

Waikato ENVIROSCHOOLS

He mihi

Kia ora, and welcome to the Waikato Enviroschools newsletter.

This newsletter is packed with useful information to keep you up to date on the inspirational mahi happening in our rohe.

It looks like it will be another challenging year for schools, kura and our communities, but you've got this!

To help you continue your Enviroschools journey, we have some super online and in-person events planned for both teachers and students.

Your facilitator will be touch regularly to offer support. They're eager to tautoko all your sustainability projects, inquiries and kaupapa throughout 2022, so please call on them when you need support.

Also get in touch if you spot an opportunity in your area.

Enjoy this read, and please forward this newsletter on to any interested colleagues.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui

Ngā mihi,

The Enviroschools team



What we do | Tā mātou mahi

Enviroschools is a nationwide programme supported by Toimata Foundation, founding partner Te Mauri Tau, and a large network of regional partners, like us here at Waikato Regional Council.

It helps support early childhood centres and schools on their long-term sustainability journeys, teaching a generation of young people to value and nurture their natural environment.

Our vision is to create a healthy, peaceful, sustainable world through learning and taking action together.



195 Enviroschools

52
ECE centres

143
schools

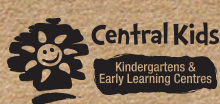
44,300
tamariki and students

15% of early childhood
51% of primary and intermediate

35% of secondary
63% of composite and other

14 regional partners

Waikato Enviroschools acknowledge our funding partners. Their ongoing input and funding is essential to the success of the Enviroschool programme throughout our region.



Opportunities in 2022 | Ngā kaupapa e haere ake nei



There are many great EnviroSchools opportunities coming up for staff and students. We've already started the 'EnviroSchools 101' professional learning and development (PLD) series and we've loved connecting with so many of you to share ideas and stories. Dates and details of upcoming events will be confirmed by your local EnviroSchools facilitator.



For students

Master Chef Māra Kai Challenge for primary students

Terms 1 and 2

The challenge is for students to use at least five ingredients from their school garden to create a healthy, tasty lunch! Student teams will grow, prepare and present a cooked dish, a salad and a dessert or drink, which will be judged by chefs.

Start planning your gardens and dishes in term 1 for the cook-offs in term 2.

Register your interest here: forms.office.com/r/G3UQcFH7NH

The first 10 schools to register will receive a \$50 Mitre 10 voucher to help start or improve their garden, thanks to our friends at Mitre 10!

For teachers (regional professional development – terms 1 and 2)



Applying for an EnviroSchools Grant (online support)

8 March, 3.30pm-5.00pm

An informative session aimed at Waikato EnviroSchools interested in applying for funding for environmental projects. The grant is open for applications from 2 March till 13 April.

Register here: forms.office.com/r/95fuBmhqcg

Teacher Renergise (online)

23 March, 3.30pm-5.30pm

A professional development session to inspire, support and energise new and experienced teachers and principals.

In this online event, you will have a chance to reconnect with the EnviroSchools kaupapa, hear inspiring stories from other local enviroschools and have an opportunity to crowd-source solutions to the sustainability challenges your school may be facing.

Register here: forms.office.com/r/A6QCTM8wjd

Tangata Tiriti / Treaty people workshop

(Te Aratiatia Marae, Hamilton)

10 June, 9.00am-4.00pm

Growing understanding and application of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, specifically for EnviroSchools.

Register here: forms.office.com/r/EvxBj732V1

EnviroSchools reflection workshop (venue TBC)

12 May, 1.30pm-4.00pm

If your school wants to reflect at Silver of Green-Gold, or re-reflect at Green-Gold, in 2022 or 2023, please join us for this workshop.

Register here: forms.office.com/r/eeX4Daq3yx



Quick sustainability tip | He tīwhiri

Eco-friendly mask use

It might feel jarring to be using disposable masks every day – and it's hard to escape the environmental impact of the additional single use plastic we're now having to consume.

As with all things, we can identify the problem and then explore the alternatives. Did you know that surgical masks can be washed up to 10 times and still be more effective than fabric masks? Here are some top tips from the team.

