



Environmental Awards



2017



Environmental Awards



Welcome to the 2017 Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards. Tonight we're celebrating achievers from right across the spectrum. We're reaching into farms, marae, schools, businesses big and small, community groups and non-governmental organisations.

We're making 16 awards in five categories, bringing the total to 265 since the awards started in the 1990s.

All our award winners, and many others like them, show the commitment and determination that explains why Taranaki is at the forefront in environmental achievement, as in so many other aspects of national life.

The Council's extensive monitoring tells a consistent story: Taranaki enjoys a generally good environment that is stable or improving in many key areas, most especially freshwater quality.

This isn't by accident or good luck. Taranaki takes its environment very seriously. And it doesn't mean we can rest on our laurels. There's always more to be done. The bar is always being raised. Expectations grow greater, not smaller.

But looking at tonight's winners, we can be assured that the region's in good heart, more than ready to tackle the challenges that lie ahead.

David MacLeod, Taranaki Regional Council Chairman





Improving lifestyles



Supporting livelihoods



Taking Taranaki forward



Your regional councillors



- **Mihi whakatau**
- **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

- Woodleigh School
- Hawera Christian School - Habitat Heroes
- Para Kore ki Taranaki



Dow AgroSciences

Environmental leadership in land management

- Wayne and Michelle Berridge
- Putere Farm Trust
- Chris Jury and Daniela Krumm
- Holly Johnson and Simon Bailey



Environmental Awards



Environmental leadership in business

- Julie Harkness
- Trustpower Ltd - Taranaki Generation
- Double R Taranaki Ltd



Dairy for life

Environmental leadership in dairy farming

- Ray and Pauline Willy
- DP & JH Roper Family Trusts Partnership
- Ian Sharpe



Environmental action in the community

- Native Forest Restoration Trust
- Jenny Kerrisk
- Allen Stancliff

Environmental action in education

SPONSOR: **Fairfax Media**

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 schools to a marae-focused programme.



Woodleigh School

For inspiring students through environmental education and action.

Students at all levels are actively learning about and caring for their environment at Woodleigh School.

They interact and learn about the environment through field trips to study the rocky shore, local streams, wetlands and the Pukeiti Rainforest School, and in the outdoor classroom and vegetable garden at their school. Data and observations from these activities are used in classroom activities.

The school has a recycling and waste minimisation programme.

Parents and the wider community are involved with outdoor learning activities such as potting seedlings from Pukeiti, and developing and maintaining the environmental education area.

Woodleigh School has integrated environmental education across its learning programmes and students are encouraged to discuss environmental issues with people outside the school.



Environmental action in education



Hawera Christian School Habitat Heroes

**For fostering environmental learning and stewardship
in partnership with Nowell's Lakes Walkway Trust.**

Hawera Christian School's Habitat Heroes work with the Nowell's Lakes Walkway Trust to care for and develop the walkway and wetlands.

Habitat Heroes is a small group of students, with membership changing from year to year. Each month they work with the Trust on an exciting environmental project or lesson. They also have a shade house where they care for seedlings and native plants to be used by the Trust.

Other projects include building bird houses, wildlife observation and planting swan plants and hebes for monarchs and other butterflies.

The Habitat Heroes share their learning with the rest of the school and on a blog site.

The whole school, with parents, visits Nowell's Lakes a couple of times a year to replant and develop areas of the walkway.



Environmental action in education



Para Kore ki Taranaki

For encouraging marae, events and education providers to reduce waste by recycling and composting.

Para Kore means 'zero waste' and that is their vision for all marae.

Since 2013, Para Kore ki Taranaki have worked with 22 marae in Taranaki, five education providers and organisers of events such as the Taranaki Toa triathlon series.

Para Kore helps organisations and their whānau understand the need to minimise the amount of waste going to landfill, and the need to commit to sustainable systems.

It facilitates wānanga or workshops, and provides systems and resources which can be delivered in Te Reo.

Activities include waste audits, card games, demonstrations, talks and an online waste tracker to record the quantity of waste and the amount diverted. Videos and social media are used alongside traditional face-to-face methods.

The data shows participants are now diverting around 80% of waste.

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

Wayne & Michelle Berridge

For environmental stewardship, including riparian, wetland and native habitat enhancement.

