

# Ecocare News

Your update on care in the Auckland region

Issue 1

April 2005

**Welcome** to the inaugural issue of the quarterly newsletter of the Auckland Regional Council's Ecocare Team. In this and future issues, we will provide you with information and news about a variety of topics including funding, training, workshops and events. We hope you will find this newsletter useful and informative.

**Ecocare** is a project to help the ARC develop, co-ordinate, resource and deliver community funding, support and consultation across the **Air, Land and Water Quality initiatives**.

## Environmental Initiatives Fund (EIF)

The Auckland Regional Council's Environmental Management Committee met late last year and has approved the next funding round. Key dates and deadlines for this are outlined below.

**25 May 2005** Application packs made available  
**1 June 2005** Applications for the EIF open.  
**1 August 2005** Applications for the EIF close at 5.00pm

**In mid November 2005 the funding decisions will be made with all applicants being advised of the outcome**

Please note that EIF funding is not retrospective and successful applicants will receive funding for projects commencing within the time period of November 2005 – November 2006.

The ARC is conducting seminars in May and June this year on environmental funding and the EIF application process. If you would like to attend a seminar, please register your interest by contacting Leon Austin (details below).

### Keep informed

We have set up an email database to keep interested groups and individuals informed about the latest environmental funding and training initiatives around the Auckland region. If you have any further questions, or wish to place your details on our database please contact Leon Austin at (09) 366 2000 ext 7120, or email [leon.austin@arc.govt.nz](mailto:leon.austin@arc.govt.nz).

## Applications are open for the 2005 ARC Environment Awards

The ARC Environment Awards celebrate those who care for our environment and heritage and who work towards a sustainable Auckland region. The awards are about acknowledging those who protect and enhance the natural environment. They also recognise those who work towards a sustainable environment in our highly urbanised, high growth region.

As 2005 is the Year of the Built Environment, we have included special awards relevant to this theme for this year.

Applications close on 31 May 2005. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on 28 July 2005. You can enter yourself or nominate someone else's project.

This year we have both hardcopy and an online application facility. You'll find the online information - guidelines for applicants and the application form - on [www.arc.govt.nz/environmentawards](http://www.arc.govt.nz/environmentawards)

Or contact ARC on 09 366 2000 and ask for an application to be sent out.

**The Auckland Regional Council is calling for applications to a Grants Fund to help address the sedimentation problem in the Mahurangi Harbour.**

As part of the Mahurangi Action Plan, the ARC has set up a Grants Fund of \$200,000 to assist those living and operating within the Mahurangi catchment to undertake practical works on their land to reduce sedimentation. ARC Environment Management Chair, Dianne Glenn, says the Grants Fund focuses on projects that will reduce sediment entering waterways. "These projects could involve fencing off streams, waterways and wetlands, undertaking riparian planting, retiring erosion-prone land, and changing land management practices," she says.

ARC Mahurangi Action Plan Project Leader, Stefan Seitzer, says successful applicants will be required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the ARC and comply with certain terms and conditions.

"I would like to encourage interested people/groups to contact me in the first instance to discuss their proposed initiative and schedule a site visit," he says.

There will be one funding round per financial year, although it is possible for applications to be made throughout the year during the first year of operation. Applications will be required to be made on the prescribed form, and be accompanied by sufficient supporting information, e.g. fencing/planting plans, maintenance schedule, and monitoring plan.

Applications will be considered by the Grants Funding Assessment Team, consisting of two ARC Councillors, the Director, Environmental Management and the Mahurangi Action Plan Project Leader.

For more information and to download the forms visit: [www.arc.govt.nz/environment/land](http://www.arc.govt.nz/environment/land)

**Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)**

The Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) distributes more than \$12 million to over 3000 voluntary and community organisations every year. Local distribution committees (LDCs) decide on COGS grant applications from groups within their communities.

You can meet the people who make these decisions at a COGS public meeting in your area.

At the meeting you can:

- have a say about your community's funding needs and priorities;
- hear reports from the outgoing LDC on the previous year's funding decisions;
- meet local candidates standing for election in the LDC election; and
- find out more about COGS funding.

The COGS public meetings are being held throughout the country from 12 to 30 April.

For details of the public meetings(s) in your area, either contact your nearest Department of Internal Affairs Local Government and Community office, go to the COGS section of the Department of Internal Affairs website, [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz), or phone 0800 824 824.

### Biosecurity Big Clean Up

Over the month of April as part of a biosecurity campaign, ARC volunteers are exchanging native plants for pest plants. The purpose is to educate homeowners that what grows on their property has potential to impact adversely on our native forests and regional parks.

Let family and friends know that these events are taking place and support the "weed out pests, plant more native" initiative.

During April 2005 we will be holding native plant exchanges. Bring along a cutting of one of the Big Clean Up's most common pest plants, and receive a native plant to plant instead. There will be ARC staff on hand to provide their expertise on removal and disposal of pest plants.

**30 April 2005, 8.30am - 12.30pm**

Botanic Gardens, 102 Hill Road, Manurewa.

