

Enviroschools- Thames-Coromandel District Council

January 2025: Quarterly Report on the Delivery of the Enviroschools Programme in Thames-Coromandel District for 2024/2025 Financial Year

This report provides the Thames Coromandel District Council with an update on the delivery of the Enviroschools Programme for the period from 30 October 2024 to 31 December 2024.

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

Jo Buchan

Facilitator: Rachael Cheeseman

Students reached: 3049

14 Number of Enviroschools

Percentage of schools that are Enviroschools: 64%

Year levels reached through Enviroschools: 1-13



Value of Enviroschools for Thames-Coromandel District

The annual contribution of \$44,000 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

The 2024/2025 funding is also enabling the exploration of growth in Thames-Coromandel. Mercury Bay (Middle School Cohort), Puriri School and Tapu School have now joined the Enviroschools network.

WRC provides co-funding for facilitation, regional leadership and runs two Enviroschools grant rounds for school projects that align with the Enviroschools guiding principles.

What's coming up in 2025

Thames Coromandel Zero Waste event Term 2
Climate summit, leadership event for secondary students - May
Enviroschools 101 PD for teachers – February
Enviroschools Reflection PD for teacher- April
Maara Kai Challenge for schools – May
Me and My Environment/Connection to place PD for teachers – term 2
WRC Enviroschools Grant round March- April
Ongoing WRC Environmental Education opportunities for schools:
Kauri protection education, Climate education, Freshwater biosecurity and Marine biosecurity.

Stories from Thames-Coromandel Enviroschools

Reducing Waste at Thames High

A waste audit was conducted in term 3 with the support of the Seagull Centre and Enviroschools. The results were presented to the school board early in term 4. The results of the waste audit confirmed the Enviroleaders assumption that there was a large volume of organic waste created on a daily basis. Over 50% of the waste going into landfill was food waste. Much of the remaining waste going into land fill was lunch in schools packaging. To reduce this waste the following recommendations were presented to the school board.

1. Activate a school wide discussion on Thames High School waste streams and initiate a student-led response to reduce this waste.
 2. Research options to convert organic waste into compost.
 3. Develop a circular approach to waste stewardship
 4. Research ways the lunch in schools programme could operate that will lead to a reduction in the waste created.
- The Board was receptive to all the recommendations and encouraged the 2024 Enviroleaders ensure the 2025 Enviroleaders are enabled to carry on this work. Two of the Board members indicated they would like to be closely involved in supporting this work.

The 2025 Enviroleaders are excited about carrying on this project and have strong connections with the Student Volunteer Army. They will continue planning with the support of their facilitator and a Service and Environmental action plan will be presented to staff and the senior leadership team at the start of the school year.



Principal Michael Hart and Yr 13 students carry out waste audit