



# NEWS

March 2010

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Auckland region Enviroschools newsletter. This issue celebrates the successes of many in the 2009 Enviroschools Awards and the ARC's Sustainable Environment Awards, held in February. We also feature the voice of youth, hearing about Rick Zwaan's experiences at the UNICEF Children's Climate Forum in Copenhagen, and the ReGeneration Summer Jam which provides a network for young environmental and social change-makers, after they leave school.

We are fortunate to regain the services of Beryl Oppert, Sandy Bell-Jameson as Enviroschools facilitators, and Bridget Glasgow who is working on a national project on how best to support secondary Enviroschools.

Once again the Enviroschools team look forward to supporting you all on your journey towards sustainability.

Editor – Hilary Chidlow

## Enviroschools recognised at ARC's Sustainable Environment Awards

The awards, which are held every two years, recognise and celebrate outstanding environmental achievement in the Auckland region. Three of the six category winners were from Enviroschools.

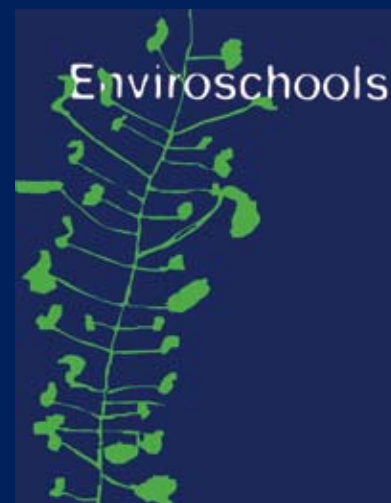
Louise Graham - the mastermind behind Tirimoana Primary School's Green-Gold Enviroschools Award, won the individual category award. Louise is involved in community events including Eco Wise and Keep Waitakere Beautiful initiatives and Operation Spring Clean. She also organises groups to look after local parks and motivates others to get involved in Forest and Bird Society activities, Seaweed and other conservation causes.

Winners of the school category were Henderson Valley School in Waitakere, a Silver Enviroschool. Judges said they were impressed with the school as their projects showed a long-term commitment to sustainability.

St James Kindergarten in Grey Lynn won the beyond recycling category for schools. They impressed the judges with their water awareness, gardening, composting, reusing and recycling. Judges said St James Kindergarten is a great example of a team effort, with children making decisions about what happens in the gardens. They also hold composting, gardening and recycling workshops for other schools so they are active in spreading the word to other preschools and schools.

In speaking about all the winners Regional Councillor Dianne Glenn said it's important that the environmental efforts of others are recognised.

"It's a privilege to be part of an event which acknowledges their achievements because all our winners and finalists deserve to be rewarded for their stunning environmental work."

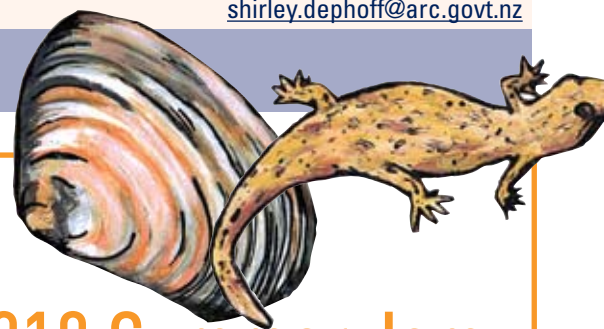


Auckland  
Regional Council  
TE RAUHITANGA TAIAO

# Enviroschools Workshops / Bus Tours / Events 2010

(Free of charge unless stated)

