

## Lincoln High School Enviro-Council

**Tom Ferguson and Hayato Clearwater\***

The Lincoln High School Enviro-Council (also known as Lincoln Environmental Organisation or LEO) has been making a difference in the sustainability of Lincoln High School and the Lincoln community throughout this year. We meet regularly to discuss environmental issues and have two main events per term, each following a theme to promote sustainability.

For term 1 our theme was “Energy” and we presented in an assembly about Earth Hour. We then challenged the school to turn off all the lights for one period. We all opened the curtains and soaked up the sun. During the holidays we set up and planted a plot at the community gardens.

For term 2 our theme was “Waste”. At assembly we showed a promotional film for “Snapped with Trash”, our initiative for students to use the right bins. We have also been making paper recycling boxes to ensure all classrooms in the school have them.

In May we visited the Cashmere High School Sustainability Council to talk about what we had done and learn what they had done in terms of sustainability in order to build strong connections so we can support each other. In July we attended the Christchurch Secondary Schools Environment Conference in order to share ideas with local high schools and as a result have created new connections with more schools throughout Christchurch offering each other support in new projects. We

also continued our annual testing of our local river, the Liffey, and the results were published on the Lincoln Envirotown Trust website.

We successfully promoted our organisation by making clay seed balls with either natives or edibles at our open night. We continue to plant our native revegetation project, the Mahoe reserve, just across the road and had a successful planting day on June 20 with Lincoln Envirotown and the Mahoe Reserve Committee. We are now organising the planting of a Māori Garden to showcase the use of native plants by Māori as well as painting murals of the Canterbury landscape and the myths and legends associated with the landscape. We will be celebrating Conservation Week (12 - 19 September) with the screening of environmental films as well as guest speakers. We will also be celebrating our 20th birthday this year as well as the opening of our Māori Gardens when they are finished.

For more information please email [leo@lincoln.school.nz](mailto:leo@lincoln.school.nz) and we will reply as soon as possible.

*\*Tom Ferguson is a Year 13 student at Lincoln High School and has been a member of the Lincoln Environmental Organisation Enviro-Council since 2009. Hayato Clearwater is also a Year 13 student at Lincoln High School and has been on the Lincoln Environmental Organisation Enviro-Council since 2006.*