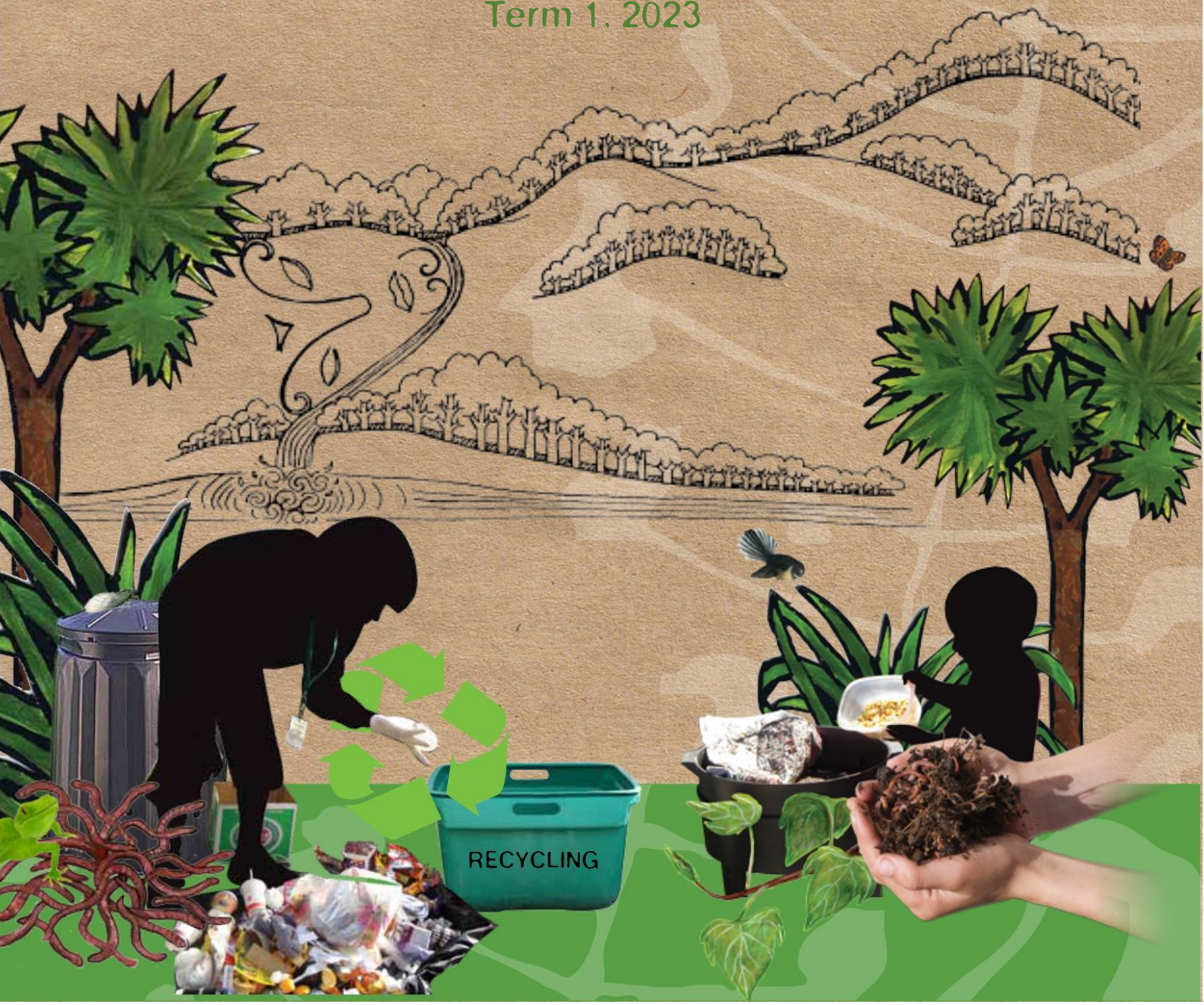




# Celebrations

## TARANAKI

Term 1, 2023



# Index

Pg 1 Reigniting action

Pg 2 Latest happenings

Pg 5 Schools

Pg 15 What's next

Pg 18 Field trips

Pg 20 Contact us



## Kia ora tima

Welcome to our 2023 Celebration Booklet! We've included a snapshot of things happening across the rohe over the last two terms.

It's been lovely to reconnect kanohi ki te kanohi again as we gently open ourselves up to visitors again.

