

Report No.	21-68
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 30 October 2020 – 28 May 2021.
- 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. 21-68.

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. The Environmental Education role is one of Horizons’ key community engagement positions, where schools and community groups are connected to programmes such as Enviroschools and Waiora stream studies, along with biodiversity and biosecurity activities.

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	80	80	50	150
Waiora sessions conducted	15	33	48	34	141
Community engagements	22	44	66	33	200

- 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.

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

8. ENVIROSCHOOLS DATA

- 8.1. In addition to the official 80 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: One session with Hiwinui School on Cone Creek at Sixtus Lodge; one session with Awahou School on the Pohangina River at Tōtara Reserve; two sessions with Ōhau School on the Ōhau River at Kimberley Reserve; four session with Clifton School on the Rangitīkei River at Bulls; one session with Longburn School on Cone Creek at Sixtus Lodge; two session with One School Global on the Kahuterawa Stream at the Kahuterawa Reserve; four sessions with Havelock North School on the Pohangina River at Tōtara Reserve; two sessions with Newbury School on the Pohangina River at Tōtara Reserve; four sessions with Pahiatua School on an un-named creek which runs next to the school; eight sessions with Ruahine School comparing Coppermine Creek and the Manawatū River at Ferry Reserve; one session for Central King Country REAP (school holiday programme) on the Whanganui River; and one session with Weber School on an un-named creek next to the school.

10. ACTIVITY REPORT – ENVIROSCHOOLS

- 10.1. Mrs Williams interviewed and recruited for a new Ruapehu Enviroschools Community Facilitator, Alistair Kydd who started the role in Term 2.
- 10.2. Mrs Williams and the lead Enviroschools teacher from Monrad Intermediate School gave a presentation on Enviroschools to Councillors at Palmerston North City Council's Environmental Sustainability Committee.
- 10.3. Mrs Williams and the Enviroschools regional facilitation team held a second regional Early Childhood Education (ECE) hui on Tuesday 4 May 2021 at Te Hotu Manawa O Rangitāne O Manawatū Marae. 18 teachers from 14 Enviroschools from across the region attended this day which focused on Zero Waste. After a pōwhiri, Para Kore presented on waste with a Māori Perspective before six centres talked about their own waste journeys. Afternoon sessions focussed on 'taking action' so teachers had the opportunity to, for example, problem solve with worm farms and think about repurposing items into something new such as making cloth bags from material remnants.
- 10.4. Following on the back of the success of our first primary Enviroschools hui on Forgotten Fauna (native bats, fish and lizards), for student enviro-leaders in Manawatū and Rangitīkei in October. The hui was ran again for primary Enviroschools in Palmerston North, Horowhenua and Tararua. This was held on Thursday 8 April at Horseshoe Bend Reserve, Tokomaru. This time 57 students from nine Enviroschools attended and were supported by presentations from Wildlife Foxton Trust, Wildbase Recovery and Horizons Biodiversity Officer Ruth Fleeson who has a passion for bats. In the afternoon, students worked in groups to plan how they would share this knowledge with their school communities and what they could do to take action to help preserve these animal groups in their local area.

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- 10.5. Late last school year, Kimbolton School held a reflection review to reaffirm that they were still a Green Gold Enviroschool. This event also celebrated long term Principal Linda Campbell's retirement. The school have been an Enviroschool for over 15 years with Linda driving their sustainability journey at the beginning. Her leadership has been integral to the success of the programme in the school where all staff and students are engaged in learning and action on a range of sustainability themes. Mrs Williams captured some of her wisdom when she interviewed Linda for an article for the national Enviroschools website. This can be found on <https://enviroschools.org.nz/creating-change/stories/wise-words-from-a-leader-of-action-learning/>
- 10.6. Congratulations to these Enviroschools who have also held holistic reflections: Parkland Kindergarten reflected to Silver. West End Kindergarten, Hokowhitu Kindergarten, Aberfeldy School and Brunswick School all reflected to Bronze.
- 10.7. Additional funding may be available in Horowhenua for more Enviroschools to join the programme so Mrs Williams has been holding all staff meetings with a number of schools in the district to gauge their interest.
- 10.8. Mrs Williams co-facilitated a workshop for Palmerston North schools planning to hold holistic reflection in this school year. The workshop was run to assist schools in understanding the process and what a reflection looks like. Four schools attended this hui.
- 10.9. Mrs Williams attended the annual Enviroschools Regional Coordinator Hui in Wellington in 20-22 March 2021 and will be attending Enviroschools kaupapa training at Te Mauri Tau, Raglan on 16 – 18 June 2021.
- 10.10. Mrs Williams attended a 1.5 day workshop on Te Tiriti o Waitangi delivered by The Treaty People which was organised by the National Enviroschools Team.

