

# EcoBuzz

EcoBuzz Edition 65

Term 1 2017



Golden Bay Kindergarten tamariki learn about fires while at Te Ngahere.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Teacher Hui, Te Ngahere, Moturoa Mission, Arbor day and  
Many schools in Action



*EcoBuzz is created with the help of many contributors – thank you to you all! Feel free to share this with others too – please.*



## Kia ora tatou

As change enablers, you have the chance to create some powerful outcomes in the future. Its big work! We are continually impressed with the mahi we see happening around us. Within this issue are many examples of wonderful work. Please read, enjoy and be inspired.

One important common theme is connection. Connection between people and connection with an environment. Golden Bay Kindergarten have created this very opportunity for the Tamariki in the twice-weekly experiences in Te Ngahere. The Tamariki form deeper connections not just with the environment but each other too – the quality of play is different there as the tamariki explore, discover and create together in the ‘wild’. We encourage you to get out-and-about with your students too.

Thanks



“Nau te raurau  
Nāku te raurau  
Ka ora ai te iwi.”

“If we come together we can make a difference”

*Tasman Youth Council members planning session*



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## Have your say on the future of our region

The Tasman District Council is asking for your ideas and feedback to help develop their plans for the next 10 years (known as the Long Term Plan 2018 – 2028).

*If there is one thing you would like to see Tasman District Council do within the next 10 years, what would it be?*

If you or your students have a great idea, an issue you think needs to be looked at or an area you'd like the Council to prioritise, get in touch and let us know. You can leave a comment online, at [www.tasman.govt.nz/feedback](http://www.tasman.govt.nz/feedback). Consultations are open until 18 April.

Nelson City Council is also consulting on their draft Annual Plan <http://nelson.govt.nz/council/plans-strategies-policies/annual-plans/annual-plan-201718>. Consultations are open until 18 April.



## Are you planning 3Rs = Reducing, Reusing and Recycling resources?

Heather Graham, Sarah Langi, Adie Leng and Claire Webster really recommend that you contact one of them early on to help you plan your Unit or project. They have a lot of experience and resources to tap into.

We can also help you organise tours to learn about what happens after Nelson and Tasman's recycling is put into the truck at the roadside. Term 2 is also the last chance to visit the Tasman District landfill at Eves Valley, Waimea West. Check out the webcam: <http://www.tasman.govt.nz/tasman/webcams-in-tasman/construction-webcam/>

Make the tour booking through Adie Leng, phone 03 543 7222, [Adie.Leng@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:Adie.Leng@tasman.govt.nz). You need to book well ahead and note that some days and dates may not be available.

## Celebrating Arbor Day invite



Arbor Day is celebrated on 5 June in New Zealand and around the world. It is a day to encourage people to plant and care for trees. Councils have supported this day with school students in Nelson City and Tasman District to plant many hundreds of trees over the winter months for many years, on many sites.

This year, schools and early childhood Enviroschools in the Tasman District, can celebrate Arbor Day by taking up any one of these options from Tasman District Council for their school project.

- 1–3 fruit trees (see list below), or
- up to 30 root trainer-sized native trees, or
- 5 larger native trees, or
- Continue with the planting project that your school has started with Richard Hilton\*

Please contact Adie Leng, to book your preference: phone 543 7222 or email, [Adie.Leng@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:Adie.Leng@tasman.govt.nz) before 16 May. Please note that you will not receive a separate invite letter this year.

Adie, or Claire, will work with you on the process you have prepared, or have in mind, with your students, for the site preparation, planting, follow-up maintenance and care of these trees, which are best planted by September.

\*Those schools, which wish to continue on the planting project they have with Richard Hilton, please email [Richard.Hilton@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:Richard.Hilton@tasman.govt.nz).

Reminder to schools in Nelson to ensure you have responded to the invitation from Nelson City Council for plantings spread throughout winter from May to September.

## Why is it important to plant trees?

Before people arrived in New Zealand, 80% of the land was covered in dense forest that we call our native bush. Much of these were cleared by fire or felling, for all sorts of reasons, allowing the space for housing, businesses and farms. In addition, both Maori and colonial immigrants brought seeds from their home because they wanted trees they were familiar with seeing and using. These exotic trees and other plants are now a familiar part of the landscape.