We've heard many of you say that "you'd dropped the ball" with your Enviroschools mahi only to find – after discussion – that it was there all along with our social sustainability and how we all worked together through these changing times.

Our Pilot (of opening up a little) and Deep Dive programmes have been successful and we've enjoyed working intensively with those of you who were the 2022 Deep Dive Enviroschools. New schools have been chosen for loads of love and support on your 2023 journey. Your Facilitator will be in touch.

2023 sees us deepen our connection with whenua, awa and taiao with specific events and field trips happening again. Check out our calendar of events for more info.

Happy reading whanau

*Lauree. Esther. Richard. Sue.  
Leena and Debbie xxx*

# Reigniting action

## Enviroschools Taranaki

Over the last couple of terms we've supported a number of Enviroschools to review where they're at and celebrate their awesomeness. These **Holistic Reflections** have been the pivotal point to re-engage activities, systems and thinking within our Enviroschools and Kindergartens. From our team to yours – we thank you and your communities for taking those steps.

The **Deep Dive schools** have enjoyed more regular connections with our facilitation team. Much of the support was hands-on and outdoors. We've been honoured to be able to support deep learning and boost action for the environment.

We've also been able to host Enviroschools staff from other regions across Aotearoa. Just as you learn, our role is to ensure we are lifelong learners as well. Our guests left gems with us that we look forward to sharing with you over the years.

Richard's role being half Enviroschools Facilitator in the North, and the other half being **Environmental Education** in general across Taranaki with Dr. Emily Roberts has been complimentary and successful. Richard and Emily are working together to bring great in-depth learning opportunities across Taranaki to any school or early learning centre. To learn more about what's on offer, check out this flyer.



The Enviroschools kaupapa provides a framework for schools and early childhood centres (K-13) to engage in a holistic sustainability journey. Participating schools and centres have a facilitator and access to a suite of resources, professional development and networking opportunities.

### The focus for 2023 is:

Waste avoidance and repurposing - beeswax wraps, eco-bricks, firebricks, tetrapaks and more

Developing your Living Landscapes - maara kai, native habitats, outdoor classrooms, bug hotels

Ag & Hort - curriculum linked land use inquiry from eco sourcing natives to innovative and future thinking carbon sequestering

Expand the programme - we can offer support on short term projects or a long term journey

Alternative energy inquiry - discover where energy comes from, how we use it and its future

Ecological Buildings - from building bat houses to actual tiny homes

To enquire, email [enviroschools@trc.govt.nz](mailto:enviroschools@trc.govt.nz)  
To learn more, check out [www.enviroschools.org.nz](http://www.enviroschools.org.nz)



**Education Programme**  
We offer a broad range of environmental educational experiences from rainforests to the rocky shore.

**Moana - Marine**

- Rocky shore explore
- Bespoke studies
- Beach clean

**Awa - Freshwater**

- Water quality monitoring - rivers and streams
- Wetland monitoring

**Howard Gardens**

- Composting
- Worm farms
- Garden invertebrates
- Sustainable gardening

**Puketiti Rainforest**

- Nature walk
- Bug hunt
- Post-it-plant
- Stream monitoring

**Biodiversity Close to School**

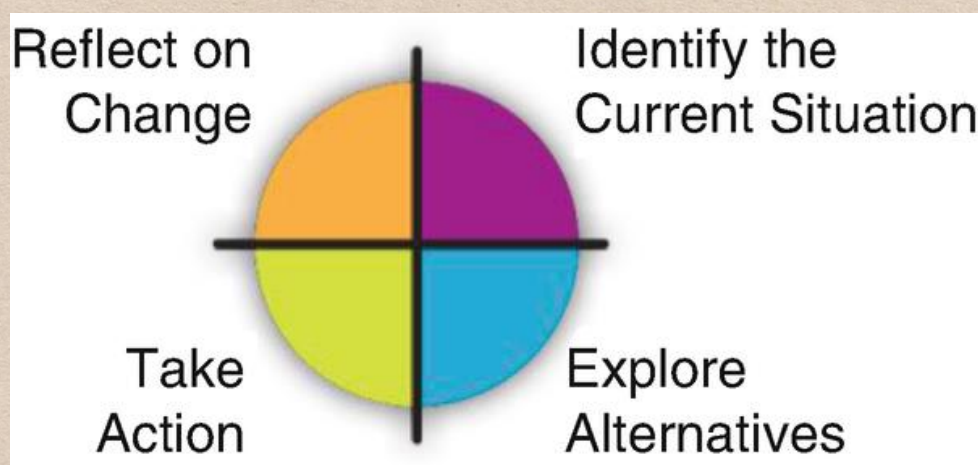
- Native plant identification
- Trapping introduced predators
- Bio blitz training
- Bird monitoring
- Invertebrate hunt
- Weed busting

