

Report No:	REP12-06-06
File No:	E390
Date:	18 June 2012
<b>Information Only -no decision required</b>	

## REPORT SUMMARY

**Report to:** Environment & Planning Committee  
**Meeting Date:** Thursday, 28 June 2012  
**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 the current status of work being undertaken.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

### DRAFT RESOLUTION

**THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environmental Education Report, Report REP12-06-06.**

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

- 1.1 The aim of the Environmental Education Team is to provide effective and timely environmental education and support to Council, to Council staff, to schools, and in the Community.
- 1.2 The Environmental Education team is available to provide best practice advice to other Council staff and the community about the best ways of explaining issues and working with the community.

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

- 2.1 The Tasman Nelson Environment Awards have been run as a joint activity between Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council since 2009.
- 2.2 The review of the Environment Awards is nearing completion. Tasks undertaken include:
- SWAT analysis by staff
  - Focus group of Councillors, Council staff and community people
  - In depth interviews with several Councillors and others
  - Review of other Awards programmes around New Zealand
  - Review of literature around positive behaviour change
  - Online questionnaire on Council websites
  - Information from Ecofest and the Chamber of Commerce.
- 2.3 A draft Review Report will be shared with Council Managers, Council stakeholders, and then the respective Councils.

### **3. Ecofest Golden Bay**

- 3.1 A mini-Ecofest Expo was held in Takaka on Saturday, 12 May. This was a small, Golden Bay targeted event that was planned to be self-supporting. The “by-line” for this event was “Sustaining our Community”.

- 3.2 The event was successful and gained good “buy-in” from the Golden Bay community. Events connected to Ecofest Golden Bay, included:
- Seminars on sustainable farming; building community resilience; natural soil practices; eco-business; Renewable energy; saving money on power bills; Golden Bay disaster recovery; Eco-building
  - Expo of eco products and services
  - Day long garden and composting demonstrations
  - Children’s “up cycling” competition, showcasing students use of recycled material in practical and wonderful ways
  - Schools environmental displays
  - Council stand covering biosecurity, biodiversity, riparian planting, and waste minimisation
  - Other events held at other times included a popular eco-home tour, alternative energy displays, and a teddy bear eco-picnic!
- 3.3 Council people “delivering” at Ecofest included: Councillor Martine Bouillir , Community Board members Carolyn McClellan, Karen Brookes and Mik Symmons; Adrian Humphries (Recovery); Andrew Burton (seminars x 2); Debbie de Geus and the Civil Defence team; Jeremy Butler (seminar); Mike Tasman-Jones and Paul McConachie (bike skills and outdoor activities); as well as our team, Claire Webster and Rob Francis. Also working were David Francis (Sustainable Business Advisor), Jo Riley (Ecofest Project Manager) and Karen Lee of Nelson City (waste minimisation questionnaire). Thank you to all who contributed.
- 3.4 The event provided for excellent Council engagement with the crowd of around 400 people plus. Given that this was the first mini-ecofest event, we felt it went well and gave us a “working model” that could be repeated in the future. The small event is “low cost and doable”, delivering a small cash surplus to the main Ecofest event in August. Costs (apart from staff time) were covered by gold coin entry, stand holders fee and sponsorship (thank you Nelson Building Society).
- 3.5 Planning is well underway for the main Ecofest Expo, to be staged in August. The theme is about active transport, “getting there is half the fun”.
- 3.6 We will again share two stands with Nelson City Council with themes of Transport (particularly highlighting the N-Bus and Bike Trail) and Freshwater (preventing pollution and ways that people can engage with Council). Tasman staff include people from the Engineering, Environment and Planning, Community Services and Strategic departments.

#### **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 Environmental Education team is helping to organise a Top of the South (Marlborough District Council, Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council) Regional planning workshop for a hui to be held at Lake Rotoiti for teacher professional development around environmental education and community partnerships.
- 4.3 A Term 2 Enviroschools Early Years evening cluster meeting was held in Richmond. The purpose of the meeting was to support recycling and waste reduction.
- 4.4 We have been working with Ngatimoti Envirogroup to apply for funding to enhance Ngatimoti School stream which suffered during December's storms. Through this opportunity, we have appreciated working with various Council officers in engineering around road reserves, culverts and stream protection.
- 4.5 Golden Bay Kindergarten has achieved an Enviroschools Bronze Award. Thank you to Lindsay McKenzie for supporting the presentation of the award to the kindy children, staff and parents.
- 4.6 Other work undertaken has included:
- Working with Room 2 at Takaka Primary to adopt Rototai Reserve (in association with Parks & Reserves). Kids asked the Community Board for permission.
  - Supporting Central Takaka School with some resources for worm farming, looking after pets and work on the Takaka Oxbow.

