



The Award is presented to

**Resene PaintWise**

WINNER 2008

CATEGORY: Innovative solutions for the environment

Awarded for their efforts to encourage New Zealanders to reuse and recycle paint and paint packaging.

Hon Trevor Mallard, Minister for the Environment



# Green Ribbon Awards

Whatungaro He Tangata  
Toitu He Whenua



New Zealand Government





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## 2008 Programme



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mō Te Taiao*

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## Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you this year's environmental champions – the 2008 Green Ribbon Award winners.

The Green Ribbon Awards are an opportunity for me to acknowledge the outstanding contribution these New Zealanders are making to sustaining, protecting and enhancing our environment.

As the awards take place for the 18<sup>th</sup> time, we will also be celebrating New Zealand's hosting of World Environment Day on 5 June. During the week, communities throughout the country will showcase what we are doing to protect our environment, raise people's consciousness on environmental issues and make a difference to our well-being.

This year's winners are role models for us all in this respect. They inspire, empower and support others to also help care for our environment.

I hope you all enjoy the evening and join me in acknowledging and celebrating the achievements of these inspirational New Zealanders.



Hon Trevor Mallard  
Minister for the Environment



## Making a difference to household sustainability

### WINNER **EnviroComp Limited** **Karen and Karl Upston**

**Awarded for their outstanding contribution to reducing household waste by providing a viable alternative for nappy disposal.**

As parents and owners of a business selling disposable and cloth nappies, Karen and Karl Upston are very aware of the impact nappies have on the environment, and decided to trial composting disposable nappies on a commercial scale using a prototype composting unit.



The five-month trial, which was conducted from March to July 2007 in the Canterbury region, achieved impressive results making a real difference to over 200 families, six pre-schools, the local maternity hospital and a Christchurch branch of the IHC. Approximately 450,000 nappies were composted, equating to 56 tonnes of waste being diverted from landfill.

The results of the trial have been used to develop the commercial Huggies EnviroComp Solution, a facility open to the North Canterbury and Christchurch region from the end of 2008.

## Urban sustainability

### WINNER

#### **Waitakere City Council Waitakere Central**

**Awarded for their outstanding development of Waitakere Central to enhance urban sustainability.**

Waitakere City Council have made an outstanding contribution to urban sustainability through their series of urban projects intended to improve the environment. Their efforts have culminated in the Waitakere Central development.

With the intention to encourage people to use sustainable transport options and leave their cars at home, the council re-sited their headquarters, Waitakere Central, to the Henderson town centre alongside the railway station. Further good practice saw the bus interchange shifted nearby the building to form a thriving public transport hub.

The construction of the building is based on the principles of the council's Better Building Code and includes a 'green roof' with drought-tolerant plants that filter and slow the flow of rain; passive solar design that admits daylight into the interior; low-energy ventilation and energy-efficient lighting; solar water heating; a micro wind turbine for electricity generation; and a worm farm and a recycling system for all wastes. An active workplace travel plan is in place, with rewards for people who use public transport, walk and cycle.



## Sustainable land use

### WINNER

#### **Starborough Flaxbourne Soil Conservation Group**

**Awarded for their efforts and leadership shown to improve farmland affected by drought.**

Four years ago a group of Marlborough farmers realised that the impact of soil damage through successive years of lower than average rainfall was threatening their future on the land, forcing drastic de-stocking, and reducing farmer incomes.

In 2005, the Starborough Flaxbourne Soil Conservation Group, with support from the Sustainable Farming Fund, New Zealand Landcare Trust, Marlborough Research Centre and the Marlborough District Council, established a three-year soil-conservation project.



The group undertook research in six key areas: farming systems, soils, dryland plants, human impact, landscape options, and climate.

The group have developed sustainable farming options for farmers in dryland areas. Their 1,100 hectare focus farm at Bonaveree is a flourishing example of how to adapt to lower rainfall and also improve farm returns. The group now wishes to share their success story with other farmers in dryland New Zealand and are committed to making this possible.

## Community action for the environment – Young people

### WINNER Te Piataata Trust

**Awarded for their outstanding commitment to improving the environment.**

In 2001 Te Piataata Trust were formed to provide for at-risk youth in Waitakere City. Fundamental to Te Piataata's approach in dealing with young people is the belief that if their mana is nurtured, young people will thrive when faced with a challenge. The Trust have created an environment for encouraging growth and transformation of young people by the strong presence of Tikanga Māori throughout the organisation.



