

Enviroschools September 2006 News

**Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Nabad, Malo e Lelei,
Ni Sa Bula, Ni Hao, Konnichi wa, Ahn nyung ha-se-yo,
Namaste, Marhabn, Salaam, Dobar dan, Hello!**

With spring in the air many of you are busy planting natives and helping restore our biodiversity. We know how active you are as we have received lots of applications from Enviroschools for our Environmental Initiatives Fund and presentally we are processing these.
Good luck to you all!

The Expo was held over two days this year due to a high number of schools wishing to participate. A fantastic time was had by students and adults. Thanks to all the presenters and facilitators who put in the hard work to bring it all together. Read some of the pledges made by students to use what they had learned back at school.



Hilary Chidlow, 09 366 2000 ext. 8050, hilary.chidlow@arc.govt.nz,
Shirley Dephoff, 09 366 2000 ext. 8041, shirley.dephoff@arc.govt.nz,
Enviroschools Coordinators Auckland Region.

Auckland City on board

St Thomas School in Kohimarama has become Auckland City Council's first Enviroschool. The Council has funded Nicky Elmore to assist the school for three years on the fully facilitated programme. The Council is committed to educating the community about sustainability and it is hoped that there will be many more schools to follow.

St Thomas's envirogroup is currently looking at setting up a worm farm. They have recently visited Meadowbank School to get some ideas. The school is also looking at their care code by beginning with a brainstorm on 'Zero Waste'

If you measure it ... you can manage it!

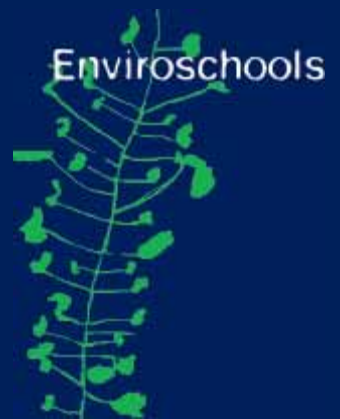
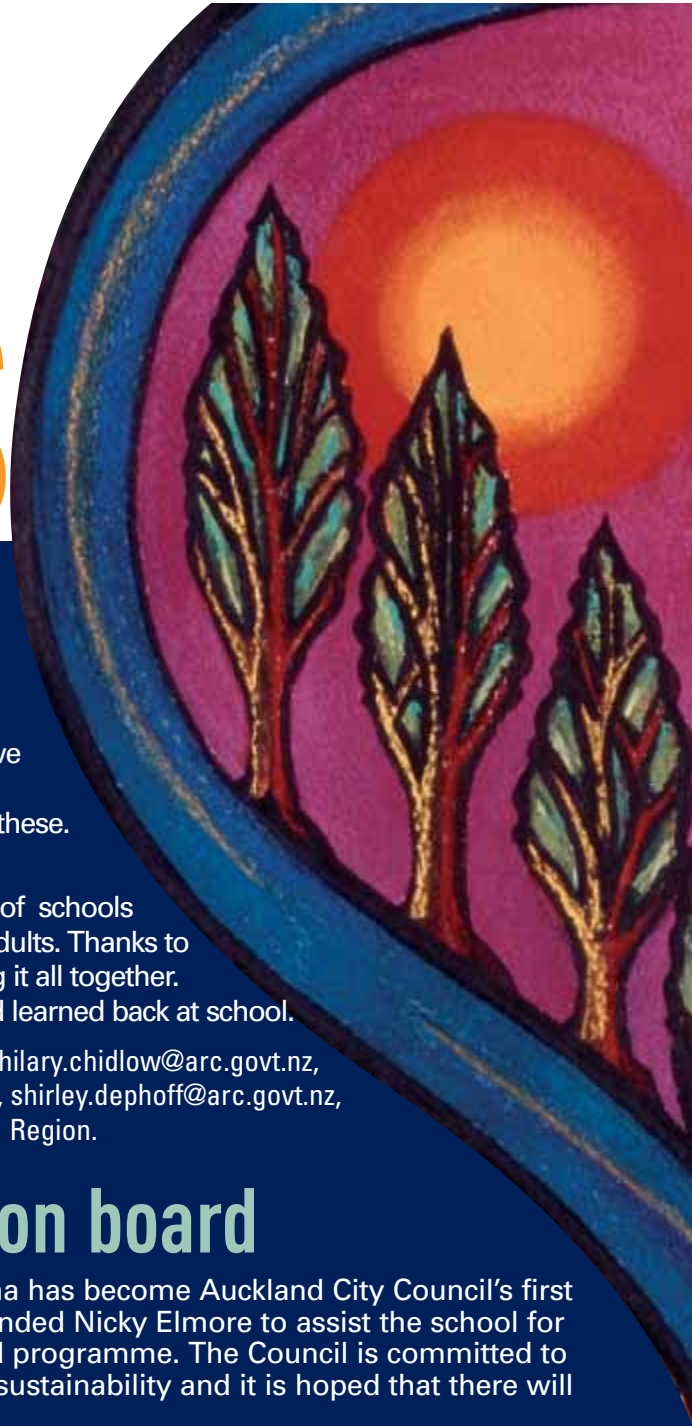
In the last newsletter we asked what sustainable practices your school had in place.

