

The Taranaki Regional Council is proud of its slogan and has used it for a very long time. Both parts of the slogan are equally important and in many ways each is dependent on the other. One of our main functions is to ensure that the sustainable use and development of our natural resources is maintained.

The Resource Management Act was passed by Parliament in 1991 and is a very important piece of legislation as far as environment protection is concerned. Its principal purpose is to enable New Zealanders to manage our natural resources and the environment in a sustainable way. It is designed to ensure that future generations are able to use and enjoy the same things that we do today. So it is up to us all to protect the quality of our fresh water, air, land and coast. The Act requires that communities, industries and individuals avoid or reduce the effects of any activities which could harm the environment.

Often they will need a resource consent to use the environment and there will be certain conditions that have to be met to protect the environment.

The Council has a range of people employed in a variety of roles to check the performance of resource users. Each year Council personnel are involved in a large number of site inspections, water samples analyses, freshwater biological surveys, shellfish surveys and marine ecological surveys.

- Some minor activities like installing a culvert will only be inspected once, when completed.
- Others, such as dairy and poultry farms are inspected annually.
- Large activities, like major industries that have the potential to cause significant adverse environmental effects are inspected monthly or quarterly.



TRC and Port staff deploying the boom during a recent oil spill exercise.

How can you help the environment?

If you see something suspicious or harmful to the environment and you do not know what to do we advise younger people to tell their parents or caregivers who can then decide what action to take. It might surprise you to know that some years ago it was the reporting of some dead fish on a North Taranaki beach, by a young boy that alerted the Council to serious pollution of a small coastal stream.

The Council responds to pollution incidents to reduce their effect and to make sure they are cleaned up. In severe cases those responsible may be fined by the Environment Court.

What's the difference between a stormwater drain and a sewerage pipe?

If you don't know you are most certainly not alone. The stormwater system is designed to carry rainwater and nothing else. Stormwater drains collect rainwater from open areas such as roads, roofs and car parks and generally flow directly to the nearest natural waterway. So any contaminant that's washed, spilled or illegally dumped down a stormwater drain may end up polluting a waterway. And that's harmful to the aquatic insects, fish or plant life living there and eventually the sea. So don't wash your car or clean paint brushes in or near any stormwater drain around your house. And before you tip anything down a drain or grate check that it isn't a stormwater system!!!

Where do I clean paint brushes?

The answer could be inside in laundry tubs from which the pipes are linked to the house sewage pipes which go to a sewage treatment plant. Using a grassed area is a good idea for washing the family car where the diluted

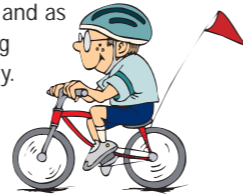
detergent used in the car wash can soak into the land and not cause any environmental harm. So perhaps when you have a spare moment have a look around your house and discover what water goes where.

You could also look at the amount of waste material that your household puts out each week to be taken off to the landfill. So much of this could be reduced, re-used and recycled. You are no doubt aware that schools are no longer allowed to burn waste and it is recommended that households don't do so either. Make sure you recycle as much paper, cardboard, cans, glass and plastic as you can at home. You should also reduce the amount of kitchen and green waste going to the landfill. Set up a compost system, a worm farm or take green waste separately to a transfer station.

You could insist on biking or walking to school providing of course it is safe to do so. For one thing the exercise and the fresh air will do you good, it will also save resources and reduce vehicle emissions. You will also help to reduce the traffic congestion around schools in early morning and mid afternoon and as a result contribute to making the roads safer for everybody.

Do you have safety drills at school?

Well the Taranaki Regional Council has them as well and we also have regular practice sessions at Port Taranaki to ensure that we can effectively deal with an oil spill in our harbour should one occur. The Council and Port Taranaki have trained personnel and special equipment to contain and clean up an oil spill.



For your information the Environmental Hotline for our region is **0800 736 222** and is in operation 24 hours a day.



Working for the environment

Match the activities on the left with the part of the environment they will affect. Some of the activities affect more than one part of the environment.

