

Gardening for Planet Earth

What's happening?

Biomimicry Lecture

Megan Schuknecht from the Biomimicry Institute in the USA, supported by colleague Sam Stier and a diverse and dynamic panel of young professionals get together to discuss growing a rich, sustainable future for our grandchildren using nature and its long proven processes as our design mentor

When:

Thursday 8th Dec 2011
7:00-9:00 pm.
Informal follow on till 10pm

Where:

University of Auckland
(Room details to come)

RSVP:

Watch this space

Cost:

Koha to help future events and growth

For more information;

www.biomimicry.org.nz

A Timely Warning to Everyone Strawberry Plants are easy to grow and most garden centres have healthy plants which will readily fruit. Once you have strawberry plants in your garden they will set runners so you can continue to expand your strawberry garden. Some of the unpicked strawberries will also seed and new plants will grow. Gardening is about abundance as nature continues to supply you with an endless supply of both plants and fruit once you have the first plants in your garden.



So why on earth would anyone buy plants or seeds imported from

China? The Product Recall notice in the media makes it quite clear about the risks of importing plant material from China. So be garden wise and protect your health. Buy only seedlings that are locally grown and preferably organic without the added risk of spreading viruses from Asia.

PRODUCT RECALL: *Buzzy Strawberry Mini Grow Kits were mistakenly sold through The Warehouse stores nationwide from September when they should have been quarantined and tested for a range of plant viruses. If these seeds are planted and get out into the wider environment, they have the potential to introduce viral diseases to several horticultural crops including strawberries, said MAF response manager Glen Neal.*

Tui Products imported the kits from China and The Warehouse bought nearly 7000 of them. Of those, 5540 have been recovered and will be destroyed while 1362 remain unaccounted for.

Anyone who has bought the kits was asked to return them for a refund, or, if they have been planted they should be dug up and placed inside two plastic bags and put out with household rubbish. They should not be composted or thrown out with green waste.

Gardening for Planet Earth

Email from a teacher at Milford Kindergarten after Dee's visit

Thank-you for visiting us at Milford Kindergarten.

It was lovely to meet you, as I said your book Gardening for Planet Earth became our inspiration and guide as we planned our gardens. I got the book out of the library so many times that one our relieving teachers finally bought us our own copy. It is a great resource. When I saw the article about you in the Times Advertiser I thought how great it would be to meet you in person.

Our new teaching team and children have worked hard to establish the gardens and outdoor environments over the last three months. We feel proud and empowered about what we have achieved. We are passionate about sustainability at Milford Kindergarten and creating an exciting natural learning environment for young children to learn and experience nature and the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling our resources. Being part of EnviroSchools has supported and given us a framework on which to develop our vision for a sustainable future.

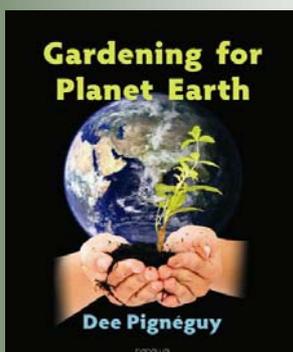


We appreciate the feedback and knowledge that you shared with us. It was lovely to meet your chicken and to see how respectful the children were toward her. Drafting a treaty of care and respect for each other and our environment has given the children good guidelines for appropriate behaviour. With positive guidelines we feel we have empowered them to solve their own conflicts and problems and to respect and care for the environment.

As a teaching team our garden projects have added an exciting dimension to our teaching practise. We all look forward to and relish our days on outside duty, and at times try to negotiate extra outside duties where we can

work with the children in the garden and on our natural environments and sculptures.

As part of our professional development we are attending the Natural Phenomena Conference in Whangarei later this month. This is the only outdoor natural education conference for young children in New Zealand. I am sure we will come back buzzing with new ideas and inspiration.



For more information:
www.feedmeright.co.nz
www.papawai.co.nz

What's happening in my Garden



The first insect pests are arriving in the garden with the onset of warm weather. Recently upon lifting up some bricks that were sitting on the raised garden beds I found two interesting families. I was surprised to see just how many baby earwigs could fit in the space of a brick as well as the number of eggs that the ants could tend. Mike was ready with his camera and you can see the families in action beginning to scatter to someplace safer. Earwigs are a menace in the garden at the moment shredding the leaves of the climbing beans. But I have discovered a way to get rid of them. I open a can of tuna in oil and make a stirfry out of the contents making sure that I save the oil. Then I put the oil back in the tin, add some water so the oil floats on the top and just after dark take the can and place it under the growing bean plants. In the morning the can is full of dead earwigs, obviously the smell of the oil attracts them and the water drowns them when they crawl in. If you make sure that when opening the can you leave the lid intact, you can just bend it back over the tin to keep any rain from flooding the can. I am about to experiment to see if it works with sardine cans and the residue oil as well.

