

Waikato ENVIROSCHOOLS

He mihi

Welcome to the Waikato Enviroschools newsletter, where we keep you up to date with what's happening in environmental education.

Over the last year, we've welcomed new schools from Taupō, Rotorua Lakes, South Waikato and Waikato districts.

We successfully launched our first Waikato [Māra Kai challenge](#) last term. The challenge encouraged students to test their culinary skills, using food they grew and harvested themselves. Sixteen schools took part in cook-off events across the region.

This term, we're looking forward to hosting our first Waikato Climate Action Camp for secondary students in September. The camp will have some exciting guest speakers and engaging activities to inspire tamariki and kaiako, alike.

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 by 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.



Opportunities in 2022 | Ngā kaupapa e haere ake nei

Conservation Week

5 - 11 September

Will you be taking action for nature this Conservation Week/Te Wiki Tiaki Ao Tūroa? Taking action benefits not only nature, but also our personal wellbeing.

Ka ora te whenua, ka ora te tangata – when the land is well, the people are well.

For inspiration, find out what's happening in your local area by signing up to the Conservation Week mailing list for regular updates and ideas doc.govt.nz/news/events/conservation-week.

Last year, while in lockdown, the Taupō Environmental Education Collaborative (EEC) got creative with an online photo competition showing people connecting with nature. This year, we're out of our bubbles so there is so much more we can do. We're challenging you to share your best snaps of the action your school is taking for Conservation Week on our Waikato EnviroSchools Facebook page at: facebook.com/groups/waikatoenviroschools.

For more Conservation Week activity ideas, contact your EnviroSchools facilitator.

NZAAE conference

11-12 October

The New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAAE) 2022 conference is fast approaching. This year's theme is Hā Hauora Tangata – reconnecting with each other, nature and place.

The conference is a great opportunity for teachers, providers and others working in environmental education to share thinking, insights and opportunities to support environmental education across the curriculum, so we can all learn, collaborate and take action for Papatūānuku.

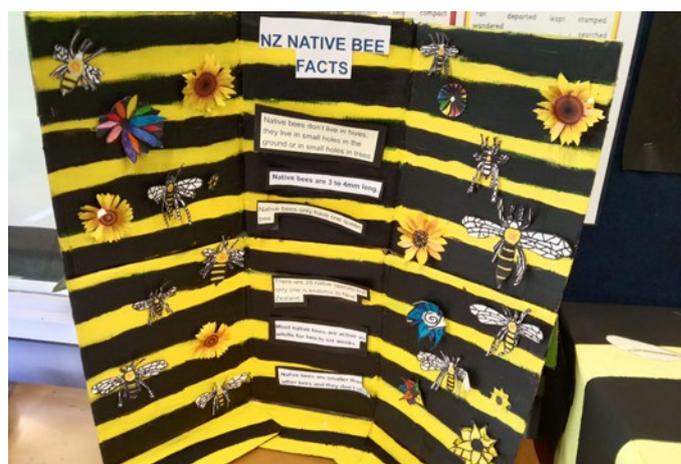
The conference will start with an in-person local connection day on 11 October. Here in the Waikato, these days will be held in Hamilton and Taupō. The national online day will be held on 12 October via Zoom. Find out more at: nzaae.org.nz/conference-information/2022.



Bee Awareness Month

September is Bee Awareness Month, a wonderful opportunity to learn about this important species. A growing number of schools in the Waikato already have beehives, offering fantastic learning opportunities (and delicious honey), but there are other ways to support bee populations.

Bees native to New Zealand are attracted to native flowering plants, so planting more of these is an easy way to support our endemic bee species. For more information about native bees, check out: fortheLoveofbees.co.nz/native-bees.



And, if you're getting into the planting buzz, why not go a step further and grow a pollinator garden at your school to provide a safe environment for bees and butterflies to do their important mahi. A pollinator garden has:

- a variety of different flowers (bees especially love blue and yellow flowers)
- access to water (e.g. a birdbath)
- no pesticides or poisons.

Take advantage of the great online resources available to help your students design a pollinator garden, or talk to your facilitator to help your project take off.