Sustainable farming is a primary focus for Wayne and Michelle Berridge on their 59-hectare drystock farm near Omata. They are committed to protecting and enhancing water quality and restoring native habitats.

Since 2011, they've fully protected their waterways and wetlands with 4.8 kilometres of new riparian fencing and 4.5 kilometres of planting.

Two native bush blocks and a wetland are key native ecosystems now protected by QEII Covenant. With support from Council staff and a biodiversity plan, the Berridges are controlling plant and animal pests.

The riparian margins, wetlands and bush areas are now a connected ecosystem, with native flora and fauna thriving.

Children Melissa and Jake help with the environmental work and the family hosts visitors interested in the project. The wetlands feature in a display at Puke Ariki.



Environmental leadership in land management



Putere Farm Trust

For environmental stewardship, sustainable land management and native habitat restoration.

Sandra and Duncan Blue sustainably farm their 352-hectare sheep and beef farm at Huiakama in east Taranaki.

They are implementing a Taranaki Regional Council farm plan and since 2010, they have planted poplar and willow poles to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and provide shade for stock.

As well as maximising productivity, the Blues are committed to enhancing their environment and restoring native habitat.

They have collaborated with the Taranaki Tree Trust, Fish and Game, QEII Trust and Taranaki Regional Council to create a QEII-protected wetland which is now home to rare native dabchicks and, potentially, spotless crake.

The Blues have done extensive fencing and restoration planting, and regular plant and animal pest control. They are strong advocates for biodiversity enhancement, and host interested groups.



Environmental leadership in land management



Chris Jury & Daniela Krumm

For environmental stewardship, including farm shelter, and riparian and wetland enhancement.

Chris Jury and Daniela Krumm have created an organic self-sufficient lifestyle on their 52-hectare drystock and horticulture farm at Tikorangi.

They run intensive rotational grazing for wintering ewes and their replacements. In a two-tier system sheep also graze the extensive orchards, and shelterbelts provide edible foliage.

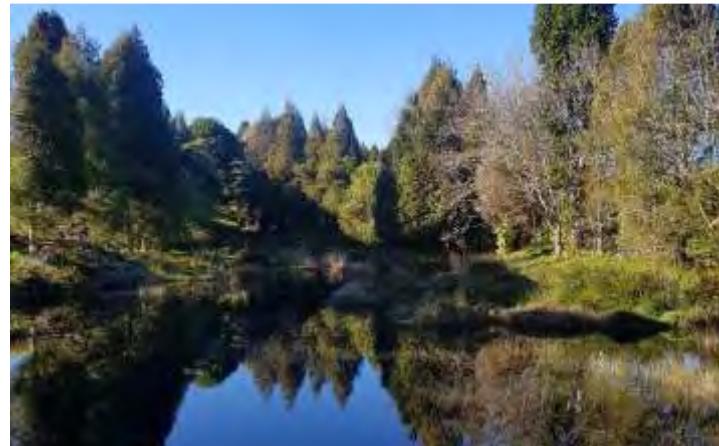
As well as the 12-hectare orchard of macadamia trees and avocados, Chris and Daniela have fenced and planted stream margins, native shelter belts and hillsides, and fenced bush areas. Created wetlands encourage native wildlife and provide natural habitat for tree frogs.

Their whole farm has become a connected ecosystem of natural habitats which enhance water quality and biodiversity in the streams.

The couple also share their knowledge and surroundings with visitors. Macadamia products are grown, harvested, processed and marketed at local markets and outlets around the country.



Environmental leadership in land management



Holly Johnson & Simon Bailey

For environmental stewardship, including restoring and protecting native habitats.

Holly Johnson and Simon Bailey are protecting and restoring the native habitats on their 35-hectare bush property, bordering Egmont National Park near Okato.

A QEII covenant covers the property and in 2015, Holly and Simon developed a biodiversity plan with the Regional Council to help restore the native biodiversity.

