

Report No:	REP12-09-02
File No:	E390
Date:	11 September 2012
Information Only - no decision required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Environment & Planning Committee
Meeting Date: Thursday, 20 September 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 REP12-09-02.

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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.

2. Ecofest

2.1 Ecofest 2012 is now behind 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.

2.2 The theme this year was “Getting there is half the fun”, showcasing lots of sustainable transport activities, and options that people could try out! A highlight of the pre-Expo events was the celebrity challenge, featuring a “race” between Sundial Square in Richmond and the 1903 Square in Nelson. This event gained good profile through the Nelson Mail and Classic Hits radio. Thank you to Mayor Kempthorne for supporting the challenge (for the record the Mayor was second on an electric bike).

2.3 We were pleased with the turnout of over 5000 people taking part in the Expo and other Ecofest events. The first day of the Expo was fine and many people took the opportunity to take part in outside activities and transport options. The second day was wet which brought everyone inside and it was really busy.

2.4 Once again Council activities were well featured, especially:

- Way2Go
- Get Moving
- Biosecurity and pest management
- Civil Defence
- Transport, including the Great Taste Trail, the NBus, other biking and walking tracks
- Two combined Nelson City and Tasman District stands focusing on transport and stormwater/clean rivers.

- 2.5 Ecofest continues to provide both Councils with positive community engagement, while supporting families to live more sustainably. We will be “reusing” an amount of Ecofest display material throughout Tasman, over several months.

3. EnviroSchools

3.1 The first Top of the South (Marlborough District, Nelson City and Tasman District Councils) Regional EnviroSchools Hui was held at Lake Rotoiti on 31 August and 1 September.

3.2 The Hui, designed for teacher development, achieved the goal of inspiring teachers to collaborate more with their community to enhance the wider local environment. Feedback has been very positive and a full report will be available soon. This is a good moment in the evolution of enviroschools in the region. Main points include:

- Thirty-five teachers attending, eleven from Tasman.
- Heidi Mardon, the EnviroSchools National Director, and two secondary students were inspirational speakers. One student went on a Sir Peter Blake expedition to the Kermadecs and the other is running her own conservation business in the Marlborough Sounds.
- The Hui was mostly funded by the company “Mother Earth”, with remaining costs shared among the three councils.
- A visit by the Mayor and Mrs Kempthorne was really appreciated by all.

3.3 Other highlights over the period have included:

- Another workshop with teachers at Motueka High School to promote using the EnviroSchools process incorporating Māori perspectives.
- Takaka Primary School and Motupipi School starting to care for local streams.
- Pinegrove Kindergarten reflecting on its EnviroSchools journey and achieving a Silver level EnviroSchool status.
- An Early Years EnviroSchools cluster meeting helping them progress on their vision mapping and focus on sustainability

4. Schools

4.1 A successful Edible Gardening workshop was held in Motueka with 12 local teachers and some community gardeners. This workshop has encouraged more collaboration and sharing resources between schools, early childhood centres, and community gardens.

- 4.2 A well attended Top of the South Environmental Educators (TOTSEE) gardening workshop for early childhood teachers was held at Salisbury School. Feedback was very good, and encourages continuing the professional development support for teachers in a partnership with other environmental educators in the region.
- 4.3 The “Tamariki Wai” programme in Golden Bay has gained good support from Keep Golden Bay Beautiful.

5. Waste Education in Schools

- 5.1 The team is also focusing on waste education in Tasman schools. Highlights over the period include:
- Organised and held school Caretaker workshops in Motueka and Richmond. These are good opportunities to support Caretakers best practice as regards to waste minimisation, and in sharing new ideas tried at different schools.
 - In collaboration with Smart Environmental, we have assisted the Waimea Intermediate Wastebusters student group plan and organised a tour of the Richmond Resource Recovery Centre. This has involved site visits, and the compiling of photos, video clips and commentary. This project is nearing completion.
- 5.2 The Environmental Education team reports each school term to David Stephenson (Utilities Asset Engineer) on these activities. David has extended the agreement for the team to deliver waste education in Tasman Schools during 2013.

6. Community Gardening

- 6.1 There has been a growing interest in the wider community around community gardening, composting and home gardening.
- 6.2 Lately several people in Richmond have approached us asking whether it may be possible to assist setting a community garden in Richmond.
- 6.3 We have organised for a Motueka gardener /tutor to talk to a Wakefield group about composting and home gardening. Following this, will be an informal meeting of some interested parties to discuss next steps, including provision of some gardening/composting workshops. A public meeting is likely to follow soon after.
- 6.4 The team will continue to support community garden initiatives across Tasman.

7. Environmental Events

- 7.1 Planning is underway to facilitate and support:

- 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.
- Keep New Zealand Beautiful clean up week in Golden Bay.
- The Golden Bay Gardening competition and Winning Gardens tour.

8. Focus until the next Environment & Planning Meeting

8.1 Over the next period the team will be working on:

- Enviroschools and other schools (the end of the third term and early term four is always very busy with schools).
- Promoting planning for 2013 sessions on themes with environmental actions in schools.
- Completing the Environmental Education Strategy.
- Developing an Enviroschools strategy that supports the Environmental Education Strategy.
- Delivering on the Environment Awards Review, due to be reported back to the Committee in November.
- Organising the Big Beach Clean Up 2012.
- Supporting community gardening and composting programmes across Tasman.
- Working on the Environmental Education pages on the Council website.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That the report Environmental Education Report REP12-09-02 be received.

10. Draft Resolution

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environmental Education Report, Report REP12-09-02.



Rob Francis
Environmental Education Officer