

Waikato ENVIROSCHOOLS

He mihi

Welcome to the Waikato Enviroschools newsletter.

It's full of useful information to keep you up to date on the inspirational mahi happening in our rohe.

We have some awesome online and in-person events planned for both teachers and students in terms two and three.

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

Also, please do 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.



Waikato Enviroschools

14 regional funding partners

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

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

For students

Climate Action Camp for secondary students

Waikato Enviroschools and the Rangatahi Voices youth forum are holding a Climate Action Camp for 40 Waikato-based rangatahi aged between 14 and 26 years.

The camp will be hosted at Pirongia Lodge and will be based on a highly popular model delivered by Enviroschools Hawkes's Bay. We would like to invite senior enviroleaders, and passionate junior students accompanied by a teacher/teacher aide, for an overnight camp.

Through confidence-building outdoor adventure activities, youth will connect to taiao, build their capacity to educate their peers about climate change and develop local action initiatives on their return to school, with the support of their Enviroschools Facilitator.

Dates are yet to be finalised, but we are currently taking expressions of interest here: forms.office.com/r/jRTb27rmps

For teachers

Term two

Exploring zero waste

30 June, 3:30-5pm via Zoom

This online professional development opportunity includes a series of short videos for you to watch at your leisure, followed by an online meeting, delivered via a Zoom café format, to share ideas, inspiration and questions on your school's zero waste journey.

Register here: forms.office.com/r/CHCZ5qQy0J

Tangata Tiriti/Treaty people workshop (Te Aratiatia Marae, Hamilton)

10 June, 9am-4pm

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

FULLY BOOKED



Quick sustainability tip | He tīwhiri

Say no to single-use plastics

While most of plastic-free July falls over the school holidays this year, it's a good annual reminder to reflect on our single-use plastic habit and look at ways to reduce the amount we use and send to landfill.

Why not explore what waste is with your students with this interactive "bury it and dig it up" activity? The activity helps rangatahi to understand cycles in nature and grasp what 'biodegradable' really means.

Waste-free lunches are a popular way to think about and reduce plastic waste too. Why not refuse single-use plastic every day by packing lunch items in reusable containers or opting for 'nude food' for items like apples, peaches and bananas? For more great ideas, check out the [plastic-free July Aotearoa page](#).

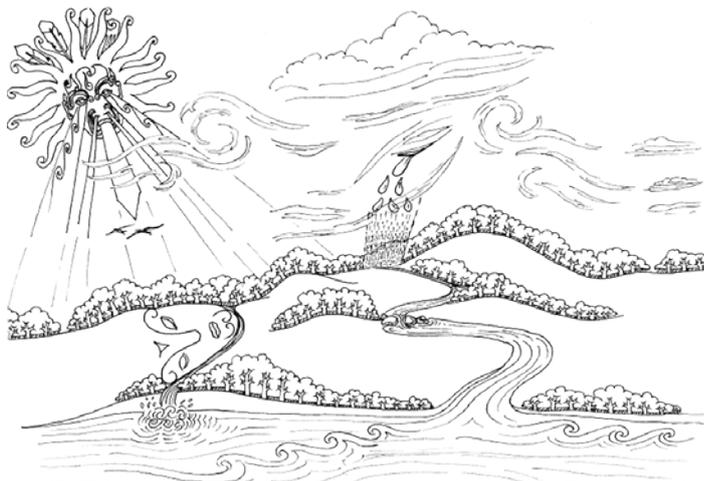


Reminders | Kia manatu

Matariki

The appearance of the stars of Matariki in the sky has held significance for Māori and other Pacific peoples for centuries. In 2022, Aotearoa celebrates it as a public holiday for the first time.

To mark the occasion, Enviroschools and Sport Waikato collaborated to bring to you "Celebrating Matariki at School", a professional learning opportunity for teachers looking for ideas on how they can acknowledge and celebrate it with their classes and school.



Our stories | Ngā hua

Freshwater enquiry

In term one, students at Te Miro School spent time out in nature, exploring a local waterway with their principal, Michaela Phillips.

