



Celebrations

TARANAKI



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Kia ora, talofa, bula,
привіт, g'day, hola,
bonjour, guten tag,
salve, nǐn hǎo, olá

The first half of 2022 has seen some of us still unsettled by Covid while others are starting to feel the dust settle. We mihi to you all with the journey that this has been.

Like all of you, we have also had to pivot in our delivery styles. Instead of our regular termly panui, we've stuck with the calendar of events and happenings.

We thought we'd showcase a small handful of things that have been warming our hearts and minds as we move into makariri (winter).

Inside this booklet you'll also find some opportunities, some changes in staffing, some resources and an overview of what we're working on at the moment.

Nga mihi nui.

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

Growth and Development

Enviroschools Taranaki

Over the last few years we have been working with our funding partners to firm up what Enviroschools looks like in Taranaki. All three District Councils have increased their funding and Taranaki Regional Council in turn has similarly also increased support for the kaupapa.

During this time of change we also mihi to Toi Foundation who kept us stable and allowed us to address a level of demand across the region and across the deciles.

Lauree has moved to full time Coordination and we saw Richard take on a full time role as employee of TRC. Richard's role is split between his Enviroschools mahi in North Taranaki with TRC's education offerings across Taranaki. This role works alongside both Enviroschools and the amazing Dr. Emily Roberts.

Sue Rine finished up her Project Support (kai & soil) mahi and stepped into a Facilitator role for Central Taranaki which we're really excited about. Esther Ward-Campbell celebrates 3 years with us now and is powering on as South Taranaki Facilitator.

We also love our in-kind partnership with Te Putahi Kura Pūhou o Taranaki - Kindergarten Taranaki. Leena Thomas and Debbie Vertongen champion the Enviroschools kaupapa in that space. We mihi to all the hard work, creativity and positive direction that Lizzy Brouwers, Tammy Wellaway and Denise Smith-Watty have added over the last few years. Nga mihi nui ki a koutou xx

Piloting new ideas and expanding our horizons

2022/23 is seeing us extend our offerings to the wider Taranaki school community. Non-Enviroschools are able to access our experienced, skilled and knowledgeable staff up to 4 times per year for either a project, an activity or a series of workshops. Some things like making beeswax wraps comes with everything supplied. Other things are supported in school such as, developing waste streams with compost bin building and worm farms, planning an outdoor classroom, being part of your camp and more.

We're also joining together with the Regional Council Gardens teams to bring you more onsite learning, events and project based activities. Tūpare in the North (Mangorei), Hollard Gardens in the South (Kaponga) and Pukeiti on our Maunga all offer amazing features and activities.

Things in development at the moment are:

- Opportunities to achieve your NCEA credits with our experienced team.
- Wetlands restoration and development resources. A full primary and a separate secondary resource are underway.
- Land based training opportunities with our local Dairy industry partners.
- Enviro leadership programme.
- And ... wait for it events are going to start again 😊

So what's been happening?



Soil our Undies

Turuturu, Green School NZ, Waitara High and Stratford Primary

These four schools have been working through what building good soil looks like, feels like and smells like. Through their journey they have looked at the life cycle of beneficial insects and in this case, it has been dung beetles. Dung Beetles can be really beneficial to this province as they help move nutrients around, as well as aerate soils for better water retention and nutrient use.

Some action projects have been burying cotton “undies” and digging them up at a later date to see what kind of microbiology has impacted them. There has also been soil testing and checking things out through a microscope.

We thank Curious Minds for their funding to date.

If you're wanting to dive into the dirt and investigate how to build great soil, then we can help – just get in touch.



We have some field visits on YouTube for you to enjoy.

Just click the links.

Sue enjoyed visiting [Roebuck Farms](#). Jodi takes us through the processes of minimal till and minimal exposure gardening for great results.

Sue visited [Urs Singer at Parihaka](#) and checked out the māra. Nothing was buried in the māra. The visit was brilliant to learn more about building great soil to grow heaps of kai to support your local community.

We also went to [Donna and Phillip Cram's farm at Awatuna](#) to see some great dairy action and a really cool wetland area.

Plus we also went home with [Sue who lives off grid](#) in an organic manner with her husband and their various farm and domestic animals (plus a whole bunch of dung beetles), forestry blocks and more.

