

Enviroschools TARANAKI



Term 2 JUNE 2020

Hooray for the new normal!

An *unprecedented* amount of times to hear such words and phrases such as unprecedented, iso buddies, bubbles, lockdown, pandemic - all potentially leading to intense amounts of time at home to find things to occupy your time. Apparently getting on each others nerves is NOT a recognised Olympic Sport!

We've also been faced with looking at what a new normal will be and whether our lives will be similar or different. Within our Enviroschools bubbles we've actually seen a lot of thriving going on with skill sharing, resource development, personal and professional learning, wonderful storytelling, quiet time, gardening, mindfulness, connection to Papatuanuku and more.

Like everyone else, at times it's been awesome and other times it's been a real challenge. We're no different there but it's been so heartwarming to see our communities draw together, support each other and some to even thrive.

You may notice some new faces. You'd be right!
We are growing and strengthening our team.



Like many of you, we have become experts on Zoom hui or Zui as we now call them. Here's your Taranaki Enviroschools team on one Zui recently. Not pictured: Denise Smith-Watty and Sue Rine.

With thanks to additional funding support from TRC and the TSB Community Trust, Richard Carr has joined us from Rahotu School and we're really excited about the skills, talent, connections and laughter he will add. (See more from Richard on next page.) We also have Sue Rine with us until the end of July for some fun action in the environment. Esther Ward-Campbell and myself you'll already know, or will meet over time if you're new.

Taranaki Kindergarten, Te Putahi Kura Pūhou o Taranaki, have strengthened their team to include Lois Sibtsen, Lizzy Brouwers, Tammy Wellaway and Denise Smith-Watty all supporting the 24 kindergartens as trained Enviroschools Facilitators. Debbie Vertongen and Lois continue in their roles as Professional Leaders/Senior Teachers and are always excellent points of contact. See the table following to see who's looking after your kindergarten or school.

In case you missed them, we've included links to some of the resources we put together for you. And (left) here's some upcycled items and creations I made during lockdown.

Nga mihi nui,
Lauree Jones,
Regional Coordinator & Facilitator



Taranaki Enviroschools is proudly supported by



Introducing our current team

Prior to lockdown, we employed the awesomeness of Sue Rine to support our Enviroschools with some **action in the environment**. Lockdown has seen her doing lots of other cool things including creating resources. Sue will be with us until the end of July. Touch base with Lauree to book Sue in for up to three 3 hour in-school/kindergarten support sessions. Sue can help with garden advice - native and food; Vision Mapping; Harakeke environments including weaving; readying your gardens for winter including planting out and more. Here's a message from Sue...



PHOTO: stuff.co.nz

Sue Rine

Kia ora Koutou, Kō Sue Rine tōku ingoa.

I'm new to the Enviroschools team, having joined just days before the lockdown started. My role is temporary and I was going to be visiting some of you, but as we all know, things changed dramatically. Instead I've been keeping busy at home in my bubble.

I've been contributing to developing resources for you to use with your students. In part these have been seasonal, but some things are possible any time of year, like weaving with tetra paks, which would otherwise go to landfill.

Another contribution has been to our growing collection of goodies for our planned teacher care packages. I've been making soap in different fragrances and my store of surplus net curtains that "might come in handy one day" has been converted into a stack of produce bags. I also discovered in my store of "handy stuff" some thread that my mother bought decades ago to use for tāniko. She paid 95c per hank for it!! Since I wasn't able to buy suitable cord for the produce bags, I've been crocheting the thread into cords, some of them in Taranaki colours of gold and black.

While it's been fun and interesting doing what I've been doing, I'm really looking forward to getting out and being able to meet some of you and to give a hand with achieving the enviro-goals you have for your schools.



Sue and husband Greg live in an off the grid permaculture designed property at Te Popo.

Check out the article written about them www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-dailynews/lifestyle/75559574/sue-and-gregs-permaculture-paradise-in-te-popo

This will also give you a better overview of Sue's many skills.



Richard Carr

Tena Koutou

My name is Richard Carr and I have recently joined the Enviroschools team as a Facilitator at TRC.

I have lived in Okato, with my wife and two children, for over 17 years and love being part of the community and taking part in what our province has to offer. My hobbies include fishing, hiking, gardening and spending time with my whanau. I have been a teacher at Rahotu School for over 8 years.

I am passionate about how we look after the environment. I believe that enabling children to participate in environmental initiatives is the way to hook them into having a vested long-term interest in caring for what we have. The chance for me to be a part of making change is something that is really exciting and I am looking forward to meeting all the wonderful people that share the vision of a sustainable future.

Nga mihi,
Richard Carr



Let's find out what Esther's been doing over lockdown...

*Kia ora koutou,
I hope lockdown was a positive experience and that the transition back to school has been smooth sailing. I realise that the 'new normal' is uncharted territory for us all and I would like to offer support on your Enviroschools journey. This can be through meetings, email, garden prep with students, taking envirogroups etc. I'm here to support staff, students and whānau, and I can offer a range of workshops. These can be fashioned to suit your needs: staff workshops, groups of students, or even include whānau members.*

*Nga mihi nui,
Esther*

Kumara workshops

Kumara grows very well in Taranaki and, as it stores well, it is an excellent staple crop.

The first Kumara Workshop will be on August 12th and will focus on different methods of growing tipu for future planting, and preparing beds.

Successive workshops will focus on planting, maintenance, harvest and storage. During these workshops tikanga will be observed, with reverence and acknowledge paid to the whakapapa of Rongomātāne.