- The most effective way to wash the mask is to massage it in warm water. Then hang it up to dry overnight. This removes biological material, such as mucus and saliva.
- It is NOT recommended to use soap, dishwashing liquid or bleach as this affects the electrostatic charge on a mask's middle layer, making it less effective (but still better than cloth masks).
- It is NOT recommended to put mask through the washing machine with soap powder. This is the harshest way of washing them, and hand washing in water is fine.
- Check for wear and tear, making sure there are no holes, no thinning of the material and the ties or elastic loops to keep the mask in place are still in good condition. If there is wear and tear, dispose of the mask immediately.

Remember to dispose of your mask in the rubbish (landfill) bin and cut the ear loops of masks before disposal so that they don't pose a threat to wildlife.

Our stories | Ngā hua

Waikino outdoor classroom rebuild



In November 2020, Waikino school lost their outdoor classroom, Whare Manu, to a fire caused by a pizza oven.

“We don’t know what happened, whether there was a crack in the oven, whether the door wasn’t put back in, or whether a hot ember got into the wood pile below it, but it doesn’t matter, it happened,” principal Jo Wheway said.

“Luckily, one of our neighbours up the road was on the early shift. When she came past at 3am, she saw the flames and raised the alarm.”

The original pizza oven had been part funded by the Waikato Regional Council EnviroSchools fund. It was designed and constructed by students as part of the school’s effort to build more sustainably.

Wheway said the oven was used almost daily.

“While the children were disappointed, we all learned from the experience and wanted to build back better.”

The new pizza oven was made of concrete, clay, river stones, and wine bottles, and every pupil has had a hand in building it.

“Every kid has done something, either making some plaster, helping to decorate it, or building the wall.”

The school has been humbled by the support they had received since the fire.

“The community has been amazing. Last year, after it happened, all the schools raised money for us, and they kept turning up with cheques or cards. It is coming back like a phoenix from the ashes because that’s what it feels like.”

After a long process and many hours’ hard work from students and school community, the new whare manū is now finished and has had its first community firing.

If you have a project you would like to get off the ground, please contact your facilitator to discuss the Waikato Regional Council grant fund.



Pukeatua upcycling waste for the garden

The gardening group at Pukeatua School has been busy growing an abundance of food, flowers and seedlings. What makes this even more special is that they have been reusing, recycling and upcycling resources to get the mahi done! They discovered their old school desks made perfect seedling trays to help keep the small plants watered. And they found an alternative use for broken gumboots as plant pots, thereby keeping them away from landfill.

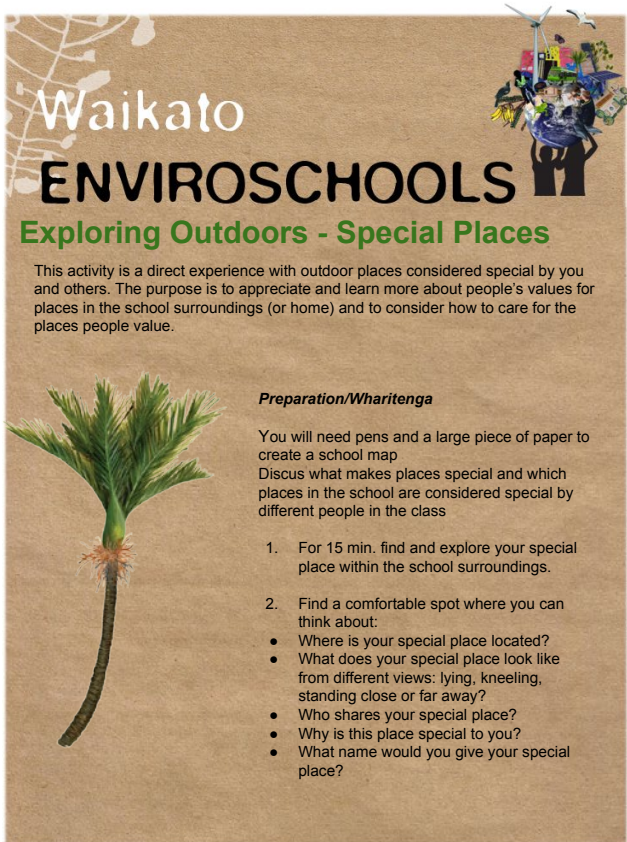
They also used some money from their Envirofund grant to buy timber for a greenhouse frame. After building the frame, they used rescued plastic sheeting to create the greenhouse, and nailing the nails through milk-bottle tops so the sheet doesn’t tear quickly. They now call it the Gingerbread Greenhouse because of all the colours and details.



