



Stories from the Streamside

Massey Te Rā Mokopuka Day



Meet Our Native Butterfly

Native to New Zealand and Australia, the caterpillars only eat and lay their eggs on rare native nettles. Unfortunately, these nettles are often sprayed and destroyed, thus killing the caterpillars. As a consequence they are rarely seen in the wild.

Project Twin Streams Ranui Massey community coordinator, Clair Hobi, chose to profile the Red Admiral butterfly as many people aren't aware New Zealand has a native butterfly and also to see if any of the community had nettle bushes on their property where the caterpillars could breed.

"It was really exciting to see the learning taking place – the kids got to decorate a paper butterfly and saw pictures of the butterfly – they really got it and it was great to see the kids being really interested in learning about our native endangered species."

- Clair Hobi
PTS Ranui-Massey Coordinator

For many attendees it was the first time seeing and learning about the butterfly.

Engaging our Mokopuna

Red Admiral butterflies were the centre of a Project Twin Streams display at the Te Raa Mokopuna Day in Massey on 28 March 2009.

Amongst the many fantastic activities attendees could try such as basketball, pony rides, an obstacle course and a bungee activity was the Project Twin Streams display and art activity featuring New Zealand's native butterfly - the Red Admiral.



For more information on the work of
Project Twin Streams visit
www.projecttwinstreams.org.nz