Weaving Kono and Waikawa harakeke baskets

These make fantastic storage containers which can be composted back into the earth at the end of their use. Kono are excellent classroom storage receptacles and Waikawa have a range of uses: from clothing baskets to kai storage. *Best of all, the materials are 100% free!*

Throughout this activity **Te Ao Māori** will be observed, and participants will learn whakapapa of Hine-te-iwaiwa, the spiritual guardian/atua of weaving.



Shampoo and conditioner bars

Plant-based and chemical free, these are an excellent alternative to liquid products, great for the hair, and they eliminate some of plastic waste from the shopping trolley. They also make great gifts. This is an excellent activity for **Plastic Free July**.

Who's your Facilitator?

You're very lucky here in Taranaki that we work collaboratively a lot as Facilitators and often you'll see more than just one of us. We like this as we all bring different passions, skills and knowledge with us. However, you do or will all have your main point of contact. And here they are.



Lauree Jones

5 schools specifically and general support to all schools and kindergartens

Richard Carr

Okato north and half of Stratford from June

Esther Ward-Campbell

Half of Stratford and South Taranaki

Sue Rine

All Enviroschools support until 31 July

Lois Sibtsen

Brooklands, Devon and Inglewood Kindergartens

Lizzy Brouwers

Frankleigh Park, Ngāmotu, Pukekura, Kaitake, Kahikatea, Merrilands, Westown, Marfell and Fitzroy Kindergartens

Denise Smith-Watty

Koromiko, Hawera, Tawhiti, Avon, Eltham, Central, Koru and Patea Kindergartens

Tammy Wellaway

Bell Block / Pōhutakawa, Waitara Central, Orapa and Puketapu Kindergartens

What we had planned & what happened instead



Biodiversity event

We were running a collaborative event at Rotokare Scenic Reserve which had to be cancelled. Those of us attending discussed different ways of sharing, which developed into Emily and Ash presenting [Biodiversity in your Backyard](#). This link will take you to all the videos plus resources to support the mahi.



We were going to be on hand to support the opening of **The Junction - Zero Waste Hub** at Colson Road, New Plymouth. It has now opened and is ready for your business. Check them out here on [Facebook](#).

Energy! with Dave Dobbin

We were bringing Dave Dobbin (teacher, not the musician) to Taranaki to show us how he saved his school hundreds of thousands of dollars over a small number of years by involving the students in some environmental action.



Check him out here on [Good Sorts](#).



Dave Dobbin, teacher



It is such an inspiring story that MoE are providing further funding for Dave to create this presentation as an up and coming roadshow. We'll let you know more once the dates are released.

Events held prior to lockdown

St Josephs Wetlands Day - Esther and an awesome group of local experts came together for a day of learning around wetlands at St Josephs School in Waitara. Looked like a great day!



Connecting With Our Seas
 Ko au te moana, ko te moana ko au
 I am the sea, the sea is me

nzsee seaweek.
AN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

SAT 29TH FEB - SUN 8TH MAR 2020

The Waitara Community was just one of many who got out to help tidy up the waterways and doing some fun learning at the same time.
www.seaweek.org.nz

Nursery funding



With some one off additional funding via Toimata Foundation from **Ministry for the Environment**, we have been able to support a handful of Enviroschools with a cash or goods injection to help them along. The winners of this are:

Ngaere School	Outdoor classroom mahi	\$\$\$\$\$, help & plants/trees
Puketapu Kindergarten	Garden wall development	Plants
Ratapiko School	Environmental action – plants and trees	Help & plants/trees
Stratford High School	Compost, mulch & tools	\$\$\$\$\$
Stratford Primary School	Tools, gloves, potting mix, plants	\$\$\$\$\$
Tikorangi School	Further Orchard development	Help & trees/plants
Toko School	Connections between orchard and classroom	\$\$\$\$\$
Waitara High School	Harakeke & kai gardens	Money & help
Westown Kindergarten	Help planting out orchard	Fruit trees



Highlight on Stratford

Enviroschools Taranaki and a large range of other educational support organisations came together to support Te Kaahui Ako o Taranaki Mohoao hui in March. It was an awesome day! Great for presenters and teachers alike. Here's a bit of coverage from the day. [Read more](#)



And speaking of Stratford, Stratford Primary School have been achieving their long term goals of getting bees onsite. Read more about the beekeeping tamariki [here](#).

Supporting virtual learning

Over the lockdown period, we were hard at work creating resources and sustainable care items for you. These were great tools for online learning and are also things you can utilise at any other time. Here are the links to them:

tinyurl.com/Curriculum-Instalment1

tinyurl.com/Curriculum-Instalment2



Kindergarten activities

Kindergarten Taranaki staff did some awesome activities during lockdown.

Visit [Ngamotu Kindergarten's](#) facebook page to check out what they've been doing.



Te Putahi Kura Pūhou o Taranaki



JUNE/JULY

Hurry! Book yours now

PLASTIC FREE JULY

Plastic free July prep workshops

Be ready for July. Book in with your facilitator now!
For more info visit www.plasticfreejuly.org



27 June – 5 July

NZ Garden Bird Survey

Do the survey and find lots of other fun activities including bird masks!

tinyurl.com/nz-bird-survey

AUGUST

12 August

Kumara workshop

3.30-5pm

Stratford Primary School

Stage 1: Learn everything you need to know about the basics of kumara growing, including karakia.

Get started growing free food!

Book now!



COMING SOON

New date to be advised

How to run a Zero Waste or Low Waste event

Postponed from 27/5/20.

Email Lauree to register your interest.



To know more or register for any events listed, please contact us or visit www.enviroschools.org.nz

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