

# Enviroschools- Thames-Coromandel District Council

## Six Monthly Report on the Delivery of the Enviroschools Programme in Thames-Coromandel District for the first six months the 2023/2024 Financial Year

This report provides the Thames Coromandel District Council with an update on the delivery of the Enviroschools Programme for the period from 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023.

The Enviroschools Programme supports and empowers children and young people to plan, design and implement sustainability actions that are important to them and their communities. It provides relevant life contexts for learners to be connected with their environment and their communities, and how to be actively involved in social, cultural, economic and environmental change. The programme is guided by Māori perspectives and respect for the diversity of people and cultures is actively celebrated.

Where the programme is embedded, it is resilient in the face of challenges. An Enviroschools journey for schools is not based on linear growth as it can include highs and lows, and sometimes appears to regress followed then by reengagement. Evidence has shown that when the programme is developed as 'Whole School Approach' then these periods of hiatus can bring stronger engagement across the school and community over the long term.

### Enviroschools Programme in Thames-Coromandel



Facilitator: **Jo Buchan**

Students reached: **3016**

**11** Number of Enviroschools

Percentage of schools that are Enviroschools: **50%**

Year levels reached through Enviroschools: **1-13**

### Value of Enviroschools for Thames-Coromandel District

The annual contribution of \$19,500 provided by the Thames-Coromandel District Council supports the facilitation of the Programme to achieve a number of outcomes for the district, schools and young people to directly align with the community outcomes for the district, including:

- Cultural, Social and Economic Sustainability
- Waste Reduction & Zero Waste
- Biodiversity & Biosecurity Action
- Water health & conservation
- Kai/Food production & distribution
- Energy conservation & action
- Ecological Building action



### Regional Update

- 9 Enviroschools awarded WRC Enviroschools grant funding in October towards school projects that align with the Enviroschools guiding principles.
- We farewelled Cami Carty-Melis from the facilitation team and welcomed Sara Taylor who will be facilitating in Matamata-Piako, South Waikato, Waipa and Waitomo districts
- [Kauri Protection education programme](#) was launched to the Waikato Enviroschools network featuring an immersive 360-degree simulated world illuminating the cultural, spiritual and ecological significance of our kauri trees and forests.
- The first Ecological Building professional development event for teachers and Building challenge for students was introduced to celebrate World Outdoor Classroom Day in November
- Facilitators joined the WRC Science team's training to build their skills and knowledge of water testing techniques.

### Stories from Thames-Coromandel Enviroschools



#### Opoutere School Dune Planting day

Following the severe weather events of last summer Opoutere School organised a whole school planting day together with Whangamata Kindergarten and Whangamata Area school. DOC arranged 1000 plants which were blessed by local hapu in August.



#### Kauri Protection

Enviroschools and Kauri Protection teams at WRC have delivered the new Kauri Protection Education experience to Whenuakite School, Coromandel Area School and Mercury Bay Area School.

The students learnt about Kauri trees and how to protect them with a short presentation followed by rotating around 4 activities. Activities included the VR headsets with bespoke Kauri education experience, the Kauri model (built by Weta Workshop) and measuring the giants on the playground, a mix & match card game exploring kauri protection behaviours, and a tree naming worksheet. Once all students had done all 4 activities, the class came back together for a quiz with prizes.