## Importance of trees

- Trees are vital to our lives and the natural systems that sustain us.
- Trees protect the soil from erosion and reduce flooding.
- Trees cycle water between the soil and atmosphere and help make rain.
- Trees produce oxygen for us to breathe.
- Trees absorb carbon dioxide so are valuable "carbon sinks" to help counter climate change.

Forests are a habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. They are powerhouses of biodiversity.

Forests are places we like to walk, ride horses and mountainbike, visit, camp or picnic.

Our native forests are popular tourist sites and help to boost our valuable tourism industry. Exotic forests are also an important part of our economy – our production forests provide a range of timber and wood products for domestic and export markets.

*Arbor day planting with Tasman School and Tasman Bay Christian School.*



## Fruit Trees can provide edible joy all year round

**Petra Stephenson**, a local Edible Landscapes designer shared this list of edible fruit trees with some notes for readers of Ecobuzz. You can see how best choice of plants can provide year round fruit.

- Lemon Meyer – fruits all year – good for baking
- Black Mulberry – November–Jan – drop in January but can be taken care of by the chickens
- Mandarin, Kara – Oct – Dec
- Mandarin, Afourer – Nov – March – easy peel
- Mandarin, Kawano – May to July – easy peel, seedless
- Mandarin Kiyomi – July – Aug – easy peel
- Nashi – Feb & March
- Orange, Washington Navel – Aug – Nov
- Orange, Harwood Late – Dec – March
- Persimmon, Fuyu – Late April – early June
- Plum, Black Doris – Feb (pollinator for Omega) – Marianna rootstock preferred (peach rootstock ok)
- Plum, Omega – Late March – April (pollinator for Black Doris) – Marianna rootstock preferred (peach rootstock ok)
- Feijoa, Mammoth or Wiki Tu –May – June
- Feijoa, Pounamu or Unique – March & April
- Mandarin Kawano – May – July
- Apple, Laxton’s Fortune (Mid Feb – End March)
- Apple, Lobo (March to mid April): on M106 rootstock

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## Enviroschools

### Moturoa Mission Challenges Students

Well done to the 30+ teams of Envirogroup student leaders from Nelson and Tasman primary schools for taking on some tricky environmental challenges in the fourth Enviroschools Moturoa Mission held at Greenslade Park on Rough Island, on Wednesday 22 March.

The student teams earned points by being strategic about how they completed a range of hands-on activities covering: coastal care; sorting estuarine species; ice cap melting; biosecurity to protect our biodiversity; finding different species like insects and lizards; estuarine awareness; grading forestry logs; what bio-char does; what to do for an oil spill; sorting recycling and reducing waste. Recording map co-ordinates added to the challenges.

Thanks and appreciation goes to the organisers of the twenty-two stations that organised the learning with challenges. These were Brook Waimarama Sanctuary, Cawthron Institute, P.F. Olsen, Department of Conservation, Nelson Environment Centre, Katerina Seligman, Richard de Hamel, Nelson Provincial Museum, Natureland, NMIT trainee rangers, Forest and Bird, Department of Internal Affairs and Mr Science, both the Nelson City and Tasman District Councils as well as secondary school environmental leaders from Motueka High School and Nayland College.

The winning teams were Takaka Primary School’s Team Lewis and Hampden School’s Garden Knomes. The runner-up teams were Richmond School’s Richmond Racers and Mahana School’s Plant Squad. Ngatimoti School and Nayland Primary demonstrated best teamwork. All teams radiated effort, fun and joy. Thanks to funding from Toimata Foundation and sponsorship of prizes by The Warehouse and Ideal Cups, Motueka. Thanks also goes to the teachers and parents who supervised the students.

If you attended Moturoa Mission this year we would love your feedback please - [Moturoa Mission feedback](#)





Moturoa Mission Moments







## Clifton Terrace School had an exciting finish to 2016, successfully undertaking a Green Gold reflection

It is therefore unsurprising that 2017 has kicked off with the students taking on the challenge to identify the current situation of waste created at their annual fundraising/community event “tea by the sea”. Students investigated alternative behaviours and actions they could encourage to reduce the waste heading to landfill from this event.

This was a great integration of learning for sustainability informing learning around Maths/Statistics as the children learnt to ask questions and collect information (data), display data in appropriate ways, make statements about the data and draw conclusions from the data collected.



