



*Isleworth School*

## Orchards in Schools Spring 2018

*Progress report from Coordinator Mary Tingey*

*"We are planting trees for future generations.  
We won't be at this school when they fruit."*

*Bailey, Burnside Primary School*

We started out to plant some fruit trees. Now vegetable and herb gardens are growing up around them. Art is popping up in the orchards and gardens. Oh the wonderful things you can do when you plant a tree or two.

This year we welcomed Burnside Primary School, Hornby Primary School, South Hornby School, Russley School and Avonhead School. The list of schools continues to grow, Breens Intermediate, Bishopdale School and Wigram Primary School have joined the programme for 2019.

**Planted 2015** St Martins, Gilberthorpe, Northcote, Addington, Oaklands.

**Planted 2016** Waitakiri, Rawhiti, Wharenui, Cobham Intermediate, Casebrook Intermediate, Kaiapoi Borough.

**Planted 2017** Isleworth School, Haeata Community Campus, Fendalton Open Air School, Elmwood Normal Primary School, Wairakei School, Chisnallwood Intermediate.

## Orchard Tips

### Summer & Autumn

- Watch the fruit growing
- Be ready for harvest – how will you share it?
- Measure the growth of the trees
- Water the trees
- Watch out for life in the trees. Are there birds, buds and bees?
- Watch how your understory planting grows. Are the plants flowering? How many different types of flowers can you see?

*It's very exciting to be part of the Orchards in School project and to see so many children enjoy being in the outdoors growing food.* Mary Tingey

*For more information or to join the programme contact:*

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**Russley School**  
**Planting Day**



### **PLANTING DAY 2018 - Burnside, Hornby, South Hornby, Russley & Avonhead Schools**

On planting day the children start by sorting out their bundle of trees; pears, plums and apples. They learn to carry them gently.

In most schools the children are divided into groups and each group is in charge of planting a tree. Firstly the children learn how to use a spade and dig a hole just the right size for their tree. Digging is enjoyable for children. They start to look for worms and other creatures in their soil. Some children love digging so much that they just don't want to stop.

The children carry their tree to the hole to make sure it is the right size. Often the tree is carried to the hole two or three times before everyone is satisfied that the roots are sitting stretched out in their hole. The hole is filled and everyone has a turn to firm the tree in. The stakes are put in with a mallet usually by the caretaker.



**Burnside Primary**  
**Planting Day**

In some schools older children take a supervised turn with the mallet. Finally the trees are tied up. Commonly one or two children learn to tie the trees and become experts. They then teach other children the art of tree tying.



**Rawhiti School Butterfly Group**

**Casebrook Intermediate** The orchard is flourishing and the fruit on the prune plums, peaches and pears has set. When I visited the apples were in full blossom. All the trees looked healthy and the school has installed a watering system under the trees. Many of the flowers, such as marigolds and borage had self sown while the oregano flourishes.



**Casebrook Intermediate**

**Rawhiti School** Two years ago, just after Rawhiti School was built, there was a patch of sand and a huge pile of scrub. Caretaker Georgina Lloyd turned the scrub into mulch. This has created a wonderful orchard. The trees are thriving. The plum trees are laden with set fruit. When I visited all the apple trees were in full blossom. You are welcomed by a beautiful low picket fence which is a riot of colour with children's paintings on it. Under the trees vegetable gardens are flourishing.

The children have painted large wooden labels for the fruit trees and the vegetables. They say it's fun in the orchard. They have planted sunflowers, pumpkins, lettuce, spring onions and spinach. They are now starting up a butterfly group. The teacher said that the children are enquiring into what seeds need to grow.

Bluebell said, *"We now have a worm farm. We create our own compost. It's good for the environment"*

Hannah said, *"It's beautiful to see all the plants growing bigger and bigger."*

Morgan said *"It's really cool how all the community come and help us plant everything we have now."*

The North Beach Community Childcare Crèche and the North New Brighton Playgroup are now taking care of little gardens in the orchard area.





**Riccarton Primary School.** The children made black boy peach smoothies, black boy peach upside down cake and black boy peach crumble from some of their long established trees. From the apples they made apple salad.