Date	Workshop/ Event	Participants	Venue/s	For more information contact
Thursday 25 March 3.30-5.30pm	Measuring Change	Primary / Intermediate teachers	Waitakere City Council	Jo Newman <a href="mailto:jo@ecomatters.govt.nz">jo@ecomatters.govt.nz</a>
Friday 30 April 8.45 - 2.30pm	Garden 2 Tummy Enviroschools Bus Tour (Koha)	Primary / Intermediate teachers	East Tamaki School Drury School Redhill School Edmund Hilary School	Cate Jessep <a href="mailto:cate.jessep@arc.govt.nz">cate.jessep@arc.govt.nz</a>
Monday 10 May 9.00 – 3pm	Sustainability in Early Childhood	Early Childhood Educators	St James Kindergarten ARC	Shirley Dephoff <a href="mailto:shirley.dephoff@arc.govt.nz">shirley.dephoff@arc.govt.nz</a>
Friday 21 May 8.45 – 3 pm	Developing Action Competent Students	Primary / Intermediate teachers	Peninsula Primary School	Sandy Bell-Jameson <a href="mailto:sandy.bell@arc.govt.nz">sandy.bell@arc.govt.nz</a>
Friday 18 June 9.00 – 3pm	Kaitiakitanga (Koha)	Primary / Intermediate teachers	Edmund Hilary School	Chris McLean <a href="mailto:chris@ecomatters.org.nz">chris@ecomatters.org.nz</a>
Friday 25 June 8.45 – 3 pm	Keeping the fun in Reading & Writing (Literacy, Environmental Education and the NZ Curriculum)	Primary teachers	De La Salle College	Sandy Bell-Jameson <a href="mailto:sandy.bell@arc.govt.nz">sandy.bell@arc.govt.nz</a>
First week in December Tbc	Enviroschools Annual Celebration	Enviroschools principals/ teachers/ students	Tbc	Shirley Dephoff <a href="mailto:shirley.dephoff@arc.govt.nz">shirley.dephoff@arc.govt.nz</a>



## 2010 Summer Jam

The regeneration network was created to support young environmental and social change-makers and enable them to move powerfully from secondary schooling, through further education and work experience and into purpose related employment that is an expression of their highest values and aspirations.

Leaving school often means leaving the community and in some cases leaving the region, that supported them being in action on their values. Many young people find themselves 'shelving' these values in order to focus on tertiary education, or on paid employment that does not always support their values.

In January of this year, 93 people from around New Zealand, including secondary students, university students, young professionals, parents and elders, came together to co-create a gathering of workshops, visual presentations and group action.

Over the coming months there will be another series of regional events, many focused around WWF Earth Hour on the 27th March. In Auckland there will be an Earth Hour event at Mt Victoria. In the mean time, the ReGeneration core team will be busy developing our plans for the ReGeneration 'gap year' (which we are very excited about) and hoping to trial in 2011, as well as a series of 'active citizenship' workshops aimed at engaging people in the local government elections this year.

### Quotes from participants:

*"I feel a lot more confident in stepping out of my comfort zone to ACT and achieve results in those things I believe in. I can make a difference."*

*"I've realized that there is a lot I can do for what I stand for and large projects/ideas I have can actually become reality."*

**For more information about the ReGeneration project in Auckland, please contact  
Jo Newman on [jo@ecomatters.org.nz](mailto:jo@ecomatters.org.nz) or 09 826 4276**

# Henderson Valley School

Winner of ARC Sustainable Environment Awards 2010  
– Sustainable Schools category



## What does it mean for your school to be an Enviroschool?

Henderson Valley School has invested at all levels of school life in the vision of creating a sustainable school.

The school vision states:

*“Henderson Valley School is a leader in Environmental Education. We instinctively act and think sustainably and we are innovative and motivated. Students confidently, plan, design and create action projects that support our vision for sustainability. We share our knowledge and understanding with the wider community. We are proud of our school environment. Our grounds are beautifully planned and maintained to high standards. Children enjoy using our wonderful environment and just being kids!”*

We deliberately seek ways to improve or modify our actions to increase our sustainable practises in every area of school life.

Our teachers and students plan, design and create projects that reflect our vision for sustainability. Our students take the sustainable message home with them and out into the wider community.

We interact with the local community not only through our students but also in “Life in the Valley” days where we showcase what we are doing at school. We have a number of partnerships with the wider community like Project Twin Streams, Operation Spring Clean and ARC planting.

There are several key projects that make Henderson Valley a sustainable school such as:

*Wetland Restoration Project; Edible Garden Project; Woodchip Boiler Installation; Waste minimisation systems; Waste Water Management System Project; Solar Panels Project; and the Green Team Leadership project.*

Of particular note is the commitment to reuse, reduce, recycle, compost, worm farms, and litter free lunchboxes means the school sends only “one bag a week” to landfill. This measurable output from a school of 450 including staff is a

great achievement. Also, the investment in a new waste water land based sewerage treatment system has created a system capable of managing future school population growth in a sustainable environmental way. The filter fields are planted in harakeke and filtering grasses which create an ecologically friendly system for bird feeding in the Ranges foothills

## How has your practice changed over the last few years?

Our practise has changed in very definite ways. Firstly, by including sustainability in our school vision and then actively linking what we are doing to our vision.

