



Kia Manawanui

Pānui #20a / 10 Hepetema 2015

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SPECIAL EDITION – TE WIKI O TE MAHI TAHI –

As promised, here are some snapshots from our Wiki o Te Mahi Tahī with our Classes 2 to 7.

A huge thank you to Bob Zuur for his photography.

From the Mahi Tahī Team

Weaving

As a small group of children, girls from Classes 2 and 3, were working on getting the warp (vertical white threads) of their drift wood 'looms', their initial enthusiasm dropped considerably and exclamations of 'this is boring' and " this is hard " could be heard. And difficult it was! But not for long!



As soon the first colourful threads were woven through (weft / horizontal threads), enthusiasm returned again and requests for other weaving projects popped up. Wall hangings, little woven mats, sculptures and small bags were created and completed long past Te Ra's 'Te wiki o te mahi tahi'. What a rewarding experience for all of us!

Jutta

Mural Art

On Monday morning we had three blank, 2.4 metre tall wooden boards leaning against the wall. By Thursday they had been transformed into three vibrant murals, complete with layered native birds playing on the designs of plants and kowhaiwhai patterns! Quite an achievement for the seven young artists who worked with amazing focus and

collaboration for the days in between. I was impressed with how the students encouraged each other and showed such artistic confidence. It was a joy to support and guide them in the process. Now we will have the fun of putting the murals up and seeing how they enhance our school environment.

Nicki



Outdoor Bushcraft

On Day 1, the students eagerly gathered bamboo poles and harakeke, which, twisted and twined, made cordage. As they grew more confident they made longer lengths and joined them with newly learned knots. They enjoyed lashing the poles and putting up the tarps for cover, providing protection for the fire. It was good to be out of the rain, roasting dough and sipping tea. Ahh ... it was so satisfying each day being by the warmth and eating simple toasted food on whittled willow forks and drinking boiled billy tea. Each day the students collected kindling and split larger wood for making better embers to cook on and got skilled and more confident as the days progressed. They practiced tying so many knots and braiding, that on the last day they could join together one rope as long as the field, from the woodwork room to the garden!



Making damper was an exercise in patience but, when successfully cooked, it was eaten with butter and heartily enjoyed. Vegies were cut for soup and the thermette was tended with focus for boiling water to make honey lemon tea (with all delicious ingredients from Te Rā soil).

By the fourth day, some worked at making a bow drill or gathered materials for a dry tinder bundle while others carved a spindle or made a shell handhold, carved a board or made smoke with tiny but glowing coals. With a flint and steel they managed to start three separate fires! (Congratulations Josh, Bobby and Carl!) We finished with a shared sense of pride, accomplishment and satisfaction. Well done bush crafters!

Paul and I are definitely looking forward to more outdoor classroom work. Special thanks to John Wraight for helping set up the tarps and fostering teamwork, and for the timely arrival of the thermette, on the day it was raining.

Paul D & Mark

Trailblazing

We took on a rather ambitious project for our co-operative sessions: to clear a loop path from the top field, up the big dunes and along the top, then down again to behind class 1 and back to the top field. Did I mention the blackberries? Oliver (an alumni from our Class 7, 2009) showed us how to build bike jumps, table tops, and drops for our keen mountain bikers.



And despite the prickles and mud, we made the loop! Walking only at the moment, but with a few more days of blackberry pruning (volunteers anyone?) and mowing, it should be rideable soon.

Nick



Debating



Should Te Ra have a school uniform? Is the internet "good" for you? These were two of the moots debated in our sessions during the week. The skill of thinking on one's feet and the art of impromptu speaking and the more formal aspects of debating were also brought into what were very lively and

enjoyable sessions with the group of Class 6 -7 students. **David S**

Tie Dye/Batik



Every day, one of the best moments were marked by the cries of surprise when we untied the fabric after the dying process and discovered the coloured patterns. Regardless of whether there were spirals, stars, circles, or "only" random splotches, whether this was in pinks or blues or greens or in a combination thereof, the group of girls cheered EVERY time, and for EVERYONE'S creation! Seeing all the fabric laid out on the grass and the banisters around the classroom to dry in the sun was a real treat to the eyes.

We used dyes, acrylic paint and hot wax to transform plain (and sometimes old) cotton into something rather more cheerful.

The batik process was much more labour intensive but the 7 girls (from Classes 2, 3, 4 and 6) worked very patiently and carefully - there was very little mess. I was impressed with how skilled they became with setting up our workspace and equipment in the mornings. By the last day, there was general agreement among the younger students that it would be "so cool" to have dyed and painted T-Shirts as part of our school uniform. Roll on back 1970s!