**Book now for 2023**

education@trc.govt.nz  
06 765 7127  
To learn more, check out the website:  
[www.trc.govt.nz/trc-schools-programme/](http://www.trc.govt.nz/trc-schools-programme/)

For full details of the Taranaki Enviroschools and environmental education programme visit the Taranaki Regional Council [website](http://www.trc.govt.nz).

# So what's been happening?



The Enviroschools Action Learning Cycle

## Holistic Reflections

Congratulations to the following schools and kindergartens for walking through a Holistic Reflection as a way to pause and reflect on where we've come from and where we're going.

*Brooklands Kindergarten, Fitzroy Kindergarten, Green School NZ, Inglewood Kindergarten, Kaitake Kindergarten, Marfell Kindergarten, Pukekura Kindergarten, Spotswood College, Waitara Central Kindergarten, Waitoriki School, Stratford Central Kindergarten, Stratford Primary, Toko School, Hawera Kindergarten.*

You'll hear more about Stratford Primary, Waitoriki School and Toko School's journey further in.

## Internal Reflections

You'll be pleased to know that as a team we also do internal Reflections. These are pivotal to our mahi for a number of reasons. We are able to check on work scope; make sure we're aware of changes in curriculum; identify professional development opportunities; make sure our schools and kindergartens are supported; check what went well, what didn't and what we'd do differently.



# In the community

## NZAAEE local conference

The Enviroschools team worked collaboratively with others to bring the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAAEE) Local Connection Day to Taranaki. Thanks to TRC for hosting us at Pukeiti Gardens. Shame the rain kept us inside but it was still a great day of sharing. A local network is being set up. More info to come.



## Te Ara Taiao

We're proud to play our part supporting Sustainable Taranaki, the community and kaiako of Kaitake, Whai-Tara and now Ngamotu with their Te Ara Taiao mahi. A great initiative for the greater good for Taiao.

Right: Dallas and Taiohi at Moturoa Primary School



## Agriculture & Horticulture focus

We've partnered with LA Alexander Trust to bring some learnings and field trips around the variety of ways people work with the land. This land-use focus will take students from years 5 to 13 onto some demonstration dairy farms, watching local entrepreneurs show us their enterprises from alpaca fleece farming to intensive market gardening, medicinal practices and so much more.



## Mitre 10 MEGA

Mitre 10 MEGA's Helping Hands have been able to help out a number of schools and kindergartens with \$5,000 in goods to give away. Two working bees are also happening in Term 1. Wahoo!!!



# Welcome to Enviroschools



New Plymouth Adventist Christian  
and Welbourn Schools





# Oākura School



## Developing the Envirocentre

Nestled between the Kaitake Ranges and the moana, Oākura School has been doing the hard mahi in what is called the Envirocentre, which is a bush clad gully adjacent the school playing fields.

This space has been the hive of activity with several classes cleaning up the dreaded tradescantia, some additional plantings, the construction of a set of new steps that will link together two existing paths, and a viewing seat which has spectacular views over the ngahere and up to Patuha.

The steps and seat have been designed and built by a group of senior boys, who are not afraid to get stuck in. The steep hillside steps required excavation and shoring up by using offcuts from building work that is being done

at the kura, which otherwise would have gone to landfill.

Looking for funds to construct the seat, the tane fundraised to buy cement and materials suitable for the seat. The results speak for themselves.

Well done to everyone involved in making this beautiful space even more user friendly, and to teacher Lexi Harcourt for supporting the tamariki in realising their aspirations.

**The new steps, pathway and seat were officially opened on the 15<sup>th</sup> December** with a ribbon cutting ceremony and a korero by principal, Lynne Hepworth, acknowledging and congratulating the senior boys in creating this wonderful addition to the Envirocentre.



# Spotswood Primary School

## Reigniting the waste streams

Spotswood Primary School's Enviroclub, led by teacher Sonja Short, has been focusing on ways to reduce and recycle waste in the kura and to make recycling fun for the tamariki. Sonja managed to secure funding for the project through the New Plymouth District Council's Waste Minimisation Levy to help construct a waste Mini Hub in the kura.

