

Greentalk Schools Newsletter

Term 2, 2011

**Grovetown School Students Working in their
Gardens**



Regen Youth Jam at Lake Rotoiti



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Hi there,

Welcome to our term two newsletter.

Barack Obama delivered a speech a couple of years ago and read out this quote:

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for, we are the change we seek".

There were some great change makers in our region last term from the Regeneration Network offering opportunities for our secondary students at a youth jam held at Lake Rotoiti Lodge. I had the privilege of taking part for some of the time and was really inspired by the commitment and determination of our young people to make our environment a better place. Many of these students have come from your schools and the opportunities you gave them as part of your environmental education programmes definitely ignited a spark!

We hope to utilise some of the skills of these neat young leaders a little later in the year when we celebrate 10 years of EnviroSchools in New Zealand and offer some student workshops. More on that next term.

There are new resources and growing opportunities in environmental education in our region with the EnviroSchools programme, the Wai Korero Programme, Kids' Edible Gardens to name just a few and next term we are launching our new pilot programme in partnership with DOC called "Take a Closer Look" . This follows on from the Living Landscapes workshops and the Tiro Oneone kit we developed last year. More on that in the next Greentalk.

Remember our Greentalk newsletter is now published each term online at www.marlborough.govt.nz/environmental/enviroeducation. We also email it to contact teachers in your school as well as posting out a hard copy which we hope you will display on your staffroom news board.

Have a great term

Annie and the Education Team at MDC.

ENVIRO SCHOOLS



Congratulations to Grovetown School who have just achieved a Bronze EnviroSchools Award. Grovetown students have been involved in many programmes and projects such as growing native trees to restore the Grovetown lagoons, planning and developing an edible garden and orchard, designing and building a bike track and planning a new native area. It is great to see what they have achieved as well as what they have planned for the future.

This term we have our first EnviroSchools workshop for the year. The workshop is on reflection for progress and will look at what stage of the journey schools are at by using some innovative reflection tools and then planning for next steps, programmes and actions.

Reflection for progress, Friday May 27, 1.30 pm-3.30 pm, Wesley Centre, Henry Street, Blenheim

This workshop is focused on the new reflection resource from EnviroSchools. The workshop will have a look at the resource, some great reflection activities so you can determine where you are on the EnviroSchools journey and what you need to do to progress on. We will also look at the awards and where they fit in and how you can be rewarded for your progress.

We will **fund release time for two teachers** from each of our EnviroSchools to attend. Please confirm your places by emailing Annie by Friday 20 May. Thanks.

EnviroSchool networking afternoon - Friday 27 May Term 2. 3.30pm-4.30 pm - Wesley Centre, Henry Street, Blenheim

For any teachers involved with EnviroSchools. This will follow on from our workshop, so you get a chance to catch up in an informal way. We will provide the venue and the afternoon tea and a brief presentation about the next steps for EnviroSchools in our region and then let you have a chat.

Energy Efficient Schools Resource-NERI (National Energy Research Institute) has put together a web guide in partnership with the EnviroSchools Foundation and ECCA, funded by the MOE. It is aimed at helping schools to improve energy efficiency and move towards more sustainable energy models.

For more information and some case studies go to www.neri.co.nz/education/energyefficientschools or www.enviroschools.org.nz/energyefficientschools

If you are interested in the EnviroSchools programme check out the website www.enviroschools.org.nz or our website www.marlborough.govt.nz/enviroeducation

REGENERATION YOUTH JAM

Youth Jam at Rotoiti Lodge

Twenty students from our region took part in the Regeneration Youth Jam at Rotoiti lodge in April. They got the chance to try workshops on leadership, adventure based learning, climate change and film making. Thanks to our secondary schools and Mother Earth for supporting this great opportunity. For more information go to www.regeneration.org.nz



KIDS' EDIBLE GARDENS

This year we welcome four new schools to the facilitated Kids' Edible Garden Programme - Bohally Intermediate, Tua Marina School, Marlborough Boys' College Special Education Unit and Koromiko School. We also welcome back Riverlands School who have been running an elective programme for a number of years and have rejoined the fully facilitated programme. It is great to have you in the programme and we look forward to working with you. We now have 20 schools in our KEG programme and we are making a few changes to strengthen the programme this year.

We are developing a new coordination programme so we can link in with existing related programmes in our region like the Community Garden and Farmers Market Cook-offs with schools so we can offer more opportunities for the students in the programme.

