

NATURAL HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES FUND

PROJECTS FUNDED 1 JULY 2015 – 30 JUNE 2016

ABOUT THIS FUNDING ROUND

A total of 30 applications were received in the 2015/16 Environmental Initiatives Fund (EIF) funding round (including two applications deferred from the previous financial year), totalling \$843,310 in requested funds. Three applications were deferred to the Natural Heritage Fund, one application was deferred to the Enviroschools Grant Fund, leaving 26 EIF applications totalling \$707,657 in requested funds. Grants totalling \$274,900 were made to 18 projects.

COROMANDEL KAURI DIEBACK FORUM TRUST

Project:	Survey of current knowledge, attitudes and behaviour about kauri dieback
District/Catchment Zone:	Thames Coromandel/Coromandel North Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$25,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

Coromandel Kauri Dieback Forum is a community, the group established to help fight kauri dieback disease on the Coromandel Peninsula. This grant will assist the Forum to undertake a baseline survey of current knowledge, attitudes and behaviour towards kauri dieback in the Waikato region, including stationing “kauri ambassadors” at track entrances to record actual behaviour and compliance at kauri dieback cleaning facilities.

FAIRFIELD PROJECT COMMITTEE

Project:	The Fairfield Project environmental educator/coordinator
District/Catchment Zone:	Hamilton City/Central Waikato Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$25,000
Duration of Funding:	2 years (\$15,000 in 2015/16; \$10,000 in 2016/17)

The Fairfield Project Committee is a community group formed in 2013 to establish an ecological and environmental education centre for the community at Fairfield College in Hamilton. Plans are underway to develop the 12 hectare site to include an education centre, nurseries, gardens and a gully restoration programme. This grant will contribute to the costs of an environmental educator to develop new ecologically and sustainably focussed educational programmes for schools and the community.

GRANDVIEW COMMUNITY GARDEN TRUST

Project:	Nga rongoa garden & gully restoration project
District/Catchment Zone:	Hamilton City/Central Waikato Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$3,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

The Grandview Community Garden Trust in nAwton, Hamilton and is restoring an adjacent gully and wetland area. The EIF grant will be used for educational workshops, supervision onsite and materials and native plants to extend the garden and associated walkway.

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT & LANDCARE PARTNERSHIP - WAIHI (HELP WAIHI)

Project:	Ohinemuri River weed control and planting
District/Catchment Zone:	Hamilton City/Central Waikato Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$13,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

HELP Waihi was established in 1996 to improve the ecological environment of the Waihi area, particularly along the river banks. This project aims to remove existing Japanese walnut trees along the Ohinemuri River and replant with natives, and the EIF grant will be used for herbicide, equipment, contract labour and native plants.

HAMILTON HOMELESS TRUST

Project:	Development of a community garden
District/Catchment Zone:	Hamilton City/Central Waikato Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$2,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

The Hamilton Homeless Trust provides food and resources essential to survival to low-income individuals and families in Hamilton. The EIF grant will be used to fund rainwater collection/irrigation equipment, compost bins and worm farms for their new community garden at Ohaupo.

HAURAKI RAIL TRAIL CHARITABLE TRUST

Project:	Weed control and planting along the Hauraki Rail Trail
District/Catchment Zone:	Hauraki District/Waihou Piako Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$17,500
Duration of Funding:	1 year

The Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust (HRTCT) was set up in 2012 to operate, manage and promote the Hauraki Rail Trail, part of the national cycleway network. This project aims to remove Chinese privet and other weeds from selected sections alongside the trail followed by native replanting, and the EIF grant will be used for herbicide, equipment, contract labour and native plants.

KAPOWAI KIWI CARE

Project:	Predator control to protect kiwi in the Kapowai Valley
District/Catchment Zone:	Thames-Coromandel District/Coromandel North Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$20,000
Duration of Funding:	2 years (\$10,000 in 2015/16; \$10,000 in 2016/17)

Kapowai Kiwi Care works to protect and enhance the Coromandel Brown kiwi population and other native flora and fauna over 3000 hectares in the Kapowai Valley near Coroglen. The EIF grant will contribute to contractor costs to continue the servicing and maintenance of seven lines of 250 stoat traps and 80 bait stations and associated tracks.

MIST PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Project:	Feral pig control for king fern protection in the MIST reserve
District/Catchment Zone:	Thames Coromandel District/Coromandel North Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$10,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

The Mist Preservation Society manages a 241 hectare area of private land located on the south-eastern flanks of Mt Moehau at the northern tip of the Coromandel Peninsula that contains a number of threatened species. The EIF grant will contribute to the cost of controlling feral pigs and monitoring their impact on king ferns present in the reserve.

NGA URI O TE NGAHERE TRUST

Project:	Building marae-based capacity to engage in local ecological restoration programmes
District/Catchment Zone:	South Waikato District/Upper Waikato Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$17,400
Duration of Funding:	1 year

Nga Uri o te Ngahere Trust was formed in 2004 to bridge the space between Maturanga Maori (Maori body of knowledge) and western scientific research to protect and restore New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity. The EIF grant will assist the Trust to build marae-based capacity to engage in ecological restoration programmes being undertaken along the waterways adjacent to Raukawa marae and Maori-owned land in the upper Waihou River catchment.

