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A Children's Forest is Started

Colville School joined forces with Moehau Environment Group (MEG) members during Conservation Week, to create the beginnings of a "Children's Forest".

Eighteen children and 20 adults spent an enjoyable two hours planting in a small valley at the north end of Waikawau Bay, on Department of Conservation lands in the northern Coromandel.

Thanks to funding from the Honda Tree Fund, administered by Environment Waikato, 200 eco-sourced native trees will create the beginnings of this forest.

"This is a dream we have had for about ten years. We were overwhelmed by the turnout and had to send someone to get more trees!" says Wayne Todd, Coordinator for MEG. "Hopefully the children will be encouraged to return and see the trees they planted all those years ago; when they have children."

Environment Waikato land management officer, Emily O'Donnell, who helped initiate the project, was on site to give a hand.

DOC's Area Manager for Hauraki John Gaukrodger gave his support saying it was an exciting project.

"This activity comes as a special extra to our new 'Enviroschools' programme", says Heath Sawyer, principal of Colville School. The Enviroschools programme, now part of the curriculum in many schools throughout the Waikato, promotes the idea that schools are part of the ecosystem they are within, and encourages pupils to create and care for living landscapes.

"It's about how to make our school environment better for all of us," said Heath Sawyer.

Moehau Environment Group will provide support for this programme whenever possible. The Children's Forest will grow, with further plantings planned for the next two years..



Students: Shankar Abriawan, and Cohen Robinson record their names to identify the group of trees they planted, while Cohen's dad looks on.



Senior pupils of Colville School, Principal, Heath Sawyer, parents and MEG volunteers, gather after planting is finished.