

EcoBuzz

EcoBuzz Edition 60

Term 4 2015



Victory School students helping with the landscaping project

IN THIS ISSUE: Conservation Week, school updates, meet Chelsea, Enviroschools Secondary workshop on offer, EVelocity challenge, a water conservation activity page and more

Kia ora tatou

Spring is springing beautifully into action and so can we! It's the perfect time for some reflection about your year just about gone and then to start thinking and planning where to next year? If you are in an Enviroschool make contact with your facilitator to get support with this – we'd love to help.

Here is a great quote to help you remember why the environmental and sustainability focused work you do with our young people is so important.

“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction”

Rachel Carson

Chelsea has joined the team in Nelson City Council – so welcome to Chelsea. More about her on the next page.

A reminder that Conservation Week is coming up in November with DOC. Check out the options available and the DOC website too.

Finally we would like to congratulate all the schools on so many wonderful actions!

Thanks Chelsea Adie, Lindsey and Claire

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Kotahi te ako

Kotahi te tipu

Together we learn

Together we grow

Cultivating an attitude of gratitude

When you think things are bad, when you feel sour and blue,
when you start to get mad...you should do what I do!
Just tell yourself, duckie, you're really quite lucky!
Some people are much more...oh, ever so much more...
Oh, muchly much-much more unlucky than you!

It's a troublesome world. All the people who're in it
are troubled with troubles almost every minute.
You ought to be thankful a whole heaping lot,
for the places and people you're lucky you're not!

– Dr. Seuss

Meet Chelsea – the new Environmental Programmes Adviser for Nelson City Council

Hello,

My name is Chelsea Woolhouse and I have just taken on the role of Environmental Programmes Adviser with the Nelson City Council – Mary Curnow's previous position.

My education background is in environmental business management and community development. I previously worked with not-for-profit organizations in Canada focused on environmental education and waste reduction and with rural towns in community economic development. I am fairly new to the Nelson Tasman area and I am thrilled to have the chance to be a part of such a dynamic region. I love getting outdoors and exploring our beautiful backyard whether on two wheels or in a pair of tramping boots.

I look forward to meeting you and learning about all the exciting projects that are happening in our community and schools around environmental conservation. I am happy to have a chance to work with educators helping to create a sustainable future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments at Chelsea.Woolhouse@ncc.govt.nz or 03 265 6986



Highlights of the nationwide 2014 Enviroschools

Census Undertaken by Kinnect Group and Reid Consulting

"The strength of Enviroschools lies in the collaborations and multiple relationships that have been established and continue to be nurtured through its model of facilitated, networked and distributed leadership, engaging communities, schools and other stakeholders in action aimed at creating sustainable communities." The evaluators, Kinnect Group

- Robust data with a **73% response rate nationally (a wonderful 100% in Nelson—thanks again & 81% in Tasman)** with 688 Enviroschools responding.
- Enviroschools fosters significant **community collaboration**, creating leadership pathways for students and real connections to families, outside agencies and communities.
- **Biodiversity projects** are well developed, with clear links to the community – 96% of Enviroschools had biodiversity projects with 86,859 trees planted in 2014 (86% of which were natives).
- Three-quarters of Enviroschools are undertaking a range of **water actions** including actions towards water quality and conservation and 19,264 metres of riparian planting in 2014.
- Almost all Enviroschools are taking actions to **reduce waste**.
- Most Enviroschools are **growing and harvesting produce** from their gardens/trees for cooking, selling and gifting.
- Just over two-thirds of Enviroschools are tackling **energy use** including actions for sustainable transport and energy conservation.
- Enviroschools is contributing to a range of other outcomes including **citizenship**, health, **cultural understanding**, motivated learners and community participation.
- Depth of practice is related to the extent of outcomes. Results showed that the depth of practice increases with the length of time a school or ECE centre is involved in Enviroschools. There is a clear link between depth of practice and the extent to which the programme is contributing to outcomes. This reinforces the value of the long-term approach of the Enviroschools Programme. Indeed we look forward to a large number of holistic reflections in Nelson this term, as schools continue to increase their depth of sustainability. Ka Pai!