11. ACTIVITY REPORT – ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- 11.1. Mrs Williams taught driftwood ecology to students from Halcombe School who were on camp in Foxton. Students enjoyed looking for what lived in and around the driftwood such as sand scarab beetle larvae and seashore earwigs.
- 11.2. 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 Hiwinui School; two sessions with What Box? Gifted and Talented; two sessions with Longburn School.
- 11.3. Awahou School visit Tōtara Reserve most Fridays where they do 'bush' school. Together with Horizons Biodiversity Officer Neil Gallagher, Mrs Williams organised for the whole school to learn about the biocontrol beetle for Tradescantia which entailed helping to collect beetles from their nursery site near Massey University and release them into a site at the reserve. The school is regularly visiting the site to see how the beetles are doing as they munch their way through this invasive weed.
- 11.4. Seaweek ran from 6 - 14 March 2021. Mrs Williams and Horizons Freshwater advisor Gracen Coe along with Department of Conservation, Whanganui Regional Museum, and Sarjeant Art Gallery provided a range of beach and stream related activities at Kai Iwi Beach. Mrs Williams ran an activity looking for macroinvertebrates at Mowhanau Stream and Ms Coe ran an activity on migratory fish where approximately 160 students attended over two days. HRC sponsored bus travel for two of the schools which attended.
- 11.5. Outside of Seaweek, Mrs Williams supported the Whanganui Regional Museum and Sarjeant Art Gallery to run beach and stream themed activities for all of Westmere School.
- 11.6. Dannevirke South School have been monitoring the stream health of the Tapuata Stream, part of the Manawatū River catchment, for the past year. In Term 1 they saw some eels in

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the stream so asked Mrs Williams if someone could help them identify what species they were and also if there were any other native fish in the stream. Mrs Williams talked to the students about native and introduced fish and Horizons Fish Passage Officer Tui Wright assisted by setting nets in the stream. The students were excited to catch upland and common bullies and both long and short fin eels. They are now discussing how they can take action to ensure they can preserve the habitat of these animals.

- 11.7. Mrs Williams joined other educators to run a series of activities at Awahuri Forest - Kitchener Park for local schools. She ran eight sessions over two days helping students to look for bugs in the native bush.
- 11.8. Mrs Williams met with students from Ruapehu College three times in this reporting period to support them in their long-term water monitoring project on the Makaranui Stream, Ohakune. One of these occasions was to assist Horizons Freshwater Advisors Ben Fraser and Gracen Coe to run a riparian planting day at one of the recording sites which had received a freshwater grant for fencing and planting. Over two days, two year 10 classes planted a variety of native plants and then collected water quality data for one of their assessments.
- 11.9. Mrs Williams represented Horizons at Rural Games on Saturday 13 March 2021 and Central Districts Field Days on Thursday 18 March 2021.
- 11.10. Green Gold EnviroSchool Manchester Street School undertake many sustainability projects with the school grounds but were keen to commence a project within their local community. With a blessing from Ngati Kauwhata, Mrs Williams has supported the school by helping a small group of students called the 'Waiora Group' to begin regular monitoring of three sites on the Mangakino (Makino) Stream as it flows through Feilding. Prior to this, Mrs Williams provide a professional development session for teachers from the school on water quality and using the monitoring equipment. The students are collecting data twice a term and excitedly on one data collection day they managed to catch a good sized adult Inanga.
- 11.11. Mrs Williams helped students from Mt Biggs School to explore invertebrates and their ecosystem while they were on camp at Camp Rangiwoods, Tōtara Reserve.
- 11.12. Whanganui Intermediate School have committed to being kaitiaki at Kai iwi Beach. They are engaged in the Sustainable Coastlines' Litter Intelligence programme and Mrs Williams together with other Whanganui environmental educators are helping their students explore the coastal landscape in addition to learning about marine litter and its effects on the ocean ecosystem. So far one school syndicate has completed activities with the rest of the school completing their days each term for the remainder of the school year.
- 11.13. 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: two sessions with Ōhau School; and four session at Manchester Street School.

12. The following schools borrowed environmental education equipment in this reporting period.

- 12.1. Waiora Stream Study kit: three clarity tubes borrowed by Awatapu College; one kit borrowed by Kaitieke School; two kits borrowed by Fielding Intermediate School; two kits borrowed by Dannevirke High School; six kits borrowed by Partnership through Collaboration (PTC), and two kits borrowed by Longburn Adventist School.
- 12.2. Biodiversity: two invertebrate kits borrowed by Levin Intermediate School.



Tradescantia beetle translocation with Awahou School



Tradescantia beetle translocation with Awahou School



Native fish monitoring with Dannevirke South School



Native fish monitoring with Dannevirke South School



Riparian planting at the Makaranui Stream with Ruapehu College



Ruapehu College students collecting water quality data after riparian planting

13. END OF FINANCIAL YEAR SUMMARY

- 13.1. There are still a number of outstanding Waiora sessions, community engagement events and Enviroschools workshops which are scheduled until the end of the financial year, occurring after this report is due. Some of these are however weather dependent and so may be re-scheduled into the new financial year. These include 15 community engagements and five Waiora sessions. They are currently included in the 2020-2021 targets.
- 13.2. In 2020-2021, Mrs Williams has worked with 33 different schools delivering environmental education to over 2200 students (excluding Enviroschools).

14. SIGNIFICANCE

- 14.1. 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.