



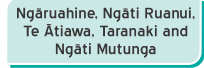
# Environmental Awards



2015



Working with people | caring for Taranaki





# Environmental Awards



Welcome to the 2015 Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards. These awards highlight and celebrate mighty efforts right across the community. The actions of the winners and many others like them are a major reason that Taranaki enjoys a generally good and improving environment.

Farmers, businesses and Councils are spending millions to protect and enhance the environment, and just as important is the hours and sweat invested by volunteers, as individuals or groups, in projects big and small, and the work of teachers striving to instil in their young charges a respect for the environment. Tonight we're making 15 awards in five categories. This takes the grand total to 234 since the programme started back in 1993.

It's important to note that our awards have no 'supreme winner' as such. Or should I say, all the recipients are supreme winners! The range of activities is so broad that it's just not possible to judge the value of one against the other. All are worthy of celebration.

I'm also very pleased to acknowledge our category sponsors, whose support allows us to celebrate these awards in fitting style.

**David MacLeod**, Taranaki Regional Council Chairman



- **Mihi whakatau** Mahau Waru
- **Welcome** David MacLeod, TRC Chairman
- **Presentation of awards**
  - *Environmental action in education*
  - *Environmental leadership in land management*
  - *Te taiao me te pākihi*
    - *Environmental leadership in business*
- **Interval**
- **Presentation of awards**
  - *Environmental leadership in dairy farming*
  - *Environmental action in the community*

A light meal will be served at your table during the presentation.

## Environmental action in education

- Koromiko Kindergarten
- Uruti School
- Kiwi Conservation Club,  
North Taranaki Forest and Bird



**Dow AgroSciences**

## Environmental leadership in land management

- Tersana Farms
- Stephen and Shirlee Barrow
- Richard and Kellie Coe

Ngāruahine, Ngāti Ruanui,  
Te Ātiawa, Taranaki and  
Ngāti Mutunga

## Environmental Leadership in business

- Energyworks Industrial Coatings Division
- Steven Knight - Possum Control Taranaki
- Shell Todd Oil Services – Māui Production Station



## Dairy for life

## Environmental leadership in dairy farming

- Bill and Gail Gribble
- Moorlands Trust Partnership – John and Jannine Moore



## Environmental action in the community

- Janice and Howard Hughes
- Taranaki Conservationists
- Dawne Morton, Bird Rescue
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust

# Environmental action in education

SPONSOR: **Taranaki Daily News**

*Our young people are the future of sustainability in Taranaki. And our educational establishments and community groups play an important role in promoting sustainability, by instilling good environmental values and leading by example. Our three education category winners demonstrate this commitment and range from kindergartens to volunteer groups.*

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## ***Koromiko Kindergarten***

**For fostering education for sustainability and respect for the environment.**

The children and families of Koromiko Kindergarten learn to respect and care for the environment through many daily activities.

Since 2004, the kindergarten has had a philosophy of Kaitiakitanga or guardianship of our environment and to develop children's understanding of the environment and model sustainable behavior.

Families take part in many activities. The aim is to educate the children and their families on environmental issues through activities at the kindergarten and to encourage change at home.

Children are encouraged to reduce, reuse or recycle material – for example litter-less lunch boxes and composting.

Nature is a prominent feature of outdoor learning and activities which involve trees, insects, animals and birds, and flower and vegetable gardens. Children also learn healthy eating.

*Environmental action in education*



## Uruti School

**For working with the community to control predators and protect local kiwi.**

In March 2013, Uruti School students began the Kiwi Protection Project after hearing kiwi calling from the bush in the area.

Students learned how pest animals are a major threat, with 90% of kiwi chicks dying in the first six months. They decided to help local kiwi by controlling predators such as stoats and ferrets.

Senior students recruited local community members to help them set up, then regularly check, more than 100 stoat traps on 24 properties along 8.5 kilometres of local roads.

The students' enthusiasm drives the collaboration with parents, neighbours, the wider community and the Taranaki Kiwi Trust, which provides the traps.