*Lanz said, "I like the garden because we made grape juice."*

The children and I looked at and sniffed the apple blossom. They were keen to hunt for other flowers in the garden and studied the daisies on the lawn. There was a good crop of peaches and apricots forming on the trees. The vegetable garden is in, under and around the orchard. The school chooks are in prominent place. The children were busy watering and harvesting leeks with 'Garden to Table' garden specialist, Colin Renouf.

*Sebastian said, "I love the smell of the garden."*

**Chisnallwood Intermediate School** When I visited in November the apple trees were in full flower and the plum trees had a good crop developing. The enviro group were going to have a mufti day as a fund raiser for new tools and to raise the profile of the orchard in the school. They planned to sow wild flowers under the trees. The enviro group were keen to add music into their orchard space.



**Isleworth School** This orchard is next to a flourishing vegetable garden. Emily, Baylee, Mahdiya and Joe are members of the Nature Ninjas. When I visited the apple trees were in blossom. The children said,

*"It's fun looking after the fruit trees and vegetables. We love eating the strawberries. Our garden looks nice and luscious. It's a good feeling because we can say 'I grew that'. It tastes better when you grow it yourself."*

The Nature Ninjas took their own photographs for this newsletter.

**Waitakiri School** The Waitakiri School Orchard is an active play space. The trees and gardens all have wooden edgings which allow children and trees to share the space. There was a heavy fruit set of apples and a good fruit set on the peaches and pears. Vegetable gardens held luxurious crops of potatoes and spring onions. Under some of the fruit trees are flower gardens with statice, poppies and comfrey. The day I visited Phoebe and Sasha sowed Yates Butterfly Field seeds under some trees. Butterfly gardens are a part of this orchard.

*Phoebe said, "I love the orchard because it's got green things and green is my favourite colour."*

The school plans to develop a community food swap table so that excess school garden food can be given to the community and the community can also bring in their excess to swap.

**Fendalton Open Air School** On my visit, in a lovely relaxed atmosphere, a class was busy in the garden and orchard. One group were making kale chips; others were watering, weeding or collecting leaves for compost. The orchard now forms a beautiful walkway between the vegetable garden and the playground.

*Thomas said, "I like the little birds and flowers and plants. I like looking at the plants."*

*Elle said, "I like looking around and seeing all the plants growing."*

**St Martins School** The understory of this orchard is a wonderful example of diversity. In winter Howard Keene and the children composted under the trees. They have been adding more herbs such as sage and lavender. Also growing are sweet peas, statice, cornflowers, borage, phacelia and Californian poppies to name but a few.

They worked with Allan Paterson from CHS to prune their trees in winter. The orchard is joined to the vegetable garden. Healthy crops of tomatoes, red onions and broad beans are flourishing.

**Burnside Primary School** The children of Burnside School made the wooden edgings around the trees and painted them bright yellow. They are going to sow Yates Bee Pasture pollen and nectar mix under the trees.





**Addington School**

**Addington School** Due to their rebuild Addington School had to move four trees while they were in leaf. Miraculously three trees survived and are growing strongly. The orchard is fenced off by those temporary fences Christchurch knows so well. The understory of phacelia and Californian poppies now, at child height, have done their work and protected the tree roots, without any human help.

**Cobham Intermediate School** The trees and garden look luxuriant. The peach trees have their first crop and with good fruit set on the apples. The SPEC group makes worm tea from egg cartons, food scraps, and egg shells.

The worms are particularly fond of banana skins. They use the worm tea on their orchard and gardens rhubarb, karuparera potatoes, herbs and nasturtiums



**Waitakiri School**

grow in their vegetable gardens. They have a patch of strawberries which they are harvesting.

**Kaiapoi Borough School** In the depths of winter, Allan Paterson from CHS and I moved the trees from the lower field up to the new play area by the rebuilt school. The trees have loved their move to the new, sunnier, warmer site and are growing strongly.



**Kaiapoi Borough School**

*Canterbury Horticultural Society would like to thank the Rata Foundation for their project grant and CHS Members for their donations. A project like this wouldn't be possible without volunteers, teachers and support staff, who all help to make the project successful.*

*Southern Woods & Waimea Nurseries supplied the quality trees.*



**Rātā  
Foundation**