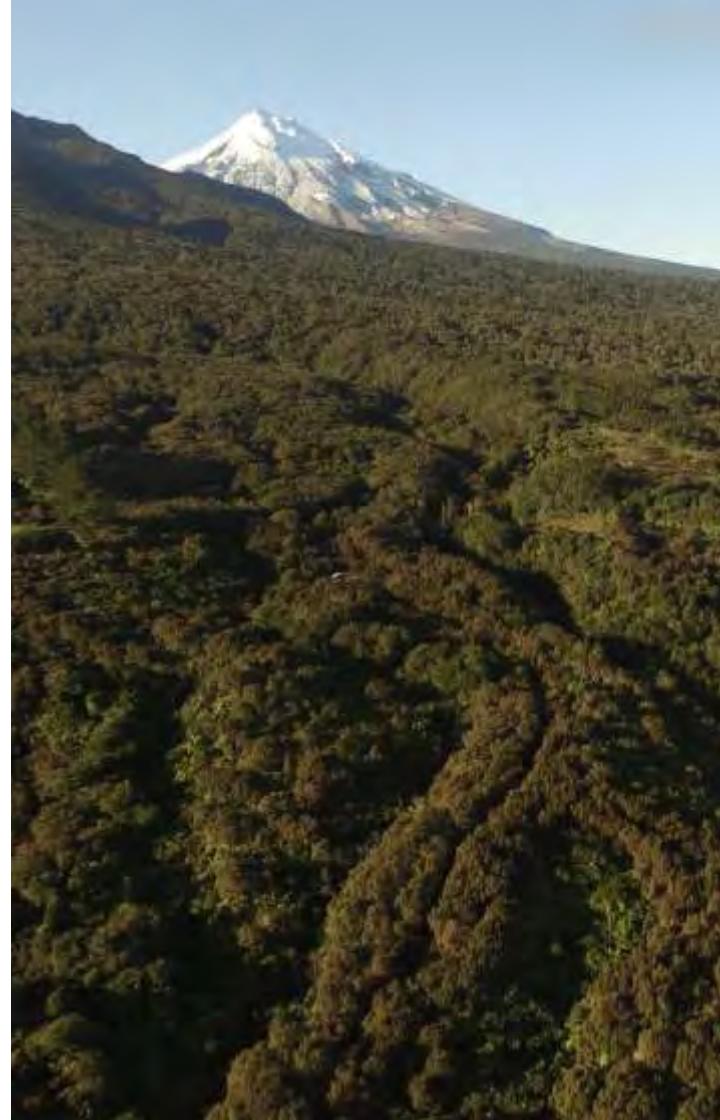
Retired pasture is regenerating to bush, and Holly has been growing and planting native seedlings eco-sourced from the property.

Plant and animal pests are controlled to encourage the plentiful native wildlife, including goldstripe gecko and the New Zealand falcon.

The water quality, biodiversity and stability of the many small streams have been enhanced. And Holly helps monitor the native fish – shortjaw and banded kokopu and longfin eels – in the Katikara Stream running through the property.



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.



Julie Harkness

For introducing a programme to reduce and recycle waste at Southern Cross Hospital New Plymouth.

Julie Harkness has developed and led a programme to reduce waste going to landfill from Southern Cross Hospital New Plymouth.

Julie communicates with staff across the organisation on the benefits of recycling and encourages them to become involved.

She introduced a system of bins at key points in the hospital, for recycling cardboard, paper, plastics, glass, batteries and appropriate medical products such as compression sleeves.

Many staff recycle in their homes and were pleased to be able to recycle at work. Staff readily engaged with the programme and the recycling 'buzz' quickly spread.

The successful programme is firmly established and has financial benefits for the organisation, as well as environmental benefits. It is supported by management and is continuously improved.



*Te taiao me te pākihi
Environmental leadership in business*



Trustpower Ltd

Taranaki Generation

For trapping and successfully transferring migrating native fish and increasing biodiversity in the headwaters of the Patea catchment.

Trustpower staff trap and transfer migrating native fish from the base of the Patea power station to the headwaters above Lake Rotorangi. Without assistance, migrating native fish cannot swim upstream past the dam.

Around one and a half million young longfin and shortfin eels and 13,000 juvenile whitebait were successfully transferred past the Patea Dam into the headwaters of Lake Rotorangi in the year to June 2016.

Previous monitoring by the Regional Council indicated that native fish species were declining or absent above Lake Rotorangi. Recent monitoring shows that adult koaro are again living above Lake Rotorangi, eel numbers are increasing, and fish diversity has increased.