Last year we developed some new resources for teachers and we will be running school based workshops for teachers in terms 2 and 3 to share these resources with you and show you how to further integrate the KEG programme into your school curriculum.



TIRO ONEONE - MARLBOROUGH'S LIVING LANDSCAPES

Last year a number of you took part in our Living Landscapes workshops. For those of you who didn't get the opportunity, here is some information and one of the activities from the Tiro Oneone kit that you might like to try out with your students. Below is the introduction to the kit.

Marlborough has unique and diverse landscapes, rich not only in beauty but also in diversity. By investigating Marlborough's landscapes students will look beyond the vistas and physical features of the area and will explore the variety of habitats, organisms and relationships alive within the landscapes. They will discover the enrichment, nourishment, shelter and resources these landscapes provide not only to the plants and animals who inhabit the area but also to each of us.

Students will take a closer look at school and in the bush, along the coastline, in wetlands, under leaves, in the classroom and outdoors. Students will develop a knowledge and appreciation for the fact that Marlborough's landscapes and the inhabitants they host are special.

The programme is founded on:

1. the key dimensions of environmental education
- **in, about and for the environment**, and
2. the Action Learning Cycle - helping students and teachers **identify, explore, take action, reflect and celebrate** Marlborough!

Activities in the kit, ideally used in conjunction with the EnviroSchools - Living Landscapes programme, can be adapted to the age/level of your students.

Presented by the Department of Conservation and the Marlborough District Council, these activities highlight the issues specific to Marlborough but develop the critical thinking skills needed to address issues nationally and even internationally.

Students will:

- Develop awareness and sensitivity to the environment by identifying and exploring many of Marlborough's unique landscape and habitats - rare, endangered and unique flora and fauna in the native bush and/or wetland and coastal habitats
- Develop knowledge and skills to evaluate the landscapes and habitat components at their school and home surroundings and consider ways to improve or create change in their school landscapes.
- Consider and evaluate the mixed and often competing demands on the environment
- Take action on issues that impact the school grounds, their neighbourhoods, and Marlborough's unique environment, and
- Have the opportunity to celebrate and reflect on their actions, learning and successes.



BIODIVERSITY BASICS



New Zealand's biodiversity and its contribution to all New Zealanders' prosperity and wellbeing has extraordinary value. But whilst we are one of the richest and most diverse areas of biodiversity on Earth we are also one of the most threatened.

Marlborough is special

In an already unique country, Marlborough is special! The region has been identified as one of five centres of biodiversity in New Zealand. This is due to the concentration of endemic species (plants and animals which exist only in Marlborough and nowhere else in the world!) which have evolved in the dry rocky conditions in the southern part of the region. Its central location means a number of more common species also occur, some at either their northern or southern limits of distribution.

Activity 1:

Understanding biodiversity

Introduce the idea of variety by giving the students a one minute challenge to write the names of all the plants, animals and insects they know. Then share as a group.

Explain that diversity is the name that we give to this variety. Develop the idea that this diversity is what makes life interesting.

Introduce students to the concept of variety in nature. Can they imagine a world where there was only one type of tree or bird? eg; only pine trees and magpies.

On a sheet of paper make three columns. First is the "world's biodiversity". Give the students time to write down all the different animals they can think of.

Then in the second column make a list of "New Zealand's biodiversity". What animals can be found in New Zealand (not in zoos)? Try to go beyond saying birds - but list the different types of birds.

Don't forget marine animals - seals, dolphin etc. The third column is "my school's biodiversity".

Write down all the animals that may visit or live at your school.

Compare the number of animals in each column.

Discuss differences. Why does the diversity in each column decrease?

Activity 2:

A Closer look at local biodiversity.

Using the school landscape as a resource have students go on a hunt to identify examples of biodiversity, eg; birds, insects, trees, animals living in the local area.

For example:

Count the number of different types of trees at your school - not the number of trees but the different types of trees.

Identify and count the number of different bird species identified during five minute bird counts at two locations at school -

- 1) on an open playing field (bird has to be sighted within specific area), and
- 2) an area at school with trees.



Tree Fern

OUR FUTURE

Our future is a good website to investigate a range of community action projects around New Zealand. Schools can also add information about their own community projects. Check out their website www.ourfuture.net.nz.