For advice on removal and disposal of any pest plant please either contact us, email [biosecurity@arc.govt.nz](mailto:biosecurity@arc.govt.nz) or visit the biosecurity website at [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz)

Next **Riparian Zone Management Workshop** to be held on 19 May at Botanic Gardens, if you are interested in attending a **free** one day training workshop then contact **Julie Pickering** on phone **366 2000 ext 8454**. Attendees receive a free copy of the guideline.

### Open Door Project – Get on TV

The Open Door project gives access to TV3 Network television to selected individuals and groups of New Zealanders. If you're involved in an issue, a cause or an activity that you want people to know about, you can apply to make your own television documentary.

Do you, or a group that you're involved with, have something to say to the people of New Zealand, but no way of saying it? Would you like to get onto national television?

Open Door is funded by New Zealand On Air and broadcast on TV3 Network. It's a unique form of community-based television that allows groups or individuals to apply to make a documentary program about an issue, be it family, social, sexual, political, religious or whatever, that involves or concerns them.

The Production Company, Morningside Productions, and TV3 will then select the ten best proposals. The programmes are made using the expertise and equipment of the production team but with participants taking editorial control.

For more info go to - [www.opendoor.net.nz](http://www.opendoor.net.nz)

### The Auckland Regional Council has delivered Region Wide, the council's regular newsletter, to letterboxes throughout the region. The latest issue summarises this year's Draft Annual Plan.

Included are proposals that will affect our region into the future, such as the development of the regional transport system, implementation of the regional growth strategy and the creation of a regional parkland purchase fund. Residents and ratepayers can have their say on these proposals, and other issues regarding Auckland's future, by filling out the questionnaire in Region Wide, or making a formal submission.

In addition to the formal submission and hearing process, the ARC is running an on-line questionnaire to make it easier for people to have their say and comment on what their regional rates help pay for. The Draft Annual Plan is open for public consultation until Friday 6 May.

A copy of the Plan and additional information about how to comment is available by:

Going online: [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz)

Emailing: [info@arc.govt.nz](mailto:info@arc.govt.nz)

Phoning (09) 366 2000 (or 0800 80 60 40 outside the toll-free area)

Faxing (09) 366 2155; or asking at your local library.

## Introduction to funding application training for community groups

Auckland City (in conjunction with the Department of Internal Affairs) are running some more funding application training sessions. These are practical one-day workshops focusing on providing basic funding application training for community groups. The content will largely focus on how to successfully complete a funding application form and will include such topics as

- **Tips for clearly defining a project**
- **Effective budgeting for projects or initiatives**
- **Selling projects to prospective funders**
- **How funders make their decisions**
- 

Cost - \$10.00 non refundable (Includes a light lunch)

Dates – 17 May Waiheke Island  
24 May Onehunga  
28 May Three Kings

We are also running workshops in:

- Financial training (due to over subscription) on the 26th and 30th April
- Business planning - mid to late May

Please contact Fiona MacKenzie on 353 9658 or [fiona.mackenzie@aucklandcity.govt.nz](mailto:fiona.mackenzie@aucklandcity.govt.nz) to register or for more information

## Breaking down the Barriers the Resource Management Act made easy – discover

*practical ways to influence positive environmental change* – Forest and Bird are holding a free RMA Workshop, Sunday, 1 May 2005, 10am – 4pm, BYO Lunch at the Mary Thomas Centre, 3 Gibbons Road, Takapuna. Led by experience resource management practitioners, participants receive a useful *Guide to the RMA*.

### To register contact:-

Sue Yates, Conservation Assistant,  
Forest and Bird Central Office, PO Box 631,  
Wellington  
Email [s.yates@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:s.yates@forestandbird.org.nz)  
DD 04 801 2217 Fax 04 385 7373

## manawa

Coordinating Auckland's environmental care groups

### Introducing [www.manawa.org.nz](http://www.manawa.org.nz)

**manawa** (mangrove) is a website for people and groups working for the environment in the Auckland region. Its aim is to build an online community of environmental care groups to help strengthen and coordinate their work.

Mangroves stand between land and sea and safeguard both. In many ways they symbolise the crucial work of Auckland's conservation groups.

**Manawa** is a 'shared information' website where the users put content on the website for mutual benefit. You can use **manawa** to:

- **Create your own mini-homepage to profile your groups activities**
- **Post upcoming events** (and check your planned event doesn't clash with others)
- **Advertise for volunteers**
- **Publish news and pictures**
- **Share experiences and information**
- **Exchange views on issues**
- **Find out about programmes run by councils and DOC**

In short **manawa** is your website. If your group already has one, link your website to **manawa**.

Register as a user now and start putting up information and pictures about your group. **manawa** is easy to use and get around, but if you have any difficulties contact the **manawa** administrator: [manawa.admin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:manawa.admin@xtra.co.nz)

With your support **manawa** will be the best, most up-to-date community environmental website in New Zealand.

For any information regarding content of this newsletter you can contact:-  
Ecocare Coordinator  
Auckland Regional Council  
Ph: (09) 366 2000 ext 8255 or email  
[Mandy.brown@arc.govt.nz](mailto:Mandy.brown@arc.govt.nz)