

## 2024 Term 3 Garden Newsletter

Term three was very busy for us in the garden as we worked through winter and into spring. Here are some of the things that we achieved.

### Planting at Kuranui bay

Our whole school worked hard to complete another planting of wiwi at Kuranui Bay. It is the third planting that we have helped Andrea Whitehead (TCDC Coastal Restoration Coordinator) and Matthew Allnutt (TCDC Parks & Facilities Officer) to accomplish. It was a spectacular winter day, perfect for the task.



Andrea gave Moanataiari School some pīngao to plant at Kuranui Bay.



This was very hard work as the pīngao had to be planted very deep in the sand. Mr Howes brought his post hole borer from home to help us, it did make the job easier!



### Potting at the Seagull Nursery with Scott

All the classes sent students to help out at the Seagull Centre Nursery, we potted up lots of mānuka and tī kōuka (cabbage tree). I'm proud of the way Moanataiari students go and help out in our community. These acts of service are important and they are appreciated by our community.



## Paper4Trees Planting

[Paper4trees](#) is a waste minimisation and native tree planting programme for schools and preschools. Every year our school is fortunate to receive some trees from Paper4Trees. We add up all the paper that we have recycled at school and then Paper4Trees gives us some plants. The more paper we recycle the more plants we get! The children from Moanataiari and Waioatahe planted some of the plants in the Māra Hauora.



## Bird of the year

Many classes voted for their [Bird of the Year](#) in September and the hoiho yellow-eyed penguin was the winner this year. I wonder how many of us voted for the hoiho?

They are one of the rarest penguins in the world with just 1,700 pairs remaining. If nothing is done to reverse current declines, scientists predict they could be extinct on mainland New Zealand within 10-20 years. Hoiho are shy penguins, hiding their nests in dense vegetation. But their shrill call is attention-grabbing – giving them their te reo Māori name, which means 'noise shouter'.



## Bee Awareness month



September was also Bee Awareness month. This annual education campaign, run by Apiculture New Zealand, helps us learn more about bees and what we can do to help improve bee health. Bees are a vital part of our ecosystem. In our school garden we always have flowers and some water for the bees so that they have something to feed on all year. We don't use chemical sprays as these can be harmful for bees.

## Bananas

Last term we harvested our first big bunch of bananas and we put it in the kitchen over the holidays so that the bananas could ripen. The kitchen is nice and warm compared to outside and there are no birds to peck the fruit! We all got to taste some and they were delicious.



After the banana stem has produced a bunch of fruit it will die, so we cut it down. We cut the stem into sections and put it around the base of the banana plants for compost.



### Emptying the Hungry Bins

Compost worms are different from common garden worms that live in soil. Unlike earthworms, compost worms do not make burrows in the soil, but live in the surface layer (the top 30cm). They have evolved to eat rotting plant matter on the forest floor, and are perfectly suited to break down food waste. The worms convert organic waste into worm castings and a nutrient-rich liquid, which are both high-quality fertilisers. Every week we feed our worms food scraps.

Our worms have been doing such a good job that our bins were full of castings. We emptied the castings from the bottom of the bin and the worms all stayed safely in the top of the bin. We filled a whole green wheelbarrow with fantastic worm fertiliser!



### Trees for Survival

We successfully planted all the plants that we raised over the last year and once again our irrigation unit is full of plants to look after for the year ahead.

Tim Cruickshank from TFS and some wonderful volunteers from Rotary came to school to help us pot up 1000 plants.



## Conservation Week

This year the theme for conservation week was 'Take Action for Nature'. We take lots of action for nature at Moanataiari school. We know how to care for our environment.

During Conservation Week some lucky students were able to take part in a special event at the Department of Conservation Kauaeranga Visitor Centre.

The inter school event brought together groups of students from schools to celebrate Conservation Week. 12 students from Moanataiari school took part in fun and interactive workshops run by community experts and they shared some of the learning and projects we do here at school.



## Keep New Zealand Beautiful Clean Up Week

### Schools - Keep New Zealand Beautiful

We are an Educational Branch of Keep New Zealand Beautiful.

This means that Moanataiari School makes an active commitment to:

- Provide engaging opportunities for their students in environmental sustainability
- Explore ideas to reduce the school's environmental footprint
- Encourage students to take responsibility and pride in caring for their local environment

Each year our school takes part in the KNZB Clean Up week in September. Everybody did a wonderful job of cleaning up our school to make it beautiful for parent interviews.

Well done displaying all our school values out there!



Term 4 holds many more busy and interesting times in the garden.

One important date is the 28th of November, we will be helping Scott with some potting up over at the Seagull nursery.

Scott is going to be helping us out with a project soon. This year we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Seagull Centre to help fund two projects. One project is about having some chooks at school and the other project is about sorting out our recycling here at school (the project is called "Recycling Rethink").

We also look forward to opening our Pātaka Kai in term 4.

I'm looking forward to working in the Spring garden with you all!

Claire