

Report No:	REP11-07-04
File No:	E390
Date:	2011
Information Only -no decision required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Environment & Planning Committee
Meeting Date: 23 November 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 REP11-11-07-04.



Rob Francis
Environmental Education Officer

Report No:	REP11-11-07
File No:	E390
Report Date:	10 November 2011
<i>Information Only -no decision required</i>	

Report to: Environment & Planning Committee
Meeting Date: 23 November, 2011
Report Author: Rob Francis, Environmental Education Officer
Subject: **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION REPORT**

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 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 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 - Landcare Research NZ
 - Community Groups - Nelson Pine industries
 - Heritage (Culture) - Wakatu Incorporation
 - Heritage (Sites) - NZ Historic Places Trust
- 2.3 Interest in the Awards has been pleasing. The Awards culminate in a prize-giving event, to be held at the Theatre Royal on the afternoon of Thursday, 17 November. Guest Speaker for the event is Gillian Wratt, CEO of the Cawthron Institute.
- 2.4 Thank you to the Councillors and staff who have assisted in the judging. This has really added value to the process. I will provide a brief verbal report on this at the meeting.

3. Ecofest

- 3.1 Please refer to the separate Ecofest Review Report that is on the Agenda for discussion, includes a report back on Ecofest 2011.

4. Enviroschools

- 4.1 The Enviroschools Programme offers a framework to:

- Link environmental education projects together.
- Have an environmental vision for the school.
- Support schools in planning and activating projects.
- Assist the integration of environmental projects into the organisation and operation of the school.

- 4.2 Adie participated in Enviroschools Regional Coordinator's Hui held in Lyttelton 21-23 September. The Hui provided collaborative discussion of the Programme nationally and forward planning for 2012. The choice of venue was to give support to colleagues in Christchurch and some physical support for environmental projects in Lyttelton enviroschools than had been badly affected by the earthquakes and aftershocks.

- 4.3 Other activities include:

- Working with Anne Harvey for Mana whenua ki Mohua and three local schools to get tikanga, monitoring and planting programmes happening at local streams. This also includes logistics of getting plants, kids, staff, adult volunteers, transport, equipment and the weather all lined up!
- Successfully got a funding application with World Wildlife Fund - Keep Golden Bay Beautiful is the organisation that will receive the money but it is for monitoring equipment and spades to support the above programme.

- 4.4 Work currently being undertaken includes:

- An enviro-bus tour of three enviroschools for students, parents and teachers (all costs are covered by funding from "Mother Earth"), being organised with Nelson City Council.
- The Tasman and Nelson Enviroschools team was asked by The Enviroschools Foundation to collate a record of the local enviroschools journey over the last ten years since The Enviroschools Programme went national. The record of this journey also involves school input and the result will be shared with other regions in the celebration being recognised at the New Zealand Association of Environmental Educators conference in Hamilton, January 2012.
- Organising and facilitating "cluster" meetings of school and early childhood teachers.

- 4.6 Support for planning has helped the four new enviroschools to progress their “Me in My Environment” activities so they can create their school vision map for sustainability this term. This map will outline environmental projects to start in 2012.
- 4.7 Hope and Tapawera Area Schools have been introduced to the EnviroSchools Programme. Hope School is content with the environmental activities they already have. Tapawera School would like to become an enviroschool next year.
- 4.8 Adie and Claire met with Nelson Kindergarten Association and NCC to plan 2012 kindergarten cluster meetings focusing on waste education and environmental problem solving using the EnviroSchools tools. They plan to invite one/two kindergartens in the Tasman District to become enviroschools next year.
- 4.9 Congratulations go to Greenwood Kindergarten achieving EnviroSchool’s Silver Level. Adie planned and set up the process with Greenwood and Claire assisted with the reflection process. This achievement will be celebrated on 18 November. Thank you to the Councillors who are coming to support this. Two more enviroschools are being assessed for Bronze level in the next month.
- 4.10 Adie participated in Top of the South sustainability education workshop for early childhood teachers. The potential of early childhood centres leading sustainability thinking and acting in young children and their families is exciting.
- 4.11 Claire and Adie have held an end of year reflection process at some enviroschools. This helps with identifying next steps. Gardening continues to be an important activity to promote resilience in the school community as well as embedding improved waste practices. There is interest in schools becoming more involved in community projects.

