

Report No.	20-150
Information Only - No Decision Required	

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this item is to provide members of Council’s Environment Committee with an Environmental Education progress report for the period from 1 July 2020 – 30 October 2020.
- 1.2. For the purpose of this report, the Environmental Educator role is split. 0.5FTE of the role is regional coordination of the Enviroschools Programme, with the remaining 0.5FTE of the role delivering Horizons Environmental Education programmes.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20-150.

3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. There is no financial impact associated with recommendations in this paper.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. This is a public item and therefore Council may deem this sufficient to inform the public.

5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. There is no significant business risk associated with recommendations in this paper.

6. CLIMATE IMPACT STATEMENT

- 6.1. This report is for information only so there is no or minimal climate change impact. However, our environmental education programmes provide support on sustainability issues of which climate change is a part.

7. ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS

Measure	Reporting Period		YTD Actual	Target	%
	1 st	2 nd			
Number of Enviroschools	75		75	50	150
Waiora sessions conducted	15		15	34	44
Community engagements	22		22	33	66

- 7.1. The measure for Waiora sessions conducted includes only sessions run by Mrs Williams. Sessions conducted using Horizons’ kits without Mrs Williams are not included.
- 7.2. The measure for community engagements does not include Waiora sessions. This measure tracks all other events and activities that fall within Environmental Education. If a

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school has multiple classes completing set activities then these are counted as individual sessions.

8. ENVIROSCHOOLS DATA

- 8.1. In addition to the official 75 Enviroschools, there are 10 school/centres on the Friends of Enviroschools list in the region. The Friends list allows schools/centres to try out the programme to see how it fits within their own context before taking the next step to become an official Enviroschool. We also use this list to determine who will be our next Enviroschools when funding becomes available. Periodically this list is revised depending on the commitment shown from the schools/centres.

9. ACTIVITY REPORT – WAIORA

- 9.1. Mrs Williams conducted the following Waiora sessions: six sessions with Dannevirke High School on the Tapuata Stream; one session with Pongaroa School on the Pongaroa River; one session with Linton Camp School on the Kahuterawa Stream; one session with Ballance School on the Manawatū River at Ferry Reserve; five sessions with Ross Intermediate School on the Manawatū River at Ahimate Reserve; and one session with Ohakune Primary School on the Mangawhero Stream.

10. ACTIVITY REPORT – ENVIROSCHOOLS

- 10.1. We would like to thank two district councils who have both increased funding for Enviroschools from this financial year. Manawatū District Council have increased their funding from \$13,000 to \$20,000 per year, and Rangitīkei District Council have increased theirs from \$10,000 to \$15,000. This increase in funding means that across both districts we have places on the programme for 12 new Enviroschools.
- 10.2. Mrs Williams and the Enviroschools regional facilitation team held their annual regional Early Childhood Education (ECE) wānanga on Wednesday 7 October 2020 at Manchester Street School. 57 teachers from 21 Enviroschools from across the region attended this day which focused on 'Māori Perspectives through the Water for Life theme area'. Two kindergartens shared mahi on how they have explored water with their tamariki, and how they have kept the Enviroschools journey going when there are numerous staff changes at the centre. Attendees also had the opportunity to explore the landscape of both the host Enviroschool and a kindergarten. An article about this hui has been submitted to the national Enviroschools team for publication on their website.
- 10.3. On Wednesday 21 October we ran our first primary Enviroschools hui for student enviro-leaders in Manawatū and Rangitīkei at Mt Lees Reserve, Feilding. 60 students and 13 teachers from 10 Enviroschools attended the hui called 'Forgotten Fauna' which focused on some of our lesser known animal groups; native fish, lizards and bats. This was supported by presentations from Wildlife Foxton Trust, Wildbase Recovery and Horizons Biodiversity Officer Neil Gallagher. Manawatū District Council, whose reserve we used to hold the hui, also supported the event by providing a BBQ for attendees. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive including comments enquiring when the next one would be held and presenters asking if we could hold the same hui in other districts such as Horowhenua and Palmerston North.

Financial support to run both of these hui has been provided by the Toimata Foundation, and articles about both of these hui have been submitted to the national Enviroschools team for publication on their website.

