

Report No.	19-174
<b>Information Only - No Decision Required</b>	

## 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 2019 – 1 November 2019.
- 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. 19-174.

### 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. ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS

Measure	Reporting Period				YTD Actual	Target	%
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>			
Number of Enviroschools	72				72	48	150
Waiora sessions conducted	4				4	33	15
Community engagements	24				24	32	75

- 6.1. The measure for Waiora sessions conducted includes only sessions run by Mrs Williams. Sessions conducted using Horizons' kits without Mrs Williams are not included.
- 6.2. 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 school has multiple classes completing set activities then these are counted as individual sessions.

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**7. ENVIROSCHOOLS DATA**

- 7.1. In addition to the official 72 Enviroschools, there are 12 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.

**8. ACTIVITY REPORT – WAIORA**

- 8.1. Mrs Williams conducted the following Waiora sessions: four sessions with West End School on the Manawatū River at Ahimate Reserve.

**9. ACTIVITY REPORT – ENVIROSCHOOLS**

- 9.1. Mrs Williams met with all Enviroschools funding partners in July and August. The following funding partners have affirmed their ongoing support of the Enviroschools programme in the Manawatū-Whanganui Region:

- Manawatū District Council: \$13,000.00.
- Tararua District Council: \$4,000.00.
- Whanganui District Council: \$15,000.00.
- Rangitīkei District Council: \$7,000.00.
- Ruapehu District Council: \$7,000.00.
- Palmerston North City Council: \$15,000.00
- Horowhenua District Council: \$8,000.00
- Ruahine Kindergarten Association: in-kind support with 11 Enviroschools.

- 9.2. Six Facilitators are contracted to support the Enviroschools. Three of these Facilitators have renewed contracts for their respective districts. Georgina Morrison has been contracted to facilitate in Palmerston North (schools only) and Tararua District; Rowena Brown has been contracted to facilitate in the Manawatū and Rangitīkei Districts, and in Palmerston North (Early Childhood Centres only); and Ron Fisher has been contracted to facilitate in the Whanganui District. Two of the Facilitators are new this year. Emily Jasmine has been contracted to facilitate in the Ruapehu District and Chris Simons has been contracted to facilitate in the Horowhenua District. The Ruahine Kindergarten Association have also employed a Facilitator to work solely with their services, and has contributory funding from Manawatū and Rangitīkei District Councils. This Facilitator is part of our regional facilitation team.

- 9.3. New Enviroschools: Whanganui Girls College, Fun House Learning Centre, Tui Two's and Three's Learning Centre, Waiopahu College, Manawatū College, Shannon School, Ōhau School, Opiki School, Betty Montford Kindergarten, Tararua Educare, and Country Educare.

- 9.4. New Friends of Enviroschools: Riverdale School, Palmerston North Intermediate Normal School, and the Secret Garden Childcare Centre (Palmerston North).

- 9.5. Mrs Williams has met with all Facilitators to discuss 2019-2020 financial year expectations and their individual plans.

- 9.6. The two new Facilitators have begun the process of being inducted into their role. Mrs Williams has met with the majority of Enviroschools to introduce them to their respective Facilitator and outline their role.

- 9.7. Mrs Williams attended the Enviroschools secondary school hui in Auckland on 7 August. 2019.

- 9.8. Congratulations to five Enviroschools who held a holistic reflection this term. Holistic reflections are an integral part of the Enviroschools journey. They enable each Enviroschool to pause and take stock of how far they have travelled on their Enviroschools

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journey, celebrate their successes with their community and plan next steps. The level of reflection reflects the breadth and depth of the Enviroschools journey. After 12 years as an Enviroschool, Manchester Street School reflected to Green Gold. The students, staff and community are immensely proud of their journey so far. They are working hard to maintain and develop a vibrant and healthy school environment, and know they can continue to effect change for a sustainable community. Orautoha School, Gail's Childcare Centre, Puddleducks Nursery and Preschool, and the Secret Garden Childcare Centre (Feilding) all reflected to Bronze.

- 9.9. Mrs Williams attended a planting event at Tararua College to launch themselves as an Enviroschool.
- 9.10. Mrs Williams assisted in the judging of the whānau group projects at Enviroschool Apiti School's lamb and calf day. Each student in the school is part of a whānau group. These are the organisation framework for ako (teaching and learning) in all curriculum areas throughout the school, while also participating and contributing to the wider environment and community. Each group is responsible for a particular project/s within the school such as purchase and organisation of the library resources and use of the library space and orchard, potting up and keeping seedlings in the growing unit and shade house and planting out natives, and recycling and worm farm.

