



STAFF REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Committee

FROM: Rob Francis, Environmental Education Officer

REFERENCE: E397

SUBJECT: **ENVIROSCHOOLS PRESENTATION - REPORT EP08/10/09 -**
Report prepared for meeting of 9 October 2008

1. PURPOSE

To update Councillors on the Enviroschools Programme in the Tasman district.

2. ENVIROSCHOOLS PROGRAMME IN TASMAN OCTOBER 2008

Nationally the Enviroschools Program is growing. There are now over 570 Enviroschools in the network – this is 22% of all New Zealand schools. It has been a year of growth and many exciting changes for the programme nationally and in the Tasman Region.

The Enviroschools Programme offers a framework to:

- link environmental education projects together.
- have an environmental vision for the school.
- support the schools in planning and activating projects.
- assists the integration of environmental projects into the organisation and operation of the school.

Resources and facilitation are provided to support the school within the theme areas of healthy water, living landscapes, precious energy, ecological buildings and zero waste.

The Enviroschools report (Feb 2007) by Roger Waddell (ES Regional Coordinator at the time) states that “(funders) support for schools and their communities has had a significant influence upon the consciousness and behaviour of young people and adults in terms of sustainability. Schools are the touchstone for a community.”

It is the “Ripple” effect, starting from the children at school, which then spreads sustainability message and practice among school families, and throughout the wider community.

3. PARTICIPANTS

People

We have a motivated Enviroschools (ES) team of people in the Tasman District. The 2008 team has been:

1. Regional Co-ordinator (working with NCC also): Keryn Squires.
2. Two facilitators: Kate Cobb in Tasman and Claire Webster in Golden Bay.
3. Tasman District Council Environmental Education Officer: Rob Francis.

Schools

In Tasman 10 out of the 35 schools are Enviroschools (28%). These schools are:

1. Collingwood Area
2. Dovedale School
3. Motueka High School
4. Ngatimoti School
5. Richmond Montessori
6. Salisbury School
7. Parklands School
8. Wakefield School
9. Brightwater School
10. Motupipi School

Refer Appendix 1 for more detail regarding current projects and school status under ES Programme.

2008 Highlights

1. A Growing Network of Enviroschools in The Region

Tasman

Four new schools began their Enviroschools journey this year. At current funding levels we have room to facilitate the programme in one-two more schools. We expect to reach maximum capacity (within current facilitator hours) by the end of the year. It is expected that demand will exceed possible support and that there will be a 'waiting list' for schools to join the programme in Tasman by 2009.

Our vision is that by 2011 we will have 100% of schools in Tasman enrolled on the Enviroschools programme.

Ngatimoti School and Salisbury School are our lead Enviroschools, having been with the programme for a number of years they both achieved a silver award in 2007 and are aiming for the prestigious Green Gold title in 2009.

Our schools are involved in a variety of initiatives – recycling and waste minimisation; stream monitoring and protection; native plant nurseries, native planting to create bird corridors and habitats; murals to improve the appearance of school grounds; community awareness initiatives; beach clean-ups, eco-bag making and painting; edible gardens and orchards; designing a sustainable classroom extension; solar water heating for the swimming pool; community gardens; support for events such as eDay and Ecofest. These projects are led by students, assisted by adults and linked where possible to the wider

community. They are designed to be sustainable initiatives, not 'one offs'.

2. Taking a Collaborative Approach to Education for Sustainability

We foster a collaborative approach to Environmental Education in the region. In order to provide an integrated environmental education package for schools in the region, we work together with local environmental programmes including Waste Education Services (via TDC waste minimisation contract) the Waimaori Stream Care Programme, the District Health Board, Forest and Bird, Nelson Environment Centre, the Carbon Reduction Rewards Scheme, Transition Towns, Environmental Monitoring Assessment Programme (EMAP), Touch the Sea Aquarium, the Brook Sanctuary and local businesses.