The Taranaki Generation site staff are extremely committed to the programme and engage with the Department of Conservation, Ngati Ruanui and Nga Rauru.



Te taiao me te pākihi
Environmental leadership in business



Double R Taranaki Ltd

For reducing energy and water consumption and positive environmental management.

Sue Okey and Graeme Parkinson have focused on improving the energy efficiency and environmental management of their five-hectare Lepperton chicken farm.

In 2016, they installed a 53-kilowatt solar power generation system to significantly reduce energy demand from the power grid for their eight-shed meat production operation. The system's production and power consumption can be monitored remotely from any web-connected device.

A rain water collection, storage and filtration system provides water for washing down the chicken sheds. High-pressure water blasters are used for cleaning to reduce water consumption and the volume of effluent. The waste water is stored in sumps and irrigated to land by a slurry tanker.

The road frontage is being landscaped with native trees which will also screen the sheds and minimise odour.



*Te taiao me te pākihi
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

Ray & Pauline Willy

For environmental stewardship, including riparian, wetland and native habitat enhancement.

Ray and Pauline Willy are passionate about sustainably farming their 98-hectare dairy farm. And they are very active in protecting and restoring native habitats on their property and the surrounding Rawhitiroa area near Eltham.

A 1.8-hectare wetland on the property is a rare natural habitat for native mudfish, and is fenced and protected with a QEII covenant. Ray assists with monitoring fish populations.

They're controlling pest plants and animals, and doing restoration planting through a Regional Council biodiversity plan. The farm's in the council's Self-Help Possum Control Programme.

All 12.5 kilometres of streams and drains are fenced. All streams are planted and drains are being planted. Dairy effluent is discharged on to land.

Ray has supported the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust as a volunteer since 2005, and helps with trapping and education.



Environmental leadership in dairy farming



DP & JH Roper Family Trusts Partnership

For environmental stewardship, including riparian, wetland and native habitat enhancement.

The Ropers are committed to protecting and enhancing the environment and restoring native habitats on their 170-hectare Alton dairy farm.

All waterways, including a regionally significant wetland and a two-hectare constructed lake, are fully fenced and the margins are being planted to protect and improve water quality and biodiversity.

They are working with the regional council on a biodiversity plan to control animal and plant pests and do restoration planting in a two-hectare bush block, which is a key native ecosystem. A boardwalk has been built through the bush remnant to host school visits.

Water-saving systems have been implemented in the dairy shed and the effluent management system has recently been upgraded to irrigate on to 35 hectares, with plans to increase to 45 hectares.



Environmental leadership in dairy farming



Ian Sharpe

For environmental stewardship, including riparian and native habitat enhancement.

Ian Sharpe's motivation has always been to sustainably farm his 68-hectare low-input dairy farm on Lincoln Road near Inglewood. A diverse landscape is just as important as production and profit.

Ian began riparian fencing and planting 20 years ago on his previous farm.

