

Nau mai | Welcome

Welcome to this short round up of some of the mahi that has been happening to create a more sustainable world in our Marlborough schools and kindergartens this term. As we continue to navigate this unusual year, it is heartening to see our tamariki coming together to take positive action for their futures with the support of their amazing kaiako.

Our local focus for 2020 has been 'Empowered Students', and you can certainly see plenty of examples of empowered young Marlborough people in these pages. Take a look at the story about Waikawa Bay School's recent holistic reflection - not only did these students reflect at Silver this term, but they also shared their knowledge and skills about pest-trapping with students from Renwick School who are exploring how they could do some pest-trapping at their school.

We are offering a couple of teacher workshops in Term 4: take a look at the details on the back page and make sure you let Annie know if you'd like to be involved.

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

Waikawa Bay School Reflect at Silver

Students at Waikawa Bay School lead an enthusiastic reflection this term, and all that attended decided that the school was without doubt a Silver Enviroschool!

The school's vision for Enviroschools is 'Living and Learning the Waikawa Way: Immersed in our natural world, watch us grow and make a change!'. Students at Waikawa Bay School are certainly immersed in their natural world. Senior students check, clear and rebait the trapline every other day, and record their catch data to measure their impact. Students take part in 'bush school' every week: learning and playing at and in their local beaches, rivers and forests. All students spend time planting, weeding, harvesting and learning in the edible gardens.



The school stands firmly in its community, with strong connections between school life and the surrounding environment, the extended school whānau, the nearby Waikawa Marae and local organisations and places like Kaipupu Point Wildlife Sanctuary and Envirohub Marlborough. It is clear that much of the learning that happens at the school is being transferred on to whānau and the wider community. Helping with the school pest trapping project had led to students having pest traps at home or volunteering in community trapping projects. School beach clean-ups have inspired students and their families to take part in weekend community clean-ups. The respect and care that these children show for their living planet is spreading far beyond the school gate.

An important part of reflection is identifying the next steps...Waikawa Bay School have some big plans and we can't wait to see them happen! Mahi tika ana – great work team!

Happy birthday dear forest!

Students and teachers at Witherlea School celebrated a special birthday this term as the school forest turned 21! The forest was planted in an area that was previously grass by the school 'Green Gang', led by teacher Kathy Beazley who returned to Witherlea for the celebration. Now a well-established and treasured part of the school grounds, students marked the occasion by writing speeches inspired by the school forest for the school speech competition. In order to protect new plantings, part of the forest is currently 'closed' to students during break times, and is instead used as a teaching and learning space during class time. The students enjoy visiting the forest for nature experiences during the school day, and showed their appreciation by encircling the forest and joining in a rousing group-sing of 'happy birthday to you'!



Kids' Edible Gardens update



Like every school across NZ the pandemic certainly disrupted gardening plans! Luckily here in Marlborough there was some rain early on which kept our plants well-watered while everyone was in rahui.

When everyone got back to school it was all hands-on deck; there was so much tidying up to do. The first gardening sessions involved lots of weeding as well lots of fun and surprises as the children harvested their surviving produce. The students at Rapaura School found 13 pumpkins waiting for them!

Tidying the garden bit by bit each week, seed saving and mulching with autumn leaves as they went, the students found spaces to plant their winter vegetables. In went garlic, broad beans, broccoli, cauliflower, kale and cabbages as well as a few late plantings of lupins and mustard as green crops.

Seed sizes were compared, and planting depths discussed. The children learnt about different methods of sowing seed such as planting into a hole or trench when sowing broad beans and carrots, and broadcasting lupin seeds across the top of the soil. Thinning was also talked about and why we thin carrots but not mustard. So much to learn!

Knowing the gardens at Renwick School are a favourite place for hungry birds the children made bird scarers using a bamboo stick and reflective tape to ensure their seedlings got a good start.



Coming up next term



Visioning Workshop for Enviroschools lead teachers

Join us to unpack some Enviroschools activities that will help create a vision for your school, and ensure that student actions fit with your school's plans for the future. We will share the reflection padlets that we are creating for each of your schools, and look at how you can use reflection as a way to collect good evidence.



THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER
Blenheim School Hall
1 - 3:30 pm

Arrive from 12:30 pm for some nibbles before we start. We can fund teacher release time.

Please register by Friday 16th October.
annie.mcdonald
@marlborough.govt.nz



TOP OF THE SOUTH ZOOM SESSION **Empowering Students**

Join our Zoom session where guest expert Bek Galloway will share tools and tips for helping to empower your students.

Bek inspired many of us at our student and teacher workshops earlier this year. This is your chance to pick up some gems to use in your classroom or with your envirogroup.

Find out about Bek at:
www.whatif.education/about-us

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER
7 - 8:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89979626919?pwd=NmJyWmxacos4RzNhbjh6WkcxNnEzUT09>



Contact:
annie.mcdonald@marlborough.govt.nz



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 new 'funding' padlet for more possibilities.

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



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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