

Report No:	REP 12-08-07
File No:	E390
Date:	27 July 2012
Information Only – no decision required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Environment & Planning Committee
Meeting Date: Thursday, 9 August 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

That the report be received.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environmental Education Report, Report REP12-08-07

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Subject: **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION REPORT**

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.

2. Tasman Nelson Environment Awards Review

2.1 The Awards Review has been completed and will be presented today as a separate report.

3. Ecofest

3.1 Ecofest is nearly upon us with Eco-Challenge events from Saturday 4 August to Monday 13 August and the main Ecofest Expo at the Trafalgar Centre Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 August.

3.2 The theme this year is “Getting there is half the fun”, showcasing lots of sustainable transport activities, and options that people can try out!

3.3 I will give a verbal update at the Committee meeting.

4. Enviroschools

4.1 Programme planning is being finalised for the Top of the South (Marlborough District, Nelson City and Tasman District councils) Regional Enviroschools Hui. This is the first event of its kind for the region.

4.2 It will be held at Lake Rotoiti for teachers and their professional development around environmental education and community partnerships. Heidi Mardon and Jan Cox from the National Enviroschools Foundation will be presenting workshops along with a number of others, including members of our Environmental Education team.

4.3 A number of meetings with groups of teachers in the Enviroschools Early Years (ESEY) programmes will take place during Term 3. The purpose of these meetings is to teach the teachers practical activities and programmes that they can take back to their kindergartens to run with children using the Enviroschools' principles and practices. This will culminate with a combined meeting with Nelson kindergartens, to progress planning and environmental action by the end of August. Early childhood centres in Tasman have been keen to learn and adopt the Enviroschools' programme.

4.4 Other highlights have included:

- A workshop with teachers at Motueka High School to promote using the Enviroschools process incorporating Māori perspectives.
- Supporting an early childhood survey of parents around sustainable behaviour.
- Takaka Primary School adopting the Rototai Reserve to care for.
- Greenwood kindergarten reflecting on its Enviroschools journey and looking toward achieving a Gold Enviroschool status.

5. Schools

5.1 The term 3 issue of "Ecobuzz" has been produced for all schools and early childhood centres in the region. This is a great resource for teachers detailing mainly local environmental projects, and featuring practical activities. Ecobuzz has undergone a "style and format" upgrade.

5.2 A "growth" area of interest has been developing around gardening in schools. A workshop was held at the community garden in Motueka for teachers and parents, and another is planned for Richmond. The team is actively promoting the adoption of a programme called "Kid's Edible Garden" in Tasman schools.

5.3 The "Tamariki Wai" programme in Golden Bay has now engaged a number of classes across most schools in streamcare.

6. Waste Education in Schools

6.1 The team is also focusing on waste education in Tasman schools. Highlights over the period include:

- Continuing work with Waimea Intermediate Wastebusters' student group to develop an interactive tour of the Richmond Resource Recovery Centre.
- Preparing for school caretaker workshops around the district.
- Developing resources for worm farm and composting demonstrations.

6.2 The EE team reports each school term to David Stephenson (Utilities Asset Engineer) on these activities.

7. Community Gardening

- 7.1 There has been a growing interest in the wider community around community gardening, composting and home gardening. There have been several “good news” stories about the Motueka garden in the media lately.
- 7.2 There are now community gardens in Golden Bay, Motueka and Brightwater. These provide a “hub” for learning, showcasing good practice, social interaction and networking.
- 7.3 Lately several people in Richmond have approached us asking whether it may be possible to assist setting a community garden in Richmond. At present we have limited resources to assist. However we will work with Parks and Reserves and other parts of Council, as well as other interested parties in the community, to find out what the community wants, and how it may be feasible to support gardening in Richmond.

8. Environmental Events

- 8.1 Over the last period the Environmental Education team has supported and promoted:
- Matariki events in the community.
 - Te Wiki o te Reo Māori at Council and in the community.
- 8.2 Planning is underway to facilitate or support:
- Conservation Week programme in Golden Bay.
 - Welcome to the Godwits in Motueka.
 - Big Beach Clean Up across Tasman Bay (Te Tai Aorere) - this is the third time this has been run and is again in partnership with the Department of Conservation, Nelson City Council and Nelmac. The date for the Big Beach Clean Up is Saturday, 10 November 2012.

9. Focus until the next Environment & Planning Meeting

- 9.1 Over the next period the team will be working on:
- Ecofest.
 - EnviroSchools (the third term is always very busy with schools).
 - Completing the Environmental Education Strategy.
 - Delivering on the Environment Awards Review.
 - Organising several environmental events.

10. Recommendation

- 10.1 That the report Environmental Education Report REP12-08-07 be received.

11. Draft Resolution

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environmental Education Report, Report REP12-08-07



Rob Francis
Environmental Education Officer