*Reflection Team 2016*



*Measuring waste at “tea by the sea”*

Opportunities have been taken over time at Clifton terrace school with the way the caretaker’s role is structured. The current caretaker Leonora’s involvement with the school began as a willing parent help supporting with the school gardens and with school initiatives including hot lunches. The opportunity then arose to take on the garden facilitator’s role when this became vacant. At this point Leonora decided to also take on an organic horticulture course.

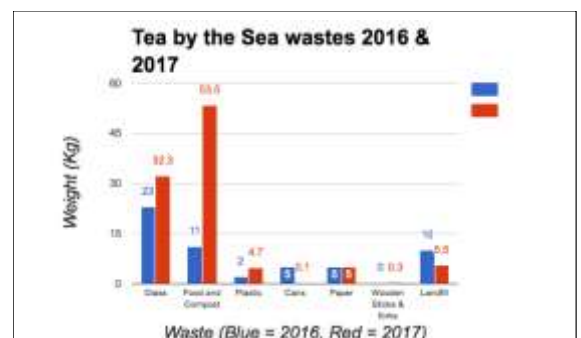
By this time the caretaker’s role came up and Leonora felt it was a natural progression.

To start with there was no communication with the students and the caretakers role was about keeping the school clean and tidy and well maintained. Over time this has changed; “they form a relationship with you and are inspired to look after their environment” says Leonora. The children now spend time before school and in their morning tea and lunch breaks doing tasks that support the health of the environment. The children come to me with ideas of what they want in their school and ways they can help.

I have been able to link what needs to be done around the school to what the children are learning. We work to be respectful of the resources that are available. The leaves that fall are collected for the children to add to their compost.

These days Leonora undertakes her caretaker role from 8am till 12noon each day, then at 1.00pm she prepared for her gardening groups. From 1.25 – 3.00 she spends time teaching 3 small groups of students each day with all students in the school enjoying time in the garden. Leonora has a seasonal plan that allows children to learn to plant, care and maintain, then harvest and eat. They take responsibility for plant health, solving problems such as pests and disease along the way.

Clifton Terrace School Principal Rob Wemys says, “Living in Nelson is a treat in itself! Being a school in Atawhai is gold – Green-Gold that is! Clifton Terrace is proud of its work in the area of Enviroschools and its work around permaculture. Our teachers, caretaker and of course our tamariki take looking after our environment very seriously and the school reflects everyone’s involvement and value it immensely. Ensuring that our children are the kaitiaki for the environment in the future is gold!





## Te Ngahere and Golden Bay Kindergarten

Our Te Ngahere programme journey began in 2012 and in the beginning we simply went for nature walks to the Community Gardens. However Lesley, who has been a teacher at GB Kindy for 9yrs had a vision to create a natural wildspace to play in which would be a permanent and embedded part of the programme at the Kindy. Rebecca Olney took over as head teacher in 2012 and she shared Lesley's vision and regular weekly visits to Te Ngahere began! (In the beginning it was just for our 4yr olds). One of the main reasons that our programme has worked since then is the fact that the whole team values the time they spend in the bush with the children (In fact teachers applying for positions at GB Kindy will all be asked about their commitment to education for sustainability!) All team members look forward to their morning 'fix' in the bush with the children – it helps to sustain us and feeds us in a spiritual way. We treasure and value our time in Te Ngahere.

Our curiosity, wonder and awe are ignited on a shared journey of discovery into the natural living world. We get as excited as the tamariki when a bug is discovered under a log, or a 'fairy toothbrush' is discovered for the first time. We role model the love we have for Papatūānuku and we lead by example by showing the children ways to care and love for her. If a child finds a beetle in the bush, then we will make sure that the beetle is returned back home before we go back to Kindy. What belongs in the bush stays in the bush!

The children lead our programme – we don't ever have a 'plan' as such for each term; a natural pathway of learning always happens and then we as teachers extend the children's emerging interests as they happen. The seasons have a huge influence on what happens in the bush. Each season bring new wonders to discover and things to learn. As teachers, it's important that we are respectful and mindful to reflect the excitement felt by the children when they make a discovery for the first time. We have planted lots of native trees now – the community gardens sits on a precious piece of Maori land in Takaka and the area would have once been a lowland wetland area. However, we also have many European/deciduous trees in our playspace; including a selection of fruit and nuts. These create a huge source of interest in the autumn as the children get to eat peaches from the trees and scavenge for walnuts, sweet chestnuts and hazelnuts amongst the leaves. And in the colder seasons it has been possible to get a fire permit so we can allow the children the opportunity to learn about fire in an authentic and safe environment. Roasted chestnuts and stewed apples are always a hit.

