

Nau mai | Welcome

Just like that we are at the end of Term 1, and are taking the chance to reflect on some of the mahi that has been happening to create a more sustainable world in our Marlborough schools and kindergartens this term.

Term 1 has seen plenty action in the Kids' Edible Gardens and Freshwater Education programmes as we make the most of the (mostly) warm and dry late summer days. It has been super to see students and teachers outside and connecting with nature in their school grounds and beyond.

Many teachers have been involved in our March workshops, and have since been planning how they will incorporate Education for Sustainability into their teaching for 2021.

We have a number of ways we can help schools with both planning and delivery of programmes. Check out what we can offer here:

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/environmental-education/school-education-programmes>

We look forward to connecting with you in Term 2 - enjoy the break and the beautiful autumn colours.

Annie, Angela & Anna
The MDC Education Team
(a.k.a. 'The A Team')

Summer stream studies

Term 1 has seen plenty of students getting out of the classroom and into a nearby river or stream to learn about healthy waterways.

Students from the Home School Co-operative Learners group investigated Pukatea Stream as part of a day out at White's Bay. They were impressed with the amount of life in the stream, especially the large banded kōkopu found in a shady pool. They got to see the kōkopu's jumping ability first hand as it leapt from the container and wriggled back to its watery home. Tamariki were concerned that they didn't find any kōura - the group has found lots of them in this stream in the past. Maybe they were just hiding, or maybe something else is going on.



Queen Charlotte College biology students devised their own sampling criteria to investigate the impact of urbanisation on Waitohi Stream, which flows from native bush headwaters through the Picton urban area before reaching the sea. They observed huge differences in water quality and river life at three locations along the stream, and are now writing up their results for an internal assessment.



Students from Richmond View School and Marlborough Girls' College investigated the Taylor River, finding it in remarkably good health thanks to the constant cool water coming from springs in the Burleigh/Yelverton/Springlands areas, and the lush growth of aquatic plants that shade the river bed, bind fine sediments and provide habitat for aquatic critters and fish. They did find (and remove) quite a bit of rubbish though: an issue that Richmond View students are now tackling through technology projects.

Mahi tahi in action

Tamariki at Redwoodtown Kindergarten have been working together to develop and extend the pathway to the back of their playground. This involved the removal of excess soil and the discovery of many worms and other living creatures, followed by the planting of new grasses, flaxes and tussocks and the laying of weed matting and stones. The tamariki have shown a sense of kaitiakitanga over this newly developed area and take good care of it by watering it regularly.



Teachers as learners!



It was great to have 20 teachers take part in our 'Learning for Sustainability' workshop in March. Chris Rowan, our guest expert, modelled some simple but effective methods and tools to facilitate learning. There were lots of ideas to choose from: we really liked the 'round table' activity where students take turns to talk and then write without being interrupted on a topic or idea.

Our resident scientist, Anna Crowe, shared a fun game on the greenhouse effect to get everyone thinking about climate change, introduced us to the "wicked problem" concept and familiarised us with a suite of resources that teachers could tap into on this current issue.

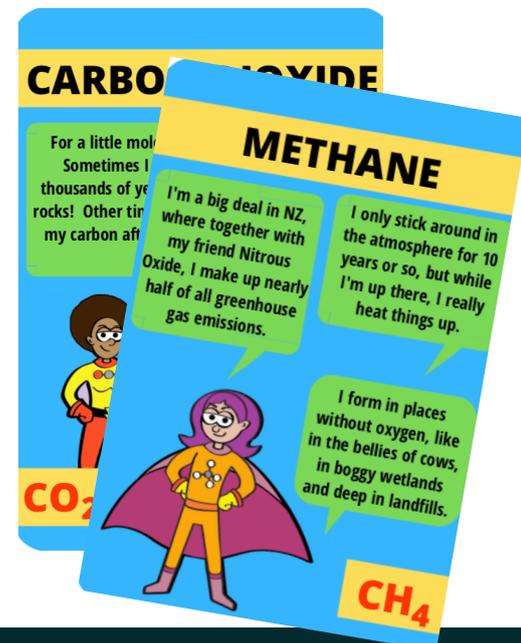
You can take a look at the information covered in the workshop and access all of the related resources (plus click through to our climate change resource collection) here:

padlet.com/EnviroschoolsMarlborough/workshop_March21



Kindergarten teachers attended a workshop focused on unpacking the new "Enviroschools in the Early Years Handbook" and developing a whole centre vision with Ramona Millen, our wonderful kindergarten facilitator.

Kindergarten teams enjoyed working together to explore and navigate through this valuable resource as well as having a go at developing an interactive visioning map.



Tamariki busy in their edible gardens

A lot of care and attention goes into the Kids' Edible Gardens at the end of each year to ensure they can get through the long school holiday with minimal care. Nevertheless, it often becomes a weedy mess with a treasure trove of produce hiding in the greenery. The first few weeks of term is spent bringing gardens back to their former glory and restoring moisture levels in the soil by watering and mulching.

Unfortunately, not all crops survive the break leaving spaces in the garden to replant or prepare for autumn planting.



Tua Marina School students plant some new seedlings making sure to keep out hungry birds with a cover of netting.

Tamariki at Mayfield School clear out a heap of dry grass and plants that have finished producing and cart it to the compost heap.



Redwoodtown students top up soil moisture levels as much as they can to support both the soil and the plants in this busy growing season.



One advantage of living in Marlborough is that our growing season is a long one and many Kids' Edible Gardens can still be harvesting tomatoes, zucchini and cucumbers right through until May.

Right now, late season apples are being picked, early feijoas are being eyed-up in anticipation and pumpkins are having mulch or cardboard placed beneath them to get them through to the end of the season. It is also the time to top up nutrient levels in the soil for next season's crops and to sow broccoli, cauliflower, kale, and cabbage seeds as well as oats, lupin and mustard to be used as green crops for resting beds.

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 | 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.



Anna Crowe | Environmental Educator

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.

Coming up

BLAKE

Inspire for Teachers

Five day action-packed environmental education and leadership development programme

Primary and Intermediate teachers

Fully-funded by the Ministry of Education (excluding travel to Auckland)

Two intakes this year:
12 - 16 July & 4 - 8 October

Applications open
12 April 2021

Find out more at:

blakenz.org/programmes/blake-inspire/blake-inspire-for-teachers/

Free family event, live music, craft market, conservation displays and more



Bring your own picnic set
Zero Waste
Choose reusable

SUNDAY 18 APRIL 2021 10AM - 3PM
POLLARD PARK, BLENHEIM

WWW.ENVIROHUBMARLBOROUGH.CO.NZ

Brought to you by:



HAVE AN ACTION PROJECT IN MIND, BUT NEED SOME FUNDING TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?

Our Enviroschools Marlborough Action Fund might be just what you need, or take a look at our 'funding' padlet for more possibilities.

<https://padlet.com/EnviroschoolsMarlborough/funding>

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