Enviroschools resource spotlight | He rauemi

With the term now well and truly underway, we hope you're all feeling excited and invigorated for the year ahead! Each week, to support learning outdoors and wellbeing, we will share a few activities that you can do with your students outside. These resources to support learning from school or home, and can be found [here](#).

For more useful resources like this, head to waikatoregion.govt.nz/resources-for-teachers.



Waikato
ENVIROSCHOOLS
Exploring Outdoors - Special Places

This activity is a direct experience with outdoor places considered special by you and others. The purpose is to appreciate and learn more about people's values for places in the school surroundings (or home) and to consider how to care for the places people value.

Preparation/Wharitenga

You will need pens and a large piece of paper to create a school map
Discuss what makes places special and which places in the school are considered special by different people in the class

1. For 15 min. find and explore your special place within the school surroundings.
2. Find a comfortable spot where you can think about:
 - Where is your special place located?
 - What does your special place look like from different views: lying, kneeling, standing close or far away?
 - Who shares your special place?
 - Why is this place special to you?
 - What name would you give your special place?

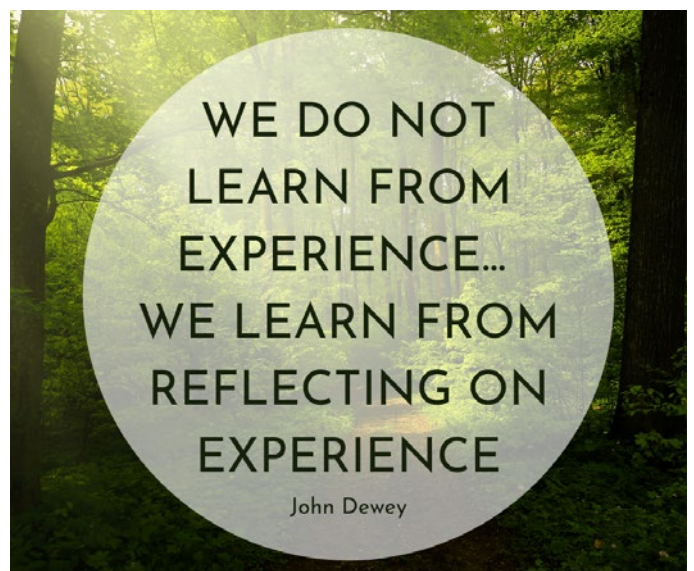
The value of reflection

Reflection is an integral part of the Enviroschools learning cycle, helping us to make sense of our experiences, deepen our learning, and gain direction for the journey ahead.

Reflection is the step that completes a loop of the Action Learning Cycle and launches us into our next round of observing, learning, exploring, deciding and acting.

Sometimes you don't get the results that you planned for, and sometimes there are achievements you didn't anticipate. Discussing what you did and how it went helps to build capacity for future learning and action. A thorough reflection can give a chance for different people's perspectives on an experience to surface, widening and deepening the collective pool of knowledge/puna mātauranga.

Keep a record of your actions and reflections and share them with your wider community through photos, videos, newsletters, exhibitions or presentations. You might be surprised at what solutions or further actions are sparked.



Enviroschools Waikato schools facilitation team | Ngā ringa hāpai



Contact Details

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Find out more

enviroschools.org.nz

Check out the great selection of national news, resources and ideas in the team area. To register, head to 'team area login' and click 'register'.

Please note that you will need your school/centre's MoE number to complete the registration process. You can find this here educationcounts.govt.nz.

Waikato Enviroschools Facebook
[Waikato Enviroschools | Facebook](#)

Join our friendly and supportive closed forum to share inspiration, thoughts, learnings and more.



