

Nau mai | Welcome

Welcome to our short round up of events and information. We have quite a bit of information about the programmes we provide on our MDC website so take a look at how we can support you.

www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/environmental-education

We have a dedicated EnviroSchools Marlborough website and blog, which helps us to capture and share some cool school stories. We also have an EnviroSchools Marlborough Facebook page and 'closed group' for Marlborough teachers - search EnviroSchools Marlborough to find and join us.

www.enviroschoolsmarlborough.co.nz

We are always keen to hear what schools and kindergartens are doing to make a positive difference to our environment, so get in contact with us so we can publish your actions.

Hei mahi | Taking action

This year our focus is Hei Mahi: Taking Action. It's been an action-packed term: check out what is happening around Wairau!

Noho ora mai,
Annie, Anna & Angela

Hei Mahi at our Mini-BioBlitz

In Week 6 of this term, student leaders from 14 of Marlborough's EnviroSchools came together for a Mini-BioBlitz in and around the Taylor River. The purpose of the event was to discover, identify, and record the flora and fauna of the Taylor River Reserve, while giving the students and their teachers a taster of how a BioBlitz works, and some skills and connections so they can run similar events at their schools.

Students from 12 primary schools worked with student scientists from Marlborough Boys' and Marlborough Girls' colleges, local experts, and special guest Ruud Kleinpaste, to find and identify a large array of insects, plants and birds. You can see what was found by visiting:

<https://inaturalist.nz/projects/taylor-river-blenheim-mini-bioblitz>

Students learnt about biodiversity and why it matters, collection methods, observation and identification skills, and the online citizen science hub 'iNaturalist'. Take a look at this short video that one of our students made of the event: <https://youtu.be/aDjv-L2PTSA>



Photo: Alex Henderson

The event fitted well with our 2019 focus on taking action for the environment, and getting schools involved with some citizen science projects. It also linked with the Living Landscapes theme area, and the EnviroSchools Guiding Principles of empowered students, learning for sustainability, and sustainable communities. Many of the students that attended are now planning their own biodiversity projects at their schools - we look forward to hearing about their mahi!

Renwick Kindergarten is Green Gold

Huge congratulations to Renwick Kindergarten for successfully reflecting at Enviroschools Green Gold. Renwick are the first kindergarten to reflect at this level in Marlborough, and the team of us that worked alongside them, including Enviroschools National Early Childhood Manager Katie Higgins, were so inspired by the kaupapa of this kindergarten. We loved their collaborative way of working, their sense of whanaungatanga, their inclusiveness with their wider community, and the programmes that the students have been supported to be a part of. From making wax wraps through to planting and nurturing Rousehill Reserve, the children have a sense of kaitiakitanga and understand the importance of the environment and their special role in taking care of it.

<http://marlboroughkindergartens.org.nz/renwick>



A new noticeboard at Tirimoana

Earlier this term, students and staff from Linkwater School and members of the Tirimoana community attended a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Tirimoana Reserve, to celebrate the installation of a new noticeboard. The noticeboard is the culmination of a project by one of Tirimoana's youngest residents, Linkwater School student Angus Howe.

Last year, Angus learnt about the stormwater system, and found out that any pollution that goes down the drains on his street, ends up in the nearby bay. To raise awareness about this, he helped to attach blue fish to the drains in Tirimoana, and then went one step further, designing a noticeboard that would allow him to further educate the community and visitors to the area about this important issue.

Angus built the noticeboard with his dad, following his design and using recycled materials. After consultation with the community, the noticeboard has been positioned at the eastern end of the reserve, near the free library. In the future, Angus hopes to use the noticeboard to keep the community informed about other environmental activities that are going on in the area, such as school beach clean ups.



Welcome to our two new Enviroschools



Welcome to Waitaria Bay and Ward School who have joined Enviroschools this term. We are excited to be working with you. Waitaria Bay students have started doing some work on Me in My Environment and their environment was a great place to start as it's in such a stunning location. The students also had an interesting fruit tree find which sparked quite a few questions!



Action in Kids' Edible Gardens at St Mary's

It can take time for the benefits of a brand-new garden to be seen. Through determination, composting, perseverance, and lots of fun learning along with way, the children at St Mary's School were pleased to harvest a wonderful array of fruit and vegetables from their garden this term. Spinach, silver beet, broad beans, cauliflower and herbs were turned into vegetable pikelets and enjoyed by all. Their new potatoes were just as delicious when sprinkled with chives and parsley also from the garden. They were able to snack on raspberries, strawberries and broad beans while working in the garden and in their classroom as Karleen Eyles, St Mary's garden facilitator, picked and delivered them to their classroom.



