

Report No:	REP11-08-08
File No:	E390
Date:	12 August 2011
<b>Information Only -no decision required</b>	

## REPORT SUMMARY

**Report to:** Environment & Planning Committee  
**Meeting Date:** 25 August 2011  
**Report Author:** Rob Francis, Environmental Education Officer  
**Subject:** ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION REPORT

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers a number of general matters concerning the activities of the Environmental Education team as well as an overview of current status.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

### DRAFT RESOLUTION

**THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environmental Education Report REP11-08-08**

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## **1. The Environmental Education Team**

- 1.1 The Environmental Education Team sits under the Strategic Development Department and has one full-time and two part-time employees.
- 1.2 The two part-time employees are Adie Leng (.6) and Claire Webster (.4).
- 1.3 Within a small team, we aim to provide effective and timely environmental education and support to Council, to Council staff, and in the Community.

## **2. Tasman Nelson Environment Awards 2011**

- 2.1 The Environment Awards are a joint initiative of Nelson City Council (NCC) and Tasman District Council (TDC) recognising and celebrating people and organisations in our region who have demonstrated the use of good environmental practice, enhancement and sustainability.
- 2.2 The Awards opened for entries on August 8 and will close on September 16. Forms are available at both Council offices, libraries and websites. Promotion is ongoing through print and radio media until entries close.
- 2.3 This year there are eight categories including a revamped Sustainable Design category which has been broadened to include individual buildings.
- 2.4 We have retained seven sponsors and added two new ones. Each category carries a cash prize (or cash equivalent) of \$1,000 (Heritage sponsors provide \$500 each). The categories and sponsors are:
  - Sustainable Design - Arrow International
  - Best Use of Renewable Energy - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority
  - Environmental Leadership - Cawthron Institute Trust Board
  - Commercial - Newstalk ZB
  - Schools - Resene
  - Rural - NZ Landcare Trust
  - Community Groups - Nelson Pine industries
  - Heritage(Culture) - Wakatu Incorporation
  - Heritage(Sites) - NZ Historic Places Trust

- 2.5 A review of the Environment Awards will be conducted after the 2011 event.

### **3. Ecofest**

- 3.1 Now in its eleventh year, the Ecofest Expo is a joint event between Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council, making it easier for everyone to live more sustainably, care for the world they live in, and save money.
- 3.2 Ecofest Expo happened at the Trafalgar Centre, Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 August. The event is very affordable - \$5 per adult, children free.
- 3.3 The focus this year was on resiliency, “building good foundations for you and your family” - with a strong alignment with civil defence. Using key messages like “Future Proof your Family” and “Expect the Unexpected” - the event this year was all about building strong and resilient communities in the face of change - whether these be climate change-driven or natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods.
- 3.5 An extended programme of Ecofest events has taken place in Golden Bay over the period. This is to provide learning opportunities for Golden Bay people, who are unlikely to make the trip to the Expo. Other Eco-Challenge Ecofest events have taken place in Motueka, Murchison, and Richmond.
- 3.6 I will give a verbal update on Ecofest at the Environment & Planning meeting.
- 3.7 At present, a review of Ecofest is still underway to determine best options moving forward.

### **4. Enviroschools**

- 4.1 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.
  - Assist the integration of environmental projects into the organisation and operation of the school.
- 4.2 The Nelson Kindergarten Association has agreed to become an Enviroschool in partnership with TDC and NCC. This will help the Enviroschool programme to be facilitated in all kindergartens and associated early childhood centres across the region. Part of this agreement supports promotion of waste reduction.
- 4.3 In Golden Bay all but the High School are now Enviroschools. Claire regularly supports the schools, attending staff meetings, and facilitating ‘reflection’ meetings with staff
- 4.4 A key task for Adie this year has been building relationships with existing and “considering” Enviroschools, meeting with Boards of Trustees, Principals, Teachers, caretaking staff, as well as students. Enviroschools is certainly a “holistic’ approach” to “embed” environmental awareness in school communities.

- 4.5 An important role has been to connect schools with the many national and local opportunities, resources, workshops and competitions around the environment and sustainability that teachers are otherwise not aware of.

