

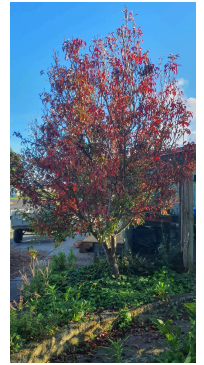
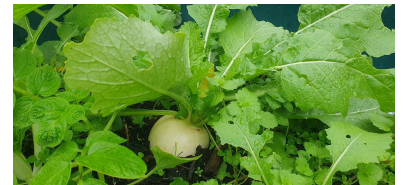
2024 Term 2 Garden Newsletter

Autumn is here in the garden, with a mix of clear, cold days and wet, foggy days. It's been a difficult season for growing things in the garden because we've had a lot of dry, cold weather.



We raised our seeds in the greenhouse.

We have planted out lots of crops of rocket, broccoli, cauliflower, turnips, kohlrabi, cabbage, beetroot, spinach and silverbeet.



Moanataiari and Waiotahe are growing some great looking rocket and turnips.

We have been able to use lots of compost from our bins this season and also feed our plants with the liquid from our worm farms. Soon, as the weather turns rainy, we will be able to enjoy cooking some of our delicious vegetables and herbs.

Arbour Day is next week, the 5th of June. Arbor Day is about inspiring people to plant, care for and celebrate trees. This year, as part of Arbor day, Scott Rodgers will bring the trees to school that we planted with him last year at the Seagull Centre. It will be really exciting to see if they have all survived and how much they have grown.

Tree of the Year will be announced on Arbor day

<https://www.treeoftheyear.co.nz/vote> . Tree of the Year is about celebrating the interesting trees that are part of our lives and communities.

June 5th is also World Environment day, World Environment Day encourages awareness and action for the protection of the environment.

<https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>

Soon after Arbor day, hopefully the 12th of June, we are planning to plant out our Trees for Survival plants. Everybody at school will be able to help with this. Some of our plants will be planted on the school field, along the fence by the Ngahere, and some will be planted over by the stream on Burke St. Some people may want to plant their tree from Scott in one of these spots.

Here is a link to the Trees for Survival site <https://www.tfsnz.org.nz/videos/> . There are two short videos (lesson 4 and 5) to watch. This will help us be ready for planting day. Let's hope the sun shines for us that day!



We are also hoping to help Andrea Whitehead with the next planting at Kuranui Bay which is coming up soon.

Here are some of the things we've been up to in the garden...



Finding bugs



Working in the garden

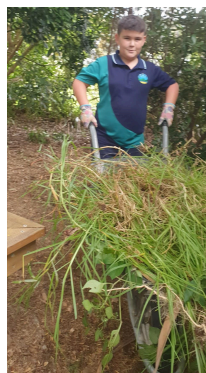


Tidying up after weekend fruit munchers

Spreading mulch



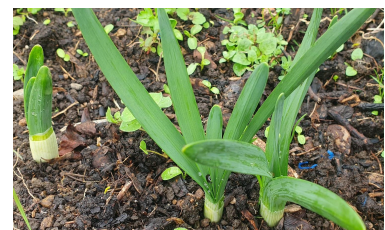
Cleaning out the greenhouse



Taking care of the Ngahere



De-bugging our brassicas

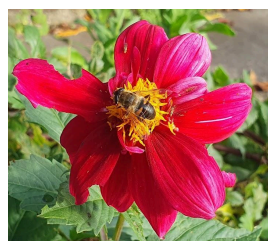


Planting bulbs ready for Spring

Drinking refreshing lemon balm water



Look at the bananas on our tree!



Growing flowers for our bees.

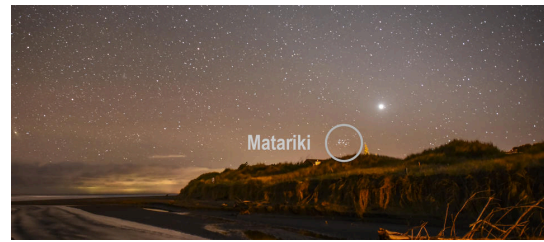
International Bee Day was 20th May



Painting ornaments



Year 6 students from Waiwhakauranga have done an excellent job of preparing our Pātaka Kai. It is nearly ready for the grand opening!



The stars of the Matariki cluster rise in the winter sky in a few weeks. This is a time to reflect on the past year, celebrate the present, and plan for the year ahead. For us in the garden we think about kaitiakitanga. Planting our trees and cleaning up our school environment, this shows our care for the land that sustains life. I think that we will also be cooking some delicious food to share as well.



We are missing Mr Winter in the garden this year. Mr Winter has helped us for many years and we appreciate his garden wisdom and hard work. He has been involved in so many of our big projects. This year Mr Winter is busy with other projects, but he says that he'll still pop in to see us sometimes. Thanks for all your help over the years Mr Winter.

The New Zealand Garden Bird Survey is coming up, 29 June – 7 July 2024. This is the last week of term, we will be taking part again this year. Have a look at the website and you can see what it is all about.

[https://gardenbirdsurvey.nz/](https://gardenbirdssurvey.nz/)



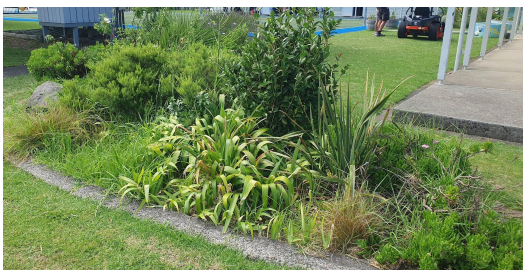
Upcoming tasks in the garden include emptying the worm castings from our Hungry Bins, removing our rotten insect hotel from under the fruit trees and possibly building a new one, turning over our compost and, of course, all our usual jobs caring for our gardens.

Thanks everyone for your hard work and enthusiasm in the garden, it's fun to be out there with you! Remember to share your ideas about what you would like to do in the garden - especially what you would like to cook as we get ready to harvest. Please remember to leave our lemons on the tree so they are there for us to cook with, there are other yummy mandarins and oranges to eat.

Students from Tararu classroom have been doing an excellent job around our school tidying up some of our gardens, here are a few before and after photos.



Garden by the basketball court.



Garden outside the staffroom



Garden outside Hongikore



Herb garden by the Ensor St gate

These gardens are looking so much better! Great work taking care of our school environment and displaying our school values. You make us all feel proud of our school, ka pai!