



KARAMEA AREA SCHOOL



Enviroschools Annual Report 2023/24 Te Tai Poutini West Coast



Prepared for **Buller District Council**
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*Ka mihi ki a Ranginui, ki a Papatūānuku,
Ka mihi ki te ngao o te wheiao!
Toitū te whenua, Toitū te tangata, Toitū te ao.*

Overview

Enviroschools is a nationwide programme supported by Toimata Foundation and a large network of regional partners. Early childhood centres and schools commit to a long-term sustainability journey, where tamariki/students connect with and explore the environment, then plan, design and take action in their local places in collaboration with their communities.

*Our Kaupapa is about creating a healthy, peaceful,
sustainable world through learning and taking action
together.*

We are now a significant network with over 1,600 early childhood centres and schools nationwide. Enviroschools empowers learners of all ages through connection, creativity and action, enabling the development of sustainable and resilient communities.

Regionally, the Enviroschools Programme is shaped by the partner organisations, the participants and the local situation.

All regions have:

- A Regional Coordinator in a leadership role who is employed by the coordinating agency.
- Enviroschools Community Facilitators who are employed or funded by the regional partners.
- Strong working relationships with each other, and with Toimata, to share knowledge and to strengthen and grow the impact of Enviroschools in communities.



Ways in which Enviroschools contributes to BDC's Community Outcomes

The Enviroschools programme is specifically designed to meet multiple local government outcomes and is supported by over 80% of New Zealand councils. Through our five guiding principles and holistic, long-term approach, we foster sustainability and connectedness in the community and empower children and young people to participate in a meaningful way taking action for the future.

1. *Social – Our communities are vibrant, healthy, safe and inclusive*

- Enviroschools **celebrates diversity** and teaches respect for all forms of identity, ability and cultural practice
- Developing **healthy, peaceful and sustainable communities** is at the heart of our kaupapa

2. *Affordability – Our communities are supported by quality infrastructure, facilities and services that are efficient, fit-for-purpose, affordable and meet our current and future needs*

- By raising awareness and encouraging practical actions, **Enviroschools helps reduce pressure on infrastructure**, e.g. through waste reduction, conscious water use, etc.

3. *Prosperity – Our district is supported by quality technology and an innovated and diverse economy that creates opportunities for self-sufficiency, sustainable growth and employment*

- The Enviroschools' programme nurtures **a culture of life-long, creative learning** and **empowers students to be leaders in their communities**

4. *Culture – Our lifestyle is treasured, our strong community spirit is nurtured, and our inclusive and caring communities understand our whakapapa and heritage and support lifelong learning*

- Enviroschools fosters **a strong connection to place**, with a focus on **te ao Māori, tikanga and local knowledge**
- We **work with adults** – teachers, school staff and whānau, and community members – it is **lifelong learning in action**

5. *Environment – Our distinctive environment and natural resources are healthy and valued*

- Enviroschools is a **holistic** programme – our approach to learning **includes all aspects of a healthy environment**
- We encourage people of all ages to make connections and **work together to protect and care for te taiao (nature)**

Outcomes from BDC Long Term Plan 2021-2031 pages 19-21.

Our Guiding Principles – Ngā Mātāpono

Empowered Learners

participate in genuine ways in their community. They feel connected to the whenua and support each other as a learning community to create meaningful change and hopeful action.

Learning for Sustainability is a holistic, action and future-focused approach to learning, that engages our whole selves and addresses all aspects of our local and global environment.

Te Ao Māori holds insights, knowledge and ways of being in relation to the taiao. Honouring this acknowledges the intrinsic relationship of tangata whenua with this land.

Respect for Diversity is celebrated, and all forms of identity and ability are respected to foster a society that is fair, peaceful and cooperative. Cultural traditions and practices from all people are experienced, valued and appreciate.

Sustainable Communities act in ways that nurture all aspects of nature, including people, now and in the future. By working together and supporting each other we create safe, healthy, equitable and thriving communities.



Current Situation

West Coast Region

There are 20 Enviroschools on the West Coast, 7 in Buller, 6 in Grey, and 7 in Westland. This is 39% of the total schools and early childhood centres in the region. This network is supported by four collaborators and the following regional partners:



In most regions, the Regional Coordination role is held by the Regional/Unitary Council and that organisation also employs the facilitation roles. As the West Coast Regional Council is currently not involved, Toimata are supporting the region directly and employ two part-time staff in the region with the funding received from our regional partners.

Buller District

In the 2023/24 year, Enviroschools in Buller grew to include 7 kura – 6 of the total 9 schools (67%) and 1 of the total 4 early childhood centres (25%).

- Karamea Area School
- Sacred Heart School
- Reefton Early Learning Centre
- Granity School
- Reefton Area School
- St Canice’s School
- Maruia School – NEW!

<i>Funding received:</i>	2023/24	\$35,000 + GST
<i>Confirmed funding:</i>	2024/25	\$39,000 + GST
	2025/26	\$43,000 + GST
	2026/27	\$47,000 + GST

Council investment has been key to the success of Enviroschools nationwide for two decades. West Coast Enviroschools and Toimata Foundation thank Buller District Council for your financial support of the Enviroschools Programme over the past year and for renewing your support for the next three years, 2024-2027. We plan to recruit a new Enviroschool in Westport by the end of next calendar year.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR YEAR

Growing for good – networks, knowledge and food sovereignty

New addition to the Buller Enviroschools network – nau mai haere mai Maruia School!

This year we were delighted to welcome two new Enviroschools into the West Coast network — Maruia School located in the stunning Maruia Valley between Springs Junction and Murchison was one of them, the other is in the Grey District.

