

Report No:	REP11-10-05
File No:	E390
Date:	27 September 2011
<b>Information Only -no decision required</b>	

## REPORT SUMMARY

**Report to:** Environment & Planning Committee  
**Meeting Date:** 6 October 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 REP11-10-05.**



Rob Francis  
Environmental Education Officer

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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 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 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 8 August and closed on 23 September. The deadline was extended by an extra week to allow more time for people to complete their entries.
- 2.3 At the time of writing entries were still coming in, and a total of around 60 seems likely. While this is down from last year (81) it is still a good result, and entries are shared across Tasman and Nelson. All categories have entries.
- 2.4 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 Judging is underway throughout October with nine judging panels made up of Nelson City and Tasman District Councillors, staff from both councils, and sponsors representatives. Entries that make it on the short list are visited by the appropriate judging panel.
- 2.6 The Awards culminates in a prize-giving event, to be held at the Theatre Royal on the afternoon of Thursday November 17. Guest Speaker for the event is Gillian Wratt, CEO of the Cawthron Institute.

### **3. Ecofest**

- 3.1 We are pleased to report on the success of Ecofest 2011, with fantastic weather, and we achieved crowds of around 5,000 for the weekend. Although these numbers were slightly down on last year we received good feedback on how committed and serious the public were, with many standholders commenting on the “eco-savvy” audience and the fact that for many it was their best Ecofest yet for firm business leads.
- 3.2 This year’s Eco-Challenge Pre-Expo programme of events Ecofest Expo was well received across the region and the Most Prepared Family challenge was an additional drawcard at the Expo. In addition, our “futureproof your family” theme offered considerable profile for our local Civil Defence, and was well received. In Golden Bay, seven events were organised to provide learning opportunities for Golden Bay people, who were unlikely to make the trip to the Expo. The “How To” demonstrations at the Expo and elsewhere, were well attended, particularly those on DIY and garden-related topics.
- 3.3 From two debriefing meetings, the following strengths were identified:
- The theme/Civil Defence focus
  - Regional focus
  - Brand awareness
  - Eco-savvy audience (even though around 50% were new attendees)
  - Quality of stands
  - Open, easy format/layout
  - Synergy with other meetings of national groups e.g of Environment Centres, NZ Eco-building Advisors
  - National role model
- 3.4 It was disappointing however that due to low bookings we had to cancel the main pre-Expo Business seminar - “Futureproof Your Business - Managing the Unmanageable” - featuring real first-hand experience from Christchurch.
- 3.5 The Tasman District Council stand was well received. Thank you to the Councillors who contributed, the engagement with the public was very worthwhile, and appreciated.

- 3.6 At present, invoices are still being processed, however, we are confident that Ecofest has come under budget and will make a small operating surplus.
- 3.7 With more data from this event, we are now moving to finalise a review of Ecofest 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 We welcomed a recent opportunity to present on the Enviroschools programme in Tasman, to Councillors. If Councillors are available, we would like to take you into schools and early childhood settings where you can see the enviroschool process in action.

4.3 The following schools have been engaged in activities to strengthen their environmental education over the period: Waimea College, Ngatimoti School, Harakeke Preschool, Waverly St Kindergarten, Richmond Montessori, and Salisbury School. A “Reflection” workshop was held at Greenwood Kindergarten for their staff and other teachers from Pinegrove Kindergarten, Harakeke Preschool and Parklands.

4.4 Being organised at the moment are:

- The annual regional scrapbook pages which the Enviroschools Foundation will publish nationally
- With Nelson City Council, an enviro-bus tour of three enviroschools for students, parents and teachers (all costs are covered by funding from “Mother Earth”)
- Cluster meetings, involving a number of schools
- Meetings with staff groups in term four.

4.5 Adie has just come back from attending an Enviroschools Regional Coordinators Hui in Christchurch, which included serious training and sharing of “best practice” from all over NZ.

## **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 During this period Adie has assisted Lower Moutere and Tasman Bay Christian School with water conservation, waste minimisation, gardening and compost learning activity.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 Adie has organised with Smart Environmental, a safe “pilot” educational tour of the Recycling Recovery Centre in Richmond. She visited the opening of the Centre with three Waimea College students who are helping to plan the tours.
- 5.5 Both Adie and Claire have been actively promoting schools and early childhood centres to become involved with The Environment Awards.
- 5.6 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 We recently took part in the Motueka-based event “Welcome to the Godwits”, partnering with Trevor James. This is a very attractive and important event that is raising the environmental awareness of people in the district about the fauna and flora of our coastal sandspits and estuaries.

## **7. Community Vegetable Gardens**

- 7.1 We have recently supported a gardening course in Motueka, as well as a one-off compost workshop. With funding available from the DHB we are planning more garden training in Golden Bay, and Richmond/Hope. As well, in conjunction with Nelson City and Marlborough councils, we are organising a regional gathering of all community gardens to encourage more collaboration and peer support.

## **8. Good Wood**

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 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.

## **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, 19 November. At time of writing over half of the groups involved in last year's effort have recommitted. Collection points will be situated at the DOC yard in Motueka, Jubilee Park carpark in Richmond, and at Tahunanui Park.
- 9.3 Mayor Richard Kempthorne has kindly lent his public support for the event.

## **10. Second Hand Sunday**

- 10.1 "Secondhand Sunday" was run successfully as a pilot in Golden Bay in partnership with TDC Engineering and Waste Education Services last year. We are planning to run another in Golden Bay shortly and also possibly in Motueka. This will be in conjunction with the Engineering department.

## **11. Tasman District Council 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 It is apparent already that some easily implemented measures will reduce energy (and save money). David 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. Waste Education**

- 12.1 The Environmental Education team identified that their current work with schools and in the community, which integrates waste minimisation practices, duplicates and overlaps with outside contracted services (managed by the Engineering Department of Tasman District Council). The team considered it would be more cost effective for Tasman District Council to keep this service in-house. The EE Team put forward that they have the capacity to add the waste focus to its service, if funding was made available.
- 12.2 A paper outlining the "case" was discussed at a meeting of Peter Thomson, Jeff Cuthbertson, Susan Edwards, David Stephenson and Rob Francis on Wednesday, 3 August.

12.3 The proposal that the EE team undertake waste education work in schools in 2012 put forward was agreed in principle and left to David and Rob to work through the details. This is still in process.

### **13. Focus until next E & P meeting**

13.1 Tasman Nelson Environment Awards, Enviroschools, Big Beach Clean Up, Community Gardening

### **14. Recommendation**

That the report be received.

I would also like to record our sadness that the fantastic Mapua Aquarium was recently destroyed due to arson. This facility, and the programmes that environmental educator Richard de Hamel ran, were first-rate and will be particularly missed by our “future adults”.

### **15. Draft Resolution**

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environmental Education Report REP11-10-05



Rob Francis  
**Environmental Education Officer**