1. Planting trees
2. Cleaning up a beach
3. Recycling
4. Planting at the beach
5. River monitoring
6. Possum control

C Coast **L** Land **A** Air **F** Fresh water

Word find

See if you can find the words listed below

- air
- consent
- event
- gutter
- pollute
- waste
- care
- drain
- exercise
- monitor
- drill
- exhaust
- ecological
- waterway
- condition
- responsible
- environment
- observe
- report
- training
- ocean
- stream
- planet
- smoke
- storm
- harbour
- recycle
- spill
- sewage
- river

L R E T T U G I V R E V I R E
V E O C E A N N X T N J O W N
R S B V K X D R I L L T E P V
U P X B W R O U L N I S J O I
O O N I A W B C R N I U Y L R
B N O I T I D N O C J A A L O
R S N P E T R M R N U H R U N
A I P Y R O E E T P S X H T M
H B V O W K X S T T N E V E E
S L P G A E V R E S B O N T N
T E L C Y C E R A C A W Z T T
R K Q I H E A L T H A W Q X G
E O P C P L A N E T T I N C D
A M R O T S U T I E G A W E S
M S E C O L O G I C A L X G S

Target word

How many words of three or more letters can you make from the term **FRESHWATER**
Rules - You can only use the letters once in each word except for e and r as they occur twice. No words that need a capital letter at the start.

- 1-20 Good 41-50 Excellent
21-40 Very good 50+ You are unbelievable

Colouring competition

We would be most grateful if teachers could photocopy the insert included in this newsletter. The children need to colour in the environmental scene and be in to win some excellent prizes. The competition is open to Years 1,2 and 3 only and all entries must be delivered to or sent to:

Kevin Archer,
Taranaki Regional Council,
Private Bag 713 Stratford
by **Friday 11 May**.

Please ensure that the child's name, age and school are written on the back of their entry.



What goes where?

On the drawing: shade liquid that should go into stormwater green and shade sewerage pipes red



General knowledge quiz

If you get more than two of these questions correct you are doing well. Good luck!

1. How many times per minute does a hedgehog's heart beat when it is in hibernation?

- A** about 100 **B** about 70
C about 50 **D** about 20

2. What was the last letter to be added to the English alphabet?

- A** X **B** J
C U **D** A

3. The Mexican Jumping Bean is

- A** part of a seed
B America's answer to Rowan Atkinson
C an uncommon runner bean
D a pea

4. The fastest growing plants in the world are

- A** NZ crown ferns
B bamboos
C American cacti
D Madagascar elephant foot plants

5. Which of these is not a playing position in a rugby team.

- A** centre three quarter **B** tight head prop
C left right out **D** hooker

6. An ibex is

- A** a computer company
B a part of the human eye
C a type of goat
D a breakfast cereal

7. Who is the youngest player to score a test cricket century?

- A** Lou Vincent
B Sachin Tendulkar
C Brian Lara
D Mohammed Ashraf

8. What is the only prime number that is also an even number?

- A** 2 **B** 20 **C** 100 **D** 64

9. The Auckland Harbour Bridge was opened in

- A** 1989 **B** 1945 **C** 1959 **D** 1963

10. The only fish in the world that does not have red blood cells is the

- A** Hagfish **B** icefish
C spiny boxfish **D** gulper eel



A group of Francis Douglas Memorial College students gather data relating to their study of macroinvertebrate distribution in the Waiwhakaiho River near New Plymouth. The boys and their teachers were using the SHMAK (Stream Health Measurement Assessment Kit) as a key resource in their investigation.



An invitation

If you are contemplating bringing your class or classes to the Council and want to see what we have to offer please phone Kevin Archer. Kevin will be pleased to take you on a tour to the following:

- Our Environmental Display Room where you will be shown a powerpoint presentation and/or have a look at our magnificent displays with set questions.



- Our bio-laboratory and fish display aquarium.
- Our pest management display room where you will be treated to a most entertaining session with one of our pest management team.



Rocky shore workshop

Three teachers take a close look at some of the action in one of the rock pools at Kawaroa. The teachers were part of a professional development group of thirteen who used their time on the reef to upskill themselves before possibly involving their classes in a rocky shore study.



