

Enviroschools

Ōtākou Panui

Whiringa-ā-rangi
2022



Nau mai haere mai.

2022 has been another challenging year for us all. We are constantly amazed at how much schools have managed to keep up their mahi creating sustainable and resilient schools and communities. We thought it was a good time to focus on the Enviroschool's Kaupapa and Guiding principles as this gives our mahi a larger purpose. This newsletter showcases some of the ways in which schools integrate the Guiding Principles into learning and action.

Robyn Zink, Enviroschools Regional Coordinator

Enviroschool's kaupapa

Enviroschool's Kaupapa is creating a healthy, peaceful and sustainable world through learning and taking action together. Embracing and connecting the Kaupapa are five Guiding Principles / Ngā Mātapono. The Guiding Principles of Empowered Students and Sustainable Communities are explicit in the Kaupapa and the ultimate outcome. The three other principles are embedded within the process. These centre on valuing and honouring indigenous knowledge, embracing the richness of diversity, and unleashing the creative potential of young people as active learners.

Talk to your facilitator if you want to find out more about any of these stories or if you want support with sustainability learning and mahi at your school.



Waitaki Valley students potting native plants

Sustainable Communities

act in ways that nurture all aspects of nature, including people, now and in the future

Schools across the rohe are working with catchment groups and farmers on various planting projects to improve water quality and increase biodiversity. **Waitaki Valley School** are converting an unused tennis court into a native plant nursery. They are

going to grow plants from eco-sourced seeds to plant around the school, in local riparian zones and the Kurow wetlands. The school has got the whole community on board with this project.

Both **Omakau** and **Waitahuna Primary Schools** are working with their catchment groups and local farmers to care for creeks and streams by planting and testing water around the catchment to measure the difference their riparian planting is making.

Your facilitator can help to connect you with community groups or local experts.

Empowered Students

are enabled to participate in a genuine way empowering them to become active environmental citizens for life and enriching the development of the whole school / centre environment.



Bayfield students' clothes sale

Students are driving many of the sustainability initiatives at **Bayfield High School**. They organised their first Enviroweek this year. The whole school got involved in DIY workshops (seedbombs and wax wraps), a second-hand clothing sale and a pre-loved non-uniform day. There was a lunch time gig featuring Bayfield musicians with lighting managed by the technical students. On Friday there was a massive clean-up of the area.



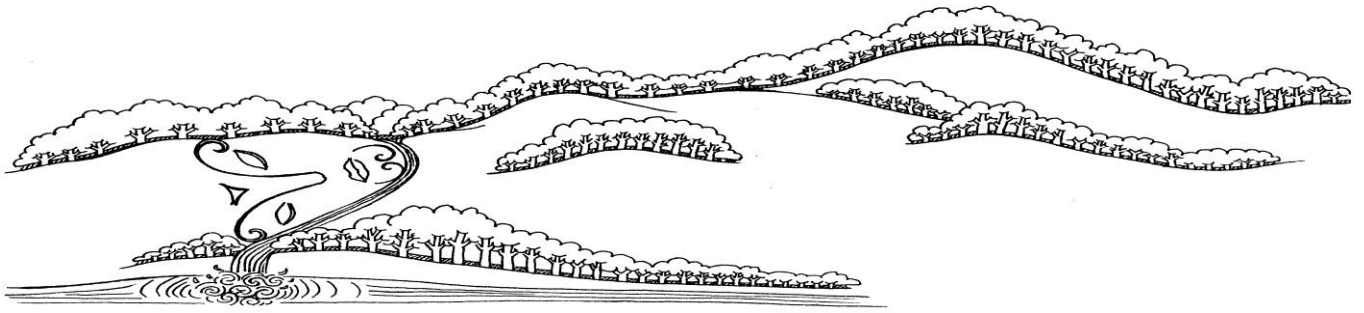
Waitahuna Students at their riparian planting site

"It is so great that we have planted some of our wetlands. The birds are coming back and building their nests in the planted areas". Milly - Omakau School

We love hearing your stories and sharing them on our facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/EnviroschoolsOtago> and on the Enviroschools website

<https://enviroschools.org.nz/> Get in touch with your facilitator if you have a story to share or want to find out more about an Enviroschools story



Students are getting empowered around waste across the whole region. **Green Island Primary School** did a clean-up around their school and found lots of cardboard. The students are writing to the local businesses to remind them they can recycle cardboard. **Queenstown Primary School** students have organised waste-free Wednesdays and created a series of videos for the school newsletter with ideas for reducing lunch waste. They even show how waste free options are usually cheaper and healthier.



Waiwera South student with upcycled strawberry planter

Waiwera South School recently did a waste audit and are now working out their next steps to get school waste into the right places and to reduce the waste. They up-cycled yogurt pottles as strawberry planters so students could take a plant home. They also have great plans for the garden.

Enviroschools has fantastic tools and resources to help students prioritise and plan their projects.

Learning for Sustainability

is a holistic, action-focused approach to learning, engaging our whole selves and addressing the physical, social, cultural, and political aspects of our local and global environment.

Many schools are learning about their local environments and the things they can do to look after and enhance those environments. **Alexandra Primary School** have planted another 50 native trees at their school. There are few accessible



Alexandra Primary students planting their forest

areas in Central Otago where tamariki can walk through dense bush and it is exciting to envisage what the school's forest trail will be like as the plantings grow. Akonga are also monitoring moth populations which they will repeat in the coming years as their native habitat grows.