'It has been an amazing time learning and enjoying our garden. It is a wonderful feeling when you can see the results of your work have helped to create a happy space where children gather, eager to learn.'

- Karleen Eyles, St Mary's Garden Facilitator

Our team

There are three of us working in the MDC education team to support you and your students, as well as Ramona Millen, who facilitates the Enviroschools programme in kindergartens. 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.



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.



Angela Wentworth | Kids Edible Garden Coordinator & Enviroschools Facilitator

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



Anna Crowe | Freshwater Educator & Enviroschools Facilitator

Anna is a scientist and is pretty good in a pair of gumboots, sharing her knowledge and expertise of the watery world. She also manages our digital communications, and supports schools on their environmental journey.

NEWS & EVENTS



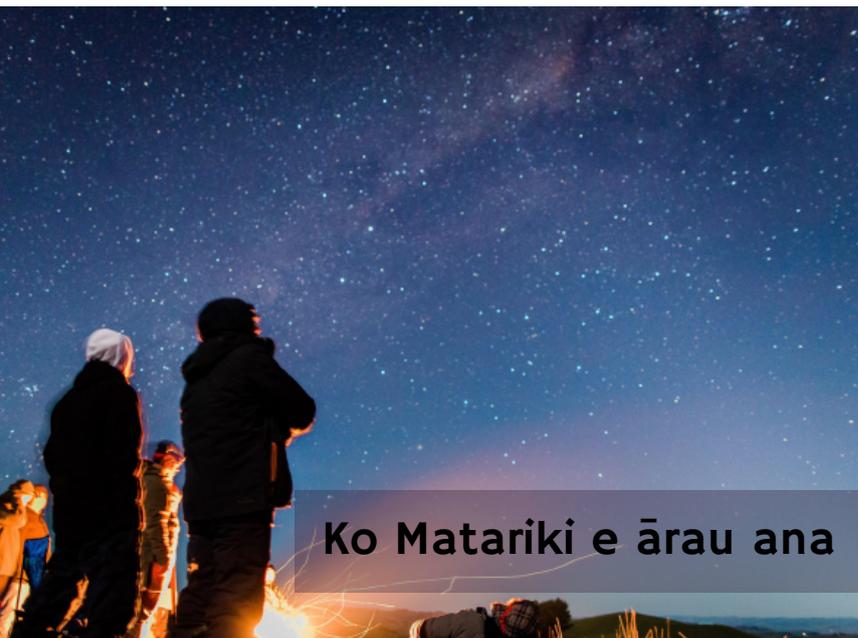
Come along on an adventure at Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary this Easter. Travel with Beachcomber Cruises, hunt the clues to discover the code word and unlock your Easter treat.

Saturday 20 April | 9:45 am - 12:15 pm

Your treasure hunt map can be picked up from Beachcomber Cruises on arrival and be sure to let them know the code word on your return to receive your Easter treat.

Book your place or find out more at:

<http://www.beachcombercruises.co.nz/lunch-n-cruises/nature-reserves-sanctuaries/kaipupu-wildlife-sanctuary-easter-hunt/>



Ko Matariki e ārau ana | The gathering of Matariki

In the past two decades Matariki has become a nationwide phenomenon, with numerous events occurring each winter to celebrate the predawn rising of this star cluster. Our modern observation of Matariki is helping to embed this celebration within the consciousness of the general public, and it is becoming part of our wider Aotearoa identity.

Leading expert on Māori astronomy Professor Rangī Matamua will give a two hour lecture that will include images, video and animations and detailed knowledge about Matariki, sharing his knowledge and highlighting connections between cultural knowledge and science.

earth day 2019



family picnic

Sunday 28 April
10 am - 3 pm

To celebrate the 49th International Earth Day, Climate Karanga Marlborough are organising a family picnic at Baden Powell Reserve in Pollard Park.

The theme for this year's International Earth Day is 'Protect Our Species'. There will be a range of activities and information displays. This will be an opportunity for children and their families to learn about New Zealand's threatened species and the reasons why many species around the world are facing extinction.

Find out more at:

<https://www.enviroschoolsmarlborough.co.nz/earth-day-2019-family-picnic/>

Thu 11 April | 6 - 8 pm

**Ūkaipo Rangitāne Cultural Centre
3 Fell Street
Grovettown**

Please register for this free event at:

<https://royalsociety.org.nz/events/ko-matariki-e-arau-ana-the-gathering-of-matariki-blenheim/>