Future Living Skills

Workshops in South Taranaki

Our team has been delivering workshops throughout South Taranaki focusing on the [Sustainable Living programme](#) to share some Future Living Skills. Some of these have been face-to-face and others online. Here are the links to a couple that you can watch:



A 40 min documentary on building communities through schools with volunteer action. This Happen Films movie takes us on a tour through working with prisons, community groups and more to give back, share more, think creatively and develop and strengthen your community. Highly recommended viewing for students and adults alike. [Together We Grow](#) follows the journey of Julia Milne, founder of Common Unity and the Remakery in Lower Hutt.

Join Lauree, Esther & Sue while we talk [all things winter gardens](#). This is a focus on kai and keeping your eating well with a healthy garden throughout. Keep those grocery bills down and keep connected to nature through this time.



The Future Living Skills workshops have been proudly sponsored by



Enviro Hub - Brooklands

NPDC inspires change for grass roots

Over the last few months, NPDC along with environmental action and sustainability focused groups, Friends of Pukakura Park and iwi have been working collaboratively to bring about a hub in the North. The hub gives individuals and organisations a place to work, hold meetings and educational workshops; allowing the public to see demonstrations in practice.

Your EnviroSchools team is excited to be a part of this. The Hub will be opening soon and more information will come when we are ready to receive groups including, location, open days and times.



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth
District Council**

Regional focus

Holistic Reflections - looking back to move forward

After this time of Covid we are re-engaging with the Holistic Reflection process. Normally we head from Bronze through to Silver then off to Green-Gold. A number of you still suit this process and others fit a more bespoke model.

Pausing your journey to look back on where you've come from, celebrating that, then thinking about where you're heading from there is the whole concept of a Reflection so if you're keen to do this and haven't let us know as yet, then feel free to touch base.



Waste opportunities

We have a number of workshops available to you to join, host or have us run with your students.

These include:

- Cooking low/no waste meals on a budget
- Weaving with Tetrapaks
- Making beeswax wraps
- We also have loads of firebrick makers coming to help you combat your Lunch in Schools packaging & more. NB. These are only available for North Taranaki schools & kindergartens thanks to NPDC Waste funding



Secondary focus

Esther Ward-Campbell has created an awesome document localising the NCEA and Achievement Standards links to Taranaki through environmental education and sustainability.

If you're looking to use a more localised curriculum with loads of help then this should be an excellent opportunity for you. Focus areas are EEFs, Social Studies, English, Technology, Home Economics, Biology & Chemistry Ag & Hort, Maths, Geography, History (great timing), Arts, Health & PE. [Click here](#) for the Google link where you can download it. Don't forget that we can help you unpack this more to customise to people and place.

[Localised curriculum](#)



Kindergarten Taranaki

Our Enviroschools Haerenga

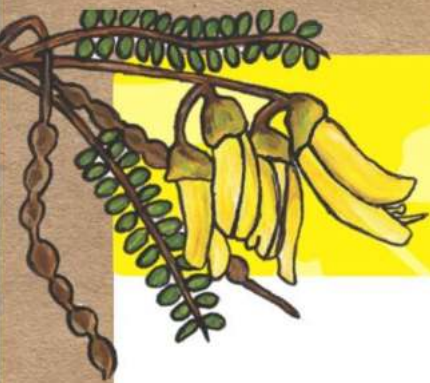
Since 2019 Enviroschools has been a major part of who we are and what we do. We are fortunate to have 24 Kindergartens who are embedding ngā mātapono, the guiding principles into our learning communities. We value Education for Sustainability and most importantly incorporating Māori Perspectives into our ways of knowing, being and doing. We are kaitiaki of the whenua, tangata and Enviroschools supports our kaupapa of working towards creating a learning hāpori that will teach our tamariki to be tiaki of Te Taiao.

Debbie & Leena xx

To find out more about Kindergartens in Taranaki near you, visit them at:

<https://www.kindergartentaranaki.co.nz/>





Marfell Kindergarten

Our Māra kai

At Te Whare Oranga Marfell Kindergarten we follow the EnviroSchools kaupapa as part of our curriculum. What does this mean? It means that we foster interest in the environment and how to look after it. This includes, people, places, things, animals, plants and the environment.



