



Environmental Awards



2016



Environmental Awards



Welcome to the 2016 Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards. These are the 24th annual awards since the Council first started this programme back in 1993.

Tonight we're making 15 awards. But the actual number of winners can be numbered in the hundreds, if not the thousands. All of those associated with the organisations and individuals honoured tonight can also regard themselves as winners.

The efforts of our winners, and those who've gone before them, underscore the fact that it's not by accident or good luck that Taranaki enjoys a generally good-quality environment.

This region takes its environment very seriously, and puts a lot of money, sweat and time into protecting and enhancing it. This happens at every level – from corporates to farmers to community groups to iwi and hapū to schools. These awards are an opportunity to celebrate this effort.

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

David MacLeod, Taranaki Regional Council Chairman



- **Mihi whakataua**
- **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*

Platters of light food and drinks will be served at your table during the presentation.

Environmental action in education

- Huiakama School
- Bill Clarkson
- Project Hotspot



Environmental leadership in land management

- Ken and Sandra Sandford
- McLean and Tuffery families



Environmental Awards



Ngāruahine, Ngāti Ruanui
Te Ātiawa, Taranaki and
Ngāti Mutunga

Environmental Leadership in business

- Todd Energy Limited
- New Plymouth District Council
- Shell New Zealand



Dairy for life

Environmental leadership in dairy farming

- Taranaki Agricultural Research Station Trust and the Luff Family
- Philip and Donna Cram



Environmental action in the community

- South Taranaki Underwater Club
- Rapanui Grey-Faced Petrel Trust
- Trina Stanley
- Pātea Planting Trust
- Otaraua Hapū and Waitara Alive

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 enthusiastic volunteers.

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Huiakama School

For practical environmental learning programmes and initiatives.

Learning and working together to care for the environment has become a passion for Huiakama School students and their families and teachers.

Practical environmental initiatives are part of daily school activities and encourage students to think about what can also be done at home.

Students learn how to recycle and re-use to reduce the amount of rubbish they generate. They use a worm farm and compost bins to transform organic waste into natural fertilisers to produce food in the school gardens and orchards.

Innovative design is a feature of a recycled bottle house, garden baths and compost bins built from old pallets.

Students also monitor traps to control stoats, rats and possums, boosting native birdlife around the school.

Environmental action in education



Bill Clarkson

For inspiring students to learn about, grow and care for Taranaki's indigenous plants.

Over many years, teacher and native plant enthusiast Bill Clarkson has inspired thousands of students to learn about, grow and care for Taranaki's indigenous plants, particularly regionally distinctive and threatened species.

His earliest projects were at Kapuni and Merrilands schools in the 1980s and 90s. He established a native plant propagation and learning programme at Moturoa School 20 years ago and still runs it today. Besides learning about and growing the rare and threatened species, students have planted thousands of them across the region. He also works with other schools including Vogeltown and Frankley, whose students have been involved in long-term restoration projects.

Bill's work has led to many youngsters forming long-lasting environmental connections, helping to ensure the survival of some of Taranaki's rare flora.

Environmental action in education



Project Hotspot

For engaging the community with science by collecting and sharing data online on endangered coastal species and their threats.

Project Hotspot is an outstanding example of citizen science.

Coastal recreational groups, school children, and other members of the public have recorded more than 400 sightings online of four threatened coastal species — orca, reef heron, little blue penguin and New Zealand fur seal.

The project has a strong educational focus. Many schools contribute sightings, undertake action projects and are learning about threats to native coastal species.

Highlands Intermediate and Oakura School students, with guidance from scientists, have been actively involved in investigating potential threats to species at the Tapuae Marine Reserve. They held a workshop and their findings are being used by industry, planners, conservationists and scientists to better protect coastal threatened species in Taranaki.

Environmental action in education



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

Ken and Sandra Sandford

For environmental stewardship and sustainable land management.

Ken and Sandra Sandford are sustainably farming their 386-hectare sheep and beef unit at Hurleyville in South Taranaki, where they're implementing a farm plan with the support of Taranaki Regional Council staff.

To help control erosion on steep hills, they've planted four hectares of forestry, and fenced and retired 12.3 hectares of grazed land, 12.6 hectares of native bush and 8.5 hectares of manuka forestry. This involved 2.7 kilometres of fencing. They've also planted 261 poplar poles.

By improving better-producing areas such as river terraces to increase pasture growth, the Sandfords have maintained their stocking rate even though the total grazing area has been reduced.