The ES Facilitators and Ministry of Education's Education for Sustainability (EfS) Advisor have developed a successful partnership in the region. In secondary schools, the EfS Advisor works with the EfS lead teacher to develop curriculum courses and NCEA assessment, while the ES facilitator works to develop and support action projects with the students in the Envirogroup.

3. Events: Learning, Networking and Sharing

Regional Bus Tour – Primary Enviroschools

Two Enviroschools hosted our Regional Bus Tour with organized activities. Six primary Enviroschools attended the regional Bus Tour this year and took part in a trip to the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary. Waimaori Stream Care Program provided the stream study. Hira staged an eco-treasure hunt and Nayland ran a tour, paper making, plant a seedling, and stream study. The students brought litterless lunches and were given eco pens made of recycled cardboard.

Youth Jam – Secondary Enviroschools

A group of Nelson and Tasman envirogroup students from Salisbury School, Nayland College and Nelson College for Girls went to Rotorua to take part in Youth Jam 2008. Presentations and displays were done by students from all over New Zealand. The local group Green Teens presented.

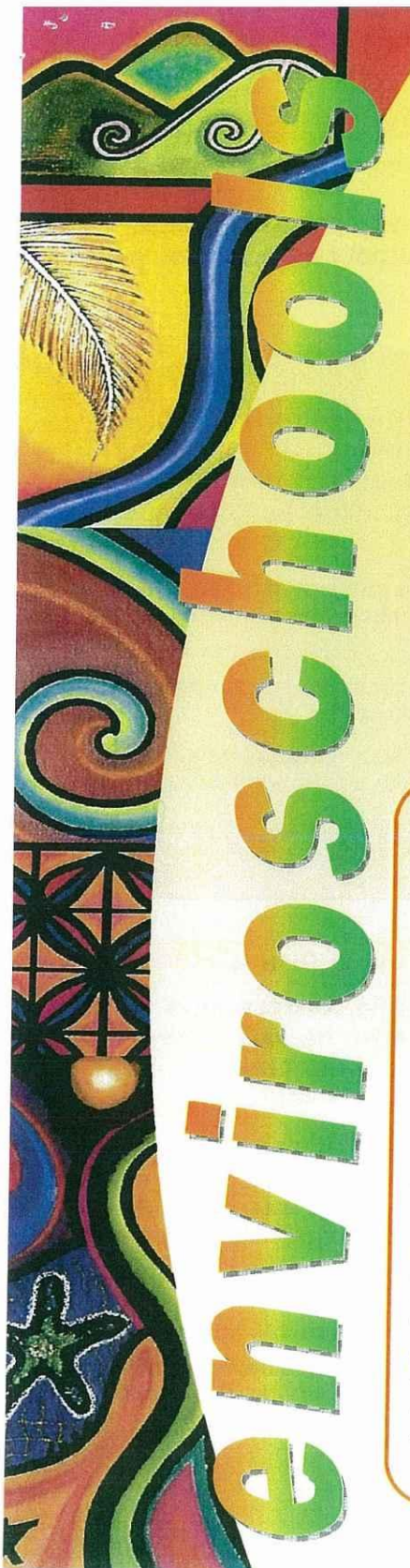
3. RECOMMENDATION

That this report be accepted.

Rob Francis
Environmental Education Officer

APPENDIX 1
Tasman EnviroSchools

Area	School	Projects Ongoing	ES Awards and MoU's
Tasman	Parklands	Recycling	MoU
	Motueka High	Composting, Recycling	Bronze 2006 MoU
	Salisbury	Composting, gardens, native planting, waste recycling, Poormans Stream care.	Bronze 2006; MoU; Silver 2007
	Ngatimoti	Stream care, native plant growing and planting, composting, recycling, gardens.	Bronze 2005; MoU; Silver 2007
	Wakefield	Recycling, gardens	MoU 2007
	Richmond Montessori	Edible gardens, zero waste initiatives	New
	Dovedale	Zero waste initiatives, edible dig-free gardens, community recycling	Bronze 2008
	Brightwater	Composting, recycling, gardens	New
Golden Bay	Collingwood Area	Stream care, zero waste initiatives, beach clean-up, WED celebrations, native plant nursery	MOU 2008
	Motupipi School	Vegetable gardens, waste reduction	New



What is an Enviroschool?


