



Enviroschools

The Hukanui Eco-Classroom Project

1. Project description – *A national example of the design and construction of an eco-classroom led by students.*

Hukanui School is one of five hundred schools in New Zealand currently participating in the Enviroschools Programme - and one of only five to have gained the prestigious GreenGold Award. Through the Enviroschools Programme schools work at becoming more sustainable – in their school and local community. Many Enviroschools now have successful projects for minimising waste, increasing biodiversity, restoring waterways and creating long-term change in their schools. However, the area of sustainable building is a more difficult one and many schools are trying to work out how to build more sustainably

Hukanui school has taken a lead on this important topic and in partnership with The Enviroschools Foundation and Antanas Procuta Architects they are running the first ever student-led design and build project in New Zealand. Over the last two years students at Hukanui school have been supported to investigate sustainable building concepts and to plan and design their own eco-classroom.

2. Project Aims– *promoting sustainable building, empowering students, and encouraging action in schools nationwide.*

For Hukanui school community, the project has already been an exciting experience for students who are gaining new skills and knowledge about the built environment and taking action towards a real project. The resulting building will be an ongoing learning resource for the whole school and a multi-functional space that will also be the hub for the many EE projects currently underway in the school.

For local schools this project will be a model that they can learn from– schools and community members will be able to visit the classroom and use the educational resources that will be produced.

Schools and supporting organisations Nationwide will be able to access the case study and associated resource materials. The Enviroschools Foundation will promote the project nationally to the regional Enviroschools networks including Councils, community groups and growing number of schools seeking support for eco-building projects.

3. Main Roles

A range of adult roles are needed to support students to be empowered and have the experience of leading and developing the eco-building project.

Hukanui School

Students' role – is to explore and design an eco-building and to be involved, as much as possible, in the planning and building of the structure.

Teacher's role (Michelle White) – is to facilitate student learning that links to the curriculum and supports students through the design and action process.

The Enviroschools Foundation

National team's role – is to assist with linking the education and design processes together by liaising with the architect, Council and others so that they work with students in an educative way.

The Architect and other Construction specialists

The architect will work in partnership with the student working group to establish the design brief and then meet regularly with them to discuss progress and allow students to critique and alter the design.

Other specialists will be encouraged to work with students' ideas as much as possible and be 'experts on tap' to help bring the project to fruition

4. Supporting partners

Support has already been secured from some key organisations and with the project having both local and national benefits a range of other agencies are now being approached.

Support and funding has already come from the following organisations:

- Environment Waikato
- Hamilton City Council
- Antanas Procuta Architects
- The EnviroSchools Foundation

5. Timeline

Date	Stage
Work completed	
2005/06	<i>Students investigate the field of eco-building</i> Become familiar with different ways of building Explore environmental issues associated with the construction industry Identify the main features of sustainable buildings Develop an Environmental Impact assessment for their site.
2006	<i>Students undertake detailed investigation of sustainable building options</i> Hands-on investigation of thermal mass, solar water heating, waste minimisation, energy efficiency. Design
2006/07	<i>Students work with architect to design structure</i> Develop a brief including their main environmental goals and the uses of the proposed building Explore the process of design Develop concept Determine initial costing
2007	<i>Students develop a funding plan</i> Identify potential types and sources of support Design and produce promotional brochure
Proposed Further Timeline	
2007	Send brochure to all school families Gather expressions of interest and contacts for support Approach potential sponsors and supporters
2008 March	Confirm sponsorship and other support Engage Architect to draught working drawings
May	Submit working drawings to Council
September	Engage a Project Manager Begin building