

Ngatimoti School



“Kia kaha tamariki ma” – “Be uplifted young people”

A Special Place

Abstract:
In 2002 Ngatimoti School became a Pilot School for environmental studies. A school council was formed, environmental studies undertaken by the whole school and a visioning process began to formulate a suitable project. At the same time the Tasman District Council offered support to the school for the Greenhill Stream enhancement project. Trees were an important vision for the children, the stream needed trees, and so our project began.



Actions at School:

Vision:

The school and community are working together with the help from outside agencies like TDC, DOC and Iwi to enhance the Greenhill Stream by planting native plants, and monitoring the stream regularly.

Actions:

- Pilot school for Environmental Education 2002
- Establishment of a school council to plan project
- Stream restoration project initiated Term 3 2002
- Trees for Survival unit purchased May 2003
- First harakeke planted June 2003
- Adult working group established to help with the bigger maintenance needs February 2004
- New stream monitoring group established Term 1 2004
- Goals set for the new year with children, staff and community
- Seed gathering Haycocks Bush March 2004
- Electric fishing May 2004 confirmed that long finned eels live in our stream
- Environmental Intensive Studies whole school June 2004
- More harakeke planted June 2004
- Planting out of plants raised in growing unit June 2004
- Whole school visioning exercise for the stream June 2004
- Removal of fence along roadside and planting of harakeke as a natural border
- Recycling of schools paper rubbish for composting and mulch for plants
- Placing of large rocks in stream to create a better habitat for the long finned eels and to protect areas from erosion

Long Term Goals:

The major outcome for this project is that of providing a hands on, long term, education “tool” for the pupils of Ngatimoti School as well as their parents and community persons so that they can learn about streams and their ecosystems. Enhancing the stability and riparian values of the stream.

Actions with the Tasman District Council:

Andrew Burton, scientist with the TDC, provided training in the use of a SHMAK water monitoring kit (Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit), as well as ongoing advice as the project developed. The TDC provided funding to fence the stream to prevent cattle accessing it. Rocks have been supplied by the council for the cobbling of the stream to enhance the eels' habitat and encourage invertebrates.

The TDC can provide the following support to schools for environmental projects:

- Assistance planning projects
- Financial contributions for fencing of riparian zones
- Help to liaise with neighbouring properties
- Expertise and equipment for water monitoring
- Knowledge of what plants are native to the area
- Visits by relevant Council staff to speak with the children

Acknowledgments:

Ngatimoti School wishes to acknowledge the community and the many agencies, such as the TDC and Iwi, who have supported this project.

