

## *Nau Mai I Welcome to the term three GREENchat newsletter.*

As I write this newsletter I am admiring how nature changes from its winter months with a burst of colour to bring joy, hope and beauty for the coming season. The vibrant yellow of the kowhai and daffodil bulbs let us know that Kōanga/ Spring is upon us. What changes in Te Taiao signify Spring to you?

This terms newsletter highlights a variety of mahi from around schools and ECE centres/ kindergartens in Wairau including Matariki celebrations, workshops, garden harvests and environment mapping.

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## **Term three teacher workshops**

This term our team facilitated three teacher workshops, starting with a Coffee and Cake catch up. This showcased the kits that we have available to borrow. These include a beeswax wrap kit (including all the equipment you will need plus wax and fabric) and a stream studies kit. We also have kits that support the Enviroschools theme areas of Living Landscapes, Zero Waste and Water of Life, these are made up of all the resources required to undertake any of the activities in each booklet. Please contact us if you would like to borrow one. We can also support with the facilitation of these kits and activities.

Angela and Ramona delivered a Piritahi workshop focused on Atua in Te Taiao. They introduced a variety of the resources and activities from the Enviroschools kits that you can do with students to tiaki ngā atua in Te Taiao. Alongside these activities we encourage you to get advice and guidance from whānau within your school/centre and mana whenua.

To finish off the term Angela ran a Seed Raising workshop. This was well received by enthusiastic kaiako (teachers) ready to get their spring plants underway. This covered tips from presoaking seeds, to the best soil temperatures for sowing into, plus many more.

If you want more information from these workshops, please check out our Padlet for all the notes, resources and activities. Links can be found below. Alternatively contact us.

[Enviroschools kits](#)  
[Atua in Te Taiao](#)  
[Seed Raising](#)



## Popcorn

Renwick School shared their popcorn seeds with the team of KEGs facilitators last year, which saw a number of school gardens harvesting popcorn this year. The popcorn cobs look quite different from the big, sweet and juicy kernels of sweetcorn. Popcorn cobs are significantly smaller, and hard.

Popcorn is easy to pop in the microwave and can be cooked on the cob producing a fluffy white cob of popcorn. The children at Seddon School and Rai Valley School found out that the kernels need to be very dry before trying to pop or popping doesn't occur. Their first attempts didn't go to plan, however, as you can imagine the children are very keen to give it another try!



**Harvest of popcorn, tomatoes and potatoes from Seddon School.**



### **Waikawa Bay School used their harvest of feijoa and pumpkin's to make muffins**

The kids all enjoyed having a go at cracking a walnut! As honey caramelised in the oven, and combined with the cinnamon, it let off a delicious aroma that had people who were passing by popping their heads in to see what was cooking! They turned out to be yummy, healthy little sweet treats that once cooled were gobbled up.

The Envirogroup at St Mary's School asked if they could use some of the pumpkins grown in Kids Edible Gardens to make soup for a whole school shared lunch. Eight pumpkins were cut up and roasted then turned into soup in several slow cookers. It became a community project when the St Mary's Friends Group kindly donated bread rolls for everyone to have with their soup. Any soup leftover on the day was given to families of the school to enjoy and their recipe was shared in the school newsletter for families to make at home.

The softball sized beetroot grown at Fairhall School were turned into Beetroot and Raspberry Smoothies. It took a bit of convincing for a few of the students to try it but they soon came back asking for seconds!

Picton School has a variety of citrus in the small orchard next to their Kids Edible Gardens. The children made the most of their winter harvest enjoying lemon honey hot drinks!

On wet days you usually like to use your cooking to warm up - not so for the students at Bohally Intermediate. They used their time in the kitchen to make Feijoa ice cream!



**Bohally School students**

## Cooking when it's cold.

When it's wet or cold in the garden or the ground is frosty, retreating to the kitchen to cook with your produce is a highlight. New entrants at Witherlea School made Cinnamon and Honey Roasted Walnuts with local walnuts that had been kindly donated and honey sourced from a local provider.





# Matariki Celebrations Enviroschools ECE Sector

*In the realm of nature's grace,  
Where the stars adorn the vast embrace,  
A celestial dance begins to ignite,  
The Matariki cluster shining their light.*

*Enviroschools, our kaupapa strong,  
Guiding tamariki, to care for our taiao ever long,  
With Matariki upon us, they intertwine,  
To foster love for Earth divine.*

*Matariki cluster with their twinkling light,  
Inspires young hearts to take flight,  
To care for the land, the air, and sea,  
Preserving nature's harmony.*

*Through Enviroschools, the seeds are sown,  
Knowledge and respect, deeply known,  
Tamariki learn to listen and observe,  
To protect and conserve with every nerve.*

*Through gardens flourishing with care,  
And sustainable efforts, beyond compare,  
Enviroschools foster mindful deeds,  
Sowing hope for future needs.*

