

Hukanui Primary School

The Living Room

Project History

Hukanui has a school-wide programme that allows children to engage in deeper learning in a curriculum area for which they have a passion. For one day a week for a whole term they meet with a teacher who offers skills and passion in that area. Students leading this project are from the Enviro-studies elective.

2005

Students and teachers identified a need for a dedicated place for environmental studies, meetings, displays and storage. Students accepted the challenge to collectively problem solve this issue in a sustainable way.

Students explored information from surveys, mapping tasks, research, thinking skills, letter writing, contacting experts, and excursions to eco-friendly areas, cultural reflections, modelling, decision-making processes, sustainable products, fundraising and setting building project criteria.

2006

Students extended their research and refined their first ideas to develop key concepts for the eco-classroom.

Students investigated the requirements of a building, how these interact with the environment, enviro-friendly options, analysed other building development, the lifecycles of buildings and developed Environmental Impact Reports.

From all their explorations, the students developed a “wish list” of what they considered to be important features for an eco-classroom.

The students then worked along side Antanas Procuta Architects, working through the briefing process, to develop concept plans for the eco-classroom.

2007

In 2007, the students finalised their plans, sent them to the quantity surveyor, further researched eco-products and investigated marketing strategies with experts from Environment Waikato (the local regional council) to make their promotional brochure. The students presented their plans to the Hukanui Primary School Board of Trustees which gave consent for the project to go ahead.



2008

The plans were finalised by the students and submitted to the Hamilton City Council to gain building consent. Students also worked on establishing a green rating for the design and gaining community support to fund the project. Students worked hard to develop community awareness and attract project partners.

A project manager was appointed, environmental engineer Jodi Earwaker. The students were part of the recruitment process. Funding for her wages comes from the WWF-New Zealand Environmental Education Action Fund.

2009

Once the total funding amount is secured the build will commence! Meanwhile students are working on a waste minimisation plan, making earth bricks, constructing signage and monitoring contractor's progress. It is hoped that the students will also be actively involved in the building process at different stages.

