



Garden paradise

Pukeiti's Stead Walk was a riot of colour for admiring visitors during the recent Powerco Taranaki Garden Spectacular.

Pukeiti, Tupare and Holland Gardens have had a good spring growing season and are at their best for the busy holiday period.

[Summer garden fairs: Page 8](#)

Environmental Award winners 2015

Environmental action in education (sponsored by Taranaki Daily News)

Koromiko Kindergarten, Hawera
Uruti School
Kiwi Conservation Club (Nth Taranaki Forest and Bird)

Environmental leadership in land management (sponsored by Dow AgroSciences)

Tersana Farms, Tarata
Stephen and Shirlee Barrow, Waitotara catchment
Richard and Kellie Coe, Waitotara catchment

Te taiao me te pākiki – Environmental leadership in business (sponsored by Ngāruahine, Ngāti Ruanui, Te Ātiawa, Taranaki and Ngāti Mutunga)

Energyworks Industrial Coatings Division
Steven Knight, Possum Control Taranaki
Shell Todd Oil Services (Māui Production Station)

Environmental leadership in dairy farming (sponsored by Fonterra)

Bill and Gail Gribble, Eltham
Moorlands Trust Partnership, Ngaere

Environmental action in the community (sponsored by Methanex)

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

‘Mighty’ efforts win recognition

Farmers, an iwi rununga, businesses large and small, individuals, a school and a kindergarten are among the 15 winners of Taranaki's flagship Environmental Awards this year.

“These awards highlight and celebrate mighty efforts right across the community,” says David MacLeod, Chairman of the Taranaki Regional Council, which has been making the annual presentations since the early 1990s.

“They recognise important work that ensures that Taranaki will continue to offer unrivalled lifestyle opportunities, while future-proofing our vital industries and giving them the strength and resilience to face whatever challenges lie in the years ahead.”

The awards, in five sponsored categories, were presented at a ceremony in New Plymouth on 29 October.

Mr MacLeod says the efforts 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 are 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.”

This year's awards take the total to 234 since they began in 1993.

The Environmental Awards were revamped two years ago, with sponsorship introduced to allow greater recognition at a higher-profile presentation ceremony.

This year, five Taranaki iwi – Ngāruahine, Ngāti Ruanui, Te Ātiawa, Taranaki and Ngāti Mutunga – joined Taranaki Daily News, Dow AgroSciences, Fonterra and Methanex as category sponsors.

Mr MacLeod says the iwi involvement adds an extra dimension to the flagship awards. “We're

[Winner profiles: Pages 2-7](#)

From the Chair

The annual Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards presentation is always a highlight, and this year's was no exception.

It's humbling to see the delight of award recipients at having their good work recognised. It's obviously a thrill, whether they are individuals, schools, iwi, farmers or corporates.

The Council itself is delighted to be able to offer such recognition, in partnership with our award sponsors. As I said at the presentation ceremony, one of the major reasons that Taranaki enjoys a generally good and improving environment is that people and organisations like our winners are willingly stepping up to do their bit.

Every year, millions of dollars and thousands of hours of work, much of it by volunteers, go into protecting and enhancing Taranaki's environment and encouraging others to do the same. The awards are positive recognition by the Council on behalf of the community.

It's certainly good to be able to focus on the positive after what has been a tough year for many. The widespread flooding and slips in June came at the very worst time for farmers, and the effects are still sorely felt. The Council was pleased to be able to offer assistance by way of a \$500,000 Storm Recovery Package, and the three District Mayors and I are also working together as the Taranaki Disaster Relief committee allocating Government relief funds.

My sincere hope is that the coming festive season brings everyone, most especially the families still coping with the aftermath of the June storm, an opportunity to put aside stress and worry and find some real peace and joy.

I can highly recommend visits to Tupare, Hollard Gardens and Pukeiti over the summer break, either for relaxed family time or to join the fun of one of the garden fairs. The three gardens are all looking stunning, and some exciting developments are unfolding at Pukeiti.

See you in 2016!

David MacLeod - CHAIRMAN



Big effort on recovery from June floods, slips

Thousands of riparian plants and poplar poles have been planted on Taranaki farms in the aftermath of the widespread flooding and slips in June.