We value the concept of ako, the understanding that we all learn together and from each other, whānau (families), kaiako (teachers) and tamariki (children). We acknowledge the concept of tikanga whakaako in which we are always all interwoven in learning, and cannot be separated. We have been working and learning together creating a productive māra kai (food garden). Some of the things we have been doing include, growing vegetables in our māra kai, planting new fruit trees, moving plants, growing sunflowers, creating bug hotels, using things we already have to create our bug hotels, making bird feeders, reusing/repurposing things - boxes in the art area, using both sides of our paper in our art area, recycling our food scraps in our worm farm and compost bin.

Tamariki and the hāpori (community) get to enjoy the hua (fruits) of our labour through enjoying the kai that has been produce as a result of all our hard mahi (work). Ka tipu ngātahi ai tātou- together we grow.



Westown Kindergarten

Connection to the Community

At Westown Kindergarten we value whanaugatanga relationships and especially our hono (connections) within the hāpori (community). We run a kai programme at our Kindergarten, and to support our sustainability haerenga Palmers Garden Centre very kindly donated a vegepod.

Vegepod

We have had our vegepod for just over a month and the hua whenua we have purchased are already lush. Ngā tamariki enjoyed planting the seedlings, watching them grow, harvesting and eating them by themselves. We are really looking forward to using some of our home grown produce for our kai programme.



Frankleigh Park

Hangarua and Te Reo Māori

Recently at Frankleigh Park Kindergarten our EnviroSchools focus has been on re-establishing a collective understanding of our wahi hangarua – recycling station, with our Māori language plan embedded throughout. We focused on engaging tamariki in in-depth discussions, introducing group games to revisit the experience and involving tamariki in the entire process, taking scraps from the lunchbox, to the wahi hangarua, then on to the worm farm/compost/rua para.

Ensuring along the way that tamariki experienced and understood each step in the process, and connected the process with Papatūānuku.

As some familiarity and confidence began to grow we were then able to utilise tuakana teina relationships empowering knowledgeable tamariki to take on leadership roles, supporting others to problem solve and decide where to put the scraps from their lunchboxes.

Our Māori language plan has been embedded throughout with phrases such as 'Ka haere tēnei ki whea?' Where does this go? And 'Ki roto i te ipu...' In the container.

We have also been encouraging whānau contributions to our pāmu noke, making links with home and supporting whānau to feel involved once again! This has extended ngā tamariki knowledge, with opportunities to identify and discuss scraps that wouldn't usually appear in a lunchbox, and problem solve to decide whether it can be fed to the noke/compost.



Hāwera Kindergarten



Hangarua: Recycling

At Hāwera kindergarten our philosophy Manaaki te Whenua, Manaaki te Tangata, Haere Whakamua is embedded into our practices and tikanga. We think about how we can take care of our Kindergarten environment and how we align who we are and what we do to the Enviroschools kaupapa. One of the ways we approach this mahi is through teaching our tamariki how to recycle our waste.



At the kai table we have 3

containers available along with pictures to support tamariki to understand where to put their food and other general waste. The yellow bowl is for food scraps which are then emptied into the scrap bucket for composting or kai for the worm farm. Another bowl is specifically for food packets which are then emptied into the general waste bin and the last bowl is for yogurt pottles and spoons.

The pottles and spoons are then washed at the end of each day and are put out to be used in the art area for tamariki to use them however them for collecting different things such as bugs and other treasures. Tamariki are empowered to be kaitiaki of our environment, and each other, to create sustainable practices that will endure within our hāpori for future generations to come.



Kahikatea Kindergarten



Te Kākahu

Children's discoveries of the bi-cultural partnership of Aotearoa, New Zealand, have been growing over time at Kahikatea Kindergarten.

Tamariki, captivated with this hands on project since its conception in 2017, committed themselves to exploring the challenge of weaving tāonga to create their very own cloak.

Our kākahu upholds the mana of each child and their whānau.

Tamariki understand that they can wear the kākahu at their celebration / farewell ceremony.

We are very grateful that this legacy lives on, giving meaning and magic to all!

Project Kākahu embraces the 5 Enviroschool Guiding Principles and the 4 Key Areas of Kindergarten life.

Mā mua ka kite a muri.
Mā mura ka ora a mua

Those who lead give sight
to those who follow
Those who follow give life
to those who lead



Soil Your Undies - Turuturu School



Turuturu School, Stratford Primary, Waitara High and Green School students have been exploring the wonderful world beneath our feet by creating and burying undies! After 2 months in 16 different school sites the undies were dug up to see what the soil microbes had done to them.