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USING THE EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY (EFS) CALENDER

The EFS calendar is designed to challenge and engage students to think and act in ways that show respect for and safeguard our precious environment. EFS encourages students to learn about the interactions between human activities and the total environment, the consequences and effects of these interactions and identify the many choices we can make to prevent and reduce activities that are harmful to our environment. The EFS context covers all learning areas and teachers are encouraged to use a cross-curricular approach to support the attitudes and values of our curriculum. **Flexibility.** Treat dates with flexibility and simply as approximate guides so they can easily fit in with your regular classroom programme. It is also recommended that in most cases, the concepts and ideas developed should be extended for a much longer period of time (at least a week or over a month) so they can become a major classroom centre of interest.

Event/Day/Week/Month	DATES	WEBSITES/VIDEOS/LESSON IDEAS/TEACHING MATERIALS
World Wetlands Day/Month	February	www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/what-we-do/resources/useful-links www.doc.govt.nz/nature/habitats/wetlands https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/3001-repo-wetlands-a-context-4-learning
BikeReady	All February	http://www.bikeready.govt.nz/schools www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TWm37YavZE www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlugLE4TaLA
Sunsmart Month	All February	https://wellplace.nz/resource-library/#topics:textGroup=SunSmart paging:number=15 www.sunsmart.org.nz/learn-more/sunsmart-schools
Whio Awareness Month	All February	www.doc.govt.nz/whioforever www.youtube.com/watch?v=019yD9cGDQ
World Wildlife Day	3 March	www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/national-events/world-wildlife-day www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2KykATa_QU www.teachstarter.com/gb/teaching-resource-collection/world-wildlife-day
Seaweeek	5-13 March	www.seaweeek.org.nz www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2162-seaweeek-resources www.mm2.net.nz/resources www.starters.co.nz/download/get/seaweeek-activities/64.html https://merc.org.nz/educational-experiences
International Forestry Day	21 March	https://treeday.planetark.org/get-involved/schools www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-education/resources/experiencing-native-trees-in-your-green-space
World Water Day	22 March	www.smartwater.org.nz/teach-about-water www.teacherplanet.com/content/water-day www.starters.co.nz/download/detail/water-precious-taonga/62.html
Takahe Awareness Month	April	www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/national-events/takahe-awareness-month
Earth Day	22 April	https://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/National-events-and-the-NZC/Earth-Day www.earthday.org/education-resource-library/ www.simplykinder.com/earth-day-videos https://untamedscience.com/blog/earth-day-videos/ www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsAJ2FMiApE
Save the Frogs Day	30 April	www.nzfrogs.org/Resources.html https://teara.govt.nz/en/frogs
Compost Awareness Week	3-9 May	www.sustainablelearning.com/resource/compost www.twinkl.co.nz/search?q=composting www.cvswwmd.org/uploads/6/1/2/6/6126179/do_the_rot_thing_cvswwmd1.pdf www.teachstarter.com/au/teaching-resource-collection/compost-2
World Migratory Bird Day	14 May	www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/mirandas-migratory-birds https://teara.govt.nz/en/bird-migration www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CqBfJN4qts
International Biodiversity Day	22 May	www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/1153-introducing-biodiversity www.doc.govt.nz/biodiversity www.doc.govt.nz/nature/biodiversity/biodiversity-new-zealand-resources https://m.facebook.com/watch/?v=943334836152930&_rd www.facebook.com/FarmNatCons/videos/911543265968277/?extid=SEO---- www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDG8xxR83w0 www.learnz.org.nz/backyardbiodiversity213
World Environment Day	5 June	www.teachstarter.com/au/blog/world-environment-day-2020-classroom-resources-and-activities/ www.twinkl.co.nz/event/world-environment-day-2022 www.stem.org.uk/resources/collection/425595/world-environment-day

Waikato
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato

Supporting environmental learning through EnviroSchools and a wide range of other popular programmes.

