

Kia ora tatou

Welcome to our very first edition of the Enviroschools Canterbury Newsletter. We hope to produce an informative newsletter full of school stories, upcoming events and useful resources.

There are currently 45 schools and early learning centres involved in the Enviroschools programme in Canterbury made possible with support from our funding partners Environment Canterbury, CHCH City Council, Department of Conservation, Waimakariri District Council, Kaikoura District Council and Timaru District Council.

We are part of a national programme that is growing with now over 500 schools nationally! We continue to be inspired by the

amazing things you and your students are doing to create a sustainable future. Please share your stories with others by contributing to our web page or newsletter. Contact your facilitator and she can assist you or your students to write an article highlighting some of the great things you are doing in your school.

Make sure you mark key Enviroschool dates in your diary and check out our web page for more information. Thank you to those of you who supported our regional bus trip last month, a truly inspirational tour!

Nga mihi nui

Andrea Creighton

Introducing your Enviroschools Team!

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www.ecan.govt.nz/enviroschools

Silver award celebrations

Four primary schools and two Kidsfirst kindergartens celebrated achieving silver status with the installation of a beautiful Enviroschools Canterbury sign in their school grounds. Each school or kindergarten held a special ceremony to celebrate their journey this far.



Kidsfirst Opawa receiving their Silver award.



Silver award-winning garden at Lincoln Kidsfirst.



Ashburton Borough School - Silver winners.



South New Brighton School pupils during the award ceremony.



Our Lady of Fatima award ceremony.

COMING UP..

An opportunity for you and your students to explore your school and local area, its special places, people, animals and plants. A DVD and poster is available on request from your local Department of Conservation Office.

Conservation week ideas 7-14 September 2008

Theme – Meeting the locals Tutakitia te Iwi Kainga

"If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it" David Sorbel

How many of you know your locals at school or a home?

The "locals" could be people but they could also be plants or animals. This week is an opportunity to get to know them better.

Plants

Try a quiz: What am I ?

- I am tall with long thin leaves
- I have tall flower spikes
- I can be used for weaving
- What am I?

Try a trail: With signs researched and designed by students

A "meet the plant" activity using your senses:

- Touch a leaf how does it feel – describe.
- Smell – try rubbing the leaf with your fingers does it smell? What of?
- Sight – draw the leaf or make a leaf rubbing.

Use the information gathered by students to create a record of what they have learnt, present to other students, think of who else benefits from the plants.

Animals

- Who uses the school grounds?
- What visits, what lives here all the time?
- Do you have any rare or endangered species nearby?
- Look for minibeasts around the base of plants in the leaf litter.
- Use sheets to hold under branches – gently shake a branch and see what falls off.
- Record the birds you can see in 1 minute of silent observation (repeat through out the day/week).
- Use trakker tunnels to find out the secret visitors www.connocation.co.nz.

People

- Who lives next door?
- What do they think of your school?
- What do they know about it?
- How often are they consulted?
- Have they ever visited?
- Do they feel welcomed?

DOC SCHOOL RESOURCES FOR CONSERVATION WEEK

Help your students learn about the native animals and plants, people and places unique to their region during Conservation Week with two new education units (Years 1-4 and 5-8) from the Department of Conservation.

Developed by former Newspapers in Education editor, Mike Tapp, the units fit well with the the new curriculum, encouraging students to work together to learn about New Zealand's natural and historic heritage and inspiring them to get involved. Links to TVNZ's TV6 Meet the Locals video clips provide easy access to a wide range of conservation places & stories, with well known DOC presenter, Nic Vallance.

Visit www.conservationsweek.org.nz to download the Meet the Locals education units.

Hail to the Godwits!!

Imagine flying non-stop for 6 days, covering over 11,000 km! That is the adventure undertaken each year by the medium sized brown wading bird, the Godwit/Kuaka. Christchurch celebrates the arrival of the Godwits with the ringing of the Cathedral Bell marking the beginning of spring. Godwits spend time in New Zealand, fattening up, resting and enjoying the summer season. At the end of our summer, Christchurch residents gather at the Avon-Heathcoat Estuary to send off the Godwits and wish them well as they take to the wind and journey back to their nesting grounds in Alaska.

This year, the Christchurch City Council and Ihutai Trust are inviting primary students to contribute to their farewell. Students are encouraged to write a poem saluting the Godwits. The winning poem will be read (maybe even by the brave student!) as part of the send off celebrations. If your students are keen to participate, please send their poems to Valerie Lubrick by December 19th 2008. More information about the Godwits can be found at: www.ccc.govt.nz/christchurch/godwits/

ENVIROSCHOOLS REGIONAL BUS TRIP - 19 AUGUST 2008

On the morning of the bus trip we awoke to a blanket of snow covering Christchurch and the surrounding Port Hills!

