

Waikato ENVIROSCHOOLS



Welcome

Kia ora, and welcome to the Waikato Enviroschools newsletter.

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

It's proving to be another challenging year, no doubt disrupting even the best laid plans – kei te pai!

Nevertheless, we've continued to be inspired by the creative Enviroschools work that's been happening across the Waikato.

We are currently planning our calendar for next year and look forward to holding a mix of online and in-person events to support your development.

Your facilitator will be touch in term four to capture and celebrate your school's journey and to support you with planning for 2022.

Enjoy, remember to get in touch if you spot an opportunity in your area, and please forward this newsletter on to any interested colleagues.

Ngā mihi,

The Enviroschools team



What we do

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.

The programme 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.



190 Enviroschools

52
ECE centres

138
schools

42,700
tamariki and students

15% of early childhood

50% of primary and intermediate

30% of secondary

56% of composite and other

14 regional partners

Looking ahead to 2022

We know you'll be busy planning ahead for 2022, so we want to let you know about the great Enviroschools opportunities coming up for staff and student development.

For students

Master Chef Maara Kai Challenge for primary students

Based on success in Te Tairāwhiti (Gisborne) and Te Matau ā Māui (Hawke's Bay), Enviroschools Waikato will launch a Maara Kai Master Chef challenge in 2022. Local cook-offs will be coordinated by facilitators in term two. Interested schools can enter student teams to create a dish made from ingredients collected in their school garden. Teams will be made up of both cooks and gardeners.

Climate hui for secondary students

COP26 has been making headlines, New Zealand has committed to reducing its emissions by 50 per cent by 2030 and the University of Waikato is launching a world first Bachelor of Climate Change degree. What does this mean for young people? How can rangatahi get involved in meaningful ways?

Waikato Enviroschools will be bringing together secondary school students in term two to explore these questions with industry representatives.

For teachers (regional professional development – term one)

Enviroschools 101 (online)

17 February, 24 February and 3 March,
3.30pm-5pm

Interactive workshops aimed at new lead teachers and support teachers. The sessions will introduce the concept of sustainability, the Enviroschools kaupapa, links to the curriculum and much more. The full course spans three 1.5 hour after-school sessions over a three week period.

Register here: forms.office.com/r/fq9L3SjvYM

Applying for an Enviroschools Grant (online)

8 March, 3.30pm-5.00pm

An informative session is aimed at Waikato Enviroschools interested in applying for funding for environmental projects.

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

Teacher Renergise (venue TBC)

25 March, 9.00am-3.00pm

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

Register here: forms.office.com/r/A6QCTM8wjD

Local cluster events will also be held by your Enviroschools facilitator. Dates will be confirmed by your local Enviroschools facilitator.



Focus on freshwater

In 2022, Waikato Regional Council will be talking with communities about freshwater. This will help shape up our plans as part of the national direction on Essential Freshwater and to uphold Te Mana o te Wai. We're keen to hear about your aspirations for water, the issues you see, and the actions you think would make a difference. We'd love for schools and kura to have a voice and maybe even embark on an enquiry learning journey about a local freshwater body!

Register your school's interest in one of our local freshwater workshops here: forms.office.com/r/9PCaKq4HrC



Quick sustainability tip

With the festive season just around the corner it's a good time to think about making your celebrations more sustainable. Here's a snapshot of Lead Facilitator Adrienne's Christmas tree, made of flax flowers. We'll post some more of our creations on our [Facebook page](#). Feel free to post yours too and we will choose a couple to receive a little Christmas goodie bag.



Our stories



Getting creative during lockdown

Looking after young people's wellbeing during periods of lockdown is essential. There are probably no better ways to do that than connecting with nature and having fun with whānau. That's why, back in August, Hamilton-based EnviroSchools Facilitator Camilla Carty-Melis and her daughter put their heads together to come up with a creative activity to do just that. They settled on a mandala art project using natural materials like leaves, petals and sticks collected on their daily nature walk. Mandalas are geometric, usually circular patterns that hold special symbolism in both Hindu and Buddhist culture. Creating patterns like this is also used as a form of meditation or relaxation by people of all faiths and none. The activity received top marks from Camilla's daughter who found it both "relaxing and pretty". After more testing with some of the other students navigating the challenges of home learning, Camilla realised she was on to a winner. Within a week, she had rolled out the activity, along with a host of others, to all EnviroSchools lead teachers in the Waikato, ensuring students could stay connected to the taiao and continue learning for sustainability even through uncertain times. If you're keen to run this kind of activity in class or to pass on to your students' home learning, we've created [this worksheet](#) for you. Find more useful resources like this at: waikatoregion.govt.nz/resources-for-teachers.