GO... Project Gro!!

The success of Project Gro was evident with from the enthusiastic turnout at the end of year (handover) celebration located at Konini Primary School. There were 20 Primary and Secondary schools from the Waitakere area who signed up to be part of the Project which aims to educate and increase participation in the development of organic gardening in schools. Between March and November this year the facilitator Anna Dadson has regularly visited these schools to support them in achieving their gardening goals. Outcomes include the installation of rain tanks, compost heaps, worm farms, building raised garden beds, planting fruit trees, and sowing seeds.

The celebration on Thursday 17th November was a vibrant gathering of teachers and students to farewell Anna and Chris McLean from the project and welcome Darren Millington who will be facilitating the next year thanks to funding from Auckland City Council and EcoMatters.

The afternoon ended with a tour of Konini Primary School led by Del Bailey, caretaker Chris and their gardening club students to proudly showcase their raised garden beds, worm farms and fruit trees. The students excitement in what they have achieved was evident in the salad and pesto they made to nourish the participants of this joyous occasion.

Teachers display certificates while students showcase Konini School gardens



Book Launch Dates.

Tuesday 22 November at 6pm
Cook the Books - the cookbook store
139 Richmond Rd , Ponsonby

Sunday 27 November 3.00pm to
5.00pm. St Anne's Hall , Cnr Oaktree
& Beach Rd, Browns Bay

Saturday December 10th at
2:30 Whangaparoa Library

Sonja's Kitchen

Sustainable Cuisine from the
Cook Islands.

By Dee Pignéguy and Sonja Raela

All over the world people are searching for better ways of growing food and sustaining life. On the South Pacific Island of Aitutaki, Sonja and Tauono relied on their organic plantation and vegetable garden to supply fresh fruits and vegetables for Tauono's Organic Garden Cafe, putting ecologically sustainable theories into practice. But for many, it is all a matter of taste! Now, for the first time, many of Sonja's recipes are accessible to all. Based on ingredients available in most supermarkets, these delectable dishes can be made in your own kitchen. But this is not just a cook book. It is also a book that takes the reader on a walk through the lush vegetation of the Cook Islands, while explaining the importance of each plant to the survival of the islands and the role that they play in island culture. Foodie or Greenie, come and explore the food plants of Aitutaki and the Cook Islands.

Dee & Mike Pigneguy

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Upcoming Events: Nana Technology

The Nana Technology Courses being run through Kaipatiki Project are continuing to be a runaway success. After the article in the North Shore Times 85 people contacted us wanting to learn about the finer points of keeping chickens in their backyard urban gardens. We have managed to enrol 60 of those into a series of evening courses held in November. So keep your eyes open,; Chickens may be coming soon to a garden near you.

Keeping and Raising Healthy Chickens

We will run another series for chicken lovers next February. Keep watching on <http://www.kaipatiki.org.nz/> for the autumn workshops.

Medicinal uses of everyday garden herbs

The People's Medicine workshop for December is fully booked as well and once again we will repeat that in March 2012. It will be advertised both on my website www.feedmeright.co.nz and the Kaipatiki website. Tele 482-1172 or email admin@kaipatiki.org.nz

Gardening without Pesticides

Come along to a Seasonal gardening course and learn how to develop a productive urban organic garden without using pesticides. Safe for you. Safe for the beneficial insects and the bees in your Home and Garden.

Course will cover:

- ◆ What to plant in season for fresh organic produce
- ◆ Keeping your garden producing through the summer
- ◆ Composting, Worm Farming, Organic Liquid Manures
- ◆ Recipes for making safe and effective insect spray
- ◆ Introduction to the plants for a Beneficial Insect garden
- ◆ Seed sowing & transplanting
- ◆ Mulching & Tricks for conserving summer water
- ◆ Planning for Self Sufficiency
- ◆ How to use all those vegetables

Dates Feb 11th, March 10th & March 24th 2012

Courses are held at Dee's Place **203 Manuka Road Glenfield Auckland** in her Productive Backyard Urban Garden.

Plenty of Examples of how it all works.

Courses suitable for Teachers responsible for developing school gardens. To Book Contact Dee on 09 444 9342 or email mikedee@clear.net.nz

Cost\$40 Including morning tea and fresh garden salad for lunch.