

WORKING TOGETHER

7TH ACTIVITY & NUTRITION
AOTEAROA CONFERENCE
30 – 31 MAY 2017



INSPIRING CHANGE

TE PAPA
WELLINGTON
NEW ZEALAND

10,000 Fruit Trees Can't Be Wrong

Shane Ngatai¹

¹Rhode Street School, Hamilton

Two years ago Rhode Street School in Hamilton, New Zealand, took up the opportunity to support 86-year-old, Avis Leeson and her vision to create sustainable orchards in every school in the Waikato. To date they have distributed over 1,500 apple, pear, plum and nectarine trees to over 200 ECE's, primary, intermediate, secondary and marae from Otara to Taumarunui. They plan to gift another 8,500 over the next three to five years.

Shane Ngatai, the principal and proud of it, will present a dynamic and informative Q&A for those interested in duplicating, supporting and learning from their kai sustainable journey.

Our philosophy is simple: A hand-up not a hand-out; teaching our children how to create a sustainable and authentic learning context around food security, biodiversity and community partnerships.

Rhode Street School is a Green/Gold Enviroschool and values the student voice to guide and lead their local curriculum, creating multiple and diverse opportunities for every student, teacher and whānau to make a real difference to our environment.

Category: Programme

Presentation type: Oral 15 minutes

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10,000 Fruit Trees Can't Be Wrong





Avis Leeson.

Avis Leeson and Andy McGrath



350 Schools, ECE's, and Marae



From Raglan...



To Waihi...



From Manukau...



To Taumarunui..



From Small Seeds...

Wednesday, August 5, 2015 | waikato-times.co.nz

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Out&About



Rachel Easto, from St Pius X Catholic School, got stuck into some hard work.



Jacob Quintal and Coby Mateo, from St Pius X Catholic School, work together to move some trees.

Fruit tree project

Pear trees ready for planting headed to schools around the Waikato on Monday. Almost 300 trees from McGrath Nurseries were collected from Rhode St School at the official launch of the Avis Leeson Fruit Tree Trust. Avis started helping schools with green-fingered skills in the late-2000s and has now handed the project on to Rhode St School and Melville Intermediate. Rhode St School principal Shane Ngatai said the trust's vision was to get 10,000 fruit trees into Waikato schools over the next 10 years. Citrus, plum, apple trees and more will likely take their place alongside the pears. Sir William Gallagher has come on board as patron of the trust, which is also supported by various community organisations. *Waikato Times* photographer **Christel Yardley** went along to see the pupils at work.



Saquan Mita from Kawhia Primary School pitches in to help move some of the trees.



Riley Kennedy from Patricia Avenue School, enjoyed their time together at the launch of the trust.

To Fruiting Trees...







Student Voice

Listening to what our students wanted to learn about, how, when and why...

Giving students agency to self-direct their own learning journeys related to food security and sustainability...

Providing the resources and knowledge pathways for students to discover, practice and apply new learning...



P R E S E R V I N G S U R P L U S





KEY LEARNINGS

- *Feeding everyone is our goal*
- *A hand up rather than a hand out*
- *Start with a mix of trees*
- *Involve your students from the beginning*
- *Use trees that will fruit the following season*
- *Look to your wider community for support*
- *Involve parents, whanau and businesses*



Workshops

- *Pruning*
- *Espalier*
- *Organics*
- *Permaculture*
- *Preserving*





“Community and Business support is crucial in maintaining the sustainability of the programme.”

Avis Leeson











VARIETY





FAIRFAX NZ

Maxine Fraser from the Waikato Tree Crops Association is an avid forager, but doesn't limit herself to fruit and nut trees.

Seven Sharp

We had cameraman Leigh and reporter Gill from TVNZ at school on Friday last. They were filming a segment for Seven Sharp (probably on this week). The report is based around the work Mrs Avis Leeson and her Trust; Fruit Trees in School. Avis is a past pupil of our school and her children and grandchildren have also attended. Avis started her school veggie gardens project with us over 10 years ago. Our children were planting 8 fruit trees during the filming. Below the children are preparing the ground for planting. The children from Rooms 12 and 16 contributed to the TV programme.







Project Energize added 3 new photos.

August 3, 2015 · 🌐

The Avis Leeson Fruit Tree Trust was launched today at [Rhode Street Primary School](#) with 300 pear trees going out to Waikato schools. This is a great initiative with amazing opportunities for student learning and experience around healthy eating & physical activity. Well done to everyone else involved from [McGrath Nurseries](#) for the donation to the students who will now care for the trees.... & there are more trees to come



2015 Avis Leeson Fruit Tree Trust

3 Photos · Updated over a year ago

Two of our Tuesday Seed Group team went with Mrs White to Rhode Street School to attend a special presentation and to pick up four pear trees for our backyard garden. The trees come from a newly formed charitable trust, called the Avis Leeson Fruit Tree Trust. Avis is 80 now and has devoted a large part of her life to providing and helping schools with the orchard and vegetable garden. She has helped our school a lot. Yesterday, the trust gave away 1000 pear trees to schools and kindergartens. They have committed to the next ten years to give away 1000 trees each year.





KELLY HODEL / FAIRFAX NZ

Rhode Street School principal Shane Ngatai is working with the Avis Leeson Fruit Tree Trust to put 10,000 fruit trees in schoolgrounds around the Waikato.



ALISTAIR HUGHES/FAIRFAX NZ

A map of free food in Hamilton.



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Rhode
STREET SCHOOL

The logo for Rhode Street School features the word "Rhode" in a red, cursive script with a white outline and a drop shadow. Below it, the words "STREET SCHOOL" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline and a drop shadow. The text is set against a red ribbon graphic that flows from the left, under "STREET", and then under "SCHOOL" before ending in a tail on the right. The ribbon has a yellow border and a slight 3D effect.



TOI TANGATA[®]

Avis Leeson
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<http://tvnz.co.nz/seven-sharp/wisdom-its-best-meet-amazing-lady-teaching-85-kiwi-schools-grow-their-own-fruit-and-veg-video-6494025>

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