Bush class hui

Understanding, valuing and protecting our native forests helps preserve these amazing environments for all of us to enjoy. Sharing knowledge around biodiversity also plays a key role in developing more sustainable communities of practice. Bush class hui like the one hosted at Te Miro School in August are the ideal forum for the cross-pollination of best practice and innovation. Principal Michaela Phillips and senior student Serena used the hui as an opportunity to share how the school uses local kahikatea forest as a place for learning, inquiry and immersion in nature. The Waikato cluster networking event for teachers and community experts also included a tour of the school's outdoor bush class under the towering native trees, showing how the lesson format works in practice and demonstrating key connections to the curriculum. The group heard how junior students relish the chance to manage the trap lines with the support of some of the older ones and there were some great opportunities to learn from the mahi of Karen Barlow of Predator Free Cambridge and Adam Thompson of Restore Native Nursery. Teachers from nine local schools attended the event and will be able to take back the knowledge and community connections gained to use in their own schools, for activities like trapping, bush classes and developing native plant nurseries.



EnviroSchools resource spotlight

The [Build a Bird's Nest](#) activity is always popular with students of all ages. It's a great one for in the classroom, camp or even for home learning. This is a simple hands-on activity – make your own nest using resources found in your school grounds or garden. This can help give an appreciation for the natural environment and an understanding of working with different designs and materials. Be glad you don't have to build this with a beak! To extend the learning, different bird nests can be researched beforehand, and reflective pūmahara questions can be used afterwards. This activity can be found in the 'Me in My Environment' section of the EnviroSchools Kit (p142) or downloaded from the EnviroSchools website [here](#).



Waikato schools facilitation team

This year we farewelled Chris Langley from the regional coordinator role. We would like to acknowledge Chris's contribution during his time with Enviroschools. In June, we welcomed Michelle Daly to the role. Michelle comes from the Graeme Dingle Foundation where she worked in both school facilitation and management.

Waikato regional coordinator



Michelle Daly

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Tēnā koutou, ko Michelle tōku ingoa. I recently joined Waikato Regional Council as senior education advisor. This involves the regional coordination of Enviroschools. I'm delighted to be able to support the facilitation of this important mahi in schools. Reading your stories and getting out to see your projects and school visions is a highlight of my role. In my spare time I love exploring our beautiful Waikato region with my husband and twin daughters.



Facilitator, Waikato and Hamilton



Adrienne Grant

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Kia ora koutou, ko Adrienne Grant tōku ingoa, nō Kirikiriroa ahau. I'm lead enviroschools facilitator and have been part of the Waikato team since 2010. I'm passionate about supporting young people, schools and communities to create change for a better world. I have a strong creative streak and love being in the garden. In my spare time, my partner and I are regenerating a 4-acre block near Te Mata – developing a food forest and restoring a native forest remnant.



Facilitator, Waikato, Waipā and Hamilton



Alex Daniel

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Kia ora, ko Alex Daniel tōku ingoā, no Kirikiriroa ahau. I live with my family of five, two cats and a dog. I love getting out in my garden – kai growing and eating, worm farming and composting – and getting outdoors, especially to our mountains in winter. When tamariki connect with their place and its people, my work takes on meaning and purpose. I have a special interest in exploring freshwater monitoring and restoration, and I'm energised when young people experience awe in our natural spaces.

Facilitator, Ōtorohanga, Waikato and Hamilton



Anna Cunningham

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Kia ora tātou, ko Anna tōku ingoa. Spending time in nature is so important for our health and wellbeing. It fills my heart to see how passionate young people can be about working to protect the natural environment. Environmental education is a win win – good for people and good for the planet! When I'm not working you'll find me in my garden, my kitchen or walking my dog on the beach.



Facilitator, Taupō and Rotorua



Jennifer Scothern-King

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Kia ora, nō Taupō ahau, ko Jennifer Scothern-King tōku ingoa. Born and raised in Waihi, studied at Waikato University, taught in primary schools where science and outdoor education were my passion subjects. Recently I migrated from northern Hawke's Bay back to Taupō, where I had previously become involved with Enviroschools. I became an Enviroschools facilitator in 2012 – my dream vocation: inspiring people to connect, supporting people to sustainably support their planet. The great outdoors is my happy place.



Facilitator, South Waikato, Waipā and Waitomo



Camilla Carty-Melis

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Tēnā koutou, ko Camilla tōku ingoa. I love my work because I get to do fun activities with young people and educators every day, but the best part is that we are all working together to create a more sustainable and equitable world.

Facilitator, Matamata Piako, Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel



Ruairi Kelly

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Hailing from an Irish family, I live with my wife and two kids in the eastern Waikato on an acre permaculture site that used to be the village dancehall. So much of my time is spent planting, repairing and repurposing. I taught primary school for over 15 years in the United Kingdom and New Zealand, where I developed my passion for Environmental education. I've been at all levels of the Enviroschools kaupapa for 12 years (and, if we've met, then you'll know that Ruairi rhymes with brewery).

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](https://www.facebook.com/WaikatoEnviroschools)

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



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