Teacher workshops

The professional development session held in February at the Kawaroa rock pools (see photo) was once again well attended.

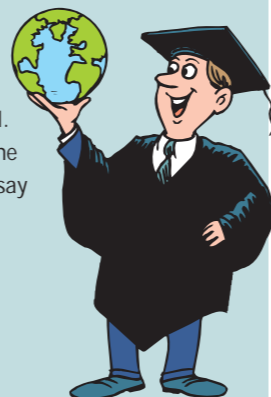
Included in this issue of SITE is a registration form for this term's session on May 3 which deals with the 'What's the Plan Stan?' Civil Defence Emergency Management resource. We are most fortunate to have qualified personnel from the Ministry of Civil Defence run this session for us. A number of schools have already been contacted by the Ministry regarding their participation but all schools are welcome to send one or more teachers to this session. The Ministry will cover the cost of one relief teacher for every school that sends a representative.

Please register by: Friday 27 April 2007

Youth Environment Forum Essay Competition Winners

Congratulations to the following students who won our environmental essay competition – Michelle Cumming (Hawera High School), Anna Duynhoven (Inglewood High School) and Jason Senior (Francis Douglas Memorial College). This lucky trio will be representing our region at the annual Sir Peter Blake Youth Environment Forum to be held in Wellington in the first week of the July school holidays. Their prizes include return airfares, accommodation and food throughout the forum.

Third and fourth prizes of \$200, to be spent on educational material went to Kris Barron and Melany Gibbs both of whom attend Opunake High School. Our thanks to everyone who submitted an essay for consideration.



Answers from page 3

General knowledge quiz = 1.d 2.b 3.a 4.b 5.c 6.c 7.d 8.a 9.c 10.b

For assistance or information on environmental education contact:
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Ph: 06 765 7127 Fax: 06 765 5097
E-mail: education@trc.govt.nz
www.trc.govt.nz



SITE

Schools in the environment newsletter

The winter awaits

What a wonderful spell of fine weather we enjoyed virtually throughout the first term. It was great to be involved in many of your environmental education programmes and I thank you all for asking me to help in some capacity. I am greatly encouraged by the number of teachers seeking my involvement in the forthcoming terms but I cannot emphasise enough the need to 'book in' as early as possible. I know there was some disappointment last term for some folk who were too late with their request for assistance.

Thanks to all the pupils and their teachers who submitted over 150 entries into the McDonald's Mobile Madness competition and congratulations to the winners in the various sections. One of the ways the Council supports Seaweek is in the sponsorship of the prizes which this year were highly attractive sea themed books. Overall the Seaweek organisers were thrilled with the numbers involved and it is great to see schools using this theme on a regular basis as part of their programmes.

Our thanks to the Year 12 and Year 13 students who entered the Environmental Essay competition. Thank you very much to the teachers who encouraged their students to take part, we really appreciate your dedication. The three winners of the essay competition have been invited to attend the Sir Peter Blake Youth Environment Forum in Wellington. Congratulations to the winners whose names can be found on the back page.

This issue of SITE includes a colouring competition for younger pupils. I am well aware that schools could involve their pupils in such competitions every day of the week, hence our reluctance to use this kind of activity on a regular basis. However our survey last year revealed that perhaps we could offer more to the students in Years 1, 2 and 3 and this competition is offered partly in response to that.

This term sees a growing number of schools involved in riparian planting programmes on nearby properties. This is a great way to get children involved with their local environment. We hope you enjoy the experience.

Have a great term everyone.

Kevin Archer

Environmental Responsibility

Working with people - caring for our environment. region remains one of the nation's showpieces. Hopefully this slogan rings a bell with you as it is of course the one belonging to the Taranaki Regional Council. This issue of SITE covers issues showing how the Council works with the regional community to ensure our beautiful region remains one of the nation's showpieces. The Taranaki Regional Council in its role in managing the environment relies heavily on the eyes and ears of others and on Page two you can see ways you most definitely can help us protect and improve the environment.

Seaweek 4-11 March 2007



Some of the creative mobiles entered in the McDonald's Mobile Madness competition as part of Seaweek.