They have also been doing visual soil assessments, worm counts and hosting dung beetles, one of nature's curious little soil engineers, with the large name... onthiphagus binodis!



Let's get outside!!!

Midhirst School

Bug Motel: Happy Bugs, Happy Food Forest, Happy Students

A crowd of keen tamariki at Midhirst School have created a 5 star motel to suit all kinds of creepy critters. Starting with lengths of giant bamboo...thank you Richard...they filled them with any organic material we could find; leaves, cones, small bamboo etc. Once these 'rooms' were ready they were installed in some pallets to create a high rise luxury bug motel in the food forest.



Kaponga Students get stuck in creating a Nature Based Classroom

A group of Kaponga Primary School students are working hard every Friday morning creating an outdoor learning space in the riparian bush zone at their school. Led by Teacher Aide, Sandria, the students have widened steps down the stream using old tyres and are planning a second set of steps further downstream. They have cleared litter and dead branches. Using grubbers and spades, some students are creating a level pathway through the bush. They are using half rounds of old fence posts and recycled timber boards to edge the path. Other students are busy with pruning saws, loppers, and secateurs removing branches, cutting out invasive or weed species, and clearing a pathway for a future cycle track.



Outdoor Classrooms, planting and developing nurseries

The Waitara community is developing nursery units, outdoor classrooms and more.



Waitara East School has been investigating what they need to develop an unused area of their grounds for an outdoor classroom. Following on from a visit in 2021 from [Bug Man Ruud Kleinpaste](#) and [Shark Man Riley Elliott](#), WES decided to dive into what living and learning closer to nature looks like at school.

Bilingual teacher and DP Luke Mattock went on a mission with his tamariki at school and at home in lockdown to do a nature investigation. From there WES has worked with TRC Wetlands Scientists and the Enviroschools team to learn more about their whenua and start developing an outdoor classroom.

Manukorihi Intermediate have been lucky enough to receive a Trees for Survival propagation unit and will start learning all about eco-sourcing seeds and plants for planting out over the years to come.



To find out more and download the english or reo versions of He Kākano, check out our friends at [The Whitebait Connection](#).

All Waitara kura will benefit from major propagation units and education pathways being developed through the Otaraua Hapu commitment to taiao. In partnership with [NPDC's Planting Our Place](#) mahi the propagation units will be a learning space for all.

Opunake High School Trade Academy

Building for Success

In 2020 Opunake High School began a trial programme focussed on building a tiny home. A group of 13 students, led by teacher Michael Griggs, joined the programme and worked tirelessly over two years to complete the project. During this time they learnt not just carpentry skills, but also roofing, plumbing and electrical wiring. Despite the disruptions of Covid, the group finished the project to a very high standard. As a result, three of the students were given apprenticeships as builders and another was given an apprenticeship as an electrician.

This project also gained interest from the community with requests from community members for tiny homes and batches. This led Opunake High School to set up a trades academy, aimed at creating career pathways in the construction industry. The High School needed a secure site which was under cover to allow students to work in all weather. The Opunake Lions and local tradespeople offered assistance and turned up en masse one weekend, complete with machinery and tools to construct a shipping container shelter.

Eighteen students are enrolled in this academy and work is well under way on the second tiny build.



Find out more about Ecological Buildings [here at the Enviroschools website](#) – it doesn't have to be big.

In the community and in the limelight

Hawera High School

Leading a hand with Church Community Garden Project



A group of Hawera High School students are collaborating with St Mary's Anglican Church Members, Sustainable Taranaki and Enviroschools to create a community garden on the site of the old Mary's Church Hall.

This site will be a place for community members to garden together; a place to reflect and relax; an education space; and will provide healthy kai for the community.



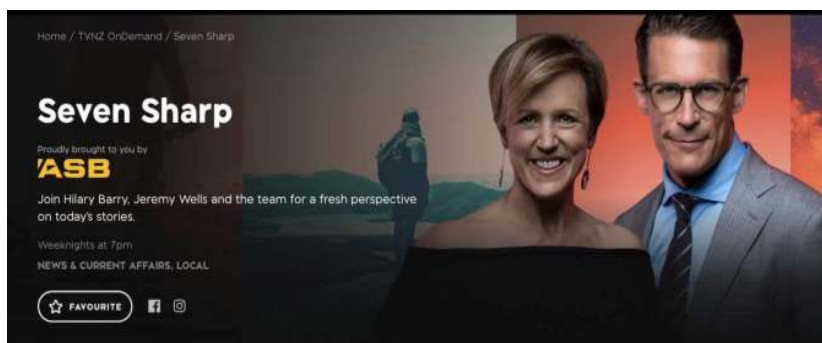
The students have begun collecting various mulch materials and have painted signage to support an upcoming composting workshop.