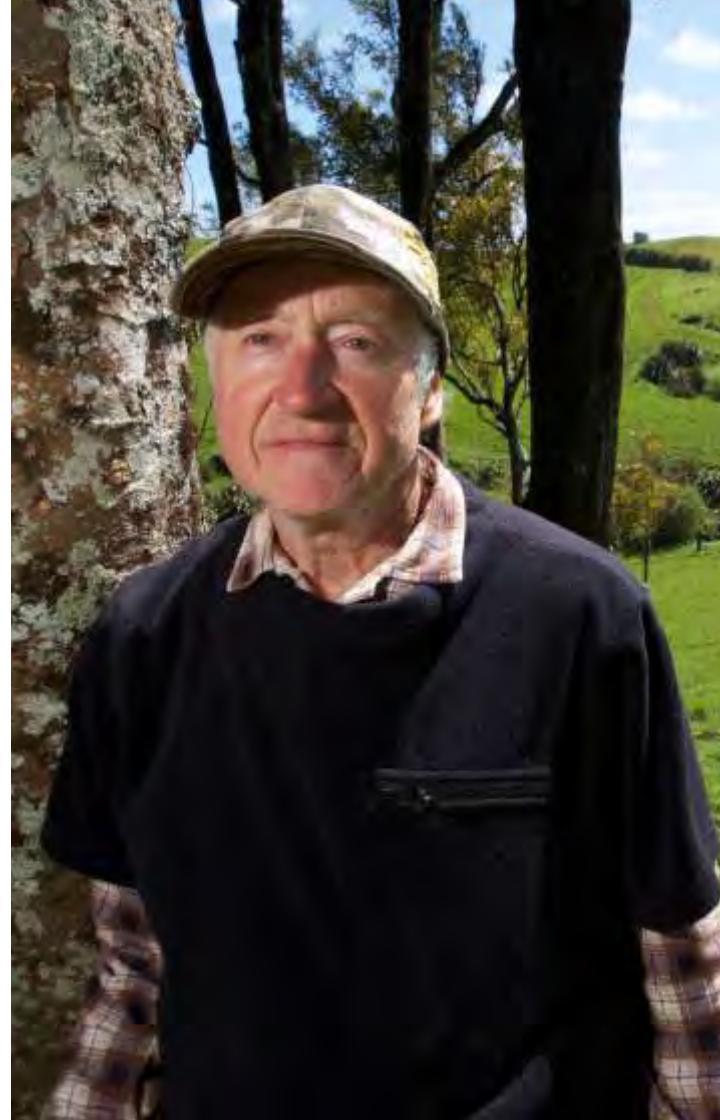
On his current farm, he has fenced the waterways and planted along the many small streams every year since 2006, totalling more than 2,600 plants along two kilometres of streambanks. He plans to be finished by the end of the decade. Trees are also planted as a food source for birds and bees.

Ian plans to protect and restore a four-hectare native forest, a wetland and a retired gully by QEII covenant.

Ian's consistent effort is a great example of what can be achieved with limited resources.



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.



Native Forest Restoration Trust

For restoration and permanent guardianship of native forest habitats.

The Native Forest Restoration Trust has secured the future of two valuable native bush and wetland blocks in Taranaki. It is collaborating with the QEII Trust, Taranaki Kiwi Trust, Conservation Department, Taranaki Regional Council and New Plymouth District Council to protect and enhance their biodiversity.

The Omoana Bush, in eastern Taranaki, is 550 hectares of original and regenerating native forest, and retired grazing land.

The 134-hectare Taranaki Mahood-Lowe Reserve south of Egmont Village is a valuable example of a regionally rare forest wetland adjacent to Egmont National Park.

Biodiversity plans, prepared with the Regional Council, set out ongoing management, pest control and restoration of habitat for species such as the North Island brown kiwi, New Zealand falcon, whio, and native bats and fish.



Environmental action in the community



Jenny Kerrisk

For coordinating the volunteer programme to restore and protect native biodiversity at Rotokare Scenic Reserve.

Jenny Kerrisk is an outstanding example of the hundreds of passionate volunteers who commit time, energy and expertise to restore, protect and enhance the stunning 230-hectare Rotokare Scenic Reserve.

The community-led reserve, inland from Eltham, is a nationally important pest-free sanctuary. The Trust could not have achieved this status or undertaken its many projects without the massive contribution of volunteers.

For the past eight years, Jenny has volunteered to coordinate the volunteers, who collectively give more than 9,000 hours each year checking traps, monitoring, maintaining the fence and walkways, and other tasks.

Jenny also manages the Facebook page and deals with enquiries, newsletter, events and working bees.

Jenny is motivated by the huge achievements of the Trust and is an inspiration to other volunteers.



Environmental action in the community



Allen Stancliff

For individual advocacy and action to protect and enhance Taranaki's environment and native biodiversity

Allen Stancliff has built up extensive knowledge of Taranaki freshwater ecosystems, native fish and waterfowl, and freshwater quality and quantity, over the past 27 years.

He is a passionate advocate for their protection and enhancement and has contributed greatly to the progressive improvement in freshwater management in Taranaki.

Allen has consulted widely with landowners, QEII Trust, Department of Conservation, district and regional councils, iwi and industry.

Allen has advised on and been involved in many projects, including the upper Waiwhakaiho riparian project, the Herekawe Walkway, wetland creation and protection projects on private land throughout the region, and installing fish passes.

For many years Allen has served as Field Officer for Taranaki Fish and Game, trustee for the Taranaki Tree Trust and foundation member of the Taranaki Biodiversity Trust.

Environmental action in the community