Imagine ... a generation of innovative and motivated young people, who instinctively think and act sustainably. Wake up to an enviroschool day ...

..... Students are learning science, technology and art by helping architects to design a solar heated classroom with a water system that supplies the swimming pool and organic food garden. In a maths class, students use data from the audit they conducted with their caretaker, to report on energy and water savings to the Board of Trustees. Horticulturalists and parents are working with a class in the plant propagation unit. They are raising trees to revegetate their adopted gully and establish a rongoā (Māori medicinal) garden. Younger children are mapping the existing trees and recording their native names .. And, while English students prepare their submission to the District Council's District Plan, others are adding the worm farm project to the school landscaping plan ...

.... It is a vision that is already becoming reality for many schools through involvement in the Enviroschools programme.

Benefits of being an Enviroschool

- Educational**
 - Knowledge about a range of sustainability issues
 - Skills in decision-making and planning
 - Cooperative working skills
 - Leadership and project management experience
 - Whole school becomes a learning resource
- Environmental**
 - Sustainable resource management
 - Enhancing biodiversity
 - Healthy and stimulating school grounds
 - Greener purchasing decisions
- Social & Community Benefits**
 - Reduction in bullying and anti-social behaviour
 - Reduction in littering and vandalism
 - Increased involvement of communities
- Economic Benefits**
 - Financial savings
 - Greater use of sustainable business practices
 - Student entrepreneurship



Becoming a Sustainable School?

Becoming a sustainable school is an ongoing process that develops and deepens over time. Each school develops its own approach based on these concepts:

Physical Surroundings

Ecological and participatory design creates:

- × A school environment in harmony with its place and culture, incorporating local ecosystems and wildlife.
- × Healthy and environmentally friendly classrooms.
- × Places for recycling and composting.
- × A range of stimulating and special places for students.
- × Recognition and preservation of significant local landmarks.

A Living Curriculum

Integrating environmental education into all aspects of the school curriculum enables students and teachers to:

- ⊕ Take action on real issues in the school and community.
- ⊕ Use the whole school environment as a learning resource.
- ⊕ Promote critical questioning on resource use and lifestyle.
- ⊕ Promote reflection on personal value and behaviours.

Organisational Management

Participatory and democratic school management enables people to:

- ◇ Communicate more with others.
- ◇ Carry out self-auditing and monitoring.
- ◇ Consider equity and diversity when making decisions.
- ◇ Draw on the combined wisdom of their multi-cultural community.
- ◇ Have a sense of belonging and ownership.

Operational Practices

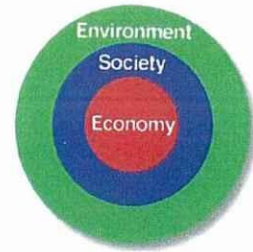
Sustainable conservation practices in the day-to-day running of the school enables students and staff to:

- ⇒ Reduce waste and create ways to reuse and recycle.
- ⇒ Save energy, water and other resources.
- ⇒ Choose environmentally friendly products.
- ⇒ Be more aware of nature.
- ⇒ Improve the quality and health of all forms of life in the school and community.

Guiding Principles

Five main principles guide the Enviroschools Programme.

Schools are encouraged to develop the guiding principles at their school.



