

Waikato ENVIROSCHOOLS

He mihi

Welcome to the Waikato Enviroschools newsletter.

This edition is full of stories, opportunities and resources to inspire you as you reflect on 2022 and start thinking ahead to 2023.

Term 3 was action-packed, featuring our first Climate Action Camp for secondary schools! Rangatahi from Te Aroha College, Rototuna Senior High and Hillcrest High all made great commitments to explore local climate action solutions. Find out about their mahi [here](#).

Planning is now underway for our next Climate Action Camp, which will be held in March 2023.

It was great to connect with teachers through the recent NZAEE conference, too. For those who weren't able to attend, recordings are available [here](#).

This term, your facilitator will be in touch to explore your goals for 2023. Please take full advantage of their support on all your sustainability projects, inquiries and kaupapa. Here is the link to the [annual planning form](#).

We hope this newsletter offers an engaging read. Please feel free to forward it on to any interested colleagues.

Ngā mihi,

The Enviroschools team



Tā mātou mahi | 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 journey, 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.

14 Regional Partners

201 Enviroschools

**51
ECE centres**

**150
schools**

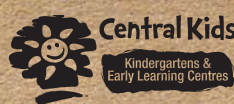
**46,200
tamariki and students**

**14% of early childhood
53% of primary and intermediate**

**38% of secondary
63% of composite and other**

3 collaborators

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



Ngā kaupapa e haere ake nei | Opportunities



We know you'll be busy planning ahead for 2023, so we want to let you know about the great Enviroschools opportunities coming up for staff and student development.

For students

Māra Kai Challenge

Terms 1 and 2 (dates and locations to be confirmed)

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 then be judged by our guest chefs.

If you'd like to get your school involved in 2023, contact your facilitator and start planning your gardens and dishes in term 1 ahead of the cook-offs in term 2.



Climate Action Camp

March 2023

The second Climate Action Camp for secondary school students will be taking place at Pirongia Forest Park Loge in March 2023. Registration will open at the start of term 1. If your school is interested, please let your facilitator know in your annual planning meetings.

Calling all budding eco-journalists

Keep New Zealand Beautiful's Young Reporters for the Environment programme is aimed at students aged 11 to 25.

It aims to empower young people to take a stand on environmental issues they feel strongly about and to give them a platform to articulate these issues through writing, photography or video.

Students are asked to investigate and report on an environmental topic relating to litter, waste and/or environmental pollution, and there are some great prizes on offer. Find out more and register your interest for the 2023 competition [here](#).

For teachers

Enviroschools 101 (online)

16 February, 23 February and 2 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 and was very popular in recent years. Register [here](#).

Teacher Re-energise

Dates and local locations to be confirmed in term 1

After a year of strictly online energising, local in-person afternoon clusters will be held once again in term 1 to inspire, support and energise new and experienced teachers and principals. If you would like to be involved and potentially host a school tour to showcase what has been happening in your school, please let your facilitator know.



He twhiri | Quick sustainability tips



Keep your vege gardens going over summer

Summer is a tough time for school māra kai. It's harder to keep crops watered, weeded and harvested through the holidays, meaning they can be in a sorry state for term 1. Here are some tips to keep your garden going over the summer break.

- Mulch, mulch, mulch – a good thick layer of mulch (such as straw, grass clippings, leaf litter or woodchips) can suppress weeds, conserve soil moisture and keep soil temperatures cooler – meaning less need for watering. Even if you have nothing growing in your garden over summer, add a good layer of mulch. It will protect the soil and start to break down, improving soil structure and releasing nutrients ready for planting in term 1.
- Consider planting crops that take a long time to mature. Kumara take 5 to 6 months from planting – [here's](#) some info on getting started.
- Another option is the [three sisters](#) (corn, pumpkin and climbing beans). These crops are traditionally grown together in Native American agriculture and have a wonderful symbiotic relationship.

Ng hua | Our stories

Rotokauri make their vision a reality

In 2021, Rotokauri School were new to Enviroschools and embarked on a process to create a whole-school vision. Each class took part in identifying ideas that were important to them, and changes they'd like to see around the school, to help develop a vision statement.

“Rotokauri is alive with nature. We are kaitiaki – actively caring and nurturing our place and our people. Our school is welcoming and colourful. We are a peaceful, sharing community. We would love for you to be part of our creative vision – to promote change in our school, our community and our world”. — Vision Statement

From this, 10 big idea statements were developed to convey how their vision could be achieved, and planning began at the start of 2022 to put these statements into practice. Projects were allocated to different year groups to get the whole school involved.

