

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.

We have been busy working with some of our lead teachers planning for 2021. It's exciting to see schools are including more environmental education in their programmes especially as schools connect with nature through their local curriculum.

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>

Some schools have been working on a plan for Enviroschools with the planner we have developed. We can provide a half-day's release time to meet with you to complete this planner and discuss ways we can support actions you want to take. Contact your Enviroschools facilitator if you would like to take up this offer.

Best wishes for a Meri Kirihimete and a relaxing summer break,
Annie, Angela & Anna
The MDC Education Team
(a.k.a. 'The A Team')

Enviroschools on camp at Pine Valley

Term 4 is traditionally a great term for getting out-of-doors and into the bush or stream. At Mill Flat in Pine Valley, Anna and Angela have been working as a team so that students are able to study the diversity of life in the river and in the bush surrounding it as part of their camp activities. Mill Flat is the perfect location to explore our wonderful diversity of native insects, animals, freshwater life and plants.



Seddon School students study the stream



Student from Blenheim School on a native plant scavenger hunt

One of the insect species living in Pine Valley Stream is the endemic large green stonefly '*Stenoperla*'. Its presence in the awa tells us that the awa is very healthy, as this species can't survive if the water is even slightly polluted or low in oxygen. This photo shows an adult *Stenoperla* that was flying near the stream and decided to land on a student from Mayfield School. The babies (or 'nymphs') are aquatic, living on and under river stones for up to two years, before spending one glorious day as a winged adult! We were lucky to see this one - it seemed to quite like us too!

To find out more about *Stenoperla* and loads of other Marlborough freshwater critters, take a look at our padlet collection:

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

And let us know if you'd like us to join you on camp next year!



Garden design challenge at Whitney Street School

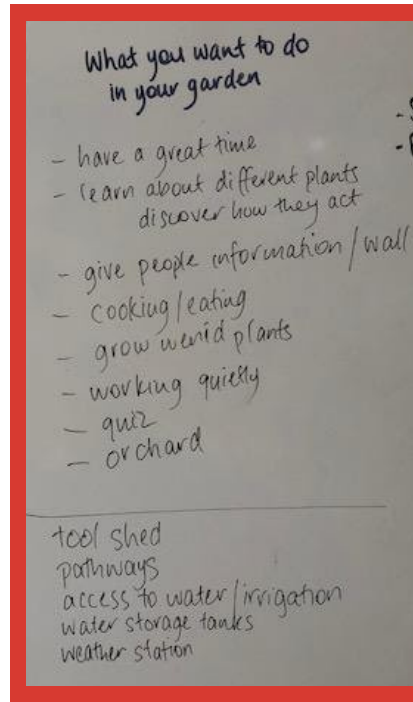
Whitney Street School are redesigning their Kids' Edible Gardens and taking the opportunity to learn the design principals that need to be taken into consideration when building a new garden. It's tempting to rush in to build a new garden however not all plants like the same position. The site needs to have enough sunny spaces for sun-loving vegetables while providing shade and shelter for those that like a cooler, sheltered spot.

Crazy shapes can look good but are they easy to get to and around with a wheelbarrow full of tools? Will your irrigation reach all parts of the garden? Where will you put your tool shed, workbench, worm farm or compost heap? How can you encourage beneficial insects into your garden? There are many things to think about.

Before starting their design, the students were asked to think about and describe their favourite places at school. Using their describing words, they worked in groups discussing how they would like their new garden to be and the special qualities they would like it to have, linking in their school values.

Finally using all they had learnt and discussed, they put their creative minds to work to design a new garden.

We can't wait to see their collective final design built next year.



Blenheim School unveil Taylor River care code

Students and staff of Te Kura o Waiharakeke | Blenheim School proudly unveiled their 'Taylor River Care Code' sign in November.

The sign, which has been over a year in the making, sits beside the Taylor River near the John Street footbridge. Developed by the Envirogroup and their EnviroSchools Lead Teacher Tracy Holdaway, the care code sets out how the whole community can help the tamariki take care of this special awa. It features beautiful artwork drawn by the students, and reflects the special relationship that the school has with the awa that flows right beside it.

Many students pass the river each day on their way to and from school, and tamariki regularly pick up rubbish from the river reserve, both independently and on school-led 'womble walks'. They have also learnt about the special creatures that live in and around the awa, giving them even more reason to care.

Kei whea kē mai te pai o te mahi nei - what an excellent job!



Reporting in from Waitaria Bay School



At the end of each term, the Kids' Edible Gardens facilitators report on what the children have been up to each week. It was a delight to see that the children at Waitaria Bay School had written Term 3's report. Here is Beau's recount of how they ended their term of gardening:

“ Today we had an inside day because it was too wet outside. When we were inside, we made little posters that showed what we were supposed to recycle and what not to recycle. The other poster that we made showed what animals and insects are good or bad for the garden and what. We also have started to start our potato growing contest by putting holes in our own buckets so that when we grow the potatoes, they have a drainage system so that water and air can escape the bucket. The buckets have to be able to drain because if they are sitting in water, they do not like that. ”



Renwick Kindergarten raise ducks

Tamariki at Renwick Kindergarten have been lucky enough to have had the opportunity to rear some Indian runner ducks. They have been an amazing teaching tool!

Children have learnt patience and numeracy as they counted down the days to hatching day. They have learnt about the life cycle of ducks and once the eggs had hatched, the ducklings were amazing for teaching children manaakitanga and responsibility. To care for the ducklings, tamariki had to make sure they had clean water, food and that they stayed warm.

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.

Coming up

We are able to fund release time for up to 30 primary and secondary school teachers to attend our Learning for Sustainability Workshop in Term 1 2021.

This is a brilliant opportunity to learn from expert Chris Rowan. Chris is a skilled trainer and facilitator and a strong advocate for active and interactive learning. Find out more about Chris here:

www.impacteducation.co.nz

Please register with Annie if you are keen to attend!

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>

MARLBOROUGH
ENVIRO SCHOOLS

Action
Fund

EMAIL

annie.mcdonald@marlborough.govt.nz

TEACHER WORKSHOP

Learning for Sustainability

Our EnviroSchools focus for 2021 is "Learning for Sustainability".

During the morning session, guest expert Chris Rowan will focus on teachers as learning facilitators. She will share her skills in effective facilitation with tips and examples to use in the classroom.

Anna Crowe will facilitate the afternoon session using climate change as a focus to share some valuable resources and activities that you can use with students.



WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH

Blenheim School Hall

9 am - 3:30 pm



We can fund teacher release time.
Please register with
annie.mcdonald@marlborough.govt.nz



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Summer Explorer Programme

Jan to Feb 2021

Marlborough

Welcome to this Summer Explorer Programme!

Lets have some fun in the sun this holiday season, slap on your sunscreen, grab a hat and lets get out there. We live in an amazing location so lets explore it. Check out the activities and events. There is something for everyone.

Many thanks to all the organisations that have helped make this summer programme happen.

A Merry Christmas and safe and Happy New Year to everybody

Check out our facebook page:
www.facebook.com/marlboroughconservationevents

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Check out the events on offer in the Marlborough region over the summer.

Marlborough Conservation Events on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/marlboroughconservationevents>

DOC website:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/marlborough-summer>



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