PROJECT LITEFOOT TRUST

Project:	Implementation of the LiteClub programme in the Waikato region
District/Catchment Zone:	Regional/All zones
EIF Contribution:	\$20,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

Project LiteFoot Trust was formed in 2008 with the aim of inspiring New Zealanders to be environmental champions using the spirit of sport as the foundation. The LiteClub initiative, launched in June 2011, has the objective of transforming New Zealand's 4000 sports clubs to significantly reduce their environmental impact by being more efficient with electricity, water and waste. The EIF grant will be used to implement the programme into 29 sports clubs in the Waikato region.

QEII NATIONAL TRUST

Project:	Vivian Falls weed control and infill planting
District/Catchment Zone:	Waikato District/Lower Waikato Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$11,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

The project site is a 6.9 hectare QEII covenant area of privately-owned, semi-coastal taraire-puriri forest with regenerating kanuka/manuka, containing a 20m high waterfall. This grant will assist the local community group to cut access tracks and control exotic weeds including privet, woolly nightshade, barbary and pampas.

RIVERLEA ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY

Project:	Restoration of Hammond Park
District/Catchment Zone:	Hamilton City/Central Waikato Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$20,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

Riverlea Environment Society was established in 2007 and works to protect and enhance the environment of their local area, the suburb of Riverlea in Hamilton city. This area includes the regionally significant Hammond Park, one of the last remaining forest remnants in the city adjacent to the Waikato River. This grant will be used to pay for the costs of native plants and a project coordinator to help extend the group's restoration programme into adjoining private land.

TAMAHERE-MANGAONE RESTORATION TRUST

Project:	Restoration plan for the Tamahere Reserve
District/Catchment Zone:	Waikato District/Central Waikato Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$5,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

The Tamahere-Mangaone Restoration Trust was formed in 2013 for the purpose of restoring and managing the Tamahere Reserve near Hamilton for its biodiversity values. The reserve is owned by Waikato District Council and is a regionally significant 4.6 hectare area of original kahikatea swamp forest. The EIF grant will be used for the preparation of an operational plan by a professional ecologist to assist with ongoing management of the reserve.

TE ARAWA RIVER IWI TRUST (TARIT)

Project:	Iwi in Wetland: Learning through experience
District/Catchment Zone:	Taupo District/Upper Waikato Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$7,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

TARIT represents the interests of three river iwi groups within the Upper Waikato River catchment area. The EIF grant will assist TARIT in implementing a wetland restoration and education programme ("Iwi in Wetlands – Learning Through Experience") involving adults and students from the local iwi in educational field days and workshops.

TE WHANGAI TRUST

Project:	Development of catchment plans by the Mangatarata- Miranda-Kaiaua Community Care Group
District/Catchment Zone:	Hauraki District/Waihou Piako Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$25,000
Duration of Funding:	2 years (\$15,000 in 2015/16; \$10,000 in 2016/17)

Te Whangai Trust, established in 2007 in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, is an ecological, social and educational enterprise that provides on-the-job training for long-term unemployed youth at their native plant nursery at Miranda. This grant will contribute to the costs of a facilitator to assist the local community group to develop community-led catchment soil, water biodiversity and pest management plans.

WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Project:	Lake Puketirini ecological enhancement programme
District/Catchment Zone:	Waikato District/Lower Waikato Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$14,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

Waikato District Council are currently implementing an ecological enhancement programme at Lake Puketirini reserve near Huntly. This lake is the flooded pit of a Solid Energy opencast coal mine decommissioned and developed into a reserve between 1993 and 2004, and falls within the Waikato River catchment. The lake and associated wetlands are locally significant and the reserve has considerable amenity value to the local community. This grant will contribute to the cost of native plants for enhancement planting.

WAIKATO ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Project:	Kaivolution Food Rescue
District/Catchment Zone:	Hamilton City/Central Waikato Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$20,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

The Waikato Environment Centre is a regional hub for community environmental activity, located in Hamilton city. WEC provides community education, collaborates with and supports environmental groups and projects, promotes sustainability and operates an e-waste recycling depot. In 2014 WEC launched the Kaivolution Food Rescue service in Hamilton, collaborating with food retailers and producers to rescue surplus food and redistribute it to community groups working with people in need. This grant will contribute to the costs of project coordination.

WHAINGAROA ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Project:	Plastic Bag Free Raglan
District/Catchment Zone:	Waikato District/West Coast Zone
EIF Contribution:	\$20,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

This project is a collaborative initiative that aims to create a plastic bag free Raglan-Waingaroa, by encouraging residents, business owners and visitors to be more conscious of their environmental impact and support reusable shopping bags within the community, with an objective of 80% of Raglan businesses ceasing to supply plastic shopping bags by July 2017. The EIF grant will contribute to the cost of a paid project coordinator to liaise with businesses, undertake marketing and communications, collect data and monitor and report on the project.