Maruia School has been active in their veggie garden, had their annual hikoi to Kōhanga Atawhai – Manson Nicholls Hut at Lake Daniell and had a fantastic day out with Lauren at Marble Hill learning about the local environment and what they can do to have a positive impact.

The school has a multi-year project supported by NZ Panels to grow kōwhai seedings in the school nursery and they're looking to branch out to growing other native plant species with advice and support from DOC and Enviroschools. They are a small school but they have a big impact on their students' understanding and care of the natural environment.



Maruia School joins the Enviroschools network

We are excited to welcome Maruia School to the Buller Enviroschools network this year.

Located in the stunning Maruia Valley, between Springs Junction and Murchison, the school has an active programme of education using nature as a classroom.

Students are learning how to grow fruit and veggies in their school garden and orchard, they maintain a local bush walk, grow kōwhai trees from seed, and look after the Kōhanga Atawhai – Manson Nicholls Hut at Lake Daniell. With the Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Panels Group, the school plans to grow more native plants, including two threatened and at risk species that live along the Maruia River at Marble Hill.

Principal Alex Wilson says, "Here at Maruia School, we are extremely passionate about caring for our unique place in Aotearoa and want to enhance our connection with our whenua. This is why we are so excited to have become part of the Enviroschools team. We are looking forward to building on the amazing mahi we have already started and strengthening our connection with Enviroschools to take our learning and

experiences to the next level!"

Enviroschools is an environmental action based programme where young people are empowered to design and lead sustainability and waste reduction projects in their schools and communities. Buller District Council supports seven Enviroschools in the Buller District. West Coast Enviroschools are part of a network of over 1,500 schools and early childhood centres nationwide.



For more information about the Enviroschools programme, visit www.enviroschools.org.nz

Composting workshops – breaking it all down

In October Enviroschools teamed up with Garden to Table to bring composting workshops to West Coast teachers and school whānau. One workshop was held in Reefton and one in Hokitika. An invitation was extended to all schools, including non-Enviroschools, as a waste reduction initiative for our communities. Participants learned about the importance of healthy soil and how to create it through composting, worm farming and bokashi systems.

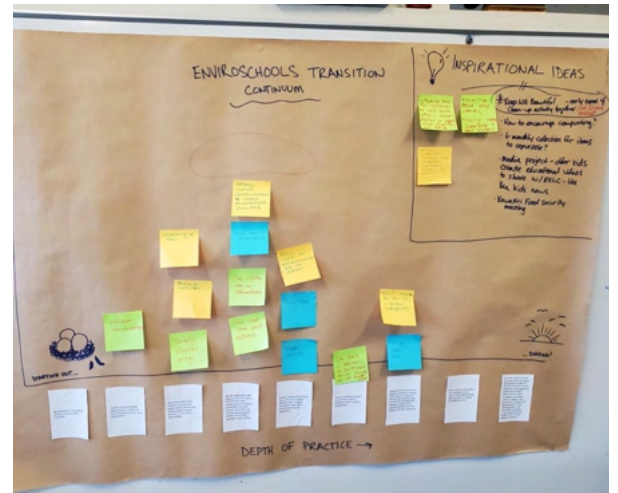


Enviroschools would love to be involved in council's new green waste collection initiative and Lauren is currently in the process of making connections to facilitate this.



Reefton Schools – Creating synergy through shared hui

All three Reefton Enviroschools – Reefton Early Learning Centre, Sacred Heart School and Reefton Area School – have been participating in shared teacher hui with Lauren each term to explore the Enviroschools kaupapa and resources more deeply and gain inspiration for the classroom. They are also working together to support ākonga (students) on a long-term journey of sustainability that spans their full range of school years from early childhood to secondary education.



Karamea Area School – Planting seeds of knowledge and action



In November, Tasman Bay Guardians visited the Coast and in collaboration with Enviroschools, Buller District Council, DOC and Clean Streams Karamea, led an environmental learning day out at the Ōparara Source to Sea project. Secondary students, teachers and parents learned river health monitoring techniques, and surveyed tuna (eels) and freshwater invertebrates upstream while younger students learned how to engage their senses to better understand nature at the Ōparara Reserve.

KAS students have also been working hard in their school veggie garden where science and financial literacy are woven into planting and growing healthy kai. Their efforts were even featured in *NZ Gardener* and *The Press*.

One of their most exciting ventures comes from a

desire to reduce waste. Students have designed and built a composting system and worm farm which feed the garden. Excess worm juice is bottled in reused milk jugs and sold to the community to generate funds for further projects. They've also been focussing on reducing waste from school lunches and have successfully reduced packaging from their lunch supplier and got school lunches made locally.





KAS students left to right: Investigating water clarity at the Ōparara River with Tasman Bay Guardians; Learning how to map nature sounds with DOC; Using their senses to ‘meet a tree’ with help from fellow students.

Next Steps

- Continue to support Buller Enviroschools with resources and facilitation for their sustainability journeys
- Continue supporting Reefton schools through shared cluster hui for staff
- Facilitate schools’ collaboration with council and contractors to contribute youth voice to new green waste/food waste collection initiative
- Facilitate community partnerships and opportunities for student-led projects
- Bring on a new school in Buller by the end of 2025 school year

Connect with us

We aim to keep our schools and community up to date with Enviroschools activities and opportunities. Please sign up to our pānui (newsletter), which is sent out once per term, by clicking the link below or using the QR code.

[Click here to sign up to the West Coast – Te Tai Poutini Pānui](#)

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