Clean Up Week

17 September - 23 September

In 2021, over 30,000 volunteers collected approximately 300 tonnes of litter as part of Keep New Zealand Beautiful's annual Clean Up Week – enough to cover an area equivalent to 2589 rugby fields!

Enviroschools is a proud partner of Keep New Zealand Beautiful, and this year there will be an opportunity to contribute to its citizen science programmes during Clean Up Week for the first time. The programmes are a great way for schools to get involved, collaborate and contribute litter solutions while gaining data collection and analysis experience.

If you're interested in getting involved in Clean Up Week, why not organise a crew to clean up your patch. Conducting school litter audits is a great way to track your progress and maintain momentum. Find out more at:

knzb.org.nz/resources/litter-resources.

Clean Up Week participants are encouraged to work with reusable and sustainable clean-up tools where possible, including everyday items like buckets and gardening gloves. However, FREE clean-up kits, along with badges and certificates, are available for ECEs and school groups on request.

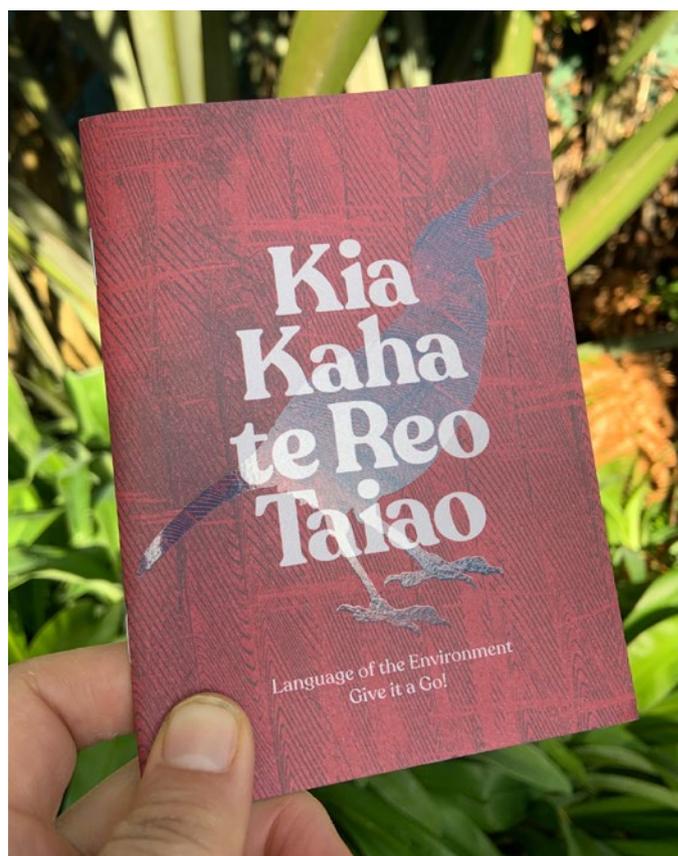
By registering for Clean Up Week, you'll gain access to FREE waste disposal of your litter at selected refuse

transfer stations across the country, thanks to Waste Management, EnviroWaste and participating local authorities. Registration closes 23 September. Find out more and register at: knzb.org.nz.

Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori | Māori Language Week

12 - 18 Hēpetema | September

Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori is a great opportunity to deepen connections with te reo and te taiao. The Department of Conservation and Te Taura Whiri o Te Reo Māori have created some awesome resources to help learners embrace te reo phrases relating to the environment. The booklet and posters include invaluable info on pronunciation and species names in te reo Māori. Find out more and start perfecting your reo phrases at: reomaori.co.nz/taiao-booklet.



Reminders | Kia manatu

Enviroschools fund

Waikato Regional Council's Enviroschools fund is there to assist Enviroschools with environmental projects. The fund provides one-off grants to projects that directly enhance and/or benefit the environment, or provide environmental education.

There are two application rounds each year. Applications for the next round open on 17 August 2022 and close 28 September 2022.

Find out more about how the Enviroschools fund could support your school's next project at: waikatoregion.govt.nz/enviroschools-grant-fund.

When you're ready, please get in touch with your facilitator and they'll be happy to step you through the application process.