They have also gathered soil samples from different areas of the site and have sent them to Soilsafe Aotearoa for testing.

More schools in Hawera will be getting involved shortly.

Opunake High School's Seaweed Story on Seven Sharp

A massive shout out to Opunake High School students Brody and Jason and their teacher, Pauline, who featured on Seven Sharp for their wonderful seaweed fertiliser business initiative. It is fantastic to see students engaging with their local environment to develop a product which creates a healthier environment, as well as teaching them valuable life skills. To view this beautiful story go to <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/seven-sharp>



Waitara High Composting

A group of Waitara High School EnviroAction students took a journey into the attributes of composting in Term 1, 2022. Although the kura has a fantastic orchard and vegetable garden, the lack of a compost facility was identified as something that could be addressed.

The theory of how to make compost and what makes great compost was explored first, followed by the construction of a compost bin using pallets.



The crew with the tools of the trade.

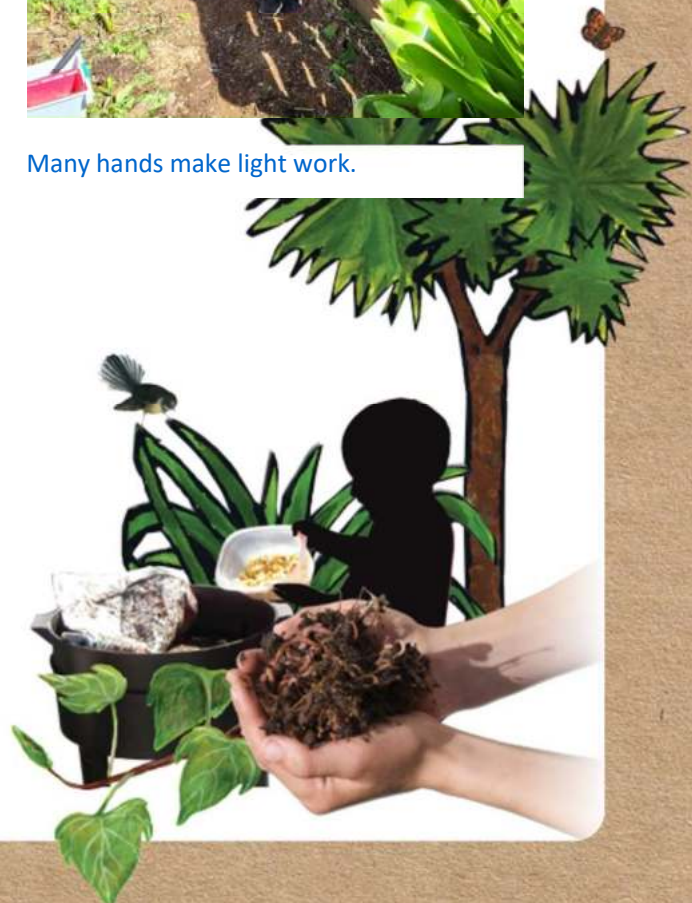


Many hands make light work.



An enthusiastic group of students got cracking with excavating a suitable area adjacent the orchard, then swinging hammers to knock up the walls.

Happy composting Waitara High!



Pembroke School

Gaining momentum

Pembroke School, situated just north of Stratford, is a relatively new Enviroschool with a lot of heart and 'can do' attitude. Initially, Rebecca Jury led the sustainability charge with some great initiatives, such as reconstructing the bottle greenhouse and the raised vegetable garden beds. Rebecca has since left the kura and teacher Kate Lepper has taken up the role of leading the Enviroschools kaupapa.

Kate and Wendy Single (Principal) have a whole raft of new ideas that they want to implement. Among them is relocating the bottle greenhouse and the raised garden beds to a more sheltered position adjacent the orchard, as the current location is exposed to our strong Taranaki winds.

Other initiatives include water collection for the orchard and vege garden areas, establishing an Enviroleaders group, exploring how best to develop the local curriculum while weaving in the Enviroschools kaupapa.



