

Kia ora,

It has been a pleasure working with you this term and we are excited to share with you just a few stories that we have captured. We love to be able to capture what actions you and the children and young people you work with are doing to make a positive difference to the environment in our region, so send us an email with some photos and we can add this to our next Greenchat. **To read the full stories click on the heading or check out our website <https://www.enviroschoolsmarlborough.co.nz/blog-and-stories/>**

We also have some exciting team news to share. Our colleague Ramona, who usually writes the Greenchat newsletter and is helping us put this one together, welcomed a baby girl, Nina, with her partner in February. Congratulations on the new addition and big sister Lela, who I am sure will be helping out.

As we move into Autumn and the change of seasons, those of us who are gardeners will be gathering in the harvest. Some of us were lucky enough to be gifted some seeds from Angela who was gifted them from the health promoters for our Kids Edible Gardens. Our team like to try these in our gardens to see how they go. From one seed, I just harvested 4 pumpkins, from 6 seeds of beans and peas, I had weeks of delicious greens with summer salads and for the first time I tried growing kumara tipu. I plated six of them on an angle facing east in Spring and will be harvesting them before the end of April (see photo). They have grown like crazy and I am excited to see what they have produced under the ground.



Harvesting is often a time for celebration in many countries. In Juliet Battens book "Dancing with the Seasons, she writes about "Lugnasad, the festival of the Celts that coincides with Te Waru and was focused on gratitude and thanksgiving" and has some suggestions for activities. This is one you might like to use with your students – "Take time to think what you are grateful for. Make a list from the most basic things (like food, water) and move on to deeper things like a special friend or place in nature you like to visit"

Gardeners are also preparing for the coming season and as environmental educators we hope we can help you in the next season in your classrooms and in encouraging you to connect with our wider environment. All the best for the next term

Noho ora mai

Annie, Angela and Ramona



[Exploring Nude Food at Witherlea School](#)

This term, Year 5/6 students at Witherlea School embarked on an inquiry into Nude Food, investigating how food is packaged and exploring alternatives to disposable packaging. As they examined plastic wraps, zip-lock bags, and foil, they started to wonder: **What actually happens to these materials once they're thrown away?**



[Exploring the Health of the Awa: Water is Life](#)

Year 7 and 8 students from Fairhall School explore the health of their local awa as part of their inquiry, *Water is Life*. Read about the hands on methods they used to measure the water flow, test the water clarity and identify invertebrates.

[Monarch Caterpillars and Butterflies](#)

Waitohi Kindergarten tamariki have been supporting the survival of Monarch caterpillars and butterflies by keeping them indoors in a specially build cage. This has been a fantastic learning experience for the tamatiki who now have a wealth of knowledge about not only their life cycle but the treats that this species faces.



[From Audit to Action at Redwoodtown](#)

Redwoodtown School recently undertook a waste audit with the support of Marlborough District Council Environmental Educator, Angela. This came about as the school's Enviroleaders had noticed that the enthusiasm for proper sorting had started to slip. Rather than let things slide, they set themselves a new goal: to redesign the recycling area and make it easier and more inviting for everyone to use.



[Nature Connection Sharing](#)

Over the last two years Nature Connection programmes within schools and ECE services have been growing. Environmental Educator for Marlborough District Council, Ramona Millen and Senior Teacher for Marlborough Kindergarten Association, Gwenda Jones share about how these programmes have developed for several of the local Kindergartens as part of a NZAEE webinar series. Watch the recording here, <https://www.nzaee.org.nz/spotlight/nature-connection-for-aotearoa-educators>



[From Bare Boxes to Boxes of Produce](#)

In term 4 last year Redwoodtown Kindergarten had two large planter boxes built by the team at Bunnings. This term they have seen the results of being involved in the Kids Edible Garden programme with these boxes now producing enough vegetables to share with their Kindergarten whānau.

Our team

There are three of us working in the Marlborough District Council Environmental 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.



[Angela Wentworth](#) | Environmental Educator
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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
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Ramona is a trained Early Childhood teacher. She 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.



[Annie McDonald](#) | Education Officer & EnviroSchools Regional Coordinator
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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.