Tatuanui School compost and wormery

The Enviroschools kaupapa is about supporting student-centred learning. The recent composting and wormery project at Tatuanui School is a perfect example of this approach, featuring lots of problem solving, collaborating, communicating and resilience-building along the way.

It all started with a problem: rodents were nesting in their recycling area. After exploring alternatives, they decided a grant would help them finance compost and wormery equipment to keep the rodents out.

The tamariki were excited to get stuck in and took the lead. The seniors did a great job of putting the compost tumbler and worm farm bins together.

Trial and error were part of the learning. Students observed the tumblers weren't in direct sunlight and knew natural heat was important for assisting and accelerating natural decomposition. One of the tumblers has since been moved into a position where it receives full sunlight to test the differences in breakdown speed.

To target the rodent pest problem, traps were installed nearby and regularly checked. No pests have been caught since the tumblers were installed, which suggests the unwanted visits by rodents have been addressed.

To test this theory though, students plan to add detection devices like ink tunnels and chew cards. This will offer further reassurance that the better-contained food scraps in the tumblers and worm bins are no longer attracting pests.

Future evaluation will include recording the amount of brown (carbon) vs green (nitrogen) waste going into the compost tumbler to perfect the recipe over time.

Students and teachers alike are impressed by the difference compost makes to the school's raised gardens.





Zero Waste

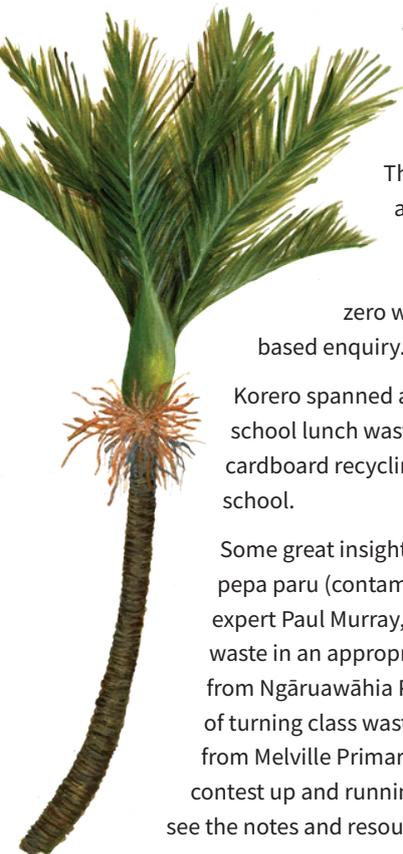
An online zoom café was held by EnviroSchools Facilitators, with support from waste educators at Hamilton City Council and Pare Kore, during Plastic Free July to share ideas and inspiration for zero waste action.

Teachers from Waipā, Waikato and Hamilton joined the session, which kicked off with some thought-provoking videos to spark creativity.

The videos covered how we think about waste, how landfills work, composting, plastics and the problems they create, and how zero waste can be taught through action-based enquiry.

Korero spanned a range of topics, from composting school lunch waste to options for paper and cardboard recycling, and how to measure waste at school.

Some great insights were shared about what to do with pepa paru (contaminated paper) from Pare Kore waste expert Paul Murray, and how can we manage paper waste in an appropriate and ethical way. One student from Ngāruawāhia Primary School said he liked the idea of turning class waste audits into a competition. Another, from Melville Primary, talked about getting a composting contest up and running. Watch the online zoom café, and see the notes and resources shared from the session [here](#).



Waste audit

Harakeke class at St Columba's recently undertook a waste audit. They sorted through a day's worth of waste (pictured) from the whole school to see where their waste streams are coming from. Students weighed waste in different categories, then discussed issues and solutions.

The waste audit is part of ongoing inquiry and mahi to get a better understanding of the waste created in schools. Waste audits involve working out the percentages of the different waste categories, as well as how much waste is created in a week, term and year. The findings get presented to the school to raise awareness of the issue and set a baseline against which future waste reduction initiatives can be measured.

If you're interested in doing a Waste Audit at your school, please contact your facilitator.



Enviroschools Waikato schools facilitation team | Ng ringa hpai



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

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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 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.

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