



Grow Harbour Kids Newsletter

Newsletter - August 2013

Welcome to grow Harbour kids – a network of primary and preschool kitchen gardens throughout the Harbour Basin.

In this the first newsletter we'd like to share what's going on around the harbour in our schools and highlight the amazing foundation of food education – children growing, cooking and sharing food! Some of you may have come along to the schools Harvest Festival in April, the beginnings of working together, which we hope to have each year to exhibit all the students hard gardening and celebrate and share together what they have achieved.

So what's Grow Harbour Kids? GHK's is an initiative taken forward by Project Lyttelton within their Harbour Resilience programme to bring food resilience to the younger and future leaders of our community.

Who's involved? In March Project Lyttelton recruited a facilitator for the programme, myself Jacqueline Newbound, to provide support, ideas and advice to the schools and preschools in the area and to look at getting a network established across the Harbour to allow sharing of resource, expertise and ideas between the schools. In these first few months I have been working on helping establish and resource programmes within the schools and coordinate meetings for the early childhood centres. As spring approaches all the programmes are set to take off and we would love **everyone to be involved!**

So who are the schools? (east to west)

Diamond Harbour primary school - Diamond Harbour School has been building its school kitchen garden project over a number of years and it's looking great with a large garden area just inside the school gate, compost on the go, propagation shed, garden shed all installed and chicken house but no chickens just yet. The school has for some time been cooking a healthy lunch option once a week run by dedicated volunteers and cooking in the classrooms but last term we extended this making the move into the kitchen and have been harvesting food from the garden, preparing the food and sharing each Tuesday. A spring launch is planned for later this term to demonstrate all that has been going on so keep an

eye out for the date. ***Would you be interested in coming along and volunteering in the garden or helping the students cook? If you're a teacher in the Harbour Basin would a time set aside to come and look at the programme be useful? Please let me know!***

Diamond Harbour Play Centre - Lovely Play Centre situated just up from the Diamond Harbour ferry. The Centre is looking at re designing their outdoor area to encompass food growing throughout the area to allow the children to interact with food. Updates soon on what the proposed changes will look like!

Governors Bay Primary school - Beautiful school overlooking the harbour. We have been having a gardening session on a Wednesday morning and have tried our hand at cooking! The school has 4 raised beds and room in front of the class rooms to grow but looking at the fence around the school you could imagine berries a, grapes and lots more fruit trees. ***Could you help? Do you have access to berry canes or fruit trees? Would you like to come along and volunteer and join in with the garden and cooking?***

Chomondeley School - A lovely school beautifully situated right next to the harbour with very dedicated staff who are looking at lots of options for getting their gardens growing again. The fence which has been around the garden has recently been removed and the staff are now looking at what they want from their garden and how it might look. Very interested in chickens and chicken tractors.

Lyttelton Primary schools - As the Lyttelton schools are set to merge and a new building be constructed on the present site of Lyttelton Main we have set aside a space in the Lyttelton Community garden to use as a school kitchen garden and enable garden classes to continue. Lyttelton Mains Room 4 has already been up and cleared the site, laid paths, set up their own pallet seating and have put together some wonderful designs.

On the old St Josephs site a very imaginative garden is underway lead by very enthusiastic and dedicated seniors and teachers at Lyttelton Main. Using kayaks as planter boxes and looking to use whatever recycled materials they can find they are going to construct a wonderfully adaptive garden ready for anything! This will be hugely important next year when the whole of Lyttelton Main relocate to the St Josephs site so we've going to get the garden going for everyone to enjoy. ***They would love any help the community can give. Do you have something unique that could be used as planter boxes? Can you build or provide planters for them? Do you have any pots, edible cuttings or a small shed that the school could use? There's lots of fence space***

do you have anything we could use to grow plants along the fence? Please let us know!

Lyttelton pre-schools and kindergartens

Busy C's - Nestled high on the hill in Lyttelton Busy C's is an inspiring child care centre committed to all things green. **Kidsfirst Kindergarten** - Terracing at its best a very garden active kindie that has recently resumed cooking at the Centre which is great news

The Centres are already doing great things so we are looking to get them networked together and with the Lyttelton school reception classes to exchange ideas and possibly even have a pumpkin contest later on in the year.

So lots starting – what about you! Would you like to be involved? As spring approaches the gardens will be getting busy. Can you spare a few hours a week to volunteer in one of the programmes – no gardening knowledge required just willingness to mentor and work with children in the garden or in the kitchen. Or are you an avid grower that could donate plants or spend a few hours sharing your knowledge with the students? Or a business that could provide materials, supplies or even sponsorship. If you are please email me Jacqueline Newbound, Facilitator Grow Harbour Kids at growharbourkids@lyttelton.net.nz or contact Project Lyttelton on 03-328 9243 and we will see what can be done when a community works together!