Term 1 saw year 1 and 2 students focus on being kaitiaki of the environment, making bug hotels and developing a garden for kai and scented herbs.



Year 3 and 4 students concentrated on building connections with the community, creating links with the nearby Hamilton Zoo by exploring ways to create enrichment toys for the animals.

Year 5 and 6 created new school vegetable beds with funding from Waikato Regional Council's Envirofund, and began to realise their vision for sustainable growing.

Year 7 and 8, meanwhile, dug deep with a soil investigation. They looked at what makes soil healthy, using their learnings to grow an abundance of fresh vege in existing beds, and entered the Enviroschools Mara Kai Challenge.

In term 2, staff reflected and identified the next steps. Mulching day was an addition that got the whole school to roll up their sleeves. All eight classes now spend 30 minutes a week outside filling up buckets of mulch and spreading it around the apple, pear and feijoa trees.

“It’s an awesome way to get the whole school involved and taking ownership for the environment,” said Principal Desiree Smith, “and supporting the school caretaker. It’s such a big job!”

While mulching, students learned about why mulch is so important, showing great understanding by giving answers like stopping weeds, holding moisture and feeding the trees. Some were fascinated by the size of the worms in the mulch and others loved the opportunity to get their hands dirty!

Students are continually looking at ways to care for their environment at Rotokauri and the staff regularly involve the whole school in projects.

The school is currently exploring its next steps with their facilitator. These could include under-planting the fruit trees with beneficial herbs and flowers to develop a more holistic orchard or food forest.

Rotokauri School successfully reflected at Bronze on 16 September. Ka mau te wehi!



Year 1 and 2

Room 2 Enviro Learning Term 1 2022
Action Learning Cycle

- We will collect data each term to see if more birds and insects come to our school.
- When we had finished, we sorted and recycled any rubbish we had made.
- We will look after the bug hotel and add more things to it as needed.



4. We will see if more birds and insects come to Rotokauri School.

Reflect on change



Can you see all the caterpillars on the plant?

1. We looked at the Enviro Vision Display

Rotokauri School is alive with nature

We are the Kaitiaki

What does this mean?

Identify the current situation



Can you see the honeybee on this flower?

- First, we explored our school using Seesaw and put together a collection of photos of nature.
- Room 2 really likes insects, especially monarch butterflies. We learnt all about insects and spiders.
- A group went down to the bottom field to observe birds and see what they could see and hear.



- We began to see insects around the school that needed rescuing like a caterpillar that made its chrysalis on a sand toy and bees on the concrete that we picked up and put into a garden.
- We gathered recycled material and used some wood from the school trees that had to be cut down, and built a bug hotel.
- Mrs Moka brought a drill to school. We asked Mr Huns for help.



3. We took action to be the Kaitiaki of the insects.

Take action

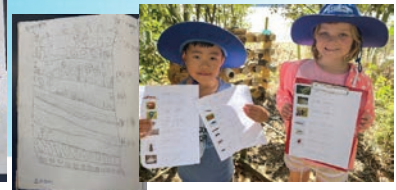


Explore alternatives

2. After learning so much about insects, Room 2 decided to be the Kaitiaki (Guardians) of the insects for Rotokauri School.



- We learnt about why insects are good to have at our school.
- We researched ways to bring more insects to our school.
- We designed bug hotels
- We learnt to retell the Maori myth about Piwakawaka, his friend Tauhou and Tawhirimatea and learnt new words in te reo Maori.
- A group collected data about the insects in the native area. There were not very many insects.





Paeroa College explores climate challenges

In 2019, students at Paeroa College investigated ways of making a difference in their community as part of the Level 2 NCEA Education for Sustainability standards. Their idea was to lower the carbon footprint of the college.

Students considered their options before settling on planting trees on school land. A landscape designer, Trish Waugh, was engaged to create a plan in 2020.

In 2021 the school successfully applied for Waikato Regional Council Enviroschool's grant to build a shade house.

Construction began with several afterschool working bees to prepare footings, pour concrete, complete framing and attach the shade cloth. The year 10 science class then spent a lesson picking out seedlings and moving them into the shade house.

In December 2021, an official opening was held, transplanting seedlings that were eco-sourced from local area and from local community group Paeroa Streamcare.

The project resulted in some great learning outcomes. Students from the envirogroup learned handy propagation and construction skills. Year 11 deans got involved in the planting. And year 10 science students learnt about the stages of germination.

New trees will improve biodiversity around the school, and now the planting has been completed the students will be able to complete their enquiry, working out the amount of carbon they capture and calculating the school's carbon footprint.