## **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 been meeting with the District Health Board to look at how to bring Kids Edible Gardens programme into Tasman Schools without District Health Board funding. An Edible Gardening workshop is being planned for Term 3 with Motueka/Moutere teachers and community gardeners to assess school needs in this area.
- 5.3 Other work has included:
- A Second Sustainability Support and Share network meeting for Moutere and Motueka teachers.

- St Paul's Richmond unfortunately did not receive funding from Kids Restore NZ but continued with plans and planted 500 or more trees on June 10 with great community support to start their native biodiversity corridor. Watch for an article for Newline on this.
- Planning a regional collaborative Top of the South Environmental Educators (TOTSEE) workshop for Term 3 featuring teacher professional development around edible gardens for Richmond schools.
- Working with the District Health Board to bring "Kitchen in a Box" to Motueka - Moutere, Golden Bay and Richmond schools to support their gardening programmes.
- Assisted Waimāori and Tasman School at Tasman Valley stream with stream study.
- Promoting information to/from schools to Parks and Reserves relating to Arbor Day planting opportunities.

#### 5.4 Tamariki Wai (water programme for children)

- Writing new field visit worksheets.
- Field trip to Mangarakau with other environmental educators.

### **6. Community Vegetable Gardens**

- 6.1 We are organising a number of gardening and composting programmes across Tasman over the late winter and spring period. This is funded by money received from the District Health Board and waste minimisation funding.

### **7. Good Wood**

- 7.1 The Good Wood scheme is about improving air quality, particularly in Richmond. At present there are eight Good Wood firewood merchants in Tasman and Nelson.
- 7.2 All firewood merchants have reported good firewood sales so far this year. There is a definite trend for people in Tasman and Nelson to buy their firewood earlier. This means that firewood burned in winter is more likely to be seasoned (dry) and cause less air pollution. We will be contributing an article to Newline encouraging people that are running low to buy more wood now before too much wet weather, as good stocks of seasoned of firewood are available.
- 7.3 We visited all the firewood merchants over the last month to monitor their performance in regards to our Agreement. The site visits are important in allowing the firewood merchants an opportunity to share their selling "season" and to air any issues.

- 7.4 The Good Wood merchants are keen that both Councils support their “good practice” by requiring other merchants and road-side sellers to maintain the same high standards in terms of product and customer service.

## **8. Waste Education in Schools**

- 8.1 The team is now focusing on waste education in Tasman schools. Work over the last period has included:

- Continuing work with a Waimea Intermediate Wastebusters’ student group to develop an interactive tour of the Resource Recovery Centre. We had great support from Smart Environmental for the preparatory tour.
- Undertaking for Kindergarten worm presentations and the resource material we have is working well with providing advice on the health of worm farms and composting.
- We are running a “Getting to know about waste” session with a waste audit at Salisbury School.
- We are working with Nelson City Council on a Waste Minimisation gap analysis behaviour change review.
- We are meeting with school caretakers to assess needs for supportive networking session.
- We prepare a Quarterly Waste Minimisation Report to the Engineering Department.

## **9. Environmental Events**

- 9.1 The team has been supporting and promoting a number of events celebrating Matariki.
- 9.2 The first rising of the Matariki stars occurs just prior to sunrise in late May or early June each year and symbolises the coming of the Māori New Year. This year Matariki is on the 21 June 2012.
- 9.3 Matariki traditionally was a time to celebrate and to prepare the ground for the coming year. It was also a time to instruct young people in the ways of the land and the forest through stories, games and music to ensure traditions were passed on.
- 9.4 Matariki was, and still is, a time to foster unity and the importance of whānau (family). It is being increasingly celebrated all over the country and is seen as an important time to celebrate the earth, and show respect for the land and water.

## 10. Focus until next Environment & Planning Meeting

10.1 Over the next six weeks, staff will be focusing on:

- Tasman Nelson Environment Awards Review.
- The Environmental Education Strategy.
- Enviroschools.
- Ecofest Expo.
- Community gardening programmes.
- Planning and Budget.
- Updating EE pages on the Council website.

## 11. Recommendation

That the report Environment Education Report REP12-06-06 be received.

## 12. DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environmental Education Report, Report REP12-06-06.



Rob Francis  
**Environmental Education Officer**