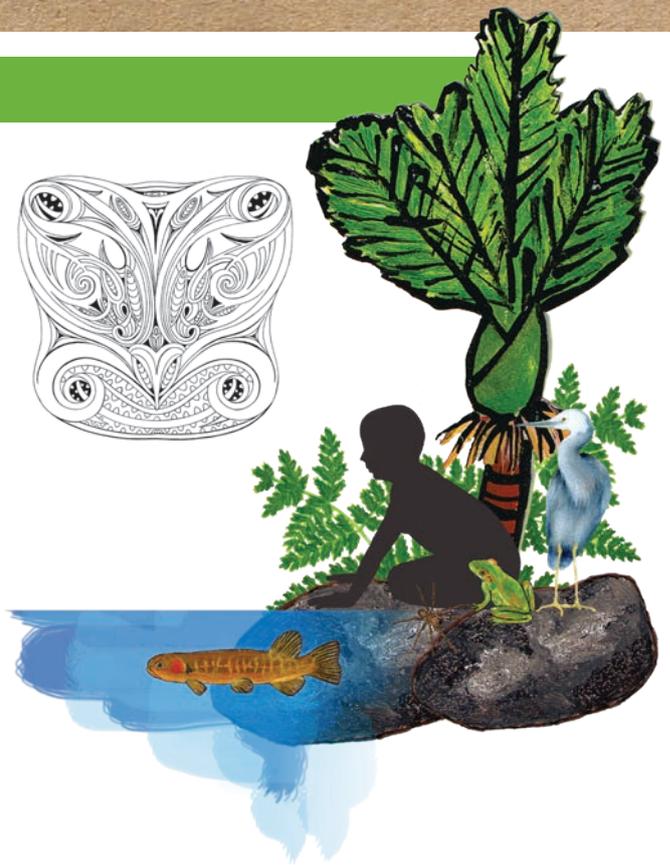
Students measured water quality (clarity and nitrates). They also measured its temperature and velocity and conducted a habitat assessment.



There was an incredible and diverse macroinvertebrate community living there, including Dobsonflies (aka toe-biters!) and even freshwater kōura (crayfish). The monitoring work was conducted to improve student's understanding and care for the health of their natural environment.

Although the stream was relatively clean and clear, with the abundance of macroinvertebrates indicating good stream health, the habitat assessment showed room for improvement. Students discussed how riparian planting could improve the health of the awa, identifying native eco-sourced planting, using plants grown in the school's native nursery, as a possible next step.

The landowner was keen for students to measure water quality and on the option of recording long-term data with the school on a national freshwater database. The idea is to collect more information on the state of our streams to better inform what actions need to be taken next.



Students loved identifying all the “bugs” in the stream – the toe-biters were particularly impressive. They were all carefully handled and returned to the stream after identification.

If you would like to explore your local awa with a stream study, please contact your Facilitator.

Older students may also appreciate the opportunity to get involved in the national freshwater policy review. The window for feedback is open until the end of July. Find out more at: yourvoicematters.waikatoregion.govt.nz/freshwater-policy-review

Our stories | Ngā hua

Māra Kai challenge

Students from across the Waikato have been busy growing healthy kai and planning delicious meals to compete in the Enviroschools Māra Kai challenge.

The inaugural event, guest judged by Coriander Lime Kitchen owner Katherine Froggatt-Ong, was held in Taupō.

Schools also took up the challenge in Hamilton, Paeroa and Pirongia, and more exciting events are planned across the Waikato this month, including in the Coromandel Peninsula.

“The standard has been so impressive,” says Jennifer Scothern-King, environmental education facilitator for Taupō and Rotorua.

The format saw teams of two gardeners and two cooks challenged to create a tasty meal from ingredients they had cultivated themselves.

Each team had 90 minutes to make a nutritious, three-dish lunch and was expected to plate and present their dishes to the judges.

Amura, who competed in Taupō, said: “My favourite thing was working together. My favourite dish was the dessert. It was delicious!”

