

Enviro Matters

filling you in each month with the green-goings-on

This month: Thank you for supporting WEC projects and workshops



Sustainable

September Wrap-up

September is a fantastic month for sustainability after the long evenings of winter, dreaming about our spring veggie gardens and building projects. It is a time for learning new lifestyle skills and getting outside to enjoy and protect our Whaingaroa environment.

Sustainable September workshops and events have taken place this year thanks to the support, time and effort some very helpful organizers and hosts, including Phil McCabe, Paul Peterson, Parito Retreat, A Rocha, Liz and Rick, Xtreme Waste, Solscape, Simon Thompson, Jon B, Nelson Lebo, and Peter Cave (fruit tree pruning in the rain!). May we continue to work together to bring sustainability to our community. And of course, thanks to those who attended events: locals, travellers and new Whaingaroa residents. Your support makes it all possible.

September may be coming to an end, but the good work continues. If you want to know about future workshops and eco-events, join WEC's newsletter via our website or come into WEC and become a member. It's only \$5 for access to our newsletter, resource library, and seed bank.

Water Efficiency @ WEC Meters are coming....

Every year Raglan has water restrictions imposed due to water shortage and drought. Beginning in 2013, residents will be responsible for paying for their water usage. We want to help you save water and money!

WEC is rolling out our water efficiency project. Keep an eye on the Chronicle and the WEC website for water saving tips, tools and technology.

We are also looking for volunteer households in Raglan West to be a part of our project. We'll monitor your water use, and then introduce you to the ways you can save water, including free gizmos! The project successes will be showcased right here in the Chronicle. And you'll be all ready when that first water bill comes.

Rick chatting about permaculture and artichokes



Meren, 1 of 50 volunteers carrying stout traps up Karori



Rnapuke beach planting with Penny, Star and Jenny



Earth building workshop: lots of dirty fun!

**WEC
NEEDS
YOU!**

Are you interested in supporting Whaingaroa Environment Centre by being on the committee? We meet once a month for two hours. If you are interested please contact Kimberley at WEC.

Continuing our celebration of our key sponsors, Bronwyn of the Herbal Dispensary talks about their how her team work towards sustainability and their reward of top shop 2010 for their efforts.

The Herbal Dispensary has been operating in Raglan for 15 years. While we have always actively recycled what we can, it is since our move just over 18 months ago to our present location that we have been able to practice a more sustainable approach within our business.

Not long after moving to our new store we were honoured to win the inaugural Sustainable Business Award run by the New Zealand Retailers Association for the Waikato Region.

Some of the criteria we were judged on included our impact on the environment, recycling programs, building design, use of outside space and composting systems.

Part of our goal when moving the shop was to provide a green space for our staff and customers, with our herb garden we are able to do this. Our present site fulfilled our brief perfectly and gives us scope to develop a more sustainable business approach. We currently have a compost bin and a worm farm which take all our food waste, and we have just dug our first round of compost into the garden. This season we hope to have some bee hives also in the garden.

Some of our goals for the future are to provide our customers more options to buy in bulk/refilling your own containers thus saving on packaging and transport. Sourcing more product from our local area thus reducing transport costs and supporting our local community is also a priority for us. At present we do both of the above but on a rather limited scale. So if anyone would like to contact us regarding local product that they would like to see in our store or suggest some items that you would like to be able to buy in bulk, please let us know!

Judges comments from 2010 Top Shop Awards "It's evident that the Herbal Dispensary have devoted time and attention to the sustainability of their products and the impacts of their store".

Bronwyn Lowe
Medical Herbalist NZAMH



Vege of the Month: **Kale**

High in vitamins C and K, as well as a bevy of healthful micronutrients, Kale has been cultivated for a very long time. Russian Red Kale (see pic) grows fast in cold weather and, like many winter crops, tastes sweeter after a good frost. You will see some varieties of ornamental (though also edible) Kale on roundabouts in Hamilton. 3 varieties at Seed Bank.



Seed of the Month: **Zinnia**

These beautiful flowers are a great companion for most summer veges, especially pumpkins. They grow up to a metre tall so can poke their heads above rampant pumpkin jungles! Also Gaillardia and Tithonia are good grown shoulder to shoulder with your summer veges. Fill in the gaps, bring more colour and friendly, health bringing creatures to your garden, sow some companion flowers! Many available at seed bank.

Thank you to our EnviroMatters sponsors:

