

Enviroschools- Thames-Coromandel District Council

Six Monthly Report on the Delivery of the Enviroschools Programme in Thames-Coromandel District for the second 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 January 2024 to 30 June 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



Facilitator: **Jo Buchan**

Students reached: **3914**

13 Number of Enviroschools

Percentage of schools that are Enviroschools: **59%**

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

- We welcomed Rachael Cheesman to the facilitation team who will be facilitating in Thames Coromandel and Waikato districts and launching WRC's Freshwater Guardians Biosecurity resource
- 13 Enviroschools awarded WRC funding in April for school projects that align with the Enviroschools guiding principles.
- Students from 8 secondary schools attended a 3 day Climate Summit held by WRC at Aratiatia Community Marae [Taking action today to carve out a better tomorrow | Waikato Regional Council](#)
- Third annual [interschool Mara Kai Challenge](#) held for 6 school teams and in-school events across the region
- Teacher professional development was enabled at two [Nature Connection](#) events and via "Enviroschools 101" zoom series
- Facilitators attended Coaching and mentoring training with NZ Coaching and Mentoring Centre build their skills to better support teachers and Envirogroups.

Stories from Thames-Coromandel Enviroschools

Nature connection professional development for teachers - Thames and Hauraki school teachers benefit from DoC and Waikato Regional Council environmental initiative - NZ Herald The purpose was set to: Explore and connect with our natural resources, Gain knowledge and understanding of DOC and Enviroschools educational resources and how to use these, Experiencing nature activities that you can use with children both at the Visitor centre and back at school; Being introduced to the kauri protection programme and networking, learning and sharing with each other. The teachers really enjoyed the practical experiences and ideas, along with a great balance of talking, doing, and thinking. Teachers were enthusiastic to use more nature-based education with their classes and create ways to get them out of the classroom more.



Ōpoutere -70 years of planting on World Environment Day
[eb0b0b_3a4f0ee55a6a4cb7a51317a5ab4849bd.pdf](#)
[\(whangamatanews.nz\)](#)

Preserving Papātūanuku

To honour Papātūanuku and our environment, the tamariki of Ōpoutere kura undertook a whole school planting project in the school ngahere (forest).

With funding from the Billion Trees Fund through Waikato regional council we were able to purchase 500 native trees to restore our ngahere which was damaged early last year due to cystothes Hale and Gabrielle. The ngahere is the favourite play area for our Ōpoutere tamariki so this quickly became a child led project in which our Enviro group took over the planning and implementing of our planting day.

The enviro group consisting of a full range of ages from the school undertook soil testing, tree identification, measuring and calculating to figure out how many trees and what species were

needed. They then consulted the Māramatanga (una calendar) to find a suitable planting day. June is considered an excellent time for planting under the Māramatanga, so that coincided beautifully with world environment day on 5 June.

As always we couldn't have carried out this day without help from our wonderful community so we must give a huge shout to them all. Firstly, Warren at Waikato native plants for his expertise and time in selecting plants and their delivery. The amazing crew at Burnings especially Amber and Katrina for organising extra funding and coming out to do a bang up job (literally) of building us two lovely planter boxes. Barney O'neil from O'neil engineering for his hole digging expertise and supply of fruit to sustain us. Joelene Buchan our Enviroschools facilitator for being with us from start to finish on this project. Craft Haus Whangamata

for supplying the sausage sizzle goodies and the ever awesome boys of Ōpoutere fire brigade for cooking and feeding our tamariki afterwards who had certainly worked up an appetite. And last but not least our wonderful whānau who continue to show up and support us on our planting haerenga (journey), your commitment to your tamariki and their learning is next level!

The planting of this many trees will take approximately 30 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere and of course greatly increase the biodiversity of our native area woodshed! The day was a huge success with our ngahere now set to be restored to its former glory in the next 10 to 20 years and with the addition of a Pā Hāweaiti (a natural flax playground). It also ensures that all future generations of children who come through our doors will be able to continue creating connections with the tiao

(the environment) and you could really ask for more than that!

- Natalie Kio
Enviro leader at Ōpoutere K.



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