

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 2022/2023 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 2022 to 31 December 2022.

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: **Ruairi Kelly**

Students reached: **2110**

10 Number of Enviroschools

Percentage of schools that are Enviroschools: **45%**

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

Value of Enviroschools for Thames-Coromandel District

The annual contribution of \$14,500 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

- Local collaborations continue to strengthen with Enviroschools supporting local days as part of the NZAEE national conference in October.
- 7 Enviroschools awarded WRC Enviroschools grant funding in October towards 2023 school projects that align with the Enviroschools guiding principles.
- Waikato Enviroschools hosted our first Waikato Climate Action Camp for secondary students in September [Rangatahi develop local solutions to a global problem | Waikato Regional Council](#) the 2023 camp will be held 27-28 March.
- Waikato Regional Council launched an NCEA sustainability resource to support secondary school teachers [Resources for teachers | Waikato Regional Council](#)
- Waikato facilitation team capability strengthened through establishment of regular peer mentoring and supervision.

Stories from Thames-Coromandel Enviroschools

Te Rerenga School joined Enviroschools at the start of 2022 and the whole staff attended online professional development in term 1 which provided a good understanding of the kaupapa and how to get the ball rolling.

Upon first visit it was clear that Enviroschools Guiding Principles would fit right in with the ethos and the values of the school. Staff soon realised that becoming an Enviroschool was a slight reframing of what is already strongly evident in the school. Staff explored the value of empowering students to create a Vision Map and what that might involve. On the next visit Ruairi met with students who had been chosen by their class to represent them. They shared how they had used various activities from the 'Me in my Environment' section to build an understanding of what they valued in their school, and what they would like to improve. This is known as 'distilling the essence'. It was from here that the students along with lead teacher Fiona started to piece together their draft Vision Map. Ideas were collated and brought into groups, then the idea of 'how we'd like to be' was explored. This allowed for further ideas that had not previously come up to be developed. These were mapped out onto a draft map of the school to be shared with the teachers and the rest of the community and incorporated into the 2023 teaching programme.

