

# head • heart • hand

## Environmental Education in the Horizons Region



### Greetings, kia ora koutou

Wow - what a busy summer, there have been many changes to the Green RIG and our school programmes; and now our newsletter has a new, and yet an old name. Head, heart, hands – Environmental Education is all about learning ABOUT the environment (head), becoming passionate FOR our environment (heart), and working IN our environment (hands). We hope that this newsletter will inform you, inspire you, and encourage you to get out and get your hands dirty!

### World Environment Day

5 June 2010

World Environment Day (WED) was started in 1972 and is an International United Nations event that celebrates POSITIVE ACTION for the environment.



The United Nations has declared 2010 as the 'International Year of Biodiversity', and the focus for WED is 'many species, one planet, one future.' Scientists estimate there are between 15 and 100 million species on the planet (from blue whales to algae), of which only 1.8 million have been described. This variety of life is called biological diversity or biodiversity. It is also estimated that every day, between 150 and 200 of these precious species become extinct – gone forever. This is largely due to the unsustainable use of resources by humans such as you and me.

**Is biodiversity important?** Yes! Loss of biodiversity = the loss of the ability of the Earth (our home) to sustain life. We need biodiversity for everyday life e.g. food, fuel, clothes and medicines. Millions of people and millions of animal and plant species share ONE planet, and only by conserving and safeguarding this diversity can we share a safer and more prosperous future.

**Tips for a healthier tomorrow:** Try composting your vegetables, tea leaves, coffee grounds and other non-animal based foods. Plant a tree, fence a waterway, control pests, recycle, bike to work, get involved with a larger community project or start one yourself.

If you would like to know more about WED and what is happening in your region visit the following websites:

[www.unep.org/wed/2010](http://www.unep.org/wed/2010)

[www.environmentnetwork.org.nz](http://www.environmentnetwork.org.nz)

### The Green RIG gets a facelift

The Green RIG has recently had a face-lift. Since being launched in 2007, the RIG has hosted over 60,000 visitors, visited more than 150 schools and attended 100 community events, so was starting to look a bit work weary. To keep things fresh, we have introduced new exhibits, games and education programmes around the key themes of:

- Biodiversity 111 – a regional wildlife emergency
- Rivers – arteries of the land, and
- Storms Transform



The most significant change on the RIG is the Storms Transform exhibit, the purpose of which is to highlight that storms are an everyday part of our lives, they can be destructive, and we need to be prepared for them. A wall montage shows how a major flood may impact your home and neighbourhood. A touchscreen contains two interactive games:

- *Flood* uses images, music and facts to allow users to (re)experience the devastating 2004 floods and see what has been done to protect the community from future events
- *Surviva* tests your family's disaster 'Surviva-ability' by selecting everyday items in your home.

### Upcoming Environment Dates

International Biodiversity Day	22 May
Lifestyle Farmers Field Day - Greater Wellington	22 May
Reel Earth Film Festival	22-23 May
World Environment Day / Arbor Day	5 June
World Oceans Day	8 June



## Fish Festival - Foxton Estuary

Sea week in the Manawatu concluded with the Fish Festival, held at the Foxton Boat Club on Sunday 14 March. It was a great family day out focusing on how we use the sea and what we can do to keep it healthy. Schools and social clubs took part in beach clean-ups during the week, and DoC staff gave a number of talks about our precious beaches and what communities live there.

On the day of the Fish Festival there were information displays, estuary tours and 'whale' rescues. Children made costumes for the 'Sea lebrity parade' out of recycled materials with the help of 'Junk and Disorderly'. It was a fun and enjoyable day thanks to the organisation of DoC and support of the Foxton Boat Club, Coast Guard, Project Jonah and all who attended the day. We hope to see you all next year.



## Acknowledging The Hands of our community

Congratulations to St Johns Hill School (Wanganui) and Kimbolton School (Manawatu) who are now two of 16 schools in New Zealand who have achieved a GreenGold Award with Enviroschools. These schools both started their journey of sustainability in 2002, and have worked alongside their local communities, sharing knowledge and skills. Projects are student driven, and include the establishment of vegetable gardens, orchards, chicken coops, contemplative and wildlife areas, recycling, composting, bush restoration, and hangi pits and 'no waste' lunch boxes.

A student from St John's Hill School, was asked, what is sustainability and what do they do at home? "Reduce, reuse,

recycle. If we recycle food to the chooks, we get eggs and sell them to buy resources for our classrooms. At home we recycle, have a worm farm and in our vege garden we grow silverbeet, carrots and beans." Well done!



## The Green RIG fact file

### What is the Green RIG and why do we need it?

The Green Rig is a community initiative, borne out of a need for increased awareness of our local treasures (flora and fauna), and Horizons' role in safeguarding these for future populations.

### Who runs it?

We have a team of 2 trained environmental educators .

### What are some of the NEW programmes?

We have lots of new programmes involving water quality, storms and flood management, and regional biodiversity.

### Where can I see it in 2010?

We are mobile, so you can see us ANYWHERE in the Horizons Region, and we are spreading the environmental message further afield.

Our Green RIG can be spotted from Wellington to Hamilton during the coming months. To find out when we will be at a town near you, visit our website calendar.

### How can I book it for my school/event?

To book the Green RIG and view the calendar, visit our site [www.greenrig.co.nz](http://www.greenrig.co.nz).