



caring about you & your environment

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Report to Environment Committee
from Nigel Clarke, Take Care Co-ordinator

Care Groups for 2002

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the Care Groups to be supported through the Take Care Programme for 2002.

2. Background

The Take Care Programme's contestable fund was advertised in 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.

As for last year, we had a good number of enquiries about the programme. At the closing date, 10 applications had been received.

During October, we assessed the applications using the criteria detailed in the Take 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 1 November 2001.

3. Groups Participating in the Programme from 2002

Support for groups in the programme can come *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 Take Care fund just described (i.e. by *applying* to the Council). Some care groups are also funded out of the Regional Policy Statement Implementation (RPS) budget. For 2001-02, we budgeted to provide

support for two new groups at the Council's initiative and two new groups from the contestable fund, whilst retaining support for existing groups.

a) **Groups Receiving Funding at the Council's Initiative**

The groups we have begun to support this year in this category (by the Landcare and Wairarapa Divisions) are:

(i) ***Castlepoint Beach Care Group***

A project to restore the dune systems and manage the beach environment at Castlepoint. We partially funded this group last year. However, the group is now fully funded for the next three years.

(ii) ***Pakuratahi***

A project to assist with restoring the streamsides of the Upper Pakuratahi catchment.

These groups join the following groups which this year receive their second year of funding:

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

A project to restore the Waikanae River riparian environment.

(iv) ***Queen Elizabeth Park***

A project to restore wetlands in Queen Elizabeth Park.

(v) ***Riversdale Beach Care Group***

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

b) **Groups Supported from the Contestable Fund**

This year we have been able to support five additional groups rather than just two. This is because some of the applications do not require the full amount we budgeted for. The five groups and their projects are:

(i) ***Te Horo Beach Residents Association***

Restoring the coastal environment and Mangaone coastal wetland.

(ii) ***Glenside Stream Care Group***

Restoring the streams making up the upper catchment of Porirua Stream.

(iii) ***Waimeha Restoration Group***

Restoring the wetlands and dunes in and around the Waimeha Lagoon, near Paraparaumu

(iv) ***Ngaio Progressive Association***

An education initiative to support restoration work along the Korimako Stream in Ngaio.

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

Part funding for a small nursery for restoration projects on the Kapiti Coast.

These groups join the following groups, which this year receive their second year of funding:

(vi) ***Pukerua Bay Residents Association***

A project to restore the Waimapehi Stream in Pukerua Bay.

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

A project to restore Fensham wetland in Carterton.

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

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

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

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

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

Restoration at the Moehou stream flowing through Moehou Reserve in Upper Hutt.

(xi) ***Manuka Street Residents***

Restoring a wetland and a stream flowing through Manuka Street Reserve in Masterton.

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

A project to improve the Wharemauku Stream at Kaitawa in Paraparaumu.

c) **Groups Supported from the RPS Implementation Budget.**

A further two of this year's applications which are worthy of funding are being supported as RPS implementation projects. These are:

(i) ***Guardians of Pukerua Bay Beach***

A project to clear weeds and replant the unique vegetation on the foreshore.

(ii) ***Friends of Greendale***

Restoring the Muapoko Stream near Paraparaumu. We partially funded this group last year. However, the group made significant progress and applied for extra funding. The group is now fully funded for the next three years.

These groups join the following groups, which this year receive their second year of funding as RPS projects:

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

Remediation of the Lower Kaiwharawhara Stream, and a portion of the Korimako Stream at its junction with the Kaiwharawhara.

(iv) ***Waitohu Stream Care Group***

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

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

The creation of a freshwater wetland at Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve in Porirua.

Altogether, this means that Council will support 22 groups this year.

4. **Conclusion**

There has been strong interest in the Take 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*. With assistance from their Council staff facilitator, groups supported by the Council last year received extensive, positive coverage in the media. Individual groups will therefore again be encouraged, and helped, in their efforts to report Council support in their local papers.

7. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (1) *receives the report; and*
- (2) *notes the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

NIGEL CLARKE
Take Care Co-ordinator

GEOFF SKENE
Manager, Environment Co-ordination

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment