

The Enviroschools programme supports children and young people to plan, design and implement sustainability actions that are important to them and their communities. The programme provides pathways from early childhood through primary, intermediate and secondary school. Through the collaborative approach of building strong relationships and sharing information, Enviroschools in the region are growing.

Enviroschools is supported by a national team, in partnership with nearly 100 national and regional partners, including the majority of New Zealand's councils. Facilitators from these partner organisations work with a suite of resources to progress the sustainability journey of each Enviroschool.

In 2020, the total number of Enviroschools has reached over 1,358. This network embraces over 335,000 children and young people, their whānau and over 15,500 teachers and staff. A focus on the journey, not just the destination, supports long-term participation; although lasting changes can take many years to become embedded, every step is a change in itself. With over a decade of development and growth, people are beginning to refer to Enviroschools as a movement for positive change in this country towards a generation of innovative and motivated young people who instinctively think and act sustainably.

### **2020-2021 Summary**

The Facilitator has continued to work closely with each Enviroschool as they plan and organise resources, and run projects and events. Over the last 12 months, the Facilitator has covered over 1544km visiting all Horowhenua Enviroschools at least once (some meetings with Enviroschools had to be postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions). The Facilitator spent a total of just over 136 hours in facilitation (this includes time spent emailing, holding workshops, attending events, resourcing and networking between Enviroschools), and a total of 22 hours travelling.

Over the course of the year three cluster workshop were held. These workshops are open to all staff at our Enviroschools and have three aims; that they inspire, attendees learn something new, and they are able to network with other Enviroschools whānau.

### **Two Regional Early Childhood Education (ECE) hui**

Teachers from our ECE centres are always enthusiastic attendees at our regular district cluster workshops, so it was not surprising that we had bumper attendance at our two regional ECE hui we held in this reporting year. 75 teachers from 23 different centres attended either or both of these hui. Teachers were involved in the initial planning and many presented their mahi in the pecha kucha sessions which are a core component of these hui. The first hui focussed on Māori Perspectives

through water for life, and our recent hui in May focussed on zero waste and was held at the Te Hotu Manawa O Rangitāne O Manawatū Marae. After a pōwhiri, Para Kore presented on waste with a Māori Perspective before six centres talked about their own waste journeys. Afternoon sessions focussed on 'taking action' so teachers had the opportunity to, for example, problem solving with worm farms and thinking about repurposing items into something new such as making cloth bags from material remnants.

### **Primary Student Forgotten Fauna Hui**

We held our second hui for primary student enviro-leaders in May. The kaupapa of Enviroschools is about empowering young people to take action on things that are important to them. We were excited to give 57 Year 5 to 8 young enviro-leaders the opportunity to learn about some of our lesser known fauna, our forgotten fauna – lizards, fish and bats, what they can do to take action on preserving these wonderful creatures, and connect with each other. This hui was open to all primary Enviroschools from Palmerston North, Horowhenua and Tararua, and two of the three Enviroschools from Horowhenua brought students along. Held at Horseshoe Bend Reserve at Tokomaru, students were able to explore a local reserve and hear from external speakers from Wildlife Foxton Trust, Wildbase Recovery and Horizons Biodiversity team. After lunch students worked in mixed school groups to plan how they would share the information they had learnt with their school community, and what actions they could take to help preserve these animals in their communities. The highlight was certainly learning about the lizards and being able to hold some exotic lizard species which is a first for many of the students.



**Students learning about Forgotten Fauna**

### **Individual Enviroschool Summaries**

#### **Country Educare**

This centre have been on their own 20 year sustainability journey prior to becoming an Enviroschool. In June, they celebrated their Bronze holistic reflection. Holistic reflections are an integral part of the Enviroschools journey. They enable each Enviroschool to pause and take stock of how far they have travelled on their Enviroschools journey, celebrate their successes with their community and plan next steps. The level of reflection reflects the breadth and depth of the Enviroschools journey.