Included in this issue is a survey that will enable your school to gather baseline data as a measure for improvements in sustainable practices.

All Enviroschools are asked to measure at least one sustainable practice in term four. Remember that you can consult with your facilitator if you need help.

Be in the draw to win an ECO basket if your school completes all 6 areas.

In 2007 National Enviroschools Office will be selecting Auckland schools to trial tools and techniques for measuring practices. Please indicate on the survey if your school is keen to be involved.



Auckland
Regional Council
TE RAUHĪTANGA TAIAO

Enviroschools EXPO 8-9 August 2006

Living Landscapes Everybody's Business

Kia ngākau nui te katoa ki te whakarato



43 schools, 183 students and 46 teachers and parents took part in our second annual expo at the Regional Botanic Gardens.

Both students and teachers were immersed in a fantastic array of hands-on experiences aimed to increase their knowledge and skills of the 'living landscape'. Groups rotated around a series of four interactive workshops.

BOOOP! Keep the balloon aloft by batting it with any part of your body

(By working together we can achieve a sustainable world/planet)



Workshops

Te Ngahere - Traditional Maori use of the Forest

Riki Bennett and Rewi Spraggon shared their knowledge and skills of how the forest was a valuable resource for early Maori. Natural materials were made to make a range of objects such as; traps for hunting birds and fish; vessels for carrying food and water; clothing and footwear; musical instruments and toys like 'potaka' (whipping top). **Blossom Taewa** taught students to prepare and weave flax.

Soil Erosion Nicky Elmore from Trees for Survival

Nicky Elmore from Trees for Survival involved students in an exciting interactive session to develop an awareness of how trees and plants can help to reduce erosion. Through role-play students simulated how vegetation affects water movement and what we can all do to help restore catchments.

Mini-beasts

Ruud Kleinpaste is known affectionately as 'The Bugman'. He has been a regular feature on several television and radio shows. Ruud is a great advocate for the small things in life and he shared with us a fabulous presentation about the benefits of insects. He inspired everyone to get enthusiastic about insects, even wetas and centipedes!

Seed Collection, Preparation and Propagation

Trish Irvine and Debbie McCardle facilitated a fun workshop. Students learned how to prepare and sow a variety of seeds, propagate cuttings from native plants and make newspaper pots for seedlings.



What the teachers said;

"A thoroughly worthwhile day that empowered the students in many environmental issues"

"The passion of presenters showed throughout each session"

"Thanks for a great day – kids are really enthused"

"Awesome! Great to learn how useful bugs are and how they can benefit us".