Search for 'Education' at:
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz

Manaaki Whenua
Landcare Research

EXPLORE OUR RESOURCES AND NEW "WHAT IS THIS BUG?" TOOL ONLINE

www.landcareresearch.co.nz/education/

Auckland Council
Te Kaunihera o Tamaki Makaurau

Connecting students to te Taiao heads, hearts and hands

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/te

Sustainable Schools
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY



Event/Day/Week/Month	DATES	WEBSITES/VIDEOS/LESSON IDEAS/TEACHING MATERIALS
Arbor Day	5 June	www.arborday.org/GeneralInfo/sitemap.cfm#arbor-day www.treesthatcount.co.nz/resources www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/getting-involved/students-and-teachers/experiencing-native-trees-in-your-green-space.pdf https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Culture-Community/Events-Festivals/ArborDayBook-naturalenvironment.pdf
World Oceans Day	8 June	www.nationalgeographic.org/education/resource-library/?q=oceans&page=1&per_page=25 www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-education/resources/protecting-our-marine-world
Global Wind Day	15 June	www.windenergy.org.nz/resources/for-teachers www.nationalgeographic.org/video/edu-wind-turbines
NZ Garden Bird Survey	25 June - 3 July	https://gardenbirdssurvey.landcareresearch.co.nz/teachers.html https://gardenbirdssurvey.landcareresearch.co.nz/identification.html
Biosecurity Week/Month	25-31 July	www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/biosecurity/ www.biosecurity.org.nz/resources/biosecurity-week
Plastic Free July	All July	www.mpi.govt.nz/resources-and-forms/teacher-resources/te-ao-turoa/he-tangata-he-tangata www.plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/category/at-school/#categories www.sciencelearn.org.nz/events/1019-plastic-free-july www.teachstarter.com/au/blog/7-quick-tips-for-a-plastic-free-july-au www.wcl.govt.nz/blogs/kids/index.php/2021/07/09/plastic-free-july
Conservation Week	September (TBA)	www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/conservation-week https://natlib.govt.nz/blog/posts/resources-to-celebrate-conservation-week-te-wiki-tiaki-ao-turoa
Clean Up Week	4-10 September	www.knzb.org.nz/programmes/clean-new-zealand-beautiful/clean-up-week
Ozone Preservation Day	16 September	www.teacherplanet.com/content/ozone-layer www.nasa.gov/larc/world-ozone-day-educational-activities www.teachengineering.org/lessons/view/cub_air_lesson08
World Rivers Day	27 September	http://worldriversday.com/resources/ www.doc.govt.nz/nature/habitats/freshwater/freshwater-habitat-restoration
Save the Kiwi Month	All October	www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/national-events/save-kiwi-month www.kiwisforkiwi.org/take-action/schools
Zero Waste Month	All October	www.zerowasteeducation.co.nz
World Animal Day/Week	4 & 2-8 October	www.worldanimalprotection.org.nz/education www.twinkl.co.nz/event/world-animal-day-2021
World Climate Action Day	16 October	www.gettingthepicture.info/educators
Ocean Literacy Day	21 November	www.msc.org/en-au/for-teachers/ocean-literacy/new-zealand-education-curriculum
World Soils Day	5 December	https://teara.govt.nz/en/soils www.sciencelearn.org.nz/search?term=soil www.fao.org/soils-2015/resources/audio-video/en
World Mountain Day	11 December	www.teachingideas.co.uk/search-site?s=mountains www.teacherplanet.com/content/mountains www.tes.com/teaching-resource/world-mountains-lesson-plans-and-activity-2-lessons-11243148

ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY TOPICS, RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

- Home Energy Conservation Topics for Kids at: www.homeadvisor.com/rl/home-energy-conservation-for-kids
- Reduce, Reuse Recycle at: www.bottlestore.com/ways-to-reduce-reuse-recycle-plastic-containers
www.oberk.com/recycling-glass-plastic-metal-and-more
- Kiwi Conservation Club including Wild Things Magazine at: <https://kcc.org.nz/magazine>
- Education Outdoors New Zealand (leading, supporting EOTC and education outdoors) at: www.eonz.org.nz/resourcespublications
- Enviro Schools at: <https://enviroschools.org.nz>

N.B. Because of possible future Covid 19 restrictions, the dates provided may be cancelled or rescheduled. Please check the websites for more information.

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'Empowering young minds to create a more sustainable future'

www.horizons.govt.nz

Providing environmental education for sustainability, support and resources for schools at: ecan.govt.nz/education

Environment Canterbury
Regional Council
Kaunihira Taiao ki Waitaha

SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACROSS THE TASMAN DISTRICT

Visit tasman.govt.nz and search 'education'

tasman district council | te tai o Aorere