

# Enviroschools TAIRĀWHITI

## Term 3 Panui

### Kia ora koutou Enviroschools whanau

Wow, it's been another busy term and it's inspiring to see so many cool Taiao projects unfolding and having an impact in and around our local kura.

Term Two is the season for planting and this term didn't disappoint with several kura taking up the wero to teach their tamariki about the incredible benefits of rakau.

Charlotte and Hinauri attended the National Waste Minimization Conference hearing about the latest in the waste world and gaining insights into how we can all play our part to reduce waste.

Over the coming months we will be reviewing our programme and developing resources that we hope will support Kaiako to integrate Taiao learning more easily.

### Shout Outs

We want to extend a huge thank you to the Haumanu Tū Ora and Wai Connections teams who have collaborated on several projects over the past years supporting kura to understand and take action to improve the mauri and health of our awa in Tairāwhiti. Their enthusiasm, flexibility, and willingness to share matauranga has been so amazing and we really appreciate all that they've done.

Nga mihi to Beccy Dove the Enviroschools Induction and Mentoring Coordinator for coming down to deliver a full day workshop with our team. It's always great to glean inspiration from the wider Enviroschools whanau.

You are super stars at the Tairāwhiti Environment Centre! Sharing space with us and housing and managing bookings for the precious taxidermy pests that are so powerful for enforcing the reality when we talk about pest control. We value all your awahi and ongoing assistance.

Special thanks to the Department of Conservation for allowing us to borrow your taonga manu to bring learning to life.

As always it's been a buzz collecting healthy, flourishing rakau for schools from the Women's Native Tree Trust Project to take for eager tamariki to plant. Huge thank you for the impact this is making across our wider community.

Also a massive thanks to Eastland Port who have delivered mulch to help keep the weeds down and retain moisture while these rakau get established.

## Events For Term 3

### Māra Kai Kaiako get together

**What to expect:** We'll use the brainstorm of challenges we created last time and continue to discuss solutions. This will be a less structured hui, with an emphasis on sharing from experience. We'll also provide some te hotoke (winter) māra inspo to take away.

*Light refreshments will be provided*

📅 Wednesday 9th September, 2026

🕒 3.45pm to 5pm

📍 Tairāwhiti Environment Centre  
(386 Palmerston Road)

**RSVP via email to:**

**[amy.graham@gdc.govt.nz](mailto:amy.graham@gdc.govt.nz)**

**or**

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**before 7th September to register.**



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## Inspo For Term 3

### Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week

In September it is **Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week** and there are loads of ways you can invite tamariki to take action. Whether you want to organise for your class to do a clean-up event or teach them the importance of being a 'Tidy Kiwi' – there's something to suit everyone.

Check out the 'Keep New Zealand Beautiful' website for more ideas and reach out if you need support.

[Schools - Keep New Zealand Beautiful](#)

### Resene Wall Worthy Competition

Amazing prizes up for grabs alongside taking creative action for Te Taiao with the **Resene Wall Worthy** competition this September. The Resene Wall Worthy Competition gives your student's the chance to use their creativity to create environmental awareness through mural art. Learn about and prepare for it now and create during Keep NZ Beautiful Week. Entries don't close for the competition until November.

For more details click on link:

[Transform Walls With Murals - Resene Mural Masterpieces Competition](#)

### Edible Garden Design Competition

**Calling all creative Year 6-8 Tamariki!**

The Botanical Gardens are revamping a garden and want your help. The winning design will be adopted, and the winners will have the opportunity to get involved with planting too. Further details coming soon.

### Community Compost Workshops

**Want to learn about composting?**

Tairāwhiti Environment Centre are running FREE workshops that will help you decompose like a pro!

- 8th August – Composting
- 19th September – Composting

### Makariri Days

Use these makariri days to plan and prepare for Koanga (Spring) in the **māra**. Discuss seasonal kai with your class and make a plan for what you're going to grow. Feed and layer with mulch so the garden beds are rich and ready for seedlings when it gets warmer.



Awapuni School, 'Our Place - Turanga-nui-a-Kiwa'

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## Highlights From Term 2



### Museum School Holiday Programme

#### He Awa Ora

Enviroschools jumped at the opportunity to facilitate a Taiao themed holiday programme, where tamariki and whanau got to participate in the Taruheru awa riparian planting behind the museum, learn about what rakau do for our awa and sow their own native rakau to take home and nurture. We absolutely loved seeing the Mamas, Papas, Aunts and Nannies getting stuck in with the next generation of Taiao enthusiasts.



### Kaiti School Planting

**He rangi mokopuna! What a privilege to join Kaiti School for two massive days planting rākau with the junior school.**

After two planting dates being postponed due to bad weather, we were blessed with Tamanuiterā shining down to get the mahi done. The tamariki showed respect and enthusiasm throughout the planting and loved the kemu that reinforced the importance of planting native rakau too.

A special mihi to the tuakana who displayed kaha helping to dig holes, cart cardboard and mulch as well as supporting the teina. This project has been running for 14 years! Kia mau te wehi Kaiti for your ongoing commitment to te Taiao. Together, we planted rākau that will continue to grow for generations to come.