Secondly, by reflecting on every change we made towards becoming more sustainable in our practises and continually modifying and adding to what we do. We have taken the time to embed the changes we have made. The support toward our vision of school sustainability has slowly gathered momentum within the whole school community – students, teachers, parents - to where we are today.

## What are the challenges?

- Balancing the desire to take on new challenges with the need to embed and continue the current practises
- Keeping the momentum going within the school
- Finding the funding for what we would like to do.



## Student voices

### - what does it mean to be an Enviroschool?

“Wow! It is so cool to be an Enviroschool. But it also involves a lot of hard work. The things I notice about being an Enviroschool is that everything is clean and tidy, there’s no litter, there’s worm farms, recycling, wetlands, even a school goat instead of a mower. But most of all...everybody works together as one big, massive, sustainable team! We all have one thing in common though, we all care about everything and everyone ...all the teachers and children try hard to keep it that way.” **Emma Donald, Year 6 student.**

“It is amazing to see the difference between schools. At Henderson Valley there is no litter, it is normal to have and care for worm farms, compost and gardens. The school knows about the environment and why we care for it.” **Bella Berman, now a Year 7 student at Intermediate**

## Our EcoHut days **The happy hut friends - Remuera Intermediate**

We worked on our EcoHut for more than 20 weeks and wow, it went by fast! In term 3, 2009 we got started, and people were very excited thinking that we would start building right away. Instead, we spent a whole term planning, selecting and checking our site and trying to find things to build our hut with. We had so many different ideas about what we wanted our building to look like, and we had to keep re-designing it to make our plans fit with the stuff we had. We ended up building our hut using materials recycled from all of the construction that is happening at our school; for example our walls used to be the tables in the science lab. They’re really heavy – it took 7 kids just to move one! When we finally put the door on we could hardly believe it was done – we really had times when we weren’t sure we would ever finish it, but now we have a great hut that shows what kids can really do when we put our minds to it.



# Kids and Climate Change, what comes to mind?

**Rick Zwaan, Northcote College - Earth Hour speech**

## Hopenhagen, nopenhagen or Copenhagen

However you pronounce it, it seems ages ago. The first day of the UNICEF Children's Climate Forum plunged us into a multicultural bonanza; with 164 'Climate Ambassadors' from 44 countries, ranging from Kenya to Canada. The amount of languages and thus perspectives was just a little hard to comprehend after travelling halfway around the world. The first plenary session showed how diverse the group of teenagers really was. Hearing first hand stories from the mouths of those on the monstrous front line of climate change was really eye opening.

It's easy to sit around big ballroom tables in fine suits, having philosophical conversations on carbon credits and climate change as abstract ideas that will never come into reality. As far as we can see, in our sunny nation, a couple of degrees temperature rise will only mean a nicer tan. However, Climate change is no longer a one thousand page report. It's already a catastrophe to millions of my poor and innocent peers around the world. Our world 'leaders' tend only to talk about money and how they can make more of it. My friend Victor, from Nigeria, finds this hard to understand when he doesn't have two coins to rub together. I was sitting next to him watching a movie on youtube, a website he'd never heard about. He was telling me of how it used to rain in his village for as long as his ancestors can remember. Now it does not rain. He has to walk many miles to get a drink. We can simply turn on the tap.

I could go on talking about how changes in precipitation are causing millions of people my age to suffer, or how my new friends in the Maldives and Kiribati are seeing their future being flooded, or how crops have stopped growing in Kenya. But these sad stories are from far from here, and don't affect us daily. These sad stories are difficult to comprehend. We shouldn't, and we won't, dwell on the terrible injustices that encompass our world. Instead, we will act on them.

## Earth Hour much more than a symbolic act

Earth hour is a perfect opportunity to celebrate the interconnectedness of our world. Turning off our lights for an hour won't turn on the tap in Victor's house. But it will show how committed we are to solving these serious issues. It is very clear now that our world 'leaders' can't manage to overcome their personal greed. We must show them how. We must create a critical mass of civil society doing something, to kick start action. Earth hour is much more than a symbolic act. It's the opportunity to have the conversations with our communities. The conversations which do not happen when we passively sit in front of the TV.

The conversations where we talk about reality instead of watching it on a screen. The conversations where thoughts turn into plans which turn into action. Why don't these conversations happen at school?

## Climate change education should be mandatory

Climate change education is essential in order to prepare my mates for the challenges that we will face in our lifetimes. It should be a mandatory part of the school curriculum, here and around the world. Students in Denmark know a lot about the Climate Catastrophe, students here generally don't. Instead of mining our national parks, maybe we should make a national standard on environmental education.