Specialist Education for Sustainability workshop focused on using achievement standards in (senior) secondary.

November 9th 9.30 - 3.00pm @ Motueka High School

Facilitated by Jan Cox, National Manager - Enviroschools and Bridget Glasgow, Secondary Schools' EfS consultant for Auckland Council and SEREAD

Come and spend the day planning when, what and how to implement EfS achievement standards into your secondary school. Bring the standards you want to focus on.

Morning and afternoon tea provided (let Adie know of any dietary requirements)

Teacher release may be available.

Please reply asap if you would like to go and let Adie know which standards you would like to work on - Adie.Leng@tasman.govt.nz or phone 03 543 7222.

Enviroschools Holistic Reflection Process Workshop was held in September

Jan Cox, the National Manager of Enviroschools Programme, ran this successful workshop with 22 teachers from Nelson and Tasman Enviroschools.

The teachers who attended came to realise that the Enviroschools Holistic Reflection Process (EHRP) is an essential part of the journey of realising the depth of sustainability practice that is occurring in their school/centre. They also saw how much the Bronze, Silver and GreenGold levels provided a worthy measuring guide to the journey and wasn't about competing with each other, because what happens at, or works for, each Enviroschool is so different.

Some great ideas came out of the workshop. Documentation really helps celebrate the Enviroschools' developments over time that could otherwise be lost. It was good to be reminded about keeping the familiar scrapbooks, mind maps, blogs, learning stories and lesson plans and recording the journey to actually tell the story that is happening, especially with photos.

Creativity in using powerful visual metaphors to record the connections with each Enviroschool's journey ranged from the monarch butterfly life cycle, harakeke plant with its insects, different trees, the awa and a pool. A necessary part of the reflection process is being comfortable with having 'room to grow' and to be consciously deliberate about seeing the next steps. Enviroschools have the opportunity to foster the knowledge and creativity for students and children to continually move into taking alternative next steps on the sustainability journey.



We love seeing how different centres and schools are proudly displaying their Enviroschools sign.

Recently, Harakeke Preschool had an unveiling of the sign at their Silver celebration.

Please send us a photo of your sign once it's up!



Enviroschools

A Silver Enviroschools celebration for Hira Kindergarten

In March this year Hira Rural Kindergarten became the first Nelson kindergarten to reach the Silver stage of the Enviroschools' journey. This was recently celebrated with a Silver certificate presented by Councillor Matt Lawry. It was accepted on behalf of the Kindergarten by Theo Hussmann (pictured above), who was part of the decision-making reflection team made up of teachers, students, Enviroschools Facilitators and whanau. The certificate says: *We have a clear, shared Whole Centre Vision and we are working together creatively to make it happen. There are obvious signs of all the Guiding Principles in our Centre, across all the areas of centre life. We have a sense of inter-relatedness/ whanaungatanga in terms of our Centre, our community and our environment. Our sustainable practices are being kept up and are growing; we are branching into new aspects as well as going deeper with existing ones through children-led enquiry. Children are fully involved in planning and making decisions about actions. We are tracking our progress and can show that more change has happened. Our work has involved lots of people in our Centre as well as parents, whānau and other community members.*

Guests were offered coffee, tea and a cake made with eggs laid by the Kindergarten hen, Sparky. Matt gave credit to the founders of Hira Rural Kindergarten, which is now 14 years old. He also mentioned several significant projects the Kindergarten has initiated, including the restoration of a large area of adjacent wetland involving the wider Hira community and supported by Nelson City Council. Matt also highlighted the value of young children's ideas and creativity in guiding our journey toward a sustainable way of life. The event concluded with a Kapa Haka demonstration by the children.

Golden Bay High Senior Building and Construction

Students took up the challenge of making worm farms out of found mussel buoys. They researched, planned and constructed the worm farms, trying various designs before settling on the ones pictured.