Despite this however a hardy band of teachers, students, community members and EnviroSchool staff set off on the inaugural bus trip which showcased the work of two primary schools and one Early Learning Centre in the region.



Our Lady of Fatima's art tiles

The sound of the student haka echoed through the hall as the manuhiri/guests arrived at Our Lady of Fatima. The students challenged the visitors to consider their own sustainability practices and enthusiastically described their upcoming projects. Both the junior and senior schools presented their ideas and the guests found themselves warmly received and inspired by the students' passion.

A quick blast through the rain and the bus arrived at St. Mark's school in Opawa. Following a professional PowerPoint presentation, small groups of visitors were guided around the school to a variety of stations showcasing the school's recent projects and developments. Bird nests, Enviro-day games and scrapbooking workshops have all played their part in helping students learn and practice sustainability as part of their daily life.

The bus was a hum of conversation while facilitators, teachers, and community supporters/ members shared their ideas en route to Cherry's Early Learning Centre in Beckenham. Hearts were melting as the adorable little ones taught the guests how to make soap, recycle paper into paper bricks for the fire, and have a bit of fun along the way. The rain gutters and munchkin friendly gardens are both becoming big hits with the youngsters as the centre looks at resource use and ways to keep the outdoors a learning environment.



Cherry's gate to new garden area

Judging from the excited faces and chatter on the bus back to Environment Canterbury, new friendships were made and both students and adults went away with new ideas and inspiration to take back to their own school and home.

A very big thank you to the staff and students of Our Lady of Fatima, St Mark's School and Cherry's Early Learning Centre.

Check out this Website!

For fun ideas in the garden for children, parents and teachers.



www.edibleplaygrounds.co.uk

Learning through action

A chance for your students to get real!

Get your students out of the classroom and into the wonderful, wild and wasteful real world with a series of visits and experiences available from the City Council's Learning Through Action environmental education team. Programmes are at Christchurch's parks, beaches, waste and heritage sites. The sessions provide an excellent compliment to your classroom topic.

Our programmes are:

- Free!
- Curriculum linked and teacher designed
- Guided by experienced environmental educators and park rangers
- Experiential, encouraging student participation

For more information, please contact us:

Environmental Education Coordinator
Christchurch City Council
P O Box 237
Christchurch

Email: learningthroughaction@ccc.govt.nz
Phone: (03) 941 8298
Fax: (03) 941 8384



Key dates to remember

Date	What's On?	Contact
TERM FOUR		
17th October	Awards evidence due	Andrea
12th November	Information afternoon for new schools interested in joining Enviroschools	Andrea
Early December	Enviroschools Awards Event (Details to follow)	Andrea

RUBBISH FREE YEAR

Average Christchurch rubbish production is 746 kg a head. Christchurch couple, Matthew and Waveney, are on a mission to reduce theirs to just one rubbish bag for the whole year. Their website www.rubbishfreeyear.co.nz profiles the project and tracks progress. If you haven't already done so, take a look - it's well laid out and makes interesting reading.

New Resources/ Information

Ebox

Climate Change is a complex issue that is explored in the latest Ebox resource produced by Environment Canterbury. Ebox is an environmental resource full of interesting facts about Canterbury's environment and student activities. Most schools are registered to receive this resource so check out your staff resource room or contact Andrea if you would like to receive a copy.



Fun and learning at Enviroschools workshops

Terms one and two were busy with facilitators offering workshops for early childhood, primary and secondary schools. These were well attended with participants enjoying meeting staff and students from other Enviroschools and learning new skills:

- Lovely Little Learners - Canterbury Water issues
- Primary student workshop-presentation skills
- Secondary student workshop-preparing a submission and writing media releases

We would love your suggestions for workshops in 2009!

Tips to prepare for an Enviroschools award application

Awards evidence – When putting together your awards evidence remember there are numerous benefits of keeping a record:

- Valuable resource – provides historical context of projects for present and future students
- Provides visible evidence for BOT, Parents, ERO
- Can be used as an assessment tool for students
- Can support funding applications
- Reading resource
- Facilitates reflective practice
- Celebrates your success and achievements

Use your facilitator

- They are there to help and support you
- Schedule regular meetings

Great evidence requires great systems

- Have one – be organised
- Use the awards criteria to file evidence under as you go
- Make sure all relevant people know what records are to be kept.
- Communal enviroschools folders on the schools computer system
- File boxes for examples of students work, photos, newspaper articles
- Photos, photos, photos – Before, as well as during and after pictures
- Involve the envirogroup and more teachers –delegate tasks of record keeping
- Encourage class scrapbooks
- Collect a variety of evidence in different formats –keep them somewhere safe

As you document and collate your school's journey remember most importantly to reflect and celebrate your successes and achievements!