They regularly control goats, pigs, deer, possums and stoats by trapping, poisoning and shooting.

Environmental leadership in land management



McLean and Tuffery families

For environmental stewardship, including riparian protection and enhancement of the Mimi estuary and tributaries.

Artists John McLean and Howard Tuffery and their families recognise the exceptional recreational, cultural and biodiversity value of the Mimi estuary bordering their jointly owned property.

It's an important habitat for whitebait and for wading birds, and contains distinctive native flora and threatened fauna.

Since 1986, the two families have voluntarily worked with the Council and other agencies to protect and enhance the estuary, its tributaries and surrounding wetlands with streamside fencing and planting under a Taranaki Regional Council riparian plan. They also have a Council biodiversity plan to manage and protect the native habitats and have established a QEII covenant.

The artists also support the coastal initiatives of the local school and make visitors to their studios aware of the ecological significance of the area.

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.



Todd Energy Limited

For innovative wellsite design and construction methods to effectively control and treat stormwater at the Mangahewa-G wellsite.

Todd Energy used innovative techniques and set new industry benchmarks during the construction and operation of the Mangahewa-G wellsite near Tikorangi.

They developed a large silt and sediment retention system to control and reduce the concentration of contaminants in stormwater and to minimise the effects of offsite discharges. The system would also cope with an onsite spill.

The innovative system goes well beyond the standard design and includes immediate soil stabilisation measures, diverting clean water via perimeter drains, concrete lining to minimise erosion, design to reduce water velocities and system overload, protection of perimeter drains and significant native planting in conjunction with Otaraua Hapū. A rock channel and constructed wetland provide further stormwater treatment.

Solid waste concentrations in stormwater discharges are well below consent limits.

*Te taiao me te pākihi
Environmental leadership in business*



New Plymouth District Council

For waste and recycling education, increasing community participation in recycling and reducing waste disposal to landfill

Since a new kerbside waste collection and recycling service was introduced in New Plymouth District in October 2015, monthly recycling has increased from 13% to 48% of kerbside waste.

That translates to almost six thousand tonnes of waste being diverted from landfill each year, significantly reducing potential environmental effects.

Community engagement and education on recycling and waste minimisation have been key elements in the success of this project.

The New Plymouth District Council has incorporated a dedicated education room at its new, purpose-built materials recovery centre at Colson Road.

School children and community groups can visit the facility to see recyclables being sorted and baled for distribution and re-use, and to learn about reducing waste and conserving resources.

*Te taiao me te pākihi
Environmental leadership in business*



Shell New Zealand

He Tāngata, he Tāngata, he Tāngata Project

For using innovative technology to protect the marine environment by avoiding discharges during refurbishment of the Pohokura offshore platform.

In 2015, Shell New Zealand refurbished its Pohokura offshore platform, which services New Zealand's largest natural gas resource. More than 100 workers were housed temporarily on a rig beside the platform as they painted the entire structure and overhauled equipment and wells.

Shell took a Goal Zero approach: To cause no harm to people, to protect the environment, and minimise the impact on local communities.

Specialist scaffolding and containment systems effectively wrapped the entire platform. Approximately 400,000 litres of paint removal residue were contained and recovered for recycling.

In keeping with Shell's partnership with Ngāti Rahiri hapū, no human waste was discharged to the sea — 3.3 million litres of human waste was transported to shore for treatment.

Te taiao me te pākihi
Environmental leadership in business



CATEGORY

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

Taranaki Agricultural Research Station Trust and the Luff Family

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

The Taranaki Agricultural Research Station Trust and the Luff family are committed to protecting and enhancing the environment on the 120-hectare research farm at Whareroa, near Hawera.

Almost all waterways and wetlands on the farm are fenced and in the past four years 89% of the streambank has been planted with 11,000 riparian plants. The job will be finished next year.

The fencing and vegetation will protect water quality and restore native habitat in a coastal area where very little native vegetation remains. And it's highly visible, raising awareness of the importance of this work.

The farm, which is owned by the family and operated by the Trust, is also in the Council's self-help possum control scheme and recycles silage wrap.

Environmental leadership in dairy farming



Philip and Donna Cram

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

Philip and Donna Cram are passionate about farming sustainably on their 117-hectare dairy farm at Awatuna.

In the past 10 years the couple have completely fenced their streambanks and protected 3.3 kilometres, or 61 per cent, of them with 4,500 native plants.

By planning ahead and chipping away at a manageable amount of about 600 plants each year, the Crams are well on track to meet the 2020 completion target.