Construction Set from Newsprint Tubes

Auckland Point Kindergarten has a new construction set. The inner cardboard roll from newsprint can be sawn into short rounds, making a wonderful, durable addition to wood block construction sets.

The tubes need to be cut precisely square and clean with a table-mounted circular saw or a 'mitre saw'.

Please find a helpful professional builder with the right equipment. A hand-held circular saw would be unsuitable and dangerous!

My brother Greg cut a set for Auckland Point Kindergarten. Greg cut the rounds in precise lengths, to help children to make symmetrical, balanced constructions. From three cardboard rolls this is what we ended up with: 4 x 200mm; 8 x 100mm; 12 x 50mm. These rounds have greatly enhanced the construction possibilities of our wood block set. Our tamariki often enjoy stacking the rounds as high as they can reach... and then, of course, delight in knocking the tower over!

Roger Wilde, ECE Kaiako and Enviroschools Facilitator



Gecos at Garin

Garin College has been a Nelson Enviroschool since 2008, though only in 2015 has our student action group, GECO, been revitalized. As an Enviroschool, Garin has installed solar panels on our Redwood Centre building, maintained our school vege garden and set up a new fountain system that has currently supplied students enough cool, fresh water to fill up over 19,000 plastic drink bottles. Awesome stuff! This year GECO has participated in native tree plantings and is currently planning a Term 4 fundraiser to support not only our own future initiatives but also the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary. Here's to an awesome Term 4!



Callum McIntosh,
Student Leader



Slippery Action at Nelson College for Girls Prep!

Enviroschools and WES have worked together in Term 3 to support the NGC Prep to deepen their understanding of sustainability leading to environmental action. After planning with Enviroschools Lead teacher Veronica Coffey, it was decided to set the girls on a firm footing by playing the 'Oil Game,' to deepen their understanding of the wider and global environmental implications around waste. This also led to the exploration of the concept of consumerism. The girls finished off the Oil Game by making personal pledges to take action for the environment. Each class was led through an action planning process using the Enviroschool resources and the Envirogroup are poised to take more action in term 4. The whole school has adopted the action learning cycle and has found it useful for making change in many different situations, not all environmental!



*Pledges for
Environmental
Action*



*Role play
in the Oil
Game*

If you'd like to find out more about playing the Oil Game, recommended for years 4+ or help with planning an environmental unit for your class then contact **Lindsey Fish-Enviroschools** or **Sarah Langi-Waste Education Services**.

Enviroschools making a difference at Hampden Street School

Making Weta Hotels

A group of fantastic HSS kids are passionate about the environment and are keen to make a difference to their school and local community. They've had a few projects on the go recently. The first has been to expand the School orchard. They planted another eight fruit trees to add to last years'. The trees have all had a good mulch and compost and last years' trees have been pruned by Nancy the KEGS gardener, with some of the KEGS kids.

The second has been the designing, building, painting and now placing of weta hotels around the school, using the Nelson Enviroschools Action funding. These have been nailed to trees around the school in both secret and public spots to engage the rest of the school. So far no Weta have moved in to the Hotels-so the next step is to research how to attract Weta into our safe and predator-free environments.

Finally, they recently had 14 native trees donated to the school by Dean's Nursery as part of our Paper 4 Trees scheme, whereby the school recycles paper and 'earns' trees. They decided to restore an area of planting in the far left hand corner of the school where Waimea Road intersects with Van Dieman Street. They planted Houheria (Lacebarks), Ti kouka (Cabbage trees), Lancewoods, Manuka and Red harekeke (Flax) while leaving pathways for the children to play and explore, without standing on the trees (they hope).





Nayland College receives Enviroschools Sign

Blake Winstanley and Kara Hamilton received the new national Enviroschools' sign in an assembly on behalf of NEST,

the Envirogroup at the College. Nayland College was one of the first Enviroschools in the district and Blake has had a long association with the programme, previously coming from Nayland Primary School.