Kerstin



Gymnastics



The gymnasts put their most determined feet forward, and made fantastic progress during those four short days. Neither aching tummy muscles nor scary new skills deterred them, and all 12 girls are now a fine team of budding young gymnasts. Thank you girls for your hard work, and thanks also to Stella Nepia, my

assistant coach and demonstrator
extraordinaire! **Aleka**

Drama

Eight eager students began their journey into drama with improvisation and games on the first day as they all rose to the challenge and trust involved in working closely with new classmates for the Te wiki o te mahi tahi week. We learned how to warmup our voices, to enjoy tongue twisters, articulation exercises and explore poetry before improvising short scenes or stories. Throughout the week we made stories from found objects, took part in one long improvisation that grew until all students were on board an ocean liner listening to the lyrics of two singers after a rescue mission on a desert island.

We also worked with text and short scenes over two days returning to deepen the work in pairs and excitingly all students learned a short piece of Shakespeare. Over the week I was so happy to see the students' co-operation, flexibility, good humour and fun and the willingness with which they entered into the quiet contemplative space needed from which each child was able to create.

Tina



Mountain Biking

For mountain biking we had eight keen young cyclists from Classes 4, 5 and 7. After some basic bike maintenance we spent the first day practising balance and developing some confidence in riding over obstacles. The steps the pathway and playground became our training ground as the riders got a taste of what can be done on a mountain bike. Following this we spent a wet Tuesday exploring the tracks behind school in Raumati South, and the next days rode the link track at Whareroa farm.

Everyone looked like they were having fun and I really enjoyed seeing the boys push their physical limits and grow in skill and confidence. I hope this can be a beginning for growing Mountain Biking at Te Ra. Much thanks to Brett Main and



Graham Ibell for their help in joining us through the week.

David N

Chess

An initial group of eleven boys came together to hone their chess skills over four mornings. They were extremely eager to demonstrate their tactics which could be summed up in one word: attack! Sometimes it reminded me a little of a Monty Python movie where the attackers charge recklessly forward, come to a grinding halt and then turn around to the cries of , "Retreat! Retreat!" This being the case, patience became the key strategy of the week. We have now started a chess club which meets every Wednesday at lunch time where I sincerely hope we can continue to learn about chess and the art of patience.

Paul F



Harekeke

I had a wonderful time! Even though it rained heavily and we were unable to harvest, we did really well making bracelets, Matariki stars, (now hanging in Class Three's window) and a little dyed kete. We learned together whilst making new friends within our school. I think the opportunity to be part of this week has been awesome and I would love to see it as a regular feature on the school calendar. **Kaia**



Friendship Bracelets

We took on the task of making friendship bracelets using beautifully coloured embroidery threads. People chose these bracelets for a variety of reasons, some because they liked handwork, some because they had seen them before and others because they wished to make a special gift for a friend.



We had students from class 2 to 7 in our group and initially we all found it tricky tying the knots. However after helping each other out, and having a sleep on it, by the end of the week we were all inspiring each other, making a variety of patterns and special gifts to give away.

Sharon

Circus Skills



The highlight for me at Circus Skills was observing the determination of all the students to give it a go and persevere in developing new skills even when it was at times quite scary (the giraffe) or challenging (the diablo) to master. I found it great to observe the mixed age and class interactions and developing friendships.

Many thanks to Nic and Julie for giving their time and expertise to run this workshop!!!

Thereza (on behalf of **Nic & Julie**)



Cooking

Highlights from the cooking team include making kindy buns and bread dough, adding lemon juice to simmering milk and separating it into curds and whey, making yoghurt to eat with stewed apple and muesli sprinkles, making pizza in the wood oven and making muesli bars and muesli biscuits.

Fiona & Doris



Doris' Oaties Muesli Biscuits

125 gm butter melted (add)
2 tblspns golden syrup
1/3 cup of sugar
1/2 tspn of baking soda dissolved in hot water.
Add 1 cup of rolled oats
1 cup of coconut
1 cup of flour
1/3 finely cut dried apricots
1/4 cup sunflower seeds
The latter 3 ingredients are optional. Mix well and place flattened tablespoons of the mixture onto trays. Bake for 8-10 min until golden brown.

Fiona's Yoghurt Pastry

Melt in a small pot: 100 gms butter
Beat in: 1 tblspn oil, 1/2 cup of yoghurt, 1 small egg
Add to pot and stir till combined: 1/4 t of salt, 1/4 t of baking soda
Stir in whole wheat flour (start with 1 1/2c cups and add more as necessary – or use your choice of flour)
Knead briefly to form soft dough.
Leave to rest 15-30 minutes.