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 4 online regional environmental newsletter for all the region’s schools called “Ecobuzz”. This can be viewed on the Council website. We are planning modifications to Ecobuzz for increased effectiveness and to reduce its size for website access.
- 5.3 Waimea Intermediate School Year 8 classes have investigated sustainability issues around freshwater and were involved in stream studies on Reservoir Creek with Mel McColgan, of Waimāori. It was noted that the planting by previous students has helped increase the quality of macrobiotic life found in the stream

- 5.4 A coordinated approach between Council staff and local environmental educators, is being developed to consolidate professional development for teachers around environmental awareness and sustainability for 2012.
- 5.5 Both Adie and Claire have been actively promoting schools and early childhood centres to become involved with the Environment Awards.

6. Environmental Education Events

- 6.1 We are supporting Trevor James talks on water quality by emailing information out to schools and helping sort a venue in Golden Bay.
- 6.2 Claire is helping to organise the Golden Bay gardening competition. She runs it and Parks & Reserves put in \$500 plus \$500 from the Golden Bay Community Board. The GB Garden Shop also heavily sponsor it - judging will be on 5 and 6 December.

7. Community Vegetable Gardens

- 7.1 We have organised a three day beginner gardening course in Golden Bay - to run in November. We have received a good response from people wishing to attend the course.
- 7.2 We have been approached by several groups, schools and organisations in Motueka about how Council can support their vegetable gardening initiatives. This discussion is ongoing.

8. Good Wood

- 8.1 At present there are 10 Good Wood firewood merchants in Tasman and Nelson. These are visited and monitored throughout the year. An annual meeting to discuss issues and improvements also is held.
- 8.2 All of the firewood merchants ran out of seasoned wood this winter, although it was encouraging that many people bought their firewood early. This year we will again (with NCC) promote a "buy early" campaign. This means that even if wood is unseasoned; it has a much better chance of drying before winter.
- 8.3 The annual meeting between firewood merchants, Nelson City Council and ourselves is planned for early December.

9. Big Beach Clean Up 2011

- 9.1 The first Tasman Bay Big Beach Clean-up, covering around an astounding 291 kilometres of coast and collecting 10.5 tonne of rubbish, was jointly organised by the DOC, TDC, NCC and NELMAC in November last year.

- 9.2 Panning is on track for a repeat effort this year, on Saturday, 19 November. Collection points are situated at the DOC yard in Motueka, Jubilee Park carpark in Richmond, and at Tahunanui Park.
- 9.3 I can provide an update at the meeting on how the event went, if Councillors are interested

10. Second Hand Sunday

- 10.1 "Secondhand Sunday" was run successfully as a pilot in Golden Bay in partnership with Tasman District Council Engineering and Waste Education Services last year.
- 10.2 "Secondhand Sunday" is happening again in Golden Bay on 13 November with support from the Engineering department.
- 10.3 I can provide information at the meeting on how the event went, if required.

11. TDC Energy Assessment

- 11.1 Using the data available David Francis, the Sustainable Business Advisor, has completed his first report, for the Tasman District Council Main Richmond office. This information (including recommendations) is being presented to Tasman District Council Managers as each site is completed.
- 11.2 So far the Richmond Main Office block has been assessed. Jim Frater has received a briefing and copy of the report. Also assessed at the time of writing are the Motueka Library and several buildings in Motueka.

12. Waste Education

- 12.1 The Environmental Education developed a proposal for consideration by Council's Engineering Services Department to deliver waste education services in schools. The benefits of the proposal include schools only having to with one organisation, rather than a contractor for waste education activities and Council's Environmental Education Team for other education programmes.
- 12.2 The proposal that the EE team undertakes waste education work in schools in 2012 has been agreed to, and now we have to work through the work programme for next year. Funding comes from the Waste Minimisation Fund.

13. Focus until next E & P meeting

13.1 The focus on the coming months for the Environmental Education Team will be:

- Tasman Nelson Environment Awards Review,
- Enviroschools,
- Big Beach Clean Up debrief,
- Community gardening,
- the Environmental Education Strategy.

14. Recommendation

That the report be received.

15. DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environmental Education Report REP11-11-07



Rob Francis
Environmental Education Officer