As well as increasing its waste reduction programme, this year the group have investigated the installation of solar PV panels as an energy source for the school.

Good luck to all Senior students for your exams in Term 4 and as you move on. Don't forget to plan for succession to ensure Envirogroups continue when older students leave school. Your facilitator can help with this. We have some exciting plans and leadership events for Secondary students in 2016!

Victory Primary School gets landscaping!



Our Envirogroup has just completed a major planting at our school! This has been two terms in the making and has turned out really well.

The seniors identified a problem area in the School that was not very pretty, with old scraggly plants. The kids took control of the task and researched native plants that would thrive in the area. We then applied for a grant to purchase the plants, and the job was ON! This was a combined effort from many classes in the school, and everyone – students, teachers, parents and community will benefit.

Big trucks arrived in the last week of term to deliver compost and mulch. The students then weeded the beds and prepared the soil. The planting took place over two days and the results are amazing. This project brings beauty to our school and will instill a love of the natural world to our children.

Thanks to Room 2 (juniors) and Room 13 (seniors) Enviroschools' Environmental Action Project with thanks to Toimata Foundation and Nelson City Council.

Sterling Cathman–Enviroschools Lead Teacher at Victory Primary School

Upcycling Competition

Show us your useful creation from re-using old items

All items will be on display at Ngatimoti Festival Sunday 25th October 2015. Vote for your favourite invention and bid in the silent auction too.



EVelocity 'Re-Volt' Launch

October 28 at Trafalgar Park, open to the public at 5pm

This is the schools' EVelocity challenge and electric vehicle (EV) promotion event rolled in to one.

EVelocity, is a secondary school student sustainability challenge that was offered to Nelson and Tasman this year thanks to some keen teachers and great sponsorship from Network Tasman and Nelson Electrical Ltd. The EVelocity programme started in Christchurch in partnership with Enviroschools and due to its success, the idea is spreading. Students work in groups, get hands-on design and marketing experiences and may also gain NCEA standards in a wide range of subjects.

Seven local secondary school teams have been busy making their own EVs. The student teams were provided with a motor, battery and controller and then added their own creativity and technological design with mostly 'found' stuff. Their EVs are trikes or bikes and have to demonstrate capability in five challenges – drag run, cone circuit, 3km endurance race, reversing and rolling resistance.

Gates will open at 5pm and the EVelocity challenges will start at 5.30pm. It is also an opportunity to see the wide range of commercial electric bikes and vehicles in action. The winners will go to the South Island EVelocity challenge to be held at Ruapuna Motorsport Park in Christchurch on November 28th.

For more information contact Roger Waddell, info@thegates.co.nz



School teams competing



NZ's fastest street car dragster with an electrifying difference



Create Habitat Heroes – Conservation Week

Teach your kids to make a difference and WIN!

The Department of Conservation is bringing you the Habitat Heroes competition – supported with free teaching resources to help you teach your students how to understand their local environment, using simple, scientific methods. Encourage your students to go out, explore a local place, and think about how they can make a difference. One lucky class will get the opportunity to bring their ideas to life!

Register your interest and we'll send you free posters and stickers and let you know when your free teaching resources are available online.

Groups get to choose what type of Habitat Hero they want to be, and what place they want to find out more about. They can become a:

Green Hero – exploring and assessing a bush reserve, gully, backyard or their school grounds

Stream Hero – exploring and assessing freshwater

Marine Hero – exploring and assessing coastal or marine areas.

DOC are developing classroom ready, curriculum linked, teaching and learning resources to help teachers incorporate the competition into the classroom. The resources will show how the class can use simple scientific methods to assess the health of the schoolyard or local place. They'll include teaching and learning activities at different levels to suit a range of learning ages and stages.

