



caring about you & your environment

Report 01.40

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Report to Environment Committee
from Nigel Clarke, Policy Advisor

Care Groups for 2001

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the care groups to be supported through the Community Environmental Care Programme.

2. Background

The Community Environmental Care Programme's contestable fund was widely advertised in national and local papers, *Elements*, an information brochure, and on the Council's website. Groups interested in joining the programme were invited to contact the Council to talk about their project and obtain an application form.

We received a large number of enquiries about the programme. At the closing date, 24 applications had been received.

During December, we assessed the applications using the criteria detailed in the care programme policy report (Report 00.675 to this Committee) and set out for applicants in the brochure. The applications were scored against the criteria, ranked, and their costs over the 4-year care programme cycle evaluated. Next, we determined which staff had the best expertise to support the various projects. Letters advising applicants of the outcome were sent out by 10 January.

3. Groups Participating in the Programme from 2001

As indicated in Report 00.675, support for groups in the programme can come either *directly* from the Council (to deal with a particular environmental problem which we want to help resolve, or which is on our land) or through the contestable fund just described (i.e. by *applying* to the Council). For 2000-01, we expected the programme would support three groups of the first type and five groups of the second type.

In fact, four groups are being supported in the first category (i.e. funding initiated at the Council's discretion) by the Landcare and Wairarapa Divisions. These groups have been under way since the beginning of the year and are making good progress. They are:

(1) ***Friends of the Waikanae River***

A project to restore the Waikanae River riparian environment.

(2) ***Queen Elizabeth Park***

A project to restore wetlands in Queen Elizabeth Park.

(3) ***Castlepoint Beach Care Group***

A project to restore the dune systems and manage the beach environment at Castlepoint.

(4) ***Riversdale Beach Care Group***

A project to restore the dune systems and manage the beach environment at Riversdale.

With regard to the contestable fund, we have been able to support eight groups within the care group budget rather than just five. This is because some of the applications do not require the full amount we had budgeted for. The eight groups and their projects are:

(1) ***Pukerua Bay Residents Association***

A project to restore the Waimapehi Stream in Pukerua Bay.

(2) ***Fensham Group, Royal Forest and Bird Society, Wairarapa Branch.***

A project to restore Fensham wetland in Carterton.

(3) ***Otari-Wilton Bush Trust***

A project to clear weeds and replant the Kaiwharawhara upstream of Otari-Wilton's Bush in Wellington.

(4) ***National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Staff***

A staff project to restore an area of coastal habitat and create a Blue Penguin breeding colony at Greta Point in Wellington.

(5) ***Royal Forest and Bird Society, Upper Hutt Branch***

A project to restore Moehou stream flowing through Moehou Reserve in Upper Hutt.

(6) ***Manuka Street Residents***

A project to restore a wetland and a stream flowing through Manuka Street Reserve in Masterton.

(7) ***Royal Forest and Bird Society, Kapiti Branch***

Projects to restore Wharemauku Stream at Kaitawa and Greendale Stream in Paraparaumu.

(8) ***Friends of Maara Roa***

An educational initiative to enlist more community members for the groups stream restoration activities.

In addition, a further five applications which were worthy of funding have been supported as RPS implementation projects. These are:

(1) ***Trellisick Park – Ngaio Gorge Working Group***

A project to restore the Lower Kaiwharawhara Stream, and a portion of the Korimako Stream at its junction with the Kaiwharawhara.

(2) ***Waitohu Stream Care Group***

A project to restore the Lower Waitohu and estuary at Otaki.

(3) ***Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve Management Committee***

A project to develop a freshwater wetland at Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve in Porirua.

(4) ***Makara Mountain Bike Park Supporters***

A project to restore Karori Stream as it runs through Makara Mountain Bike Park.

(5) ***Ngarara Stream Restoration Group***

A project to restore rural sections of Ngarara Stream by riparian planting in Waikanae.

The Makara and Ngarara Stream projects will constitute trial areas for the Council's riparian management programme. One further application, from Ducks Unlimited for a wetland restoration at Shandon Golf Course, was also supported from other Council funds and has already been acted upon.

Altogether, this means that of the 24 applications to the contestable fund, 14 have been supported. Of the 10 remaining, however, we have also been able to offer some form of advice or assistance to six of them, albeit at a reduced level and not including funding.

4. **Conclusion**

There has been strong interest in the Community Environmental Care Programme. It is particularly pleasing that the Council is able to support a larger number of groups than originally planned for. There are a variety of projects, covering different types of ecosystems that are particularly vulnerable, in locations throughout the Region. The projects that the Regional Council is supporting provide significant opportunities to showcase what communities can do to help restore their own environment – and challenge people to examine how their behaviour can be modified in the light of others' efforts to work in these unique environments.

5. **Communication**

The projects and groups the Council is supporting will be reported in the next issue of *Elements*. Individual groups will also be encouraged, and helped, in their efforts to report Council support in their local papers.

A communication outline will be prepared for each group. Opportunities to report on project progress and Council involvement will be actively pursued by staff, in conjunction with the groups they are supporting.

6. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

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