Their children help with the planting and Opunake High School students assist as a fundraiser.

The fencing and planting helps stock management, protects water quality and enhances the native habitat.

Two years ago the Crams changed to land-based dairy effluent treatment and disposal. They also recycle silage wrap, plastic containers and household waste.

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.



South Taranaki Underwater Club

For engaging the community with science and education on protection of the marine environment through the South Taranaki Reef Life Project.

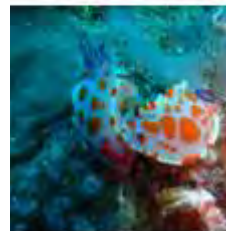
The South Taranaki Underwater Club is bringing together local community groups, iwi, schools, fishers, divers, scientists and engineers to study the rich marine life on a sub-tidal reef 11 kilometres off Patea. The survey aims to record the reef community, identify factors that shape it and record seasonal trends.

Citizen scientists spend a vast amount of volunteer time surveying and documenting the reef community.

An underwater camera will be moored on the reef to continuously capture images for analysis and input into a national database and shared with marine scientists. The sounds heard at the reef will also be monitored.

The diversity and coverage of reef life will be surveyed, and general observations will be included in the reef study.

Environmental action in the community



Rapanui Grey-Faced Petrel Trust

For protecting the significant grey-faced petrel colony by maintaining a predator-free sanctuary.

Rapanui, on the coast north of Tongaporutu, is Taranaki's only mainland nesting site for the grey-faced petrel. The colony was near extinction in 2002 and concerned individuals and sponsors built a 460-metre predator-proof fence to protect the birds.

This project led to the formation of the Rapanui Grey-Faced Petrel Trust in 2006 to preserve the sanctuary for the petrels and other indigenous species.

Protected from predators, the birds, rare plants and other native species have thrived at the site. The petrel colony has grown from only eight active burrows in 2003 to 66 in 2012.

The Trust, landowners Evan Lobb and Emma O'Sullivan, sponsors, volunteers, contractors and the Taranaki Regional Council work collaboratively to maintain the sanctuary and educate the public.

Environmental action in the community



Trina Stanley

For advocating pest plant control in the New Plymouth community and native replanting along the Mangaotuku Stream.

Trina Stanley is a dedicated advocate for pest plant control in her New Plymouth community. She understands how invasive plants thrive in New Plymouth's temperate climate and actively promotes awareness of pest plant control. Her vigilance is also helpful in identifying pest plants on public land.

Pest plants often compete with native plants for light and nutrients. Without control they can restrict native regeneration and become a problem on private and public land in urban areas.

Trina is passionate about restoring stream margins in the city and has encouraged landowners along the Mangaotuku Stream to remove pest plants such as wild ginger and other invasive species. Native plants have then been planted to re-establish the native habitat along the stream.

Environmental action in the community



Pātea Planting Trust

For working with the community to restore native ecosystems along the Patea estuary.

The Pātea Planting Trust was formed in 2013 with a vision of re-establishing a ribbon of native habitat along the walkway beside the river, from the town bridge to the sea.

It's won strong support from the local community and beyond. Factors in its success include strategic planning to prioritise planting areas, good research to find suitable plants, and the collaborative efforts of many volunteers, organisations, South Taranaki District Council, Kii Tahī Nursery, schools and community groups.

An area that could easily have become a weedy wasteland is being restored to a healthy coastal habitat for native insects, birds and lizards. More than 4,000 seedlings have been planted, creating an attractive recreational area. The project has fostered a sense of community pride and involvement.

Environmental action in the community



Otaraua Hapū and Waitara Alive

For engaging the community with science and education on the marine environment through the Waitara Kaimoana Survey 2016.

Otaraua Hapū and Waitara Alive have brought together members of the Waitara community to help them learn about and respect the local marine environment.

Through scientific monitoring, learning tikanga and capturing the narrative of local seniors and kaumātua, they are increasing the knowledge and understanding of the Waitara reefs, a valuable source of physical and cultural sustenance for the people of Waitara.

“Titiro tui muri, haere whakamua”
— Look backwards to move forward.

By combining historic and current local knowledge with the scientific data, they learn how to protect the health of the reefs for the future.

The group surveyed kaimoana on the reefs in summer and autumn 2016 and have developed a comprehensive monitoring programme which will be repeated each year.

Environmental action in the community



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Ngāruahine, Ngāti Ruanui
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Dairy for life