We are deeply respectful of the Maori way of respecting and appreciating the natural living world and this sits so seamlessly into our way of doing things. We say a karakia each time we enter the domain of Tāne and the children learn the significance of this as they spend time in his forest.

Being able to go back to the same environment each week has meant that the children grow a sense of responsibility for Te Ngahere. For some of the children they will visit this space for the next 3yrs. In this time, they learn to be kaitiaki.

What is it all about?? We have created an environment where our children can have the time and space to build a relationship and connection with Papatūānuku. We all know that the earth needs all the help she can get right now; and with technology quickly taking over much of our young peoples lives and time, it is programmes like ours that are crucial now, more than ever, to ensure we still have an earth to look after in the future! Our time in the bush is about relationships – between us and the children, us and Papatūānuku, and the children's relationships with each other. The friendships that are made and strengthened in the bush are special and their time spent over there brings out the very best in them – caring for each other, working together, helping each other, sharing knowledge with each other, having fun together, making memories together..... the list goes on!!





# Enviroschools

Golden Bay  
Kindergarten  
in Te Ngahere





## Motueka High School designs for nature

Being part of the Project Janszoon Education programme means I get to visit the Abel Tasman National Park lots. When I visit my biodiversity eyes are turned on. I see weeds, signs of pest animals, birds, insects and fish. The last thing that I am looking for is what I could design to make this space more interesting or useable to the thousands of visitors coming into the park each year.

Brian Jones, Head of Design, Motueka High School is in his second year of taking his Year 12 Design students into the park for inspiration. In 2016, students delved into wave energy, boardwalks, signage and more. Walking through the site this year, I felt I was looking through student-educated eyes, so many ideas were popping into my head from the 2016 visit and the discussions between this year's students was building our enthusiasm.

Mr Jones class shows us our parks are not just for outdoor education and science, and that nature can be utilised by any subject. What's more rewarding for our programme is that Brian has linked the students visit and their project into the curriculum and the students earn NCEA level credits. I can't wait to see what projects emerge from the students in 2017.

For more information you can contact Brian on [brian.jones@motuekahigh.school.nz](mailto:brian.jones@motuekahigh.school.nz), Brooke on [bturner@doc.govt.nz](mailto:bturner@doc.govt.nz) or visit <http://www.education.janszoon.org/>



*Yr 12 Graphics students investigating existing structures and getting to know their adopt-a-section*



## Environmental Youth Leadership Hui

A group of EnviroSchool Leaders met with DOC and Nelson and Tasman Council staff for a training day at Whenua Iiti Outdoors in February.

The aim was to support and equip student environmental teams with skills and knowledge that will support them to take action and gain support for their 'cause' in the school community.

Some of these students then run activity stations at Moturoa Mission.

In May, the plan is for them to go to Adele Island for some hands on conservation work.





## Our Own Enviroschool Teachers Hui!

### Cross sector Enviroschools

Teachers Hui – Lake Rotoiti

Fri evening 4 August and Sat 5 August

PD for Marlborough, Nelson and Tasman teachers from secondary, primary and ECE sectors PD.

Book this date!



## #believeyoucan

The Sir Peter Blake Trust Dream Team is a group of inspirational Kiwi leaders who every year aim to inspire thousands of Kiwi kids to follow their dreams. They visit schools to tell their stories, plant seeds of inspiration, and encourage young New Zealanders to have big dreams and back themselves to make them happen. The Dream Team happens during Leadership Week from 3 – 7 July 2017.

The theme for 2017's programme is #believeyoucan, which is taken directly from Sir Peter's last voyage when he wrote, 'To win, you have to believe you can do it'. We want to encourage all Kiwis to back themselves to achieve their dreams – just as Sir Peter Blake did.

Schools

All it takes is one classroom-sized group of Kiwi kids and one hour. The Dream Team Leader will do the rest. Who would you like your Leader to talk to – your classroom, your prefects, a leadership group?

- Start the conversation about leadership in the weeks leading up to your visit.
- Learn about who Sir Peter Blake was and why he never gave up on achieving his dreams.
- Start discussing what leadership means to you — who are some of your students' inspirational heroes.