Conservation Week runs from 1–8 November. Groups can explore, investigate and enter the competition any time before 15 November 2015. For more information visit: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/HabitatHeroes>

Geocaching Event – goes live October 20

This Conservation Week (November 1–8) DOC is encouraging New Zealanders to get out, connect with nature and discover how it enhances their health and well-being. DOC will be running community events right across the country to highlight local places and projects. These events will all be listed on www.conservationweek.org. Take a look at what is on your area, and take a friend along to experience something new.

This year DOC has introduced a national Geocaching competition. Get exploring your local area, look for hidden caches placed specially for Conservation Week and win great prizes from Air New Zealand and Macpac. Geocaching is a modern day version of hide-and-seek using a free App for your mobile phone to find 'caches' (containers) in the great outdoors. Popular with both children and adults it's a great way to discover places that are new to you.

Back again this year is the Find a Whio competition, which is a virtual hunt to find a whio. Designed for children, it's something that everyone can enjoy – and there is an amazing whio adventure up for grabs.

KEGS Kids Edible Garden Schools

Auckland Point School - "Compost"

This term we have put a huge focus on making compost, by using the waste products from around the school grounds in repeated layers eg: food scraps, lawn clippings, shredded paper, fallen leaves and weeds to name a few.

We have done this with the knowledge that if we make a healthy compost, we can make a thriving, healthy vegetable garden.

With the help from the worms and some hard work from everyone we can have lots to eat in the next few months.

Here at A.P.S we finish every gardening session with a walk, talk and eat, so the kids can realise the benefits of all their hard work. Eating fresh veggies is the best reward!

Sarah Lewis, KEGS facilitator at Auckland Point School



How to Run a Zero Waste Event

Wednesday 28th October at Nelson Environment Centre 3.30 – 4.45pm

Suitable for teachers and anyone involved in organising school and/or community fundraising events e.g. school galas.

Workshop delivered by Sarah Langi, Waste Education Services, with input from Heidi Newland, lead EnviroSchools teacher Tahunanui Primary School, who will share her story of organising two such school events, and Lindsey Fish, EnviroSchools Facilitator.

The workshop is free.

To register, please RSVP to: Sarah Langi, phone 545 9176 or email sarahlangi@nec.org.nz

Gentle solitary Leafcutter Bees at School – you could raise leafcutter bees – they are gentle natured, safe around children and pets, amazing summer pollinators and a fascinating educational opportunity!

BeeGAP is a programme that has been established to raise awareness and assist gardeners to encourage and add pollinators to their gardens.

Now's a great time to help bees – at school and at home. For all the details on how you can help the leafcutter bee visit www.BeeGAP.co.nz

Golden Bay Kiwi Conservation Group

After a 5 year break the Golden Bay branch of Kiwi Conservation Club (KCC) is up and running again with a curious bunch of kids chasing conservation themed adventures.

The group has been on a variety of expeditions since April including bush walks, craft days, wetland discoveries and rock pool explorations.

Being in Golden Bay the group is spoilt for choice with many more exciting trips to look forward too!

New members always welcome

www.kcc.org.nz



NZAAEE Conference: 9-12 Feb 2016

The next conference of the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education will be in February 2016 in Auckland. The theme of the conference is: Activate by sense, Agitate by inspiration, Advocate the champion spirit within – Kia Kakama, Kia Ueue, Ka Kawau Maro e.

Environmental Education Action Fund

opens on the 1st of February, 2016

World Wide Fund NZ and The Tindall Foundation established this fund to support schools who, as part of their learning, are taking hands-on action to address an environmental issue.