- 10.4. Mrs Williams attended the blessing of Palmerston North Girls High School's māra kai food garden on Friday 23 October 2020. This Enviroschool have been working hard over the past few years to revamp and expand their old hort space into a māra kai garden, with the growing of produce being integrated into the food technology curriculum. This collaboration

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between departments has taken some time to come together but is now an example of how you can integrate sustainability across different curriculum areas.

10.5. Congratulations to two Enviroschools who have held holistic reflections. Linton Kindergarten reflected to Silver and Roslyn Kindergarten reflected to Bronze.

10.6. Mrs Williams attended the annual Enviroschools Regional Coordinator Hui in Wellington in 14-16 October 2020.

11. ACTIVITY REPORT – ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

11.1. Mrs Williams organised a day in the Pohangina Valley for Year 12 Agriculture Feilding High School who were investigating the environmental impacts of hill country farming on water quality. Students collected water quality data at two sites on the Pohangina River, and heard from a local farmer who talked about what they are doing to mitigate the effects of farming on both their dairy operation on the flats, and in hill country where they farm beef, sheep and deer. The teachers found this day highly valuable for the students and are really keen to make this day a regular part of their agriculture curriculum.

11.2. Mrs Williams ran a short presentation on water quality to students from Lytton Street School before they ran a self-directed trip to their local river.

11.3. Animal tracking and trapping activities involve students learning about what animal pests are in our landscape, and what traps can be used to humanely dispatch them to protect our native wildlife.

Mrs Williams conducted the following sessions: one session with Hokowhitu School; one session with Tokirima School; two sessions with Kairanga School

11.4. Bushy Park Tarapurui invited Mrs Williams to run wetland themed activities for Conservation Week 2020. Horizons supported this event by sponsoring a bus.

11.5. Mrs Williams organised a day measuring water quality on the Manawatū River for Year 13 Geography students from Dannevirke High School. Students collected data from three sites on the river; Norsewood, Ferry Reserve and Ahimate Reserve, for their NCEA Level 3 assessments.

11.6. Year 2/3 students from Our Lady of Lourdes School, Palmerston North have been doing an inquiry about invertebrates. Mrs Williams helped them to look for invertebrates in the school grounds.

11.7. Mrs Williams conducted a waste audit with Year 9/10 students from Dannevirke High School through their sustainability unit. The school is looking at ways in which the school could reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill; conducting a waste audit is the first step on this journey.

11.8. Mrs Williams met with students from Ruapehu College twice in this reporting period to support them in their long-term water monitoring project on the Makaranui Stream, Ohakune.

11.9. Mrs Williams represented Horizons at Feilding's Rural Day on Friday 9 October 2020. She took along some macroinvertebrates for families to look at, and talked about water quality of our streams and rivers.

11.10. Mrs Williams conducted a mini-Waiora stream study session on the Pohangina River at Tōtara Reserve with students from Waituna West School who were on camp at Highland Home.

11.11. Envirosapes® is a water catchment model which explores non-point source pollution. This class-based resource has a range of activities which help students to identify the types of non-point source or run off pollution, coming from both urban and rural areas. Students can also discuss ways to mitigate the pollution to keep our waterways healthy.

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Mrs Williams conducted the following sessions: four sessions with Dannevirke High School; two sessions with Linton Camp School.

12. The following activities were also undertaken in this reporting period however are not counted as community engagements in the Table under Section 6.

12.1. Mrs Williams supported the Freshwater team at a riparian planting day with Glen Ōroua School in Rongotea.



Regional ECE Hui held on 7 October 2020



Regional ECE hui held on 7 October 2020



First Enviroschools Primary Student Enviro-leader hui at Mt Lees Reserve



First Enviroschools Primary Student Enviro-leader hui at Mt Lees Reserve



Year 12 students from Feilding High School hearing from a farmer about hill country erosion



Year 12 students from Feilding High School taking water samples from the Pohangina River at Pipiriri

13. SIGNIFICANCE

- 13.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Sarah Williams
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR

Chrissie Morrison
MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

ANNEXES

There are no attachments to this report.