Classroom lessons plan as preparation can be found at

<http://sirpeterblaketrust.org/posts/2016/06/01/dream-team-preparation-for-schools>

## Entries to the Green Ribbon Awards are now open!

Individuals, groups and organisations play such an important role in protecting and managing our environment, so we want to recognise your outstanding contributions. There are ten awards categories recognising a diverse range of contributions to the environment. Entries can come from all walks of New Zealand, from individuals, community groups, councils and Iwi right through to large corporations. Entries must be received by 12.00 noon Wednesday 10 May 2017.



## What's new at Waste Education Services?

Nelson Environment Centre's Waste Education Services (WES) programme will be finishing at the end of June this year.

This is an exciting time for Nelson Environment Centre, as we are taking a new direction.

From our new premises at 31 Vanguard Street, we are encouraging the community to lighten their environmental footprint and live more sustainably, by providing a recycling service for electronic waste, rescuing food from supermarkets to feed those in need, and selling eco-products in our small store.



Free waste education resources will still be available for schools wanting to design and run their own custom made waste initiatives. You'll find the resources on the Nelson City Council website and the NEC website [www.nec.org.nz](http://www.nec.org.nz), which currently houses teacher resources, posters and other useful material.

Schools wanting help or guidance with waste education programmes will have the options of either working with the Nelson Enviroschools team headed by coordinator Heather Graham, or engaging Nelson Environment Centre (NEC) to conduct workshops, waste audits etc. for a fee.

Looking back, we feel privileged to have worked with such dedicated teachers and caretakers and we wish you every success in your next steps towards zero-waste. It is exciting to see the progress schools and early childhood centres have made over the last decade:

- from no recycling at all, now all 22 Nelson schools are recycling;
- many schools have a collection system in place for composting their food scraps;
- 17 schools are using their compost to grow food gardens;
- most schools and early childhood centres promote zero-waste lunches;
- many students are literate about waste minimisation.

Kindergartens are leading the way, with students growing and eating healthy food, taking charge of the worm farm, learning how to build compost heaps, and one kindergarten endeavouring to become plastic-free this year. Our pick for next steps towards a sustainable city would be to avoid plastic at all costs, and to lobby the government to put a levy on all plastic bags.

We'd love to see you at Nelson Environment Centre; pop in and check us out! We are at ECOLAND - 31 Vanguard Street, opposite the Salvation Army op shop.







## Calling all school caretakers!

In recognition of the vital role school caretakers' play in waste management in schools, Waste Education Services, a programme run by Nelson Environment Centre and funded by Nelson City Council, and Tasman District Council cordially invite you to a

**Caretaker's Lunch**  
**Wednesday 17 May 2017 (3rd week Term 2)**  
**11–12.30 pm**

**For Nelson Schools - at Enner Glynn School, 10 The Ridgeway Stoke**  
**For Tasman Schools – at Mapua School, 4 Stafford Drive, Mapua**

- Get together with colleagues to share experiences over lunch;
- **In Nelson**, meet Darrell Askew from EnviroWaste, who will fill us in on what's currently happening in the waste world, with a focus on hazardous waste and how best to dispose of your school's waste; and learn about Nelson Environment Centre's electronic waste recycling scheme. Nigel Hands, Enner Glynn caretaker, will kindly be our host!
- **In Tasman**, meet Anna McKenzie, Resource Scientist, who will answer questions about health risks of chemicals used around the school. Clive Donnison, the caretaker at Mapua School, will kindly be the host.

Please RSVP by Friday 5 May and let us know if you have any special dietary requirements: Nelson Schools to Sarah Langi: email: [sarahlangi@nec.org.nz](mailto:sarahlangi@nec.org.nz) Ph: 545 9176. This will be Sarah's last year, so would be wonderful to see you there! Tasman Schools to Adie Leng, email: [adie.leng@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:adie.leng@tasman.govt.nz) Ph: 543 7222

## NZ River Ribbon Awards

The NZ River Ribbon Awards are held to recognise outstanding contributions by individuals, communities and organisations to protect and manage New Zealand's rivers.