Effective environmental education is about education in, about and for the environment. It doesn't reach its full potential until learners have personalised their knowledge, made decisions on how to address issues, and reflected on that action.

http://www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/community_funding/funding_for_schools/

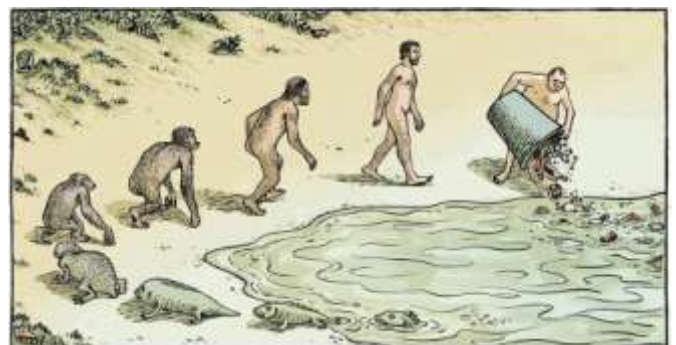
LEARNZ field trips don't cost schools anything and remain online for continued use. View all field trips on the [LEARNZ Field Trip Chooser](#).

Term 4 – A field trip to Antarctica. How cool is that!

A funky business re using plastic shopping bags – http://www.rematerialise.co.nz/store/c1/Featured_Products.html

Great inspiration.

Wanting to help your students cultivate an attitude of gratitude? – check out this site then <http://www.thecreatrix.co.nz/>



Activity one: Running out of water

Water conservation is about making better use of the water we already have. It doesn't mean you have to do without water.

Why is water conservation important? It can:

- Reduce the need for new sources and infrastructure by making the most of existing sources.
- Reduce energy use and water treatment and distribution expenses. Improve preparation and planning for any possible impact of climate change on the availability of water.
- Protect catchment and river health and contributing to conservation and protection of in-stream flora and fauna.
- Reduce effects on groundwater reserves and other natural features such as wetlands and lakes.

Activity: There is a drought and water restrictions are in place

Your school needs to conserve water! How will you solve the problem? You want to do what is best for everyone at the school. Only more rain can increase the supply of water so you need to decrease the demand for water. Which measures would you use to handle the water crisis?

Ideas	Bad idea. It wouldn't work because...	Fair idea only if...	Great idea! I'd use it by...
Putting strict restrictions on water use			
Finding new supplies			
Pay for using water at school			
Encourage water conservation			
Buy water from another region/district			
Other			

- Which idea or ideas did you think would be the best solution? Why?
- Which idea or ideas did you think would not be good solutions? Why? Pick at least one.

Here are five H₂O facts everyone should know:

1. Water is the most common substance on earth and covers more than 70% of the earth's surface.
2. Less than 1% of the world's water is fresh and can be used for drinking.
3. There is the same amount of water today as there was when dinosaurs roamed the earth. It's the same molecules, they have just been moved around!
4. Water is the ONLY substance on earth that occurs naturally in all 3 states of matter - liquid, solid, and gas.
5. By the time you feel thirsty, your body has lost more than 1% of its total water.

Activity two: for ECE or junior primary – Numbers in Nature

When we do scavenger hunts of any sort we need them to be adaptable and this activity is easily adaptable to a wide range of levels and places.

- You will need some felt or paper leaves, a felt pen and an outside area where your students can pick things up from the natural world. Is there a park or community garden within walking distance of school? If not, use your school grounds.
- Add numbers to the leaves. For young children the task can be to recognize the number and find that number of things in the area.
- For older students, put two leaves together and a task would be to do mental maths of adding the numbers together then representing the sum with natural items they have found.
- Too easy? – add a colour or shape to the mix. Who can find 12 orange or yellow things? Or, can you find 7 brown things and 5 round things – how many in total is this?



Make a Mobile with the treasures found!

Old wire, fishing line, dental floss and string can all be used to create mobiles from the found objects.

Sound Maps

Sound Map from Backyard Science

Each student will need paper, a clip board and a pencil.

Once outside have each student find their own spot to lie down. They can then put an x in the middle of their paper to represent themselves.

Now it's time to be silent and listen. For each sound they hear, they make a mark on their page and write what they heard in the different places in relation to where they were sitting.

We talked about what was recorded and went to see if we could find any of the sources of the sounds, especially the natural ones. It was obvious where the lawnmower sound was coming from.

This can open up a dialog about conservation since we could hear more man-made sounds than natural ones, and we live in a semi rural area.