The final dishes had to include at least five ingredients from each teams’ school vegetable garden. Students were also asked to discuss their dish and describe to judges how the five ingredients were grown.

Guest judge Katherine Froggatt-Ong said: “I am so honoured to be part of this very exciting journey. I hope this event creates a wave of interest from other schools.”

The Taupō event was won by Waipahihi School, with an incredible, hand-made gnocchi in tomato sauce. Kiokio School also triumphed in Hamilton, with handmade pita bread stuffed full of delicious goodness.

The winners received some awesome prizes, including gardening equipment and plants, gardening diaries, bookmarks, and a cookbook – supplied by Mitre 10, Bunnings and Garden to Table.

The judges commented on how impressed they were with the creativity, teamwork and culinary skills students showed.

Some students even surprised themselves, with one smart competitor (who shall remain nameless), commenting: “I can cook, I didn’t know I could do that... but I’m not telling my mum!”



Māra kai participants 19 May 2022



Harleigh

The first time we made gnocchi, I went home and made it myself for dinner.



Piper

I liked working together with my team. It was fun. Cutting the beetroot was hard when you get to the last bit. My favourite dish was the feijoa and apple crumble.



Harlem

It was challenging peeling the beetroot, but I loved making the smoothie.



Amura

My favourite thing was working together. My favourite dish was the dessert. It was delicious!



Oliver

I liked decorating the smoothie with crispy dried raspberries. My highlight was working in the school kitchen with another school.



Jayden

It was fun, with some challenges for me like plating it to look nice. I'd definitely do it again.



Chef, founder of Coriander Lime Kitchen and guest judge, Katherine Froggatt-Ong, demonstrated making a healthy, tasty morning tea hummus dip, served with fresh carrot and celery sticks.

I am so honoured to be part of this very exciting journey. I told our Mayor, David, today over our cuppa how awesome this initiative is and I showed him the photos from today.

Well done Jenni and Alex, your hard work and efforts will start to create a wave of interests from other schools. Great time to sow the seeds now.

- Katherine Froggatt-Ong, Coriander Lime Kitchen

Enviroschools Waikato schools facilitation team | Ngā ringa hāpai



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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

facebook.com/groups/waikatoenviroschools

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

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Care about fresh water?

Now is your chance to have your say



We want to know what you value most about fresh water, how you want it to look in the future, and how it can be managed so the rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands of the Waikato region can continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

We are holding one-day water workshops with communities around the region before we make changes to our *Waikato Regional Policy Statement* and *Waikato Regional Plan*, to bring them into line with new central government directions. This is a day to find out about the new directions for freshwater planning and how they might influence you and your local water bodies. There will also be an opportunity to share information about the state of waterways in your area and to seek the best solutions on how fresh water should be managed.

Town	Venue	Date	Time
Raglan Whāingaroa	Union Church Hall 3 Stewart Street	20 May 2022	9.30am - 3pm
Taupō	Great Lake Centre 5 Story Place	27 May 2022	9.30am - 3pm
Te Kūiti	Les Munro Centre Supper Room, 8 King Street East	2 June 2022	9.30am - 3pm
Tokoroa	South Waikato Sports and Events Centre Rotary Room, 25 Mossop Road	15 June 2022	9.30am - 3pm
Hamilton	The Link Cattanach Hall, 4 Te Aroha Street	17 June 2022	9.30am - 3pm
Tuakau	Tuakau Memorial Hall Supper Room, 70 George Street	21 June 2022	9.30am - 3pm
Kāwhia	Kāwhia Community Hall 141 Jervois Street	29 June 2022	10am - 3:30pm
Whitianga	Whitianga Town Hall Supper Room, 10 Monk Street	1 July 2022	9.30am - 3pm
Paeroa	Paeroa War Memorial Hall 144 Normanby Road	4 July 2022	9.30am - 3pm

For more info call 0800 800 401 or email policy@waikatoregion.govt.nz

Registration is required

Sign up at
[waikatoregion.govt.nz/
freshwater-policy-
review](https://waikatoregion.govt.nz/freshwater-policy-review)