We are seeking entries for the NZ River Stories – and this year have a focus on stories that involve young people. By sharing these stories, you'll boost the profile of your work, and you'll help us to raise awareness of how individuals, groups and organisations can get involved and make a difference. If you want to nominate someone or find out more information about the River Stories, please email [elizabeth@greenaway.co.nz](mailto:elizabeth@greenaway.co.nz).

A formal awards ceremony, where the winners will be announced, will be held on 23 November 2017 in Wellington.

We all have a part to play in protecting and managing our environment and the NZ River Awards are a way that we can showcase those rivers that are leading the way.

## Against the Flow - The Maitai River game

Many of you may have come into contact with this wonderful game when attending Moturoa Mission. This game was jointly developed by Nelson City Council Project Maitai and Friends of the Maitai.

The Game is designed to support learning outcomes:

- increase knowledge of the life cycle and needs of native fish
- gain understanding of the consequences of human behaviour on local waterways
- know how to take action to improve freshwater habits
- gain an understanding of how living organisms influence one another and are affected by their environment
- understand that environmental changes affect the survival of living organisms and the relationship among them.

This game is available for Nelson Schools from the Nelson City Council – Elma Turner Library in both the “big” and “table top” versions. Schools just need to contact the Library ([library@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:library@ncc.govt.nz)) with Maitai River Game in the subject line – and dates they want to borrow it. However, be prepared, the “big” version is quite bulky to transport, with a number of bits!



For Tasman Schools, a smaller version of this game and desk games are available from Adie Leng at Tasman District Council, phone 03 543 7222. With thanks to Nelson City Council’s Project Maitai.

## New Zealand Bumblebee Conservation Trust (NZBCT)

### Conserving the humble bumblebee

Did you know bumblebees play an important role in ensuring there is food on the planet?

That’s right, bumblebees are one of the main insects that pollinate our gardens, wildflowers and crops, which are essential for food production.

But the future of bees in New Zealand is under threat due to disease, the removal of wildflowers and flowering trees, less green space and increased use of toxic pesticide sprays.

But you can help. There’s lots that can be done, at school and at home, to help ensure the survival of the bumblebee.

- You can plant bee friendly flowers throughout the year. Bee friendly flowers are ones that are rich in nectar and include lavender, borage, geraniums, herbs and wildflower.
- Encourage bees to visit your garden by ensuring a muddy or damp area, which provides drinking water for the bees, or a small pile of dry grass or twigs makes a good nesting habitat.
- And if you find a stranded or sleepy bumblebee you can help boost its energy levels with a simple water-sugar mix. Mix equal parts of sugar and warm water then pour into a small container or lid. Place both the bee and the sugar-water mix near some flowers.

The New Zealand Bumblebee Charitable Trust (NZBCT) is on a mission to raise awareness of the humble bumblebee, promote the conservation and long-term future of bees.

NZBCT launched a song, ‘The Bumblebee Song’ and dance, composed by renowned musical play expert Julie Wylie. You can find ‘The Bumblebee Song’ on the NZBCT website, Facebook page or [here](#).

Helen Johnson, executive officer and co-founding trustee of NZBCT says bumblebees are essential to the long-term conservation of our planet.

A final word – bee kind to bees.

<http://www.nzbct.org.nz/young-members>





## Help at hand for the oceans

The Story of Stuff movie you've been waiting for is here! [The Story of Microfibers is out now!](#)

*The 2-minute movie* exposes the issue of microfibers from synthetic clothing released into the ocean, and creates a chorus of voices demanding accountability and transparency.

“Our goal is to unlock and encourage collaboration between the clothing industry, scientists, advocates and policymakers, so that we tackle this problem head on and out in the open to stop microfiber pollution at its source”.

But, as with all of the Story of Stuff movies, success depends on you watching and sharing.

## Adidas swimmies made from recycled ocean plastic

Following up on the success of [shoes made from recycled ocean plastic](#), Adidas is back with another top-notch innovation. Partnering with [Parley for the Oceans](#), an environmental incubator and non-profit committed to reducing plastic waste in the oceans, Adidas released a line of swimwear made entirely from used fishing nets and debris intercepted in coastal areas.



The swimwear retails at about \$30-\$50, with men's and women's swimsuits in two designs. The first features a simple wave pattern and the second has nautically-inspired words written across it, with both intended to reflect the ocean environment the suits are sourced from. (Buy online, [here](#).)