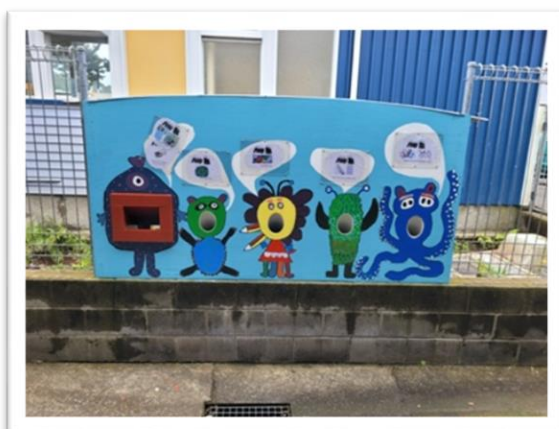
A group of the Enviroclub's year 3 & 4 students were responsible for designing and painting the striking waste eating monsters that adorn the front panel of the mini hub. The structure itself and the way the chutes and bins are set up make for ease of use for the tamariki to use and operate.

The beauty of the Mini Hub is that items that are usually sent to landfill are separated and recycled wherever possible, and the wider kura community are able to bring in recyclable items as well.

Making recycling and minimising waste sent to landfill fun is a win for our environment, and the tamariki love 'feeding' the forever hungry waste monsters.



**The Enviroclub designers**



**The engaging artwork**



**The sorting setup looks great**





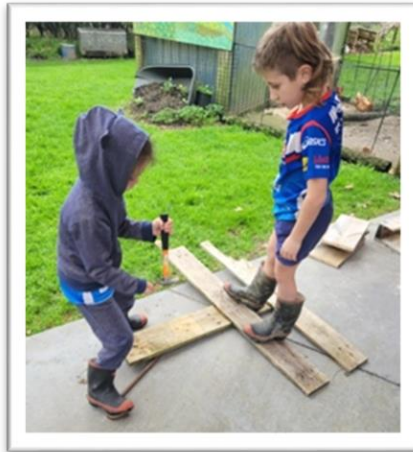
# Uruti School



## Mastering Ecological Building

Uruti School tamariki are a handy bunch of students to have around when there is something to build. This year's efforts have included the building of an eco-build bamboo tee-pee in the playground and the building of pekapeka (bat) homes.

The building of the pekapeka homes came about due to investigations of the local environment prior to the commencement of the Mount Messenger bypass project which revealed that pekapeka habitats were present.



**Deconstructing pallets and building**



Recognising that the potential disruption to pekapeka habitat loss could be a problem, the kura front footed the issue and took action. Using a pekapeka home design, the tamariki deconstructed untreated wooden pallets, then began sawing and nailing the pieces together to make a palatial home fit for a lucky pekapeka. Another great initiative in taking action in and for the environment.



# Kaponga School

## Creating outdoor learning spaces

There are many areas at Kaponga that have student groups constantly developing with new ideas. One of these ideas came about as the result of a student teacher telling the students about a track he had made through a patch of bush while he was a student there.

A group of students then decided to recreate this track. They found evidence of the original track by identifying rocks which had been used as edging. They then set to work with grubbers and spades to clear weeds and to scalp the track.

They then got busy on the wheelbarrows and buckets spreading lime chips and creating a rock border. Their hard work paid off with a fantastic bush track which honours the mahi



of the previous students and will be a great resource for current and future students to enjoy.



# Tawhiti School

## Developing the Maara Kai

Over the past 2 terms, Tawhiti School garden group have been planning and developing a kai maara on the site of their old cycle track. They have been busy building raised garden beds and filling them using the lasagne garden method.



They have built a worm farm and put in a potato and kumara patch. They have planted several different fruit trees and vines to start their orchard. Underneath each tree they have planted comfrey as an organic fertiliser and mulch system.

They have also planted sunflowers along the fence to create a sense of fun.



This work is ongoing but the space is already looking amazing! We look forward to seeing it develop further.



# Kakaramea School

## Localised curriculum

At the beginning of Term 4 Kakaramea visited Pairoa Pa (their local Pa) to learn about local histories and to participate in a range of cool activities.

They learnt that Dalvanius Prime came from Pairoa Pa and about how he composed the waiata Poie.

Students got to learn how to perform part of the 'Poi e' song, with poi, from one of the original performers.

