



*Gilberthorpe School*

## Orchards in Schools Summer 2017

*Progress report from Coordinator Mary Tingey*

*"The orchard has the potential to make people happy by providing shade & fruit."  
Abbie, Isleworth School*

The following schools currently participate. **Planted 2015** St Martins, Gilberthorpe, Northcote, Addington, Oaklands **Planted 2016** Waitakiri, Rawhiti, Wharenui, Cobham Intermediate, Casebrook Intermediate, Kaiapoi Borough School **Planted 2017** Iselworth, Haeta, Wairakei, Elmwood, Chisnallwood Intermediate, Fendalton. It is time for us all to catch up and find out what other schools are doing.

**The Waitakiri School** orchard is an important part of their Enviroschools programme. The orchard is in the playground. On my visit it was humming with children playing and running in the area. Some children were playing on a log, others were planting seedlings with a teacher. Each tree has a garden underneath and each garden is defined by wooden edging made by caretaker Ian Woodward. Growing in the gardens are spring onions, silver beet, celery, broad beans and broccoli. Between the trees is ample lawn for the children to play on. The edging prevents conflict between play and young growing trees. Year 3 boys have designed and built a bean hut with the help of Ian. The beans are germinating.



*Waitakiri School*





**Cobham's  
Apple trees**

**Addington School's  
Green Thumbs group**

**Cobham Intermediate School** pupils have been inspired by their orchard to begin making an adjacent vegetable garden. During the winter the students dismantled old pallets and reconstructed them into gardens. They barrowed soil into the gardens, which was a huge amount of work. Student Jamie says that next year's students can carry on making more gardens. Teacher Annie Bowker says that the orchard and vegetable garden cover key competencies. They provide opportunities to practice the school values. They also provide learning opportunities in environment, science and sustainability. Annie says, *"The gardens and the orchard help students become holistic kiwi New Zealand Citizens."*

**The Gilberthorpe School** orchard is thriving under the care of Jess and the children. They are moving their worm farms and inviting the children to paint them so that they are an attractive part of the orchard landscape. They are also putting up shelter cloth to protect the trees from the strong winds that batter the site. The children have begun making gardens under the trees and intend to plant alyssum which is hardy and loved by bees. The next project is to paint the orchard fence as a ready canvas for children's art. Jess has started new children's vegetable gardens. She has placed

them right outside the classroom so that they can be an integral part of the children's learning.

**The Addington School** orchard has a thriving understory of child high blue phacelia and orange poppies. Both the black currants and the raspberries are heavy with green berries. Fruit has set on one of the pear trees. This thriving orchard is tended by the green thumbs group: Jorga, Leah, Ajah, Emba and Vicky. Sadly it is in fact half an orchard as the other half of the orchard was removed to install pipes for the school rebuild in late October. The children delighted in picking some of the orange poppies.

**The Casebrook Intermediate** orchard is thriving. The orchard is part of the playground. Children water the trees regularly. They have successfully planted oregano, borage and calendula marigolds in the tree circles. They are planning to plant more alyssum and marigolds.



**Casebrook Intermediate**





*Fendalton School  
Planting Day*

**Northcote School** has built raised vegetable garden beds beside the orchard. One garden is green with healthy sunflowers and another garden has been planted out in seedlings. Teacher Perry Rapson intends to mulch over the understory of the orchard to maintain soil moisture.

**The Isleworth School** orchard is part of the playground area. The day I arrived the children were transplanting strawberries from their old vegetable garden behind the school. The children



*Isleworth  
School*

worked hard to keep the strawberries watered. New vegetable garden beds are being developed next to the orchard.

Mahdiya said, *"The orchard is a lot of fun and it's good to learn new things."*

Georgia said, *"the orchard is a great new thing added to our school."*

Wyatt said, *"I love learning about fruit and vegetables. I want to grow corn."*

**Fendalton School** has created a beautiful walkway of fruit trees. The trees are part of the vegetable garden. They have healthy apple trees with luxuriant silver beet growing beneath.



*Fendalton School*

Thomas, Jackson, Emily, Josh and Lennox said that they like watching big fat worms. They like watering and planting plants. Lennox said, *"I love going to the garden. I am dying to come."*

### **Chisnallwood Intermediate**

I met the enviro group, the orchard group and caretaker Owen Minchington at Chisnallwood Intermediate. Their orchard is growing beautifully with all the trees in good health. The students with the help of Owen are planning to plant flowers and herbs in the garden beds under the trees. They want to have the gardens under the trees edged with wood so that there is no conflict between young trees and play.





**Chisnallwood Intermediate**

They want to have a picnic table so that students can enjoy the orchard in their lunch hour. They would like to paint the fence so that it can be a canvas for art. We discussed care of trees as living beings. They now have leaf cutter bees in their orchard.

**Oaklands School** orchard is now becoming established. Children work in the orchard weeding, spreading bark, composting and looking after the chickens.



**Oaklands School**

Cody and Kyle said, ***“It was fun watching flowers and trees start small and carry on getting bigger and bigger.”*** They are looking forward to making feijoa ice cream.

Last week they had a quiet time in the garden so that they could hear the bees working. Teacher Paul Mc Aven wants to redesign the understory of the orchard so that the children can get closer to the trees.



**Oaklands School**