As well as raising environmental awareness and understanding, the project benefits kiwi and biodiversity.

*Environmental action in education*





# Kiwi Conservation Club

## North Taranaki Forest and Bird

For fostering children's understanding, skills and connection with the natural environment.

The Kiwi Conservation Club focuses the energy and enthusiasm of young people to connect them with our natural environment and biodiversity.

The club is a junior arm of North Taranaki Forest and Bird, whose older members pass their knowledge and experience on to the youngsters. For their part, the young club members invigorate total group membership.

Three volunteer coordinators organize a stimulating programme to get children thinking about environmental issues and action. They take part in many field trips and projects such as potting plants, restoration planting, weeding, species monitoring and beach clean-ups.

Children also learn about wildlife and biodiversity, learn outdoor and survival skills, and have guest speakers. The club teaches children that they can make a difference.

*Environmental action in education*



CATEGORY

# Environmental leadership in land management

SPONSOR: **Dow AgroSciences**

*Matching land use to the capability of the land is fundamental to sustainable land management.*

*Our land management category winners show that with the right balance of farming activities and recognition of biodiversity values, responsible environmental stewardship can be achieved.*



**Dow AgroSciences**

## *Tersana Farms*

**For environmental stewardship and sustainable land management.**

Hans and Stephanie Michel moved to New Zealand 15 years ago aiming to “work smarter, not harder” in a more self-sufficient lifestyle.

Swiss-born Hans, and Stephanie, a German, have increased the sustainability of their 240-hectare farm at Tarata, implementing their 2001 Taranaki Regional Council farm plan and continuing to consult Council staff and others.

They have covenanted and fenced almost seven hectares of native bush. Most stream gullies are also fenced and reverting to native bush.

More recently, a hectare of steep hillside and a pond were fenced to allow regeneration and planting to create wildlife habitat and corridors while reducing potential for erosion.

They also have a large orchard and garden, chickens and pigs, and goats for milk and cheese.

*Environmental leadership in land management*



## Stephen and Shirlee Barrow

For environmental stewardship and sustainable land management.

Stephen and Shirlee Barrow are sustainably farming their 673-hectare sheep, beef and deer unit in the Waitotara catchment.

They've worked with Taranaki Regional Council staff to implement their 2007 farm plan and more recently the South Taranaki and Regional Erosion Support Scheme.

Pasture covers 436 hectares but steep, erosion-prone land is put to other uses. Fifty-seven hectares of native bush has been fenced and another 63 hectares of bush and 20 hectares of scrub have been retained. Over 25 years, 90 hectares of production forestry has been established and in 2013, a further 4.5 hectares was fenced and planted.

They've planted 520 poplar poles to shelter stock and stabilize soil. Shelterbelts are being replanted with natives to create biodiversity corridors.

*Environmental leadership in land management*



## *Richard and Kellie Coe*

**For environmental stewardship and sustainable land management and biodiversity enhancement.**

Richard and Kellie Coe have changed land and stock management practices to protect soil and water resources, enhance biodiversity and maximize the productivity of their 503-hectare farm in the Waitotara catchment.

Environmental initiatives, including exotic and honey-producing manuka forestry, cover 71% of the property. The remainder carries sheep and beef.

Forty-seven hectares of native scrub and forest has been fenced and retired, including a six-hectare QEII covenant. Stock access has been restricted to another 163 hectares.

The Coes have established 25 hectares of exotic forestry and 28 hectares of manuka forestry, enhancing wildlife habitat. Exotic or native plants protect 89%, or 26 kilometres, of the property's streambanks.

The Coes share their knowledge and experience with many organisations and the community.

*Environmental leadership in land management*



# Te taiao me te pākihi

## Environmental leadership in business

CATEGORY

**SPONSOR: Ngāruahine, Ngāti Ruanui, Te Ātiawa, Taranaki and Ngāti Mutunga**

*Kaitiakitanga and a commitment to environmental best practice and efficiency are at the core of a sustainable business. Our winners in the Te taiao me te pākihi category are leaders in demonstrating how innovation and a team approach can pay worthwhile environmental and economic dividends.*

Ngāruahine, Ngāti Ruanui,  
Te Ātiawa, Taranaki and  
Ngāti Mutunga

# Energyworks Industrial Coatings Division

For investment and innovation in air emissions control and environmental sustainability.