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### Taruheru Awa Planting

**with St Marys, Stellar Maris and the community, followed by Pest Trapping Workshops**

For 15 years, St Marys Kaiako and akonga have dreamt of the space between their school and the Taruheru awa being clear and planted with rakau to protect the riverbanks from erosion, help filter out pollution and to provide habitat and kai for more of our native species. Previous attempts for support weren't as successful, however last year, for persuasive writing one class wrote to Gisborne District Council asking for assistance to clear the invasive weeds and to collaborate with improving the space. Turns out the voice of our tamariki is very powerful and a new project sprouted. The Haumanu Tū Ora and Biosecurity Teams came on board to make a plan with the school, and the kaiako enhanced the learning journey by engaging with the Wai Connections and He Awa Ora, He Tai Ora (Healthy Rivers, Living Pea) teams who brought to life the challenges the Taruheru awa faces. This culminated in two whole school and community planting days where a beautiful Raperape design and pathway were created representing the continuous flow of life, the intertwining and connectiveness of all living creatures of the taiao. It is known to symbolise the movements of the water when the hoe (paddle) cuts through and the pito (umbilical cord) that joins mama to pepi. Raperape is used in whakairo (carving) and moko, particularly on the buttocks.

Going the extra mile to keep the area pest free Koka Didi's class has taken on the responsibility of checking and re-setting a trapline. Huge mihi to Reuben from the Haumanu Tū Ora team for all his time and effort to support this kaupapa.



### ECE- Botanical Garden Excursions

#### He rangi taiao!

It was a beautiful morning with our tauira from Farmyard. The tamariki enjoyed being kaitiaki as they explored and learnt about all the exciting spots at the Botanical Gardens including the new riparian planting, bee and butterfly friendly garden, the native ngahere and tree stump fairy house. A highlight was discovering the pukapuka hidden at different locations throughout the gardens as well engaging with delights along the way like ngahuru (autumn) leaves, a cute fungi forest, bark piles to climb and a stunning ngutukaka flowering for them to observe the kaka beak shape.

A big mihi to the kaiako and whānau who made this trip possible.



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## Highlights From Term 2



### What is Biosecurity?

#### Epic day of learning at Hatea-a-Rangi

Our Biosecurity Day was a hit with our special guest Ariana Ngaronoa from Maiangi Taiao sharing her mātāuranga, creative activities and kemu helping tamariki understand what Biosecurity is all about and inspiring the next generation of trappers and Taiao Warriors. The tamariki patai and facial expressions were awesome!



### Wainui Compost Workshops

It was an absolute pleasure working alongside the tamariki of Wainui. This kura is truly exceptional, with so many amazing tiaki taiao kaupapa happening throughout the school. From composting and trapping to daily tasks that help care for the environment, the students are actively doing their part as kaitiaki every day. We spent time with the junior class and the leadership rōpū sharing about why composting is so important and then tested their knowledge with hands-on sessions sorting out the kai scraps, collecting brown material and checking the health of their compost bin followed by gathering and utilising some of the beautiful rich compost they'd made to nourish their school māra kai. We also discussed the next steps, including making sure we don't throw our home scraps into rubbish bags destined for landfill, but instead keep them within the composting system to support their tiaki taiao practices outside of kura too.



### He Awa Ora Workshop

#### with Awapuni School at Waihirere Domain

What a cool day for akonga to learn and observe the different elements of awa health compared to what they'd seen at Waikanae. This event was part of a wider education programme where the school teamed up with He Awa Ora He Tai Ora Trust in Terms 1 & 2 to learn all about what's going on in their local awa.

Enviroschools ran rotations learning about pests (what they are, the damage they're doing and what we can do to help). Huge mihi to Shannon Barbarich who joined us for the day sharing her trapping expertise and helping tamariki to get to know and understand some of Aotearoa's pests better.



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### Kaiako Māra Kai Workshop

Many kaiako have expressed how challenging it can be to work in the māra with tamariki so we got together to share, inspire and problem-solve. As we hope to develop this into a regular get together, we started with some kemu getting to know each other better, followed by demonstrating some super simple activities that we linked to the curriculum and learning outcomes. We shared briefly about the benefits and importance of this mahi. After this was a brainstorming/discussion time about specific challenges and exploring/sharing solutions. We ran out of time to get through it all but will allow more time for this next time (see date above). Our community is so blessed to have such incredible kaiako encouraging them to engage and connect with māra kai activities.



### Mangaone Station Wetland Planting with Gisint

**Iti noa, he pito mata**  
*even a small seed has potential*

Nine years ago, Sophie and Nick Land's daughter learnt about awa health at Wainui Beach School, which she shared with her parents at Mangaone Station and has now led to an ongoing project to protect and plant on their farm starting with the wetland over the last 8 years but with ongoing plans for improvements. Last week Enviroschools was fortunate to join Koka Rozie Grimmet's class for some grass roots fun with the sheep in muddy yards and lots of hard mahi to put rakau in the ground. Keep up the amazing mahi Gisint!



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