

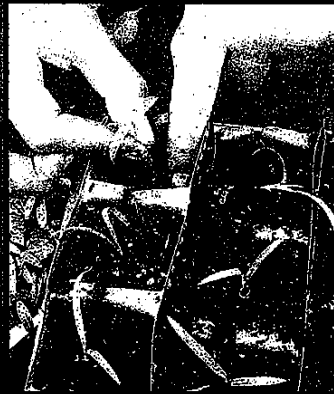
What is Trees for Survival?

Trees for Survival (TFS) is a programme which promotes the growing and planting of native trees to help control soil erosion, regulate stream flow, improve water quality and create new habitats for our native flora and fauna. The programme enables children to learn about the role of trees in the environment, as well as providing the opportunity to become involved in environmental restoration projects.

Trees for Survival is administered by a charitable trust which engages schools, supporting organisations, local councils and landowners in community partnerships to protect and enhance local environments.



Nearly 30% of New Zealand's farmland suffers from erosion. Loss of topsoil is only part of the problem. Loss of productivity, reduced water quality and silting of estuaries and harbours are all products of soil erosion.



How does Trees for Survival work?

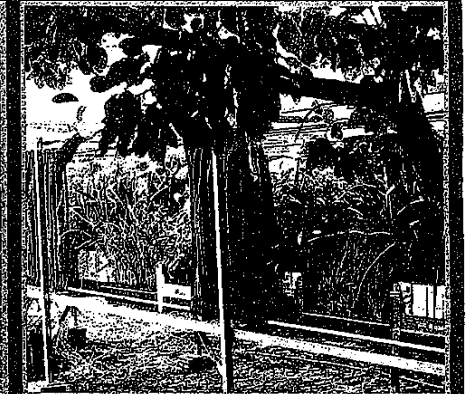
Once the school accepts responsibility for managing the plant growing unit (PGU), implementing the Trees for Survival programme can begin. Students care for and grow seedlings for about 12 months until they reach a plantable size. A 6m plant growing unit can produce between 800-1200 plants a year.

Supplies such as seedlings and potting mix are arranged, and support personnel from local councils and Trees for Survival assist with sessions in schools and on planting days.

Suitable sites for planting are identified by councils, and the partners in the programme, including parents, Supporting Organisations and landowners help the students to plant trees

"Planting days gave children the opportunity to go out into the countryside and experience a little bit of farm life. For many, this was a 'first' and had tremendous benefit in its own right"
– Intermediate School Principal

"When the children are involved in pricking out and caring for their seedlings there is a very relaxed and calming effect on the children, coupled with a more relaxed relationship with the teacher"
– Primary School Principal



What do you need to do to join the programme?

Schools interested in becoming a Trees for Survival school first of all need to complete an Application Form. This can be downloaded from our website www.tfsnz.org.nz or obtained by emailing info@tfsnz.org.nz

The investment in the programme by the Trees for Survival partners requires the school to make a commitment to ensure the long term success of the project. A TFS teacher needs to be appointed, a secure site for the PGU needs to be found and the programme incorporated into the school environmental education curriculum.

What's in it for your school?

Growing and planting trees using a Trees for Survival plant growing unit (PGU) can be incorporated into the environmental education component of the school curriculum. Some schools may opt to introduce the Trees for Survival programme as an extra-curricular opportunity for their children.

Whatever the level, primary, intermediate or secondary children derive satisfaction from doing something positive for the environment, particularly as issues such as sustainability and climate change impact so much on their lives.

"The Trees for Survival programme allows us to do something constructive for the environment in our community"
– Secondary School student

Currently some 150 schools throughout New Zealand involve about 5,000 school children in planting over 70,000 trees each year.

on the planting day. PTAs welcome the opportunities to become involved in the TFS programme – as fundraisers or on the planting day.

Trees for Survival provides guidelines and resources to enable teachers to maximize the teaching and learning opportunities resulting from growing and planting trees.

Who pays?

The community partnership arranged by Trees for Survival ensures that there is no monetary cost to a participating school.

The initial set-up cost (about \$3500 for the PGU, supporting equipment and materials plus freight) is met by a Supporting Organisation arranged by Trees for Survival in association with the school. The same or another Supporting Organisation undertakes to meet the ongoing costs of providing seedlings, potting mix, their delivery and support.

A Supporting Organisation may also be arranged to meet the costs of travel to the planting day if required. The school PTA can help here – it is an ideal way to involve the whole school community in a local environmental project.

The school and Trees for Survival will work together to find a suitable Supporting Organisation to provide the funding support to ensure the successful implementation of the programme.

More detailed information on what is expected from the school, and what the programme partners' responsibilities are, can be found on www.tfsnz.org.nz

The time from receipt of the application until installation of a PGU and implementation of the programme can take up to three months. So it is important to make your application earlier rather than later!

The Trees for Survival programme is an important resource for the school and its community. Remember this is a long-term project – the unit is designed to last and should still be growing plants in 15 years time!