

ORCHARDS IN SCHOOLS AUTUMN 2019 NEWSLETTER

PROGRESS REPORT FROM
COORDINATOR MARY TINGEY



Checking the plum crop at Burnside High School



*Orchard removalists
Kaiapoi Borough School*

“

I love seeing
insects, spiders
and beetles in the
orchard.

Zander
Kaiapoi Borough School

”



Hornby Primary School

Go Undercover.

Tree health is vastly improved when flowers are planted underneath. The plants maintain soil moisture and help feed your trees. This is an enjoyable task children love. Simply sprinkle seeds lightly under your trees. Rake in. Water. Easy seeds to sow under your trees are: green manure mix, cornflowers, wildflowers and bee mix.

Hornby Primary School's orchard is in the path of the nor-wester. Child-height cornflowers flourish under their trees. On the day I was there, the children felt the wind with their fingers. Yes it was blowing. Then they put their fingers inside the cornflowers and it was calm. They experimented with this quite a few times and found that, "it really works!" For this reason, their trees are lush and green.

Spring Visit.

The children and I looked carefully at all their trees. We hunted for forming fruit and checked the new growth. We thinned apples. We checked stakes and ties and removed them when needed. We clipped off any rootstock which was growing.

At Chisnallwood Intermediate Sophie, Taine, Hannah and Liam found a bird's nest in a pear tree. The nest was beautifully woven into the branches of the tree. They also found ants farming aphids.

Play Zone.

The Gilberthorpe School orchard was lush and in full blossom thanks to the wind shelter. Each tree has self sown California poppies and phacelia underneath it.

The children are keen to play follow the leader in the orchard.



Springtime at Rawhiti School

“

The baby pears look like rain drops.

Thalia
Riccarton School

”

Production Zone.

At Casebrook Intermediate lush, green manure crops and wildflowers were growing under some of the trees; under the others the students broadcast sowed more green manure seed.

I met Jasmin, Angus, Zara, Connor, Caleb, Eliza and Mason who have been working in the Rawhiti School Orchard. They have been preparing the garden under the orchard with compost and they have beans in pots ready to plant. They will also plant cherry tomatoes, spring onions, courgettes and pumpkins. Their fruit trees were all heavy with young fruit. The children still remembered the delicious apple crumble that they had made last autumn.

Under the orchard at Northcote School is a sea of lush, healthy cabbages and cauliflowers. Northcote School has the help of a grandparent in the garden. They also have a model whare under their trees.



Removing stakes at Riccarton School

“

I love seeing the trees that are happy.

Payton
Kaiapoi Borough School

”

Unique Orchards.

Over all the 29 participating school orchards the trees behave quite differently. In some schools the plums hang back for a couple of years before fruiting and at others they fruit in their first year. At Chisnallwood Intermediate, one pear tree has fruited heavily while the others have not.

Each school may have been delivered the same trees but every one has a distinctly unique orchard.



Transplant team - Wharenui School



Planting day at Wigram School

“

I like how when we measured the new branches and the longest was 34 and a half cm.

Ella Pearl
South Hornby School

”

Shifting Orchards.

At Kaiapoi Borough School all the trees that were shifted to the present orchard site are growing well, as are the new trees added this year.

The children and I thinned the fruit to allow these trees a good year to grow more roots and become stronger. The lupins and mustards planted under the trees are providing the roots with shelter. The children harvested broad beans from under the trees and ate them all on the spot.

Last year the Wharenui School children shifted the fruit trees to their old school garden to get them out of the way of the rebuild. They flourished. In mid winter this year the children pruned and wrenched the trees before digging them up and moving them to their final home.

The trees were all very forgiving and blossomed wildly in spring. They are now dressed in lovely green leaves.



Planting day at South New Brighton School

“

I like the wind on nature.

Lanz
Riccarton School

”

Welcome.

Welcome to Knights Stream School, Sacred heart School, Kirkwood Intermediate and Hillmorton High School.

These schools will be planting in August 2020.



Canterbury Horticultural Society

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www.chsgardens.co.nz/orchards-in-schools

Planting.

This year orchards were planted at Marshland School, Wigram School, South New Brighton School, Breens Intermediate and Bishopdale School.

We had a wonderful run of fine weather for all the schools. On planting day the children learn to carry trees carefully. They dig the hole, hold the tree while the hole is being filled and then carefully firm in the tree. Next they bang in the stakes with a mallet. Finally they learn how to tie the trees. Through Orchards in Schools hundreds of children learn tree planting skills.



Bishopdale Planting Day

Pruning & Ladder Safety Skills.

Pruning is an essential part of orchard maintenance.

This year we began our pruning programme for the first time.

Participating Schools.

Planted 2019 Breens Intermediate, Bishopdale School, Wigram School, Marshland School, South New Brighton School.

Planted 2018: Burnside Primary School, Hornby Primary School, South Hornby School, Russley School and Avonhead School.

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

Year 7 and 8 children at Casebrook Intermediate, Chisnallwood Intermediate and Russley School learned how to set up the ladder correctly so that it was steady.

By the end of pruning day, these children were able to identify the cuts required and the reasons for shaping a tree. They were able to prune a tree with minimal help by the end of the session.

Along with practical skills, the programme endorses the ideals of kaitiakitanga - interwoven closely with Manaakitanga.

On Pruning days all children learn to:

- *Hold secateurs and pass them safely*
- *Focus on the cut and hold the branch carefully*
- *Identify buds on trees*
- *Make an angle cut above a bud*
- *Make a flat cut next to a collar*

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

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

If you wish to join our programme contact Mary Tingey via email: mary@aplaceoflearning.co.nz

Thanks to Southern Woods and Waimea Nurseries



Thinning apples at Breens Intermediate