Anyone who chooses to drive in Auckland will know how much of a problem transport is here. In a UNICEF survey that we developed, 96% of young New Zealanders would like to see the public transport system revolutionised and made carbon neutral. Shore youth council agreed unanimously that we didn't want to see more roads built in Auckland because we saw that this only brought more cars and congestion. We would love better bus systems, more safe cycle ways and electrified light rail. Young people aren't apathetic. We do care about how our home will be in 2050.

There are hundreds of passionate young people in New Zealand with fascinating ideas and practical positive actions in mind. The best thing that older people can do is share their wisdom, and help nurture new ideas into realities. The solutions are not secrets. The secret that needs to be shared is how to make them heard and actioned.

Positive social change doesn't usually come from governments. The French revolution definitely didn't come from a conference of the parties. We are already on the way to creating a prosperous and positive society, we need to show that we're not going to stop. Earth hour cannot become the one off feel good night. It must be a time where we build relationships with our community in order to take further action and solve these global issues. We must continue building momentum. We must listen to each other's ideas. We must do simple things which will help Victor, all my mates overseas, and your kids thrive.

So what comes to mind when I say Kids and Climate Change?

I hope everyone in New Zealand has a great earth hour and that we can increase the 1.7 million that took part last year to 4.3 million switching off this year. Together we will.



## OUR WORLD, OUR FUTURE

### Children's Climate Forum Declaration 2009

**Climate change threatens our lives, our families and our future. We, the youth delegates from 44 countries attending the Children's Climate Forum 2009, will not sit back and watch. We already face the effects of climate change. Our communities are deprived of clean drinking water, denied access to education and vulnerable to disease every time it floods. Our plates are empty due to drought. Our future is at risk, and we demand that something be done. The youth in the world are ready to take action, and we request the same of governments worldwide. The time for talk is over. Now, we hold you accountable for your commitments. The challenges may appear insurmountable, yet as stakeholders, our generation is ready to collaborate in this cause. We commit to personal lifestyle changes that place the common good above our individual desires and current way of life.**

Link to "What's up COP?" - Children's Climate Forum, Copenhagen 2009, presented to world leaders. Includes the youth declaration and personal stories from those that are most affected.

[http://moveyourworld.unicef.ca/doc/childrens\\_climate\\_forum\\_declaration\\_FINAL.pdf](http://moveyourworld.unicef.ca/doc/childrens_climate_forum_declaration_FINAL.pdf)

# Enviroschools Awards Celebration

4 December 2009, Tirimoana School

**Congratulations to all schools and their communities achieving a 2009 Enviroschools award.**

*Photos from left to right*



## Green-Gold

### Waitakere City

- Laingholm Primary School
- Tirimoana School



## Silver

### Auckland City

- Blockhouse Bay Intermediate School
- Lynfield College
- Newmarket Primary School
- Orairaka District School



### Franklin / Papakura

- Drury Primary School



### Waitakere City

- Woodlands Park School

## Bronze

### Auckland City

- Churchill Park School
- Marshall Laing School
- Sylvia Park School



### Franklin / Papakura

- Mauku School



### Manukau City

- East Tamaki School
- Pakuranga College
- Point View School



### North Shore City

- Birkenhead Primary School
- Mairangi Bay School
- Manuka Primary School
- Westlake Girls High School
- Willow Park School



### Waitakere City

- Flanshaw Road School
- Massey High School
- Sunderland School and College



# Enviroschools contacts 2010

**Enviroschools Facilitators** provide **professional development** and **inschool support** to assist your school in creating a sustainable school and community.

## Facilitators are able to assist your school with:

**Auditing and measuring change** in sustainable practices and technologies

**Developing whole school approach** - working with key staff, senior management, BOT, teachers, students, grounds managers, parent community

**Documenting** and sharing of your school's journey

Establishing and maintaining **Envirogroups**

**Making links** to other programmes and resources

**Mentoring** key staff

**Planning, implementing and evaluating action**

Supporting students **taking action**

**Vision mapping** process (including Care Code) setting goals

Planning and resourcing **Enviroschools**

**Themes** and Actions: Me in My Environment; Living landscapes; Water of Life; Energy; Ecological Building; Zero Waste Integration of education for sustainability into the curriculum

**Reflecting** on progress (includes awards reflection process and annual reflection session/s)

Developing understanding of **Enviroschools kaupapa, guiding principles, key areas and processes**

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