*During the time of Matariki, we celebrate,  
Reflecting on the lessons, we relate,  
To honour the earth, with gratitude,  
And all the life, in its multitude.*

*Enviroschools, a beacon bright,  
Guiding young minds towards the light,  
With the wisdom of Matariki, and with grace,  
Together, we'll create a better place.*



*Written by Roimata and photos  
shared by Waitohi Kindergarten,  
Seymour Kindergarten, Witherlea  
Kindergarten, Springlands  
Kindergarten and Uptown  
Preschool.*

**Mānawatia a Matariki**



<https://www.koruwildlife.nz>  
[info@koruwildlife.nz](mailto:info@koruwildlife.nz)

Community  
Spotlight

## The Creepy, the Crawly and the Sassy

Nestled in Grovetown the Koru Native Wildlife Centre provides you with the opportunity to get up close and learn about brightly coloured Yellow Crowned Kākāriki, fascinating Giant Wētā and a collection of NZ native gecko species.

They are set up take guided tours with school and ECE groups that want to learn interesting facts about our native animals and find out about the efforts to restore their natural habitats. Giant wētā visits to your school or centre are also possible.



*Would your school or ECE centre like to be involved in a community habitat creation project?*

In autumn 2023 the Koru Native Wildlife Centre started planting their paddock (about 4000 square metre) next to the wildlife centre to grow a super dense forest in the fastest possible way. This will not only create a forest in a matter of just a few years but will also provide excellent shelter for the native wildlife such as geckos and skinks.

**This is an ongoing project that you could be involved in.**

Contact Ellen and Brain Plaisier for more information [info@koruwildlife.nz](mailto:info@koruwildlife.nz)



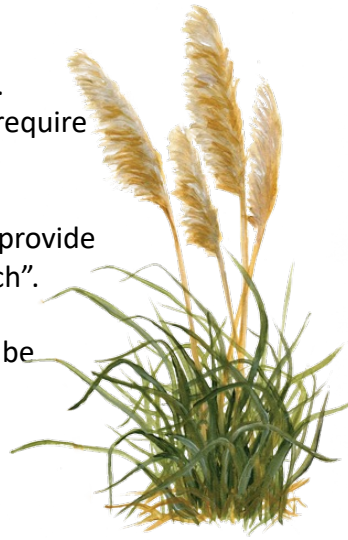
# Funding for planting projects = we have \$800 left

This year we have access to funds through Enviroschools from the 1 Billion Trees Fund. We successfully applied for \$2000 for our region so if you have a planting project and require funds for native trees we can help!

Enviroschools asks that "Funds be used to support ecological restoration projects and provide hands-on learning experiences for students, showcasing the value of a holistic approach".

To apply for these funds, we need a paragraph that gives an overview of what you will be doing and why, then send us some photos and a short story on what was achieved.

If you are interested contact Annie for more information  
annie.mcdonald@marlborough.govt.nz



For more local stories check out our Enviroschools website  
<https://www.enviroschoolsmarlborough.co.nz>

Open to all schools years 1-13

## Invitation from Taranaki team Climate Education Teaching for a changing climate

Climate change is a focus of learning in the refreshed curriculum

Empower yourselves as we share advice & support from expert educators [Chris Eames](#) & [Sian Carvell](#)

We'll talk about the science, students well-being, having courageous conversations & dealing with different perspectives

RSVP: [enviroschools@trc.govt.nz](mailto:enviroschools@trc.govt.nz)



Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
3.30-5pm  
Stratford based or via Zoom

20 23

Save our Species  
Conservation Kids NZ

CKNZ SOS Programme  
CKNZ Event calendar - 2023

Sign up to our Facebook Page or watch our website for more details!  
\*Dates, species and location may be subject to change

| Month / Date   | Species                                | Location |
|----------------|--|----------|
| 28th September | Mokomoko / Waiharakeke Grass Skink Day | Rarangi  |
| 28th October   | Kiwi Day                               | Picton   |
| 19th November  | International Children's Day TBC       | TBC      |
| TBC December   | Tuturiwhatu / Daffodil Day             | TBC      |

## Our team

There are three of us working in the Marlborough District Council education team that can support you and your students,.

We also have some talented people in our organisation and community that we can link you with, and good connections with the team at DOC.



### Angela Wentworth | Environmental Educator

Angela is a horticulturalist, and regularly has her hands in the soil with students. She also trains our Kids' Edible Gardens facilitators and supports schools with inquiry learning into things green.



### Ramona Millen | Environmental Educator

Ramona has strong links with the natural environment having growing up in the Marlborough Sounds, and strives to include this love and passion through her educational role with young tamariki. Ramona strives to empower those around her with the knowledge of how to look after themselves and Papatūānuku.



### Annie McDonald | Education Officer & Enviroschools Regional Coordinator

Annie is an educator, has taught at primary and secondary schools, and is passionate about showing schools how they can integrate education for sustainability into the curriculum. She gets a thrill from working with students to grow environmental leaders.



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