After the shade house opening, the school planned a series of activities to mark Matariki and contacted Waikato Regional Council for support. A total of 200 plants were supplied – all locally sourced from Keep Te Aroha Beautiful's Nursery.

Students led the Matariki planting day with karakia and their facilitator explained that local kahikatea forest remnants are very special to the area, linking to the waiata E Tu Kahikatea, which is about standing strong with the support of your community.



Pictured: Jasmine Lucero, Jamie-Lee Owen, Gracie Owen, Ayla Necklin, Arihia Morehu

"I like helping mother nature out," said student Travis Cox from Paeroa College. "Last year I was part of the envirogroup. We were growing stuff and it was cool watching the plants come up. I like the way everyone's getting involved and getting it done."

"It's really heartening to see this planting day," said landscape designer Trish Waugh. "Students actually harvested the seeds, planted them, potted the seedlings and put them in the ground. It's not like they just bought the trees. They've been responsible for the plants from the beginning."

Paeroa College students now plan to share their knowledge by hosting Te Aroha College students, who were inspired by the Climate Action Camp to do their own planting.

Through their Matariki celebrations, Paeroa College was able to link up with community groups Paeroa Streamcare and Keep Te Aroha Beautiful. They also developed closer connections with local Enviroschools.

The area they planted runs alongside the Hauraki Rail Trail, bringing amenity benefits beyond school boundaries to the local community and visitors to the area.

Sustainability education
Enough for all, forever
Mātauranga toitūtanga
Mā te katōa, mō āke tonu atu

For schools considering NCEA Education for Sustainability, Waikato Regional Council recently developed a new resource to help teachers with this kaupapa.

Find out more and download your free copy [here](#).

Waikato
Regional Council

He rauemi | Resource spotlight

Conscious consumption – zero waste, plastic-free gifting

Can we give gifts with no waste? There are lots of ways to explore low-waste holiday ideas and rethink what you really need and want.

Christmas wrapping can be fun, but it creates a lot of waste! Some paper is foil and mixed with plastic, so it can't even be recycled. Some people save their paper for next year – but not many!

What are other options to make your Christmas wrapping fun but sustainable? For inspiration check out the Me In My Environment activity, 'Conscious Consumption', on page 121 of your Enviroschools Kit, and these [plastic-free](#) and [Christmas tree](#) festive activities.



Moths and Butterflies of New Zealand Trust

If you're teaching students about butterflies, the Moths and Butterflies of New Zealand Trust have a range of invaluable games, music, art and teaching plans. Find out more [here](#).



Pare Kore online learning

Para Kore Marae is a Māori not-for-profit that educates and advocates from a Māori worldview to strengthen connection to Ranginui and Papatūānuku as they work towards a zero-waste future.

They offer some awesome [online learning](#) resources and the [Oranga Taiao](#) waste minimisation programme.

Oranga Taiao helps participants explore the linear system of how our stuff is made and investigates other more sustainable alternatives while making connections to te ao Māori values and practices.

These resources align to your [Zero Waste theme area](#) and will support teaching and practices relating to this kaupapa.



Ngā ringa hāpai | Enviroschools Waikato schools facilitation team



Clockwise from top left: Adrienne, Anna, Alex, Ruairi, Jennifer, Camilla and Michelle.

Contact Details

Adrienne

adrienne.grant@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Lead Facilitator, Waikato and Hamilton)

Anna

anna.cunningham@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Facilitator, Ōtorohanga, Waikato and Hamilton)

Alex

alex.daniel@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Facilitator, Waikato, Waipā and Hamilton)

Ruairi

ruairi.kelly@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Facilitator, Matamata Piako, Hauraki and Thames Coromandel)

Jennifer

jennifer.scothern-king@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Facilitator, Taupō and Rotorua)

Camilla

camilla.carty-melis@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Facilitator, South Waikato, Waipā and Waitomo)

Michelle

michelle.daly@waikatoregion.govt.nz
(Waikato Regional Coordinator)



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 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

facebook.com/groups/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.





Education for Sustainability

The Calendar is designed to challenge and engage students to think and act in ways that show respect for and safeguard our precious environment. Students will learn about the interactions between human activities and the total environment, the consequences and effects of these interactions and identify the many actions we can take 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 when using the Calendar. **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 the concepts/ideas developed should be extended for a longer period of time making them a major classroom centre of interest.