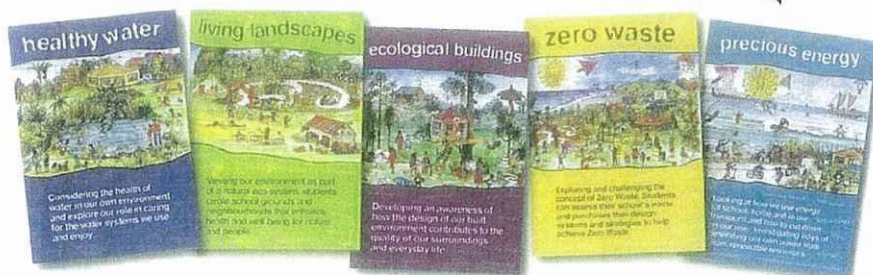
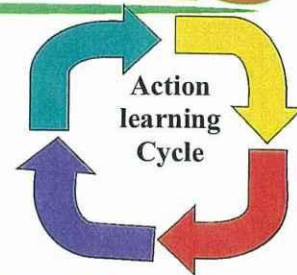
- ☉ Sustainability is a way of being and acting that nurtures people and nature, both now and in the future.
- ☉ Environmental education is an action-focused approach to learning that engages us in the physical, social, cultural and political aspects of our environment.
- ☉ Genuine student participation, their own unique and creative perspective. This enriches decision-making and the design of the school environment, empowering children to be active environmental citizens for life.
- ☉ Māori perspectives and knowledge of the environment offer unique insights built up over time in our country. Including Māori perspectives enriches learning and honours the status of indigenous people in this land.
- ☉ Respect for the diversity of people and cultures is integral to achieving a sustainable environment in New Zealand that is fair, peaceful and cooperative, and makes the most of our rich cultural traditions.

Creating a sustainable school is a tangible way for students to explore other dimensions of sustainability such as peace, cooperation, kaitiakitanga and citizenship.

Theme areas

Learning and action can be organised around these five theme areas.

Each Enviroschools theme area follows the action learning cycle.





The Enviroschools Kaupapa

Kaupapa does not have a direct English translation but encompasses words such as foundations, principles, or philosophy. Our kaupapa is our touchstone.

Enviroschools have a sense of place

Nature and people are nurtured and the whole school environment is a learning resource. Creating a sustainable physical environment is an ongoing learning exercise that fosters a greater understanding of the inter-relatedness between all living things and a concern for the particular place we live in.

Enviroschools are participatory

Enviroschools processes involve the whole school community. Students, teachers, caretakers, Boards of Trustees, families/whānau and the wider community each have roles in actively creating and caring for their school.

Enviroschools have a sense of purpose

Students are inspired to be creative and become competent to make decisions and take action in their community. Learning is lived and reinforced at school. Teachers reshape and refocus everyday activities so that the potential for environmentally friendly practices is maximised. Adults act responsibly on behalf of the environment and serve as role models for young people.

Enviroschools and Education for Sustainability

The Enviroschools programme works in collaboration with the Education for Sustainability programmes and contracts run by Roger Waddell, the EFS Adviser with Canterbury University. For more information on Education for Sustainability email Roger Waddell (roger.waddell@canterbury.ac.nz). Ph 03 546 0584 or 021 167 1246.

The Enviroschools Journey

Schools sign up to go on a long-term sustainability journey - they work at their own place through a range of sustainability actions and can go for Awards along the way. Schools receive support through facilitation, resources, professional development and a nationwide network of schools.

How do I become an Enviroschool?

Contact your local Council Education Officers for more information.

Marlborough District Council
Seymour Square
PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240
Ph. +4 3 520 7400
Fax: +64 3 520 7496
Email: mdc@marlborough.govt.nz
Website: www.marlborough.govt.nz

Nelson City Council
PO Box 645
110 Trafalgar Street Nelson
Phone +64 3 546 0200 (all hours)
Fax +64 3 546 0239
E-mail enquiry@ncc.govt.nz
Website: www.ncc.govt.nz

Tasman District Council
189 Queen Street, Richmond
Private Bag 4, Richmond 7050
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