the school community.



Poplar Road Reserve Project - Our Aim

Our Aim is to improve the area for wildlife. We plan to do this by removing pest plants and weeds. We also plan to collect tree seeds, propagate them and replant.

We also want to encourage people from our community to visit the reserve. We will do this by improving the access, improving the paths and providing more information like a nature trail.

Poplar Road Reserve - We have done

We have set a couple of traps and have caught over 10 possums, and a couple of rats. We have pulled out lots of Jerusalem Cherry, Nightshade and Elderberry trees.



Poplar Road Reserve - What difference we have made

So far we have signed an agreement with DOC to manage the reserve and started to control pests and predators. We have improved access by replacing/repairing the dangerous bridges and cutting back the path.

We have given guide tours of the reserve to the senior students at Ōpiki school and students from Terrace End School.



Poplar Road Reserve - Our next steps

Our next steps are:

- *Continue to trap predators and add more traps.*
- *Continue to remove and control weed plants.*
- *Add more paths to get to different areas.*
- *Identify wildlife and create an information and nature trail.*
- *Encourage more people to use the reserve.*
- *Use the reserve as an educational resource for our school*

Enviro Action Day

On Friday 16th August we had a whole school Enviro Action Day.

The senior students in Room 5 and 6 led different activities along with the teachers and some parent volunteers. It was loads of fun and we did lots of fun activities including:

- *Nature treasure hunt*
- *Building rat traps and bug houses*
- *Cat collars to protect birds*
- *Microscope safari*
- *A talk about lizards, geckos and a parrot*
- *Nature art and painting*
- *Sowing flower seeds*
- *Baking muffins using spinach from the garden, and*
- *Recycling sorting target game*

