

# Blessed new garden springs into life

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The new plants at Bette Christie Kindergarten in Maraenui have started out with a blessed life, thanks to local Kamatua Ni Keefe.

The kindergarten made headlines this year when its brand new garden was ravaged by reckless vandals who ripped up the children's newly planted shrubs.

Since the story ran in *Hawke's Bay Today*, the kindy was approached by a number of Bay residents giving assistance.

Head teacher, Kerry Hanson, said the community support was overwhelming.

"We had an ex-student turn up with a Mitre 10 voucher, a lady who lived nearby gave us some money, and a Haumoana landscaping business, Espaso Verde, donated the plants."

Mr Keefe said he prayed for and blessed the new garden, and was thanked by a waiata from the children.

Mrs Hanson said the vandalism came



**KINDER-GARDEN:** Kamatua Ni Keefe, right, blessed the new plants in the Bette Christie Kindergarten garden that were donated after the last lot were vandalised and ripped out.

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as a blow to the kindergarten community who were trying to teach the children

about caring for the environment and each other.