## 2017 Cawthron Scitec Expo (K- Y13) 26th -28th September 2017



The science of today  
is the technology  
of tomorrow. Edward Teller

Let the discovery begin....

Are you the next Ernest Rutherford, Albert Einstein or Isaac Newton? Explore the wonderful world of science Technology at the Cawthron Scitec Expo. No idea is too crazy, no theory too preposterous. Exploring is the backbone of discovery!

Important dates:

- **DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Friday 25th August**
- **PRIMARY JUDGING DAY - 26th September**
- **SECONDARY JUDGING DAY - 28th September**
- **PUBLIC VIEWING DAY- 26th (2pm-6pm), 27th (All day), 28th September (2pm-6pm)**
- **AWARDS CEREMONY-18th October 4pm** at Elim Christian Centre, Stoke

## SolarBuddy school Education program.

Help wanted from primary school students check it out at [www.ebrightenergy.co.nz](http://www.ebrightenergy.co.nz)



Basically it offers teachers a fantastic education program for primary school children to learn about renewable energy and energy poverty. Saving teachers time in lesson planning too!

The schools kids then fundraise to receive solar powered lights and learn how to put them together in class.

Then the lights are picked up and sent to a child in energy poverty somewhere in the world along with letters from the children. ...we then receive pictures back to say thank you to the children participating.

## Calendar

17 May	<b>Nelson Primary coffee and kit term meeting 4.00pm. Venue and agenda tbc.</b> <b>Caretaker's Lunch</b> – Mapua School and Enner Glynn School
13 June	<b>ECE network meeting</b> Tuesday Nelson ECE Venue tbc
14-15 June	<b>Project Predator</b> Tapawera and Takaka tbc
5 June	<b>World Environment Day</b> - <a href="http://www.unep.org/wed">www.unep.org/wed</a>
5 June	<b>Arbor Day.</b> <a href="http://www.nzarbor.org.nz">www.nzarbor.org.nz</a>
21 June	<b>Matariki and Winter Solstice.</b> <a href="http://www.korero.maori.nz/news/matariki">www.korero.maori.nz/news/matariki</a>
22-29 June	<b>Leadership week.</b> <a href="http://www.sirpeterblaketrust.org">www.sirpeterblaketrust.org</a>
4 - 5 Aug	<b>Cross sector EnviroSchools Teachers Hui</b> – Lake Rotoiti - Fri evening, Sat Marlborough, Nelson and Tasman teachers from secondary, primary and ECE sectors PD



## Day colours exercise (individual perspectives, emotional triggers, empathy, respecting personal differences)

This is a very simple quick and fascinating exercise to illustrate how people often have different views of the same thing, which is central to understanding empathy and many related concepts.

The activity may be used as an icebreaker or larger discussion exercise, for groups of any size and age/seniority, subject to appropriate facilitation for your situation.

Example explanation and instruction to a group:

Emotions and feelings within each of us are 'triggered' in different ways. We think differently and therefore see things differently. We often do not imagine that other people may see something quite differently to how we see the 'same' thing. Management and relationships, in work and outside of work too, depend heavily on our being able to understand the other person's view, and what causes it to be different to our own.

To illustrate this, and to explore how mental associations can 'colour' our worlds differently:

1. Close your eyes and imagine the days of the week
2. What colour is each day?
3. Write down the colour of each day

Review and compare people's different colour associations, and – where people consciously know and are willing to share their reasons/associations – review these differences too.

Note: If anyone sees all the days as the same colour, or sees no colour association at all, or perhaps sees or senses a more powerful alternative association, then this is another equally worthy personal viewpoint and difference.



The days of the week are a simple fixed pattern. Yet we see them in different ways. It is easy to imagine the potential for far greater differences in the way we see more complex situations – like our work, our responsibilities and our relationships, etc. Human beings will never see things in exactly the same way – this is not the aim or work or life – instead the aim should be to understand each other's views far better, so that we can minimise conflict and maximise cooperation.

Having used this activity now move onto a more local controversial subject and have students record their own thoughts and emotions about the topic then share these with others. What's it like to really get into another's shoes?

## Creating a lizard friendly garden

We have over 85 different species of lizards living in New Zealand and new ones are being found every few years!



*On oduline stack makes a good hiding spot for lizards. Photo: Sarah Mankelow,*

Once, lizards had lots of places to live but roads, buildings, farms and freshly mown grass have replaced much of their scrubby forest-habitat.