... and what the students said;

"I learnt that there are different methods of propagation for different seeds.... I really want my seeds to work!"

"We need to plant trees next to streams and rivers so the soil doesn't fall in and kill the fish!"

"Spider silk is five times stronger than metal!"



Pledges for further action

- "Take cuttings from our native garden and grow more trees and plants for our native garden." (Tirimoana School)
- "To use our photos to record and share what we have learned." (Wakaaranga School)
- "To plan more planting around erosion and fence areas in the school so we can increase biodiversity". (Westmere School)
- Install energy saving light bulbs



Action for the environment

Papakura Normal School: No cling-wrap allowed!

Cling-wrap detectives in huge fluorescent glasses, dark capes and armed with a video camera searched the playground for evidence of cling-wrapped lunches.

The enthusiastic students of Papakura Normal School showed off the decorated paper bags that held their lunches. The school was cling-wrap free, and the Cling-wrap detectives were very satisfied.





ENVIRO SCHOOLS AWARDS



Call to action

Keep New Zealand Beautiful

**Clean Up Week
18 - 25 September 06**

Join the rest of New Zealand and clean up your patch.

Visit www.knzb.org.nz to register and receive free bags and gloves for your clean up.



Global Climate Campaign - November 4

A diverse range of activities, actions and demonstrations on climate change are going to occur in many places around the world on 4 November. These will coincide with the United Nations Climate Conference in Nairobi, 6-17 November 2006.

This is an exciting opportunity for schools to do something on Friday 3rd November. Get some media coverage for your work, and contribute to increasing pressure on our world leaders to take urgent action to prevent catastrophic destabilisation of the global climate.

Possible ideas:

- Organise a "Car Free" day. Walk to school or use public transport instead of private cars
- Graphically display where the high tide on your local beach will be with sea level rise at 2050

For more information on this 'Day of Action' and how you can be involved in New Zealand, please go to: www.globalclimatecampaign.org

Applying for an award

Documentation is due November 1

Bronze and Silver Awards are assessed on the evidence in your documentation.

We encourage students to take a leading role in providing the evidence and compiling creative submissions. Demonstrate how your school has met the criteria eg. Power point, video, photographs, art and written work.

Start collating evidence now to avoid undue rush at the start of Term 4. (Remember your school can apply for a Bronze Award more than once)

Enviro tips

Attracting native birds

Have hours of fun watching silvereyes.

Halve a grapefruit or orange and wire it to a branch so that the fleshy side is pointing upwards. Place it out of reach from curious felines. The silvereyes will come from far and wide to enjoy the sumptuous feast!

Resources

When the Jones Kids Came to Town \$6

You've found it! This new Weedbusters adventure tells the story of the Jones kids and their fight to save a native gully from the troublesome Garden Thugs - with the help of Grandma, Woody Weed, and all their Whanau and friends of course!

This is a special price for Enviroschools. The usual price is \$10. Available late September.



Connect with Nature

Creating and Caring for Living Landscapes \$25.00

This resource kit will be useful if your school is creating a living landscape for students to learn about: native plants and habitats for minibeasts and native birds.

Contents – Two sets of laminated ID cards – BCU's Most Wanted Pest Plants (2004) plus several booklets and brochures including: Weedbusters Education Resource; City Issues – Natural Heritage and Biodiversity; E Vibe back issues – Biosecurity, Biodiversity and Natural Heritage; Weedbusting – A Guide to Recognizing and Controlling Invasive Weeds; Plant me Instead; Pest Plants of the Auckland Region; The Good Start Planting Guide; Auckland's Wetlands Vital and at Risk and many more.

To order resources contact:

Information Centre, Auckland Regional Council, Private Bag 92 012, Auckland.

Phone (09) 366 2000 ext. 8338, email publications@arc.govt.nz

Resources will be sent on receipt of payment. Make cheques payable to Auckland Regional Council.