This was definitely a fantastic opportunity which they will savour for years to come. They also made kawakawa balm to take away.



# Waitoriki School

## Green Gold Reflection and Celebration

Waitoriki Schools Reflection journey was deep and wide reaching. With encouragement they also evaluated the concepts of social sustainability with how they cared for one another and their wider community throughout the ups and downs of Covid.

Decision Making day dawned with a chilly wind, but that was nothing against the wonderful warmth of the welcome extended to the manuhiri, led by the Kapa haka group. The tamariki showed us around and explained the many aspects of Waitoriki School life from the "Loose Parts Playground" to Waitoriki Wares, the Maara kai, Waitoriki Whenua, Forest school, Kauri Akomanga, (the tactile classroom, where the placing of a personalised rock reserves the game or activity to be continued later), and so much more.

As impressive as all that was, we were also so delighted to hear of the depth of integration of the Enviroschools kaupapa in the school

Charter and policies. Top down support with excellent support from the Board and Principal as well as passionate teachers and empowered students really set this school up to being an excellent Green-Gold Enviroschools. Principal Teresa and lead Enviro Teacher Jo often say "this is just what we do".

After all the presentations, discussions and tours we were treated to a delicious taste of \*Small Stream Cuisine with tables beautifully set with placemats sewn by the tamariki.

A few weeks later we returned to celebrate and present the signed certificate and the prized sticker for the Enviroschools sign at the gate.

A massive congratulations to everyone who makes up the Waitoriki School community. Your ongoing journey is inspiring.

*\*Waitoriki means small stream*



# Toko School

## Beyond Green Gold Reflection and Celebration

The first Green-Gold Enviroschool is Taranaki just Reflected again at what it feels like Beyond Green-Gold. Their Enviroschools journey has only become deeper and richer since then.

Staff and students have come and gone in the interim so the time was ripe for a review; to take stock and celebrate all that has happened and all that they have learnt.

Toko have been on a deep and gentle cultural journey, demonstrated by the beautiful powhiri and the amazing strength of the Kapa haka group.

With much to celebrate it was key to focus in on some key areas to share the depth of the kaupapa. On Decision Making Day we enjoyed a general sharing and without a doubt guests were treated to discussions and presentations

about their recycled art pieces throughout the school, the distilling project, chickens, bees, the heritage orchard and maara kai through to using the produce to make a range of products for sale at the stall outside the gate.

One of the most impressive areas was the succession of the Enviro Leaders. Leaders are chosen each year to champion tours to the public and support action across every class. Tuakana teina is built into these roles with presentations no 'owned' only by the confident students.

All of this is underpinned by strong support from the Principal and staff so that the Enviroschools kaupapa is woven throughout school life, incorporated into every classrooms learning and out into the school community.

[All beautifully captured in this article](#)



# Stratford Primary



## Green Gold Reflection and Celebration

Another school whose Holistic Reflection process felt drawn out due to Covid - but the time came in November to share what they had uncovered, remembered and actioned since we reflected at Silver.

We were welcomed with an awesome whole school powhiri led by the Kapa haka group. What followed was a comprehensive insight into the many aspects of the life of this large primary school and the way the Enviroschools kaupapa is championed throughout.

Tamariki from the SPS Tuis envirogroup showed us around some of the key ongoing projects in the school eg bees. predator trapping, chickens, bug motels, scarecrows for the scarecrow competition, waste systems,

maara kai, orchard and stunning artwork around the grounds etc.

We also visited the play-based classroom and heard from the Principal about how the Enviroschools kaupapa has been incorporated into the school's policies and systems. eg the grounds person is fully onboard with the Enviroschools kaupapa and works with students on maintenance and repairs around the school grounds, giving them a sense of ownership of their kura.

Huge congratulations to everyone involved!



Read the full story in the Stratford Press [here](#)

# What's Next?



## Events, PD, activities & workshops

### What's coming up in Term 1

#### Teacher PD

##### March

**1/3, 3.30-5pm** via Zoom. EnviroSchools Refresher: Good for new teachers and new lead Enviro Teachers.

##### April

**19/4 10-2** School holiday training day. Come along to have a go and be inspired: mix of outdoors and indoors activities – trap building, firebrick making, rocket stoves, bird feeders, kawakawa balm making, beeswax wraps, make your own laundry/bathroom products; seed-saving, microgreens, composting, seasonal cooking.  
Kai provided \$5 p/p

#### Student workshops & field trips

##### March

**7/3, 10-1.30** Ag & Hort Stratford Dairy demonstration farm site visit: Good for students from year 5 to 13  
**21/3, 10-1.30** Ag & Hort Kavanagh (Hawera) Dairy demonstration farm site visit: Good for students from year 5 to 13.



