

# ORCHARDS IN SCHOOLS AUTUMN 2021 NEWSLETTER

PROGRESS REPORT FROM  
CO-ORDINATOR MARY TINGEY



*Belfast School  
Marigolds and Silverbeet understorey*

## Welcome. New Schools

Welcome to Rowley School, Cashmere High School, Templeton School, Papanoa St School, Bromley School and Halswell Residential College who are sharing trees with Sommerfield School.

These schools are planting in August.



*Autumn Leaves, St Martins School*

## The Harvest.

Schools which planted in 2015, 2016 and 2017 are now enjoying good crops from their trees, and from the gardens around their trees.

**Rāwhiti School** had huge crops of plums, peaches and pears. They stewed the excess peaches, pears and apples, bagged them up and froze it in preparation for delicious winter cooking.

**Waitakiri School** harvested sweet apricots and plums. They also had a bumper crop of potatoes which the children boiled and ate with butter.

**Casebrook Intermediate School** picked buckets and buckets of apples! Their pear trees have also started to produce. In the Food Room they made apple sauce which they ate with pancakes. They also made low sugar 'Casebrook Magic Muffins' with their fresh fruit.

A number of school orchards throughout Christchurch lost their plums and peaches to a late frost. The frost wove its way through Christchurch affecting some schools but not others; sadly, frozen blossoms don't fruit. Apple trees, which flower later, were all unaffected.

**Riccarton School** lost its plums and peaches in the frost but had crops of apples and a good crop of leeks in their garden.

**Elmwood Normal School** collected a good crop of feijoas and plums. They had low crops of pears and apples.

**Fendalton School** had lots of pears, some apples and blackboy peaches.



*Knights Stream School  
Good Lupin Crop*



## Other creatures in our orchards.

During our autumn walks children found butterflies, worms, bumble bees, and spiders in their orchards. Both Waitakiri School and Riccarton Primary School also enjoy the clucking of chickens in their orchards.

“

I like fruit because it tastes better fresh.

Harper  
Waitākiri School

”



*Kaiapoi North School*

“

I enjoy trees because they give us oxygen and yummy fruit and vegetables.

Aiden  
South Hornby School

”



*Lupins at Wigram School*

“

I think its cool that fruits are everywhere and that kids can eat them.

Kape  
Riccanton Primary School

”





*Peach treats at Kaiapoi Borough School*

“

Its nice to be around nature and you can learn lots of new things about plants.

Ruby  
Rāwhiti School

”



*Casebrook Intermediate*

“

I like coming out and growing new stuff and seeing how they grow throughout the year.

Jaydah  
Wigram Primary School

”

If you wish to join our programme contact  
Mary Tingey email: [mary@aplaceoflearning.co.nz](mailto:mary@aplaceoflearning.co.nz)  
Thanks to Southern Woods and Waimea Nurseries



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“

Apples form into apples because of sugars and carbon dioxide.

Student  
Casebrook Intermediate School

”



## The Understorey

### Plants looking after trees.

**Kaiapoi North School**, which has worked with the Kaiapoi Food Forest, has heavily mulched the entire orchard. As a result, they have achieved outstanding growth in the first year of the orchard and they have only watered it three times. They also have had bumper crops of tomatoes and pumpkins underneath their trees.

**Burnside School** has established a butterfly garden and increased native plantings which create more diversity and encourage greater health in the trees.

**Knights Stream, Wharenui, Isleworth, Kaiapoi Borough and Wigram Schools** all sowed lupins, mustard and oats as a understorey crop. These plants hold moisture and sustain soil health. The children were also able to collect seeds from the lupins to spread under their orchards.

Nasturtiums and marigolds grow well under trees. An edible flower, nasturtiums grow rapidly and cover bare soil and hold moisture. They have red flowers and peppery leaves. Once they are sown, they will keep popping up each spring. So easy.

Marigolds which are so cheerful with their orange flowers, once planted keep self seeding year after year.



*Tucking into pears*  
**Rawhiti School**

“

Its calming and you can learn new things and water all the plants.

Caily  
Rāwhiti School

”

“

I found seeds which rattle.

Cathy  
Avonhead School

”



**Belfast School**  
*Nasturtiums under the trees*

## 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, Wharenui School, Cobham Intermediate, Casebrook Intermediate and Kaiapoi Borough School.

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

