



Fendalton seed sowing

ORCHARDS IN SCHOOLS SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

PROGRESS REPORT FROM
CO-ORDINATOR MARY TINGEY



Casebrook Intermediate



Knights Stream School



Isleworth School

Understorey.

This drawing of a young apple tree, from "Understanding Roots" by Robert Kourik, shows how most of trees' roots are growing in the top 20 cm of the soil. These shallow tree roots need to be covered by other plants to maintain moisture and moderate the temperature.



The well established understorey at Casebrook Intermediate School maintains itself by self seeding: lupins, mustards, oats, marigolds, mint, poppies and alyssum all grow in profusion.

Belfast School planted their orchard in the school gardens and the tree roots are well guarded by herbs, vegetables and flowers. Kaiapoi Borough School works with the community garden to sow mustards, lupins and oats under their trees; much of the understorey self seeded from last year.

Hillmorton High School and Isleworth, Marshlands, Bishopdale, Knights Stream and Wigram primary schools, all planted green manure crops under their trees. Breens Intermediate has a marvellous crop of blue lupins which has grown about 75 cm and has sheltered the tree roots. The leaves on the trees are all glossy.

Fendalton School and Kirkwood Intermediate School sowed wild flower seeds.



Wharenui School Plum Crop



Hornby Primary School

Moving the orchard.

Gilberthorpe School moved their orchard so that it would be accessible to the children after the rebuild. Six weeks before the move, Allan Paterson and I pruned and wrenched the trees.

Moving day participants included principal Andrew Wilkinson, volunteers from Kiwican Community Project, a neighbour and a great team of children

The trees were dug up, put on the trailer and moved to their new home in and around the school vegetable gardens. Trees donated by Trees for Canterbury, were planted at the old orchard site.

Wharenui School update.

Wharenui School moved their orchard twice for their rebuild. Despite all these human shenanigans, the trees are now healthy and bearing fruit.



Gilberthorpe School replant the trees



Bishopdale School



Hillmorton High School

Planting.

Orchards were planted at Kaiapoi North School, Kirkwood Intermediate School, Hillmorton High School, Knights Stream School, and Belfast School. Kaiapoi North School is working with Kaiapoi Food Forest to create the understorey of their orchard.

Pruning.

The children learn to prune their own trees. They examine their trees to see where the fruit will form. They learn how to use secateurs, loppers and a ladder.

Ruby, Riley, Mohammed, Carlos and Seif from Russley School said, **"It was fun. We enjoyed cutting with secateurs. We learned how to make bud cuts and collar cuts. We learned how to make the tree so the branches don't grow into each other."**



Burnside Primary School

“

I like gardening because I like using the ladder.

Sadie
Burnside Primary School

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Schools booked in for 2021 include:

Cashmere High School, Paparoa Street School, Somerfield School and Merrin School.

Currently we have places for two more schools

If you wish to join our programme contact

Mary Tingey email: mary@aplaceloflearning.co.nz

Thanks to Southern Woods and Waimea Nurseries



Canterbury Horticultural Society

Share or download a copy of this newsletter from:
www.chsgardens.co.nz/orchards-in-schools

When dose a appel grow?
Why do Trees. blossem?
How do you know the
fruit is not dead
at blossem
How long does it take for spinach to grow?
Why is there only 1 girl in a blossom
When do you know the fruit is ready?

Great questions from Rāwhiti students

Spring walk.

Looking deeper inside plants

The children and I examine every tree in their orchard. The children learn to recognise their trees by the leaves. We look into the blossoms and see where fruit is swelling under the flowers. The children also learn that it takes 5 – 6 months for the apples to ripen. Bren from South Hornby School said, **"Five months until the apples are ready! That is a long time... so is a week."**

We also look out for the new growth; young tender leaves on new stems.

The children at South Hornby Primary School measured the growth on their trees. One branch on their plum tree had grown 41 cm. The pear had grown 9 cm.

Schools with young trees also need to thin their apples so the branches don't break.

At Riccarton School a sneaky late frost destroyed the plum and peach blossom. Blossoms which last throughout howling Spring gales are very frost tender. Luckily all the schools have an apple crop because apples blossom later.



Cobham Intermediate

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Plants give us oxygen
and we care for them.

Warren
South Hornby School

”

“

I like the orchards
because they have
yummy fruit and it feels
like you're in nature.

Kiran
St Martins School

”



*Kaipoi Borough School
thinning apples*

Participating Schools.

Planted 2020: Belfast School, Hillmorton High School, Kaiapoi North School, Kirkwood Intermediate and Knights Stream School.

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.

Planted 2016: Waitakiri Primary School, Rāwhiti School, Riccarton Primary School, Wharenuī School, Cobham Intermediate, Casebrook Intermediate and Kaiapoi Borough School.

Planted 2015: St Martins School, Gilberthorpe School, Northcote School, Addington School and Oaklands School.