### Funding available

Wild For Taranaki have a total of \$30,000 for biodiversity initiatives for community groups. **Apply by 28<sup>th</sup> February.** Grants can be used for restoration, trapping, monitoring, events, upskilling and other activities enhancing Taranaki biodiversity. A maximum of \$4000 can be applied for. [Application form here](#)

#### Events

##### March

**4/3, 1pm** Onsite. Beach clean-up: Opunake, Patea and Waitara. Great for the whole community.

##### April

**4/4, 10-2** at the Enviro Hub, Brooklands, New Plymouth. Student activity day: Loads of sustainable activities for years 3- 8.

##### Free

Order your riparian natives through us now - 2,500 available for Arbor Day 5/5.

#### In school support terms 1 & 2

Contact us for support with

- ✓ **Gardens...** harvesting, preserving, seed-saving, propagation, waste systems; compost beds
- ✓ Connection to nature hikoi; foraging
- ✓ Rongoa/medicinal gardens & products
- ✓ Eco building – teepees, bird/bat houses
- ✓ Vision Mapping
- ✓ Student leadership activities
- ✓ Plastic Free July prep



## Term 2

### Teacher PD

#### June

**15/6, 3.30-5pm** Onsite at the Enviro Hub, Brooklands, New Plymouth. Intro to weaving. Come and learn the tikanga for harvesting, how to prep your harakeke and some simple weaving that you can share with your class back at school in preparation for Puanga.

#### July

**11/7 10-2** School holiday training day. Come along and learn/share some skills: all things kai related – preserving, canning (bottling), smoking, drying, fermenting. Kai provided \$5 p/p



### Student workshops & field trips

#### May

**9/5, 10-1.30** Ag & Hort Gibson Farm (Hawera) Dairy demonstration farm site visit: Good for students from year 5 to 13.

**30/5, 10-1.30** Ag & Hort Waimate West (Hawera) Dairy demonstration farm site visit: Good for students from year 5 to 13.

### Events

#### May

**23/5, 10-2** Biodiversity event @ Rotokare Scenic Reserve: rotation activities aimed at Primary to Intermediate age.

**25/5 10-2** Nature Day @ Bushy Park for the south of the south schools: rotation activities connecting with nature.

See the separate flyers for:  
Teacher PD days, Ag & Hort  
mahi and other events in  
the calendar sent separately



# Ag & Hort - field trips

## Term 1 field trips

### Stratford Demonstration Farm

Dairy Nos 40695. & 40696- East Road Stratford

**7th March 10:00 -1:30pm**

Focus: Precision identification of Nitrate leaching (Cattle urine leaching mitigation) using 'Spikey' technology.

**NCEA Links: L1 90160, L2 91298, L3 91532**

**Registrations due by Friday 24th February**

### Kavanagh Farm

Dairy Nos 40393/ 40394, Nowell Rd, Hawera

**21st March 10:00-1:30pm**

Focus: Net Zero emissions

**NCEA Links: L1 90160, L2 91298, L3 91532**

**Registrations due by Friday 10th March**



## Term 2 field trips

### Gibson Farm

Dairy No. 40374, Whareora Road. Hawera

**9th May 10:00 -1:30pm**

Focus: Lowering environmental impacts-reducing stocking rates and imported feed to reduce emissions-lowering methane output and Nitrogen surplus. Also examining use of drought resistant grasses.

**NCEA Links: L1 90160, L2 91298, L3 91532**

**Registrations due by Friday 28th April**

### Waimate West Farm

Dairy nos. 41952, 41954, Normanby Road, Hawera

**30th May, 10:00-1:30pm**

Focus: Regenerative farming practices, multi species pastures and increased soil health.