DO YOUR THING

AMP has a range of scholarships available from \$5,000 to \$15,000 for passionate people. Check out the details on line www.doyourthing.co.nz.

GREEN TEACHER

Green teacher is offering free webinars on various environmental topics. Each session will feature a 20-30 minute presentation and then 30-40 minute to ask questions of the presenter. www.greenteacher.com/webinars.

FAIR TRADE RESOURCES

Fair trade has a range of new curriculum resources that are now online at www.fairtrade.org.nz/get-involved/ These are for social studies, maths and English levels 3-4 .

They also have a range of educational materials and toys available from The Trading Circle <http://www.thetradingcircle.org.nz/> - a not-for-profit fair trade organisation based in Milford, Auckland. They have things like wall calendars, number charts, myth and legend toys and interactive tactile books. They are great for early childhood centres and primary schools.

WHERE THERE'S WATER

Where, there's water community environment grants provide funding to help the community understand, maintain, protect and improve our water environment.

If you think your programme or project meets the following objectives:

- improve educational opportunities for children to learn about their water environment
- improved community awareness of the condition and importance of the water environment
- assist schools and the community to participate in real action to maintain, protect and improve their water environment.

Then get your application into www.waternz.org.nz/wherethereswater. Applications close on Friday 27 May 2011.

T RCC CONFERENCE

TRCC Teaching for Sustainability Conference 25-27 November Rutherford House, Wellington

For more information check out the website www.trcc.org.nz and go to the courses section.

Costs for registered teachers are subsidised. Registrations close on 29 October 2011.

Workshops for secondary include:

- Examples of good practice years 9-13
- NCEA - providing relevant exciting resources.

Workshops for primary include:

- Exploring eco-literacy and eco-numeracy in the NZC
- Integrating sustainability concepts into your programmes.

For teachers who are involved in Enviroschools we will look at funding teacher release for the Friday for you to attend this conference. We are able to fund two teachers per school in each Enviroschool. As Enviroschools has no national hui this year this would be considered the professional development opportunity for teachers in Enviroschools. If you are interested in applying for the teacher release please contact Annie McDonald at Council annie.mcdonald@marlborough.govt.nz

T HE OUTLOOK FOR SOMEDAY

Calling all young film-makers - and all supporting teachers, lecturers, youth workers, family and friends. It's time to start thinking, planning and filming for the fifth -**The Outlook for Someday**—sustainability film challenge for young people.



This year's entry deadline is 30 September. The challenge is to make a sustainability-related film, any genre, filmed with any camera and any length up to five minutes.

Anyone up to age 24 can enter, either individually or in a team.

There are prizes for the winning film-makers and a red-carpet ceremony towards the end of the year. This year's entry form and information about special awards will be available in June from **The Outlook for Someday** website: www.theoutlookforsomeday.net.

The winning films will be broadcast by TVNZ 7 via both Freeview/TiVo and SKY/Telstra.

WORKSHOPS

This year there will also be a programme of workshops for teachers and youth workers to promote and support participation in the film challenge.

The workshops will cover digital film-making, sustainability and youth participation. More information, including dates and venues, will be available soon.

Contact Connected Media for further information on 09 376 6060 or at

STARSHIP SCHOOL PHONE SWAP

The "Phones for Rewards" programme helps students to play a part in a nationwide fundraising campaign for Starship's Air Ambulance Service. Students can learn more about environmental issues, community giving and have some fun along the way. Your school also gets to benefit from Activboards to sports packages. Schools are asked to coordinate the collection of as many old mobile phones as possible. These phones are then donated to the school and Starship Hospital together with its recycling partner. They then turn these old phones into cash to help children all around New Zealand.

Check out the information on their website www.starship.org.nz/schoolphoneswap



GARDEN BIRD SURVEY



Male bellbird

The 2011 Garden Bird Survey will take place this year between 25 June and 3 July and schools are again invited to take part.

The survey involves students recording the highest number of bird species they can see at any one time during one hour of observation. This can be done as a class or home activity (or both). Over the years these results will help to find out how our native birds are faring, especially species like tui, bellbird and kereru.

Details are on the website www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biocons/gardenbird.

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust has just launched a "For Kids" section on its website. There are also resources for teachers that are curriculum linked. For more information www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz (go to the for-kids section).



WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE?

This is a fun activity for students to do. They can name their 10 most iconic places and things about New Zealand. Visit www.doc.govt.nz and search for the quintessentially kiwi quiz.



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