Country Educare have a strong community of both whānau and surrounding landowners who are regularly involved in their activities. They have a thriving orchard where tamariki harvest fruit to use straight away or is frozen for later use. They recycle paper and are very conscious of plastic waste. The centre also have amazing natural art/craft materials which the tamariki are involved in collecting when stocks need replenishing whether this involves a trip to the beach, local bush area, or around the centre itself.

### **Tararua Educare**

Tararua are the sister centre to Country Educare and as such tamariki from both centres visit each other's centres on a regular basis. They reap huge benefits from doing this such as harvesting fruit from the orchards at Country. At their recent Bronze reflection the tamariki made feijoa muffins for attendees from fruit from Country Educare. Tamariki regularly go out into their community to connect with the whenua and local beach. They have a great worm farm which handles food waste.

### **Betty Montford Kindergarten**

The kindergarten has a stunning 'enviro mural' on their street frontage and there are plans to extend it around on the Eastern wall. The local artist who is painting the mural has enlisted the input from the local iwi for a blessing, and they have contributed knowledge about the lake and the local bird life. The kindergarten has had a number of changes in leadership and staffing, but their commitment to the Enviroschools kaupapa remains strong. They have a sharing shelf which is well utilized. Parents can drop off any surplus articles of clothing or kai. Māori perspectives is being made more visible at the kindergarten with several atua displayed on the outside of the buildings and tamariki have made atua pictures which are hung from the ceiling of the kindergarten for all to see. They have used the Enviroschools Action Learning Cycle to help them go deeper with their knowledge/learning with both their worm farm and paper recycling.

### **Ōhau School**

There have been a number of changes in staff since the new school year with their principal, lead Enviroschools teacher and caretaker leaving the school. However, the school is still working on a number of sustainability projects. The senior students were successful applicants to the Pat Kelly Enviroschools Action Fund for predator traps to support their pest animal trapping programme they have set up in the community bush remnant for which the school are Kaitiaki. A new lead Enviroschools teacher has been appointed and their focus has been to revisit the worm farms and class gardens which had been neglected.

### **Opiki School**

Staff changes at Opiki have stifled their Enviroschools journey somewhat. However, there was a great contingent of students who attended the primary student Forgotten Fauna hui.

### **Shannon School**

Long term Principal Murray Powell retired, and he was given a wonderful community farewell with a hangi lunch and concert. With the new principal now on board the school continues to flourish. They have planted a 'Native Forest' initially with a grant for 50 trees from Trees that Count. To fundraise for more, they have started an initiative where the community can donate a tree and in return they

can have a name plaque acknowledging their support. Their composting is going really well with three new composting bays built which are handling their leaf litter and organic waste. Throughout the year students have been invited to participate in a number of tree planting opportunities with whānau and wider community supporting them with this mahi. For professional development, staff visited Green Gold Enviroschool Manchester Street School to hear more about their Enviroschools journey and gather ideas. The school have been 'self-catering', their free school lunches which is reducing their waste from lunch boxes and they have acquired two more worm bins from HDC to deal with the food waste.

### **Manawatū College**

The college have had a quiet year as there have been changes in the senior leadership team. The Facilitator and Regional Coordinator are working with the college to reinvigorate their Enviroschools journey.

### **Waiopahu College**

The college is also self-catering their free school lunches and are using a Pehu Pride brand wrapping paper for their lunches to help reduce the amount plastic for food brought into the college. All the containers and cutlery used in the programme are certified biodegradable. Students are growing a range of vegetables that are used for their school lunches. Social enterprise activities are happening in the college. In early July a group of business studies students launched a Kawakawa Balm product and a group of Year 12 Geography students have built beehives from scratch harvesting honey from the hives to produce *Waiobeehu Honey*. In addition, they are reusing the wax for bees wax wraps for food and organic skin care products. The college are a collection hub for a range of products accepted through the Terracycle programme such as writing instruments, oral care, Glad Cling wrap, and Dolce Gusto capsules. Although they have pockets of activities happening, the college have not appointed a replacement lead Enviroschools teacher who left at Christmas.

Thank you for being a part of this growing network, and for continuing to support your local Enviroschools on their journey to become more sustainable.