## 10. ACTIVITY REPORT – OTHER

- 10.1. Mrs Williams assisted students from Waiopahu College to complete a waste audit.
- 10.2. Horizons Biodiversity Officer, Neil Gallagher, Research Associate, Erin Bocker, and Mrs Williams met with students from Hunterville School at a private native bush block in Rangitikei to learn more about the work both Horizons and the QEII Trust do to support landowners. The students also planted some native trees on periphery of the bush.
- 10.3. Subsequent to their Waiora stream study with Mrs Williams in Term 2, Tangimoana School invited Mrs Williams this reporting period to judge student science boards on different freshwater invertebrates found on the river.
- 10.4. Mrs Williams is the liaison for a number of Horizons' community grant recipients. She met with Ōhau School, Ngā Tawa Diocesan College, and Hunterville School to discuss their projects.
- 10.5. Awahou School have been learning more about their local environment and with Tōtara Reserve right on their doorstep, they invited Mrs Williams along to help them explore the reserve further. The senior students walked the Pettifer Loop looking for fungi, and checked animal pest tracking tunnels which Mrs Williams laid out a few days before.
- 10.6. Mrs Williams has been working with Ruapehu College to set up a long term water monitoring project on the Makaranui Stream in Ohakune. The project begins in Term 1 next year and will involve students from Years 9-13 collecting the same data, including samples for laboratory testing, across three sites of the same stream throughout the year.
- 10.7. Enviroscapes® 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.  
  
Mrs Williams conducted the following sessions: One session with Tawhero School; four session with West End School; and two sessions with Hokowhitu Brownies and Pippins.
- 10.8. Mrs Williams supported Natural Resources and Partnerships Manager Dr Jon Roygard in judging the Manawatū Science and Technology Fair 2019. Horizons supported the event with an internship prize for students whose projects were considered highly commendable. Seven students were selected with an internship day, with Horizons staff.

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- 10.9. Six of the seven science fair prize winners attended the Internship Day on Monday 21 October. Mrs Williams together with Staci Boyte, Environmental Scientist and Ian Hurst, Research Associate, organised a day to showcase the science we do and our role in managing freshwater and terrestrial environments. Students went to Tōtara Reserve and looked at the biotic data we collect to measure the state of our rivers. This was led by Research Associate, Amber Garnett, who ran activities on macroinvertebrates and assessing algal cover. Ms Boyte then gave an introduction to our soils programme. In the afternoon, Aaron Madden, Biodiversity Coordinator, and Mrs Williams talked about our role in managing privately owned native bush remnants and wetlands. Students completed some basic native tree identification, looked at pest animal tracks and talked about invasive weeds and their effect on our native bush habitats.
- 10.10. Mrs Williams attended the 50 years of Conservation Week event held at Te Manawa by the local Department of Conservation office. The evening acknowledges work done by different conservation organisations where Mrs Williams had the opportunity to talk to attendees about the work she does in the environmental education and Enviroschools space.
- 10.11. Mrs Williams attended a wetland planting day at a Tokomaru dairy farm. The invitation was extended to Mrs Williams from her counterpart at Environment Southland whose family owned the farm. Students from Opiki School and the young farmers club from Palmerston North Boys' High School helped put the plants in the ground in an area which has been retired from farming.
- 10.12. Mrs Williams joined other educators to run a series of activities at Awahuri Forest - Kitchener Park for local schools. She ran four sessions helping students to look for bugs in the native bush.
- 11. The following activities were also undertaken in this reporting period however are not counted as community engagements in the table under Section 6.**
- 11.1. Mrs Williams provided communications support at a planting day with Kaitieke School.

**12. SIGNIFICANCE**

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



Looking for fungi on the Pettifer Loop with Awahou School



Hunterville School students at a native bush block in the Rangitikei



Horizons Internship Day at Tōtara Reserve



Horizons Internship Day at Tōtara Reserve



Investigating bugs at Awahuri Forest -Kitchener Park



Leaf veined slug at Awahuri Forest - Kitchener Park



Envirosapes® with West End School



Planting with students at a Tokomaru dairy farm

Sarah Williams  
**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR**

Chrissie Morrison  
**MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER**

**ANNEXES**

There are no attachments for this report.