**NCEA Links: L1 90155, 90160, 90919**

**L2 91297, 91298**

**Registrations due by Friday 19th May**



# Term 2 Student event - Biodiversity

## Primary & Intermediate Event @ Rotokare

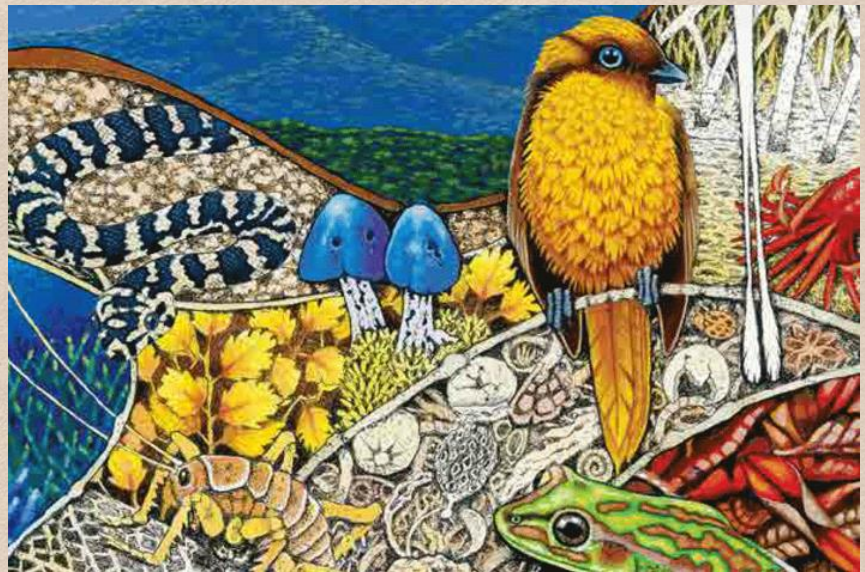
### Week 5: Tuesday 23rd May

A rotation of activities all focused around biodiversity and actions you can take back at school

Numbers limited to approx. 40 per school

Whole school day 10-2 onsite

RAMS & What to bring list available on registration



Book now on [enviroschools@trc.govt.nz](mailto:enviroschools@trc.govt.nz)

\$300 + GST available as transport support

If you want to front load the learning then jump onto the [Science Learning Hub](#)



## Enviroschools Guiding Principles

### Empowered Students

Students participating in meaningful ways, in the life of their schools/community and taking action for real change.

### Learning for Sustainability

Types of teaching and learning that foster student empowerment, decision-making, action and sustainable outcomes.

### Māori Perspectives

Honouring the status of indigenous people in New Zealand and valuing their knowledge, to guide learning and action.

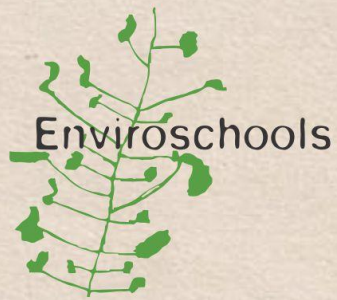
### Respect for the Diversity of People and Cultures

Acknowledging the unique contributions and perspectives of individuals and groups, in creating a sustainable world.

### Sustainable Communities

Nurturing people and nature, now and in the future, for the health and viability of our environment, society, culture and economy.





Enviroschools

Private Bag 713  
Stratford 4352  
Taranaki  
New Zealand

Phone: 06 765 7127  
Email: [Enviroschools@trc.govt.nz](mailto:Enviroschools@trc.govt.nz)  
[www.enviroschools.org.nz](http://www.enviroschools.org.nz)



To know more or register for any events, please contact the Taranaki Enviroschools team:

Lauree Jones	✉ <a href="mailto:Enviroschools@trc.govt.nz">Enviroschools@trc.govt.nz</a>	☎ 027 245 6119
Esther Ward-Campbell	✉ <a href="mailto:esther.ward-campbell@trc.govt.nz">esther.ward-campbell@trc.govt.nz</a>	☎ 027 431 5459
Richard Carr	✉ <a href="mailto:richard.carr@trc.govt.nz">richard.carr@trc.govt.nz</a>	☎ 027 208 6821
Sue Rine	✉ <a href="mailto:sue.rine@trc.govt.nz">sue.rine@trc.govt.nz</a>	☎ 027 307 7866
Debbie Vertongen	✉ <a href="mailto:debbie.vertongen@kindergartentaranaki.co.nz">debbie.vertongen@kindergartentaranaki.co.nz</a>	
Leena Thomas	✉ <a href="mailto:leena.thomas-st@kindergartentaranaki.co.nz">leena.thomas-st@kindergartentaranaki.co.nz</a>	



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Taranaki Enviroschools is proudly supported by



Te Kaitiaki-a-Riwha o Ngāimotu  
New Plymouth  
District Council