## **5. Schools**

- 5.1 There are other schools in the District with keen teachers doing environmental work but their schools are not ready for the Enviroschools Programme. We continue to support these teachers with resources, advice and promotion of good practice.
- 5.2 We have just produced the Term 3 online regional environmental newsletter for the region's schools called "Ecobuzz". This can be viewed on the Council website.
- 5.3 Across Tasman we attempt to create a partnerships between freshwater "owners or guardians" and a school close by "adopting" an area to look after. Three Golden Bay schools are now looking after streams close by to their schools. One of these is in partnership with Fonterra.
- 5.4 We are supporting a gardening trial in a rural school alongside Growables Nelson. The purpose is to support composting, worm farm reduction efforts, sustainability, and community input, and fundraising opportunities.
- 5.5 Adie has organised with Smart Environmental, a safe "pilot" educational tour of the Recycling Recovery Centre in Richmond. Other councils have found that these tours promote more responsible recycling and the reduction of non-recyclables, once students see the huge amounts of waste being collected and going to landfill. Watch this space for developments!
- 5.6 Claire has organised funding through the Cobb Mitigation fund to support a Golden Bay person, Anne Harvey, to provide a Māori perspective to students around waterways. This compliments the work with students and relationship that we have with Mel McColgan of Waimāori, across the rest of Tasman.
- 5.7 We are conducting a survey to find out what environmental initiatives are happening in all schools in the District.

## **6. Environmental Education Events**

- 6.1 Over the month of June a number of Matariki-themed environmental events were held around the Waimea Inlet and Tasman Bay. This included a photography competition organised by Elspeth Collier and supported by us. The completion attracted entries from people aged six to eighty-eight. They can be viewed on the Waimea Inlet Facebook page and at Ecofest. <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/Waimea.Inlet>

## **7. Community Vegetable Gardens**

- 7.1 We are now holding money from the District Health Board to promote Community gardens and healthy lifestyles in Tasman. This will help us fund garden training, community garden development, as well as a regional gathering of all community gardens to support more collaboration and peer support.

## **8. Good Wood**

- 8.1 Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council sponsor a Good Wood scheme to encourage people to sell, buy, and burn Good Wood. To be Good Wood merchant, suppliers must guarantee to supply to the public either dry seasoned firewood suitable for immediate use, or green (unseasoned) firewood delivered sufficiently far in advance of winter so that, if properly stored by the user, the wood will be seasoned for use the following winter.
- 8.2 At present there are 10 Good Wood firewood merchants in Tasman and Nelson. These are visited and monitored through the year, as well, an annual meeting to discuss issues and improvements is held.
- 8.3 At a later meeting Mary-Anne Baker and myself would like to discuss with the Environment & Planning committee additional approaches to encourage better practice across the district (i.e the reduction of unseasoned and wet firewood being sold for burning) and measures to support the Good Wood firewood merchants.

## **9. Big Beach Clean Up 2011**

- 9.1 This first Tasman Bay Big Beach Clean-up, covering around an astounding 291 kilometres of coast, was jointly organised by the DOC, TDC, NCC and NELMAC in November last year.
- 9.2 Planning is well underway for a repeat effort this year, on Saturday November 19. At time of writing over half of the groups involved in last year's effort have recommitted.

## **11. Climate Change**

- 11.1 On Wednesday 3 August, Mayor Richard well-hosted two leading New Zealand specialists to explain the nature of climate change, its impacts on New Zealanders' health, properties, infrastructure, environment and rural industries. Dr Jim Salinger Auckland Climate Scientist and Rod Oram, Business Journalist, spoke to an appreciative crowd of over 130 on "Maintaining farm productivity and profits in an uncertain climate".
- 11.2 This seminar gained good publicity and profile. It was filmed and DVD's were sent to people in Golden Bay. As well, it can be viewed on You Tube (and linked to TDC website). Tasman Climate Change Seminar 3rd August 2011

## **12. TDC Energy Assessment**

- 12.1 Using the data available David Francis, the Sustainable Business Advisor, is evaluating the various TDC facilities and identifying those that offer easily implemented measures to reduce energy (and save money). He is working with the E-Bench system to make it a more useful management tool in terms of reporting and assisting the facilities staff at the Council to monitor energy use ongoing.
- 12.2 I will give a verbal update on progress to date.

### **13. Environment Education Strategy**

13.1 The Environment Education team are continuing to work on this strategy and will seek to report on this at the October meeting of the Environment & Planning Committee.

### **14. Focus until next Environment & Planning meeting**

14.1 Tasman Nelson Environment Awards, Enviroschools, Big Beach Clean Up.

### **15. Recommendation**

15.1 That the report be received

### **16. DRAFT RESOLUTION**

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environmental Education Report REP11-08-08



Rob Francis  
**Environmental Education Officer**