

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 of our local 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

The national EnviroSchools website has had a major revamp: take a look to see what is going on both in Marlborough and around Aotearoa.

<https://enviroschools.org.nz>

Hei mahi | Taking action

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

Noho ora mai,
Annie, Anna & Angela

Canvastown kids explore their Living Landscape

The kids at Canvastown School have been fully absorbed in discovering what creatures live in the school's wild places this year...

They have poked under logs and in tree-stumps, crawled through long grass, shaken the branches of trees and picked through the edible gardens, seeking out all manner of living things.



Hunting for living things

They used the Living Landscapes kit to take a closer look at the birds, bugs, plants and fungi, finding names for them and learning about their fascinating habits. Wendy from DOC visited and spoke to the students about pests in our forests. She helped the students to set up tracking tunnels so they could see if they had any of these pests at their school.



Making traps to catch predators

The students found mouse prints in one of their tracking tunnels. This led into some inquiry learning around trapping, as the students researched traps used by indigenous people around the world, and then came up with trap designs, making traps and trying them out for real.

"I found poo under the tree and it looked like possum or wild cat poo. We could set cage traps to catch them." - Luke

One of Canvastown School's next steps is to start trapping pests at school so that the grounds can become a haven for birds, bugs and lizards. They hope to link with the Pelorus Bridge Bat Recovery programme next year.

Building a sustainable kindergarten for our future tamariki

Springlands Kindergarten have set themselves the goal of embedding the Education for Sustainability philosophy throughout their programme, and supporting the children to engage with the concept of whanaungatanga: everything is connected.

Tamariki and kaiako have been busy this year taking action with a number of projects.

A large flower garden planted with wild flowers and daffodils is now starting to flourish and attract bees. A native ngahere has been planted and tamariki are enjoying the new tranquil space. Wine barrels planted with miniature fruit trees, scented herbs and colourful flowers are ready to explode with colour. The worm farm has been a wonderful success and sales of worm wee are funding more plants for the gardens.

The next step is to plant vegetables for the summer months to explore the taste and texture of what they grow.



The outside environment is now one the children can explore and be kaitiaki to. Tamariki are ensuring that Papatūānuku is looked after and it is a joy to watch them make sure their kindergarten is a place to be proud of. Springlands Kindergarten is really excited to be on the Enviroschools journey and with the strong support of the kaiako, tamariki and whanau, it will be a journey that will support many generations to come.



Marlborough Girls' College audit their waste

In August, Environmental Sustainability students from MGC conducted a waste audit with the help of Waste Management Marlborough. Data collected over the 3-day audit period suggest that the college produces a staggering 36 tonnes of waste - or ten full shipping containers - every year!



The major waste streams found during the audit were hand towels, recyclable paper (including office paper) and green waste. Organic materials (green waste, food waste and handtowels) made up 69 % of the weight and 53 % of the volume of waste going to landfill. By composting this material via an onsite compost facility, waste to landfill could be reduced by 53-69 % and save up to more than half of MGC's general waste spend per annum. Recyclable materials like paper, glass bottles and metal containers made up 19 % of waste volume going to landfill.

Students are now investigating the school's next steps to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

Whitney Street students engage with their edible garden

Students in the Opaoa syndicate at Whitney Street School spent a glorious day engaging their senses in their edible garden this term.

They listened, observed, smelled, touched and tasted their way through an interesting and hands-on series of activities, such as preparing beans to sprout, making a cheese and sprout sandwich, exploring the contents of the school's rubbish bins, making cress and radish seed heads, and starting a potato-growing competition.

It sounds like there is lots of excitement yet to come, as students wait for their seeds to sprout and their potatoes to multiply!



Students have their say on biodiversity plan



The enviro group at St Mary's have been learning about Aotearoa New Zealand's amazing biodiversity, and they wanted to make a submission expressing their views to the Department of Conservation, who are putting together a new strategy on managing biodiversity.

Brainstorming what they thought of New Zealand's biodiversity, what they would like to see change, and what the focus of the strategy should be, they wrote four very well-thought-out and well-worded letters.

"I would like to see companies changing their packaging to things like paper. I would also like to see companies doing things for the environment in exchange for their products e.g. pick up certain amounts of rubbish when people buy their products."

"The big focus of the strategy should have more emphasis on sea life and clean rivers that we can swim in."

"When I think of biodiversity, I think of healthy ecosystems living in unity with a stable population with lots of people tending for it."

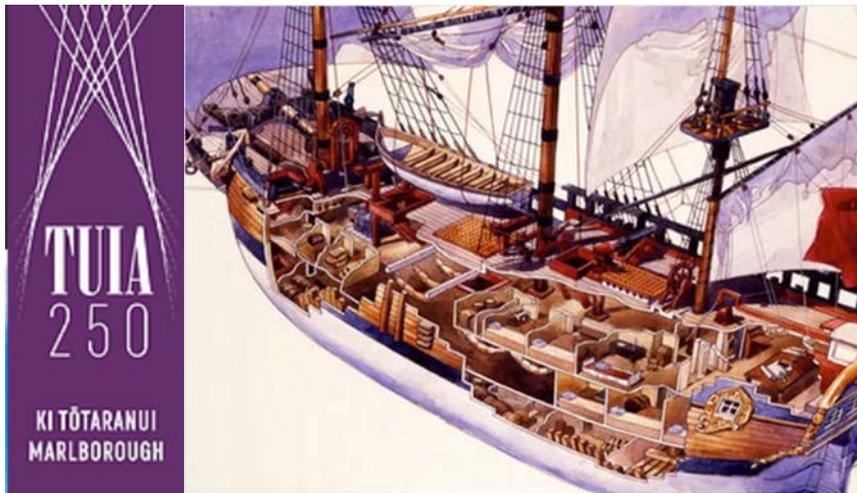
The biodiversity in Aotearoa is in good hands with children like these standing up for it.

Fairhall students get stuck in

As part of their sustainability programme, a group of students from Fairhall School were investigating ways to make their compost system at school work better. After a trip to the municipal compost site and some discussions with experts, they have come up with a better way to compost their green waste a school by re-establishing a three-bin system. Before they could do this, they needed to clean out the existing compost bins and bag up the compost to share with their community. They had some interesting finds while sieving the compost including a lone sock and a pretty impressive worm!



NEWS & EVENTS



Port Marlborough Schools' Day | Monday 25 November

A day for Marlborough school students with a programme designed to follow up on the Tuia 250 curriculum including educational exhibits and activities and a chance to view the vessels and meet the crews.

Find out more at <https://www.totaranui250.co.nz/events>



This web-based resource promotes sustainability and global citizenship through inquiry learning using tūrangawaewae (understanding where I stand), kaitiakitanga (caring for people and place) and whakapuāwai (flourishing ever forward) as pou arahi. For each, it provides two pathways that support students' inquiry learning and active responses, and a smorgasbord of suggested activities. Kaleidoscopes offer links to support resources, and you can save these and activities to your own pātaka, or storehouse.

Take a look at <https://putatara.education.govt.nz>



The Enviroschools Marlborough team have a small annual fund to help schools take action in the environment.

It is as simple as sending an email to Annie (annie.mcdonald@marlborough.govt.nz) with information about what your students want to achieve, how much it will cost, and how the funds will help them.



Applications to become a Predator Free School are open until 20 October.

Find out more and apply at:

<https://predatorfreenz.org/toolkits/kids-schools-toolkit/predator-free-schools-2/>

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.



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