St. Joseph's (Oamaru) students have been designing robots to stop the red billed gulls / tarāpunga nesting on roofs in the downtown area of Oamaru. They are finding real solutions to the challenge of people and wildlife living together.



How healthy is our soil?

Maniototo Area School students have been getting their hands into the soil as well and learning all about creating healthy soil. **Waitaki Boys High School** have got a cross-curriculum project underway to turn their waste into compost. The agriculture students will be learning about biological processes, the social studies teacher will link the compost to environmental action and sustainability,

the science department will focus on microorganisms and learning about aerobic and anaerobic respiration. Compost is both a rich resource for the soil and a rich resource for learning.

"We are only at the start of our Enviroschools journey, but I have been encouraged by how easy it has been to get other teachers on board and in turn enrich the enviro-based learning for all students. It really shows how contagious a little bit of enthusiasm can be"
Waitaki Boys' High School Enviroschools teacher

Your facilitator can help you find activities and resources to enrich learning for sustainability.



Check out the new Ecological Building theme area. Through this Theme Area, we learn to question the design of our built environment, and to tune in to the mauri of our buildings. We can understand how buildings are designed and constructed, how they make us feel, and how our built environment can support life, health and wellbeing. Ecological building is a process of imagining, designing, creating and constructing together.



Respect for Diversity of People and Cultures

is integral to achieving a sustainable environment that is fair, peaceful and co-operative

Goldfields Primary School have been building on work from last year looking at local legends and evidence of the arrival of the first people in the area. This year they focused their inquiry on the journeys of Pacific people across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa since 900AD. Students learnt about the skills necessary to cross the Pacific Ocean, including star maps, bird migrations, wave patterns and seasonal winds. The students created displays for the local museum to share the things they had learnt with whanau and the community.



The Pacific migration story

Waikouaiti School enviro group start their meetings with the karakia *Kia hora te Marino* (may peace be widespread). They entered the 'What does Peace Mean to You' writing and art competition held by the University of Otago Peace Club this year. The Peace Club organised for Bon Shoo, a Buddhist monk to visit the school to practice meditation with the students. They would love Bon Shoo to visit on a regular basis to practice mediation with them.



Practicing mediation with Bon Shoo

The EnviroSchools website has lots of examples of how schools celebrate diversity of people and cultures
<https://enviroschools.org.nz/>

Māori Perspectives

enriches the learning process and honours the indigenous people of this land

Waitati School akonga have been learning the creation pūrākau with Rua McCallum, the kaitoko from Puketeraki Marae. One of the ways the akonga engaged with the story and built their knowledge was through making clay panels that interpret the pūrākau with the help of a local potter. These panels are going to adorn the Pou telling the creation story at Orokonui Estuary.

Ōtākau schools have been celebrating Matariki for many years and having a national holiday to mark Matariki highlights how important this time of year is for reflection, honouring those that have come before us and planning for kōanga. **Hawea Flat School** celebrated Matariki this year with a school wide series of events and workshops. The whole school welcomed new students with a Powhiri and a tree was planted for each family (a school tradition). Arts and crafts were created by different classes and the students enjoyed a storytelling workshop with Matua Darren Rewi from Kai Tahu. The celebrations ended with Kapa Haka and a competition between the different school whanau groups. Each week the students have dedicated time for Kaupapa Māori and EnviroSchools.



Hawea Flat students Matariki artwork

EnviroSchools has some great resources introducing atua. Talk to your facilitator to find out more.





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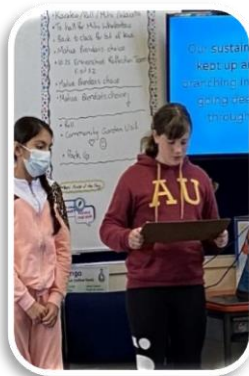
Enviroschools across Ōtākau

Even though it has been another tough year, Enviroschools have been really busy, which shows the commitment and enthusiasm of teachers and students to creating a healthy, peaceful and sustainable world. We have run a number of hui, including a senior secondary student hui via zoom for CODC and QLDC students and in term two, a kanohi ki te kanohi hui for Dunedin and Waitaki secondary students. Queenstown and Wanaka schools got the opportunity to learn more about climate change and how they can use carbon footprint calculators to create change for a better future. There have been teacher and student hui in Dunedin and in Waitaki.



Kane Holmes sharing his knowledge of Rongoa Māori at an Enviroschools hui

North East Valley Normal School reflected at Silver and **Omakau School** reflected at Bronze. Ka rawe to both schools. It was such a joy to celebrate the mahi with the schools. We know lots of schools have been working toward a holistic reflection. What better way to get everyone on board and excited about sustainability than through celebrating what your school is already doing and creating a shared vision.



North East Valley Normal Students telling their story at the silver reflection

Get in touch with your facilitator to find out more about the holistic reflection process



The new Clutha facilitator

A big welcome to **Scott Martin**, the new Enviroschools facilitator in the Clutha District. Scott has a wealth of knowledge in living in better harmony with the environment, gained most recently from 1.5 years on a Kibbutz in Israel. Scott is excited about supporting Clutha schools with their visions for creating sustainable schools and communities.

