



Stratford Primary School



About the school

Stratford Primary School has a number of environmental initiatives and has been an Enviroschool since 2010. The school has approximately 400 students and is located in Stratford, Taranaki, serving a rural population of 6000 residents. SPS Tuis, the school's Envirogroup, has grown to 37 students representing the range of classrooms and years at the school. This group has been involved in reducing waste, collecting litter and growing food at the school and caring for the environment.

Gardening Heroes aims to encourage and empower students to work with nature helping set up positive behaviour for learning. Gardening Heroes has a vision of "grow it, make it, eat it".

CAPOW – 'Curious about processing organic waste' group is a science driven initiative funded through MBIE and Venture Taranaki, as part of the Curious Minds programme.

What used to happen?

Previously, the school filled 10 to 12 240L wheelie bins of general refuse each week. In addition, a skip bin each Christmas was filled from cleaning out of classrooms. Litter in the school grounds, from the public and the school, was also a significant problem.

In 2015, the school conducted a waste audit. The waste comprised large amounts of plastic wrap, chip packets and muesli bar wrappings.

What did the school do about it?

Since the waste audit in 2015 numerous strategies have been put in place to reduce waste: recycling and food waste bins have been placed in each class; waste-free lunchboxes are promoted and class teachers encourage students to take their lunch litter home. Recycling bins are audited each week to ensure zero contamination. Food waste was collected by a piggery but now is being composted on site. Now approximately two bins of refuse are filled each week and no skip bin was required at the end of 2016.

Staff are a key aspect to the success in this project. The school has appointed a full-time enviro facilitator whose role is to implement the Enviroschools programme. The caretaker has a significant role, diverting many waste streams, items such as computer harddrives are taken apart, metal recycled where possible and screws sorted out for future use. Anything that can be reused or recycled is.

Working with people | caring for Taranaki



An old school desk has been turned into a planter.

Connections the school has developed with the community are attracting funding support for environmental projects. The school was successful in securing funding for a curious minds project to look at best practice for disposing of organic waste in schools.

What next?

The school has a zero waste vision. It is planning to install up to five waste stations; three near the classrooms and two within the wider environment where the public currently leaves rubbish. Each station will have refuse, recycling, organics and glass containers.