You can help to give them a much-needed refuge by creating a lizard-friendly garden. To attract geckos and skinks to your plot of land you need to get inside their mind. Think like a skink, if you will!

All of these creatures like good hiding places – they need to be at least a tail length from a retreat, so it's important to plant complex cover.

Cryptic shrubs, grasses and plants that give streaky shadows make for good cover. You can create crevices and lizard-sized holes yourself by using rocks and old building materials.

### What lizards don't like –

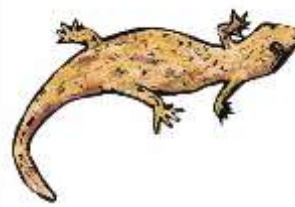
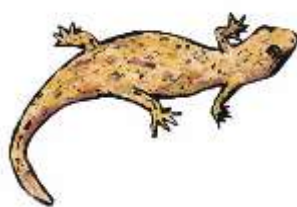
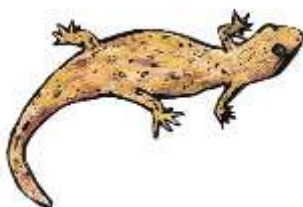
- Hedgehogs, stoats, ferrets, rats, mice and cats. If the cat is showing undue interest, put netting over some of your lizard hideouts.
- Gardens without any good hiding places.
- No protection from cold in winter (skinks slow down in the cold and are easy prey if they are not safely tucked away.)

### What lizards like -

- Plant thick ground cover
- Plant berry or nectar producing species: fruit to eat, flowers to attract insects.
- Mulched gardens with good water retention
- Decent hiding places – rotting logs, slabs of bark, layered rocks, or holes in a bank
- Vines and creepers to cover walls – this allows them to move up and down them.
- Stone walls with lots of cracks and crevices. It is best to make a wall less-than-perfect. In the winter-time skinks who are living in cold-climates will enter into semi-hibernation, coming awake on sunny days. They'll sleep together, so it's important to give them a safe, dry place to sleep! It's best to build your rock wall facing the sun
- Stacks. Build an Onduline stack – these are pancake piles made by stacking pieces of a corrugated roofing material made of compacted hemp and tar. Each sheet is separated by thumbnail-sized pebbles. Terracotta roofing tiles will do as well, their ridges and hollows holding the sun's heat. Place your lizard home in a warm, dry sunny area with good cover such as divaricating shrubs, tussocks and rock piles
- Water. Place water bowls in the garden – skinks may use them every day in summer.

Once you've attracted lizards to your garden – chances are you'll have them forever. Lizards are long lived, and will stay in more or less the same place for years.

It's illegal to collect skinks or geckos and it is recommended you don't handle them. If you provide a welcome environment, be patient and just let them find you.





## Top plants for lizards

Plants that flower close to the ground bring insects and flies within reach. As well as eating invertebrates and nectar, lizards supplement their diet with berries. Native fruits small enough to be a mouthful come from Coprosma, Muehlenbeckia, Melicytus or Gaultheria

- Porcupine scrub (Melicytus alpinus)
- Mikimiki or Mingimingi (Coprosma propinqua)
- Thick leaved coprosma (Coprosma crassifolia)
- Shrubby tororaro (Muehlenbeckia astonii)
- Pohuehue (scrambling Muehlenbeckia species)
- Matagouri (Discaria toumatou)
- Manuka (Leptospermum scoparium)
- Kanuka (Kunzea ericoides)
- Gaultheria, Pentachondra, Pernettya, and Leucopogon
- Raoulia and other cushion plants
- Helichrysum, Parahebe, Pimelia
- Tussock, Astelia and flax. These have bundles of dead material at their base with insects, their streaky shadows are good camouflage
- Pohuehue. It is a great moth attractant



Did you know? New Zealand is home to two types of lizards: geckos and skinks. They are easy to tell apart because the skinks can blink (they have eyelids that move) and they have a smooth covering and narrow heads. Geckos in contrast, don't blink. They have a velvety, baggy skin and they're superb climbers. Instead of blinking they have a clear membrane over their eyes, which they lick to keep clean.

For more information and ideas check out:

<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/get-involved/backyard-projects-/backyard-biodiversity-/creating-lizard-friendly-garden>

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-activities/attract-lizards-to-your-garden/>