Energyworks is a multi-disciplined engineering company specialising in construction and maintenance for the oil and gas sector. The company has made significant investment and commitment to improve management of air emissions from its abrasive blasting and spray painting activities.

A \$4 million industrial coatings facility was completed in 2014, incorporating innovative design elements and infrastructure to deliver a “clean air” solution.

Spray-painting booths have filtered fume extraction systems to minimise air emissions. Sand-blast recovery and scrubber systems, and dust collectors capture air-borne particles and increase the efficiency of the abrasive blasting operation.

Energyworks has engaged environmental consultants to assess air discharges and establish an air quality management programme. Taranaki Regional Council monitoring shows consistently high environmental performance.

*Environmental leadership in business*



## Steven Knight - Possum Control Taranaki

For delivering high quality and effective animal pest control services and advice.

Steven has been working with landowners in the Taranaki self-help possum control programme since 2000.

The programme covers almost all private land on the ring plain, protecting agricultural production and native flora and fauna. It is a partnership between Taranaki Regional Council and landowners.

Steven contracts to around 400 farmers to maintain possum numbers at the low levels required. He uses his farming background and hunting experience to help landowners develop appropriate, cost-effective and efficient control programmes.

Over the years, Steven has seen a marked decrease in possum numbers, thanks to the programme. His strong client base is built on his ability to communicate the benefits of the control programme and his record of high-quality work and good results.

*Environmental leadership in business*





# Shell Todd Oil Services

## Māui Production Station

**For maintaining high environmental performance, environmental projects and community engagement.**

Shell Todd Oil Services has a 'Goal Zero' philosophy of protecting the environment and not harming people. This is reflected in strict environmental management systems at the Māui Production Station at Oaonui to prevent and minimize adverse environmental impact.

Riparian planting and sandbagging reduce silt runoff, and pockets of native plantings are being established to provide wildlife habitat and improve the appearance of the site. Spill prevention and response is a continual focus. Bunded areas have been lined and extended, spill response equipment purchased and training and exercising is ongoing.

Community relations are important. For 10 years, Māui staff have been involved with Ngāti Tara Sandy Bay Society and other organisations, schools, iwi and the community to restore the Sandy Bay Reserve.

*Environmental leadership in business*



# Environmental leadership in dairy farming

SPONSOR: **Fonterra**

*Taranaki's dairy farmers contribute much to our healthy environment and thriving economy. Our dairy farming category winners demonstrate the leadership and significant investment that our region is making with the voluntary fencing and planting of streambanks, protecting biodiversity and a strong commitment to sustainable farming practices.*



**Dairy for life**

## **Bill and Gail Gribble**

**For environmental stewardship and sustainable dairy farming, including riparian and pest management.**

Bill and Gail Gribble's commitment to sustainability is fundamental to everything they do on their 123 hectare dairy farm near Eltham.

More than nine kilometres of fencing and 3,000 riparian plants plus pre-existing vegetation protect water quality and enhance habitat for native biodiversity in the Waingongoro River, the popular trout fishery which flows through the farm. The Gribbles will complete their riparian plan within a few years.

Since 2002, Bill has been doing an excellent job of controlling possums on his farm as part of the Council's self-help possum control scheme and monitoring shows that possum numbers are very low. He also covers his neighbours' properties without charge.

Bill also controls wasps, wild cats and old man's beard.

*Environmental leadership in dairy farming*



# Moorlands Trust Partnership

*John and Jannine Moore*

**For environmental stewardship and sustainable dairy farming, including biodiversity protection and riparian management.**

The Moore family are actively committed to protecting and enhancing the environment and biodiversity on their 172-hectare dairy farm near Ngaere.