Event/Day/Week/Month	DATES	WEBSITES/VIDEOS/LESSON IDEAS/TEACHING MATERIALS
World Wetlands Day/Month	2 February All February	www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/what-we-do/resources/useful-links www.doc.govt.nz/nature/habitats/wetlands 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://www.sunsmart.org.nz/sunsmart-schools www.twinkl.co.nz/resources/new-zealand-resources/new-zealand-partnerships/sunsmart-schools-partnerships-new-zealand
Whio Awareness Month	All February	www.doc.govt.nz/whioforever www.youtube.com/watch?v=0I9rYD9cGDQ www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2416-whio-threats-and-conservation
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
Seaweek	5-13 March	www.seaweek.org.nz www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2162-seaweek-resources www.mm2.net.nz/resources https://merc.org.nz/educational-experiences
International Forestry Day	21 March	www.tauranga.govt.nz/Portals/0/data/community/education/files/forestdiscovery.pdf https://treeday.planetark.org/get-involved/schools https://projectcrimson.org.nz/schools/teachers-resources 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/water-education/new-story-of-water/ www.teacherplanet.com/content/water-day www.starters.co.nz/download/detail/water-precious-taonga/62.html www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/national-events/takahe-awareness-month
Takahe Awareness Month	April	https://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/National-events-and-the-NZC/Earth-Day
Earth Day	22 April	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	28 April	www.nzfrogs.org/Resources.html https://teara.govt.nz/en/frogs
Compost Awareness Week	7-13 May	Resource list at: https://compost.css.cornell.edu/schools.html www.twinkl.co.nz/search?q=composting www.csvwmd.org/uploads/6/1/2/6/6126179/do_the_rot_thing_csvwmd1.pdf (teachers guide) www.teachstarter.com/au/teaching-resource-collection/compost-2
World Migratory Bird Day	13 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	https://www.twinkl.co.nz/event/world-environment-day-2023 www.stem.org.uk/resources/collection/425595/world-environment-day




Auckland Council
Te Kaunihera o Tamaki Makaurau

Connecting students to
te Taiao heads, hearts
and hands
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/lte



Sustainable Schools
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY



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

**Our Regional Parks
are your outdoor
classroom**

enviro@hbrc.govt.nz



HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA ā ROHE O TE MATAKO ā MĀUI



**Manaaki Whenua
Landcare Research**

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

www.landcareresearch.co.nz/education/



horizons
REGIONAL COUNCIL

'Empowering young
minds to create a more
sustainable future'

www.horizons.govt.nz



Environmental Calendar 2023

Event/Day/Week/Month	DATES	WEBSITES/VIDEOS/LESSON IDEAS/TEACHING MATERIALS
Arbor Day	5 June	www.arborday.org/celebrate/educational-resources.cfm www.treesthatcount.co.nz/resources www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/getting-involved/students-and-teachers/experiencing-native-trees-in-your-green-space.pdf www.kidsgreeningtaupo.org.nz/activities-nature-connection/plant-like-a-ninja
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 https://worldoceanday.org
Global Wind Day	15 June	www.windenergy.org.nz/resources/for-teachers www.nationalgeographic.org/video/edu-wind-turbines
NZ Garden Bird Survey	24 June - 2 July	https://gardenbirdsurvey.nz (Select Children and Teachers) https://gardenbirdsurvey.nz/have-you-got-what-it-takes (Video Series)
Biosecurity Week/Month	25-31 July	www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/biosecurity/ www.biosecurity.org.nz/resources/biosecurity-week www.mpi.govt.nz/resources-and-forms/teacher-resources/te-ao-turoa/he-tangata-he-tangata
Plastic Free July	All July	http://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	5-11 September	www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/conservation-week https://nationaltoday.com/conservation-week/ https://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/National-events-and-the-NZC/Conservation-Week
Clean Up Week	4-10 September	www.knzb.org.nz/programmes/clean-new-zealand-beautiful/clean-up-week www.knzb.org.nz/resources/education-resources
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	24 September	https://worldriversday.com/resources/ www.doc.govt.nz/nature/habitats/freshwater/freshwater-habitat-restoration
Save the Kiwi Month	All October	https://savethekiwi.nz/about-kiwi https://savethekiwi.nz/how-to-help/protecting-kiwi
Zero Waste Month	All October	https://zerowasteeducation.co.nz https://wellington.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling-and-waste/reducing-your-waste
World Animal Day/Week	4 & 2-8 October	www.worldanimalprotection.org.nz/education www.worldanimalday.org.uk/resources
World Climate Action Day	23 October	https://climateactionday.org/en www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2639-climate-change-resources-planning-pathways
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
International 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/r/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>



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