



Southland Times - Sanford / Graeme Dingle Foundation (Kiwi Can) PARTNERSHIP

Kiwi Can or (Kiwi Kaha) in the words of Fernworth Primary School Principal is, "essential to our school's continuing positive environment and helps children learn positive social skills."

This first step of a series of Graeme Dingle Foundation programmes is Kiwi Can. Beginning with children as young as age five, it sets a foundation of positive values and self-belief-centred life skills that students take with them throughout their school journey and into later life.

Sanford, a long time sponsor of the Graeme Dingle Foundation, has a huge quality and sustainability focus and the team take pride in their high standards for the harvesting and handling of New Zealand seafood to ensure there is something left for future generations.

This term the Kiwi Can learning theme is centred around respect; for school, for the environment, and for the community.

What better way to teach 1,200 Southland-based Kiwi Can kids about respect for their environment than to pair them with the team from Sanford for a fishing expedition.

Led by the energetic and proactive Marie McDonald, Sanford Quality Assurance Manager and a Foundation board member, and following on from the Plastic Pledge (focus on plastic pollution reduction), this exercise centres more on fish sizing and staying true to fishing quotas.



"For the younger kids we're doing a fun magnet on the string exercise and the focus is on simple size measure – put the small ones back. For the older kids to make it more challenging, we're actually setting them a quota list so they'll get a minimum size and an allowable catch", explains Marie.

"The way we see it at Sanford is we're only looking after this for the next generation - that's very much the thinking. We are the guardians of this resource. It's really important for us to look after our environment because without it, we don't exist."

It's Sanford goal to recreate the exercise within as many schools as possible throughout the region. Staff are putting their hands up and volunteering without being prompted.

Lisa Martin, Sanford Sustainability Manager created an excellent resource with her son for World Oceans Day.



The team will be grabbing bits out of this resource then adding their own flavour to it for the kids.

Sanford is the biggest employer in Bluff and Stewart Island employing around 160 staff in total. Community initiatives and teaching children about conservation and sustainability in any way is crucial to driving the economy forward in a viable and positive way.



"We all make small steps. I'm really enjoying working with Scott Bowden and his team. They're a great bunch of people. Really committed," finishes Marie.

"The team at Sanford have been incredibly supportive of what we're teaching the kids around respecting our environment and are really keen to be involved in delivering the message in our Kiwi Can lessons." – Scott Bowden, Regional Manager, Southland.