Lauree in fine Beeswax wrap making form with Rebecca and tamariki taking a keen interest in the process.



Able helpers fixing up the bottle house and rejuvenating the raised garden beds.



Marfell Community School

Energised!

Room 3 teacher, Catherine Steenson, has a vision about creating an energy sustainable future for the Marfell Community kura. The tamariki in her class have learned all about energy, including what it is, how it works and alternate ways it can be generated sustainably using the naturally occurring forces of nature, such as wind, water and solar.

The tamariki have explored this [Enviroschools Theme Area](#) by using circuit boards to construct basic electrical circuits, putting together a range of different models that use sun and wind to generate electricity and creating reports about using alternate ways to generate electricity. An expert in solar panels even made a visit to the class to demonstrate how they can be used in practice.

With the costs of energy consumption climbing as well as limiting green house gases, the push to use alternate ways to sustainably generate electricity has never been more important. This is something that Catherine and her tamariki know all too well.



Getting little wet with one of the solar models.



One of the reports being showcased.



The Room 3 tamariki with their sustainable electricity generation models.



The Little School That Can

Uruti School Walking the Talk

It might be fair to say that Uruti School in North Taranaki punches above its weight. While being an EnviroSchool for a number of years, the drive to maintain momentum with initiatives in their local environment while exploring new ideas for the future is something that this kura does very well.

The beauty of small country schools is that all the tamariki get involved in the mahi, with authentic tuakana- teina relationships demonstrated across a range of contexts.

Term 4 last year saw a concerted effort to get things moving in the right direction. New raised garden beds were constructed and planted out with a range of vegetable plants, the worm farm was fixed up, the compost bin was relocated to a more suitable location and a pod was installed that stored water collected from the roof of the bottle house.

A reflection was done on what was achieved and a brainstorm about Next Steps for the future was completed.



The process of reflection.



Doing the hard mahi!
Cooperation in action.



Filling the new Compost bins.



Inspiring others

Spotswood College 'showed us around' virtually and took us through what embedding sustainability into the curriculum means to them. You can watch a recording of the Zoom [here](#).



Spotswood College were also able to talk to us about their 2021 Earthwise Grant spend. This offer recently went out to all Enviroschools again in 2022. Fingers crossed for Taranaki!



These Inspiration Sessions will continue. They can be focused on a project, a process, an activity, student leadership programmes, a YES activity/process, a strategic integration or a holistic journey. It's up to you what you want to share. Just let us know if you'd like to share because loads of teachers are waiting and keen to hear.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can **change the world**. Indeed, it is **the only thing that ever has.**”

Margaret Mead



Goalcast

What's Next?

Events, PD, activities & workshops

What's coming up

June

Wed 15/6 9-4 Your Sustainable School – Talking Trash – at NPDC, Liardet St, New Plymouth with the Sustainability Trust. Open to any school/kura

Thurs 16/6 9-4 Your Sustainable School – Talking Trash - at the TSB Hub, Hawera with the Sustainability Trust. Open to any school/kura

Riparian, native & fruit trees – touch base if you're keen on these.

July

Plastic Free July – workshops can include: eco-bricks, firebrick making, Beeswax Wraps making, Boomerang Bags & produce bag making, t-shirt bag making, display of alternatives & more.

Book yours now

A collaborative Plastic Free July event is planned for the holidays at Puke Ariki. Date Thursday 21st July 10-1 – all welcome!



Term 3

Tues 9/8 3.30-5pm Primary-Secondary Prepare for Holistic Reflections (any level) **Zoom**

Tues 23/8 Composting, gardening & worms – Waitara – let us know if you want to host

Wed 24/8 Composting, gardening & worms – Opunake – let us know if you want to host

Thurs 25/8 Composting, gardening & worms – Patea – let us know if you want to host

Thurs 22/9 10-2 Primary – Intermediate EnviroSchools **event on Bees** @ Hollards Gardens. Max 40 per school. Book now.

11th – 12th Oct **NZAAE** Conference. Keep up with their Facebook page for details



\$\$\$\$\$ Is your kura in need of some funding? Then we have compiled a list of all **\$\$\$\$\$** types of funding available for you. Check it out [here](#).

We now also have a **Padlet** of all sorts of links, clips, unit plans, examples and more to help you with your teaching. Check that out [here](#). This will be of help to all kura, not just EnviroSchools and reaches across all ages from Kindergarten to Year 15.



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