They have fenced, planted and covenanted 7.1 hectares of 'acutely threatened' habitat, including two remnants of Ngaere swamp forest and a wetland. Pools and planting have also enhanced the habitat for 'at risk' brown mudfish.

The wildlife network links to surrounding habitats, including Lake Rotokare Scenic Reserve.

Fencing and planting 11.5 kilometres of steambank, including drains, has improved water quality and stock management. Poplar poles have been planted to shade and shelter stock.

The Moores have worked closely with QEII Trust, the community and Taranaki Council's environmental and land management programmes for the benefit of the environment and the community.

*Environmental leadership in dairy farming*



# Environmental action in the community

SPONSOR: **Methanex New Zealand**

*Taranaki has a strong community spirit, and the wealth of projects that help secure the future of our environment and native biodiversity are often built on thousands of volunteer hours. Our community category winners illustrate what can be achieved by such commitment, and the value of the huge efforts made in our community.*



## *Janice and Howard Hughes*

**For protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of Soldiers Park in Eltham.**

Howard and Janice Hughes' vision is to return Soldiers Park in Eltham to its natural beauty as a native tree reserve.

Howard has voluntarily coordinated community volunteers and Eltham Primary School students to develop the reserve, with support from South Taranaki District and Taranaki Regional Councils and the Taranaki Tree Trust.

Volunteers cleared old man's beard, broom and other weeds earlier in 2015 in preparation for planting.

Howard and the Eltham Primary students have planted native shrubs and trees along the stream and walkway, which borders the school. The project encourages students to understand and take ownership of their local environment.

The park is home to several native bird populations and further plantings will enhance the area's habitat and biodiversity.

*Environmental action in the community*



## Taranaki Conservationists

For supporting community projects to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Taranaki Conservationists is made up of a group of like-minded people who coordinate their efforts and support a wide range of conservation projects to address environmental issues in the region.

The group organises regular events to raise awareness of conservation issues both within the group and for the public.

Recent projects include beach clean-ups near the Te Henui and the Waiongana Stream where more than 360 kilograms of rubbish was collected and separated into non-recyclables and recyclables.

The Taranaki Conservationists are active partners with many biodiversity projects. They help with biodiversity monitoring and pest control at Parininihi/Whitecliffs, Lake Rotokare, Egmont National Park and Bushy Park in Whanganui, and volunteer with WOMAD Zero Waste.

Taranaki Conservationists are committed to the sustainability of our region.

*Environmental action in the community*



## *Dawne Morton, Bird Rescue*

**For working with the community and organisations to rescue and rehabilitate sick or injured native birds.**

Dawne Morton is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of orphaned, sick and injured birds, and is one of the most experienced bird rescuers in the country. She works closely with the Department of Conservation and the Massey University wildlife hospital.

Each year the Department of Conservation sends around 30 birds from Taranaki to Dawne for treatment. Others are sent by vets and the public.

In the first day or two, the birds receive life-saving first aid at Dawne's large Turakina aviaries before going to Massey for clinical assessment. Those that can survive return to Dawne to be nursed back to health and released.

Dawne is assisted in her work by vet students and community volunteers.

*Environmental action in the community*





# *Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust*

For developing guidelines for engagement with Māori for the petroleum and minerals industry

In 2014, Ngāti Ruanui developed practical voluntary guidelines for the petroleum and minerals industry to successfully engage with iwi and hapu. The guidelines set out ways for industry and iwi to establish dialogue and for all parties to demonstrate kaitiakitanga in the development of petroleum and mineral resources.

The guidelines assist understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi, sustainable resource management, and iwi understanding of environmental guardianship in relation to petroleum and mineral resources.

The guidelines are a blueprint for sophisticated engagement with tangata whenua which includes the “Maori World View” and provide a consistent and respected approach to designing the engagement process to address issues of concern to tangata whenua.

The guidelines are endorsed by the Taranaki-based petroleum and minerals industry.



*Environmental action in the community*

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**Dairy for life**





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