

January 2023 Garden Newsletter

Welcome back to the school garden everyone,
It has been a very different kind of summer, some very hot days and some very WET days.
Our plants have grown an unusual amount for this time of year and parts of our garden are looking a bit like a jungle! Have a look and compare these pictures from January 2022 and this year.



January 2023



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You can see that this summer the seasonal garden has grown more, the plants look taller and greener. We definitely have a lot of work to do! I'm really looking forward to getting started when the rain settles down. We will begin by gathering and storing our seed and then we will clear the garden beds and prepare them for planting our autumn crops.



Te Ngahere is looking very lush. We haven't lost any little trees this summer. There are some weeds to pull out though!

Over the summer two of our lovely peach trees had fruit.

This Heritage White Peach tree was given to us by Michelle when her son Hayden was at our school. It is growing by the Moanataiari St gate out by room 4. Michelle grew this tree from a peach pit. It was about 20 cm tall when she gave it to us to plant in our garden. Five years later look how much it has grown!



The little tree in the room 4 garden also had a good crop of peaches.

I cut up the peaches and put them in the freezer for us

cook with later on. Can you think of any delicious recipes which use peaches?

I saved some of the peach stones from the white peach and planted them in pots to see if we can grow another lovely tree.

At the end of last year there were some big projects happening in our garden.

Joanne, in our school office designed a beautiful garden and Julie entered the design in a competition.

Joanne's design was one of ten winners throughout the country and we received funding from Keep New Zealand Beautiful to build the garden.

Check out what Keep New Zealand Beautiful said about our garden here:

[Thames school plants traditional Māori medicinal garden - Keep New Zealand Beautiful](#)



The name of the garden is Māra Hauora. This means it is a garden to help look after us and keep us well. Last year some classes began working on a folder of information about the plants that are growing in the garden. The information in the folder will tell us about how to look after the plants and how the plants can help look after us.

Unfortunately, the plants in our Māra Hauora have had a rough summer and some of them have not survived. As we come into autumn this year we will prepare the garden for planting again and we will replace the plants.

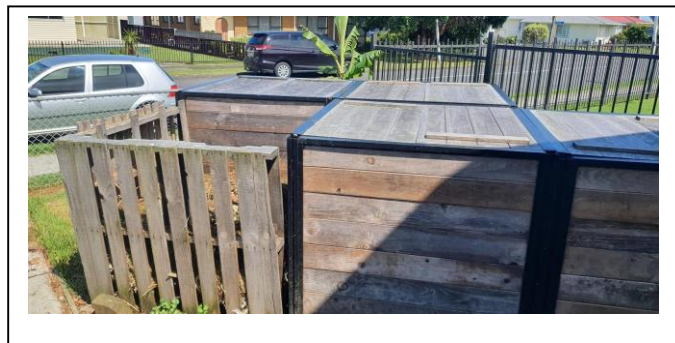


Also in term 4 last year we got our Moana Composters project up and running.

The Seagull Centre provided funding for this project. Tony Winter built a great little cupboard for keeping our compost containers in.

Room 6 created a selection of informative and professional looking advertising pamphlets, this encouraged a number of school families to sign up. Families take home the containers to fill with food scraps, then they drop the full container back to school and pick up a clean empty one.

Our job here at school is to empty the food scraps into the big compost bins and wash out the containers.



Hopefully this year even more families will join up and help us make great compost for our garden.

Another exciting project was the completion of our relaxing, shady seat in the Ngahere. This was funded through our Countdown grant.



One of our wonderful school dads built this for us, thanks Charles Corry!

We have a lot to do out there in the garden this term, start thinking about what you would like to grow in your class gardens when they are ready for planting.

Here is a website to have a look at, it will show you what is good to plant for this season [Planting Calendar](#)

See you all in the garden soon,
Claire