The Taranaki Regional Council's \$500,000 Storm Recovery Package, plus an additional \$150,000 in resilience funding from the Ministry of Primary Industries, has resulted in:

- A total of 8959 three-metre poplar poles and 486 smaller poles being planted on 100 hillcountry properties to stabilise hillsides and prevent erosion. Landowners, contractors and Council officers achieved this despite wet and slippery conditions in many cases.
- Repairs to 3.5km of fencing, with more to be inspected and repaired in summer when ground conditions dry out.
- The supply of 6.5 tonnes of grass seed to revegetate 267 ha of slip tails.
- A total of 50,000 riparian plants being supplied to 122 farms, mainly on the ring plain.

The Storm Recovery Package was aimed at helping farmers mitigate the damage to what in some cases was years of investment and hard work they had put into their properties through the Council's Hillcountry Land Management and ring plain Riparian Management Programmes.

The Council's Director-Operations, Stephen Hall, says the Council was pleased to be in a position to assist farmers badly hit in what for most would have been a once-in-a-lifetime event. "Full recovery will take a while longer but the region is off to a very good start."

Meanwhile, the Government has set aside an additional \$416,000 of relief funding, which is being allocated via the Taranaki Disaster Relief Committee, made up of the region's three District Mayors and the Chairman of the Taranaki Regional Council, David MacLeod.

The funding is aimed at repairs to uninsurable infrastructure such as fences and tracks, and pasture reinstatement. The Committee is aiming to get grants to successful applicants by Christmas.



Environmental Awards

Showcasing outstanding contributions to our environment

Dawne Morton - Bird Rescue

Environmental action in the community

Category sponsor: Methanex New Zealand

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.

survive return to Dawne to be nursed back to health and released.

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

Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015F

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



Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust

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.

Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015G



Janice and Howard Hughes



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 Council, Taranaki Regional Council 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.

Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015D

Taranaki Conservationists

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 the Taranaki region. Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015E



Energyworks Industrial Coatings Division

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.

Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015A



Steven Knight - Possum Control Taranaki



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.

Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015B

Shell Todd Oil Services - Māui Production Station

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.

Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015C



Stephen and Shirlee Barrow

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.

Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015J



Tersana Farms

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 planted 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.

Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015H

Richard and Kellie Coe

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. **Video profile:** bit.ly/Awards2015K



Koromiko Kindergarten

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 behaviour. 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.

Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015L



Uruti School



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.

Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015M

Kiwi Conservation Club (North Taranaki Forest and Bird)

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. Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015N





Bill and Gail Gribble

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, which flows through the farm and is a popular trout fishery. 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.

Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015P

Moorlands Trust Partnership - John and Jannine Moore

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 Regional Council's environmental and land management programmes for the benefit of the environment and the community.

Video profile: bit.ly/Awards2015R



Taranaki Regional Council Facts File

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Civil Defence freephone: 0800 900 049

NP Bus information: 0800 827 287

Total Mobility: 0800 868 662

Websites: www.trc.govt.nz
www.taranakibus.info
www.tupare.nz
www.hollardgardens.nz
www.pukeiti.nz
www.taranakiplants.net.nz

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REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

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Mike Davey 06 756 7126
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Michael Joyce 06 274 5800
David MacLeod (Chair) 06 278 5577
Neil Walker 06 278 7541

Stratford Constituency:

Brian Jeffares 06 765 7773

MEETING DATES AND DOCUMENTS

www.trc.govt.nz/meetings-calendar/ and www.trc.govt.nz/agendas-and-minutes/



Garden Fairs

Tupare

Garden Fair and Guided Walk

Saturday 9 January

10am - 3pm

Tupare

Waitangi Day Garden Fair and Walk

Saturday 6 February

Walk from 8.30am and Fair 10am - 1pm

Hollard Gardens

International Children's Day

Sunday 28 February

10am - 3pm

Hollard Gardens

Country Fair

Sunday 17 April

10am - 3pm

**Free
entry**

TUPARE

487 Mangorei Rd, New Plymouth

HOLLARD GARDENS

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Taranaki Regional Gardens

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