Young people from the Trust are actively involved in Project Twin Streams to restore the stream banks of the Swanson Stream in Waitakere. Since 2005 they have volunteered on a weekly basis to restore the stream surroundings. Significant areas of the stream banks have been transformed from being weed infested, overgrown and strewn with rubbish to being planted with eco-sourced native plants and well cared for.

Keen to share their experiences and knowledge, Te Piataata youth participate in other Twin Streams activities – including supporting community planting days, and talking to overseas and national visitors about the project.

## Community action for the environment – Volunteers and not-for-profit organisations

### WINNER eDay

**Awarded for their efforts to protect New Zealand's environment from e-waste.**

Led by the Computer Access New Zealand Trust (CANZ) and the 2020 Communications Trust, eDay is a community initiative designed to raise public awareness of the hazardous nature of e-waste (electronic waste), while offering an easy way for households to dispose of old computers and mobile phones in an environmentally sustainable manner.

eDay 2007 was held in Wellington, Invercargill, Wanaka, Alexandra, Queenstown, Wanganui, Rotorua, Whakatane, Tauranga and Hamilton on Saturday 29 September 2007 and on Auckland's North Shore and Manukau City on Sunday 30 September 2007. Six thousand, nine hundred cars



visited the 12 eDay sites, with more than 26,000 computer items including monitors, CPUs (central processing units) and printers being diverted from New Zealand landfills, preventing the release of the potentially toxic chemicals into the environment. The total weight of e-waste collected over the two-day event was 415 tonnes. Over 95 per cent of the computer equipment when properly recycled can be re-used in some way.

Planning for eDay 2008, to be held in October, is well underway with the initiative being expanded to as many as 30 centres throughout New Zealand. The goal for 2008 is to divert 1,000 tonnes of e-waste from landfills.

## Businesses making a difference

### WINNER

#### Langham Hotel, Auckland

**Awarded for their holistic approach and leadership in sustainable business.**

The Langham Hotel have demonstrated a strong commitment to growing and developing their sustainability programme, with each new initiative leading to several more.

As a result of the management direction taken by the international chairman and management team, and the commitment of their staff, the hotel have achieved Green Globe certification in recognition of their environmental initiatives. This was achieved in less than four months, setting a new record and a first for any New Zealand hotel.

The hotel are working hard to include sustainability principles in all areas. A sustainable purchasing policy is in place that is openly communicated to suppliers and the hotel are developing a carbon offsetting programme for guests. As part of their energy-efficiency initiative, the hotel has installed light sensors, eco lights in areas requiring 24-hour lighting, time controls on kitchen fans, and plans are in place to install solar panels to preheat incoming water.



## Environment in the spotlight

### WINNER

#### Green RIG Horizons Regional Council

**Awarded for their commitment to significantly raising the profile and awareness of caring for the environment.**

Launched in May 2007, the Green RIG (Regional Info 2 Go!) is a giant educational toolbox-on-wheels delivering education programmes to the community. The Green RIG's key communication goal is to raise community awareness of the Manawatu-Wanganui region's 'Big 4' issues – declining water quality, increasing water shortages, accelerated hill country erosion, and threatened habitats.

Having completed their first year of operation, the RIG's environmental educators have engaged with over 20,000 people, visited 33 schools and attended 18 community events.

The Green RIG also 'walks the talk'; the team and the vehicle are role models in the area of environmental education. The Green RIG is fitted with energy-efficient LED lighting and appliances. Energy use is monitored and managed on board. All carbon the RIG produces is offset through the planting of native trees using the Climate Conscious System, and solar energy from eight roof-top panels provides 25–50 per cent of the RIG's power needs.



## Innovative solutions for the environment

### WINNER

#### Resene PaintWise

**Awarded for their efforts to encourage New Zealanders to reuse and recycle paint and paint packaging.**

An innovative world first paint and paint packaging recovery programme, the PaintWise programme allows residents and painters to return unwanted paint and paint packaging to either designated Resene ColourShops or council facilities.

The truck service visits the stores, processing the materials received. Good quality Resene paint is reused and provided to community groups free of charge. Waterborne paint is reused for covering graffiti, solventborne paint goes through a solvent recovery programme



and all packaging is recycled. The PaintWise truck has an onboard crusher that pierces the can base before crushing it flat, reducing the time taken to remove the paint from the can while also providing the cans in a less bulky form to the recycler.

Since early 2007, over 160,000 packs were collected from Resene ColourShops and a further 52,000kg from council depots. Of this, over 56,000kg of steel was recycled. Over 47,000 litres of solventborne paint were sent to solvent recovery and over 40,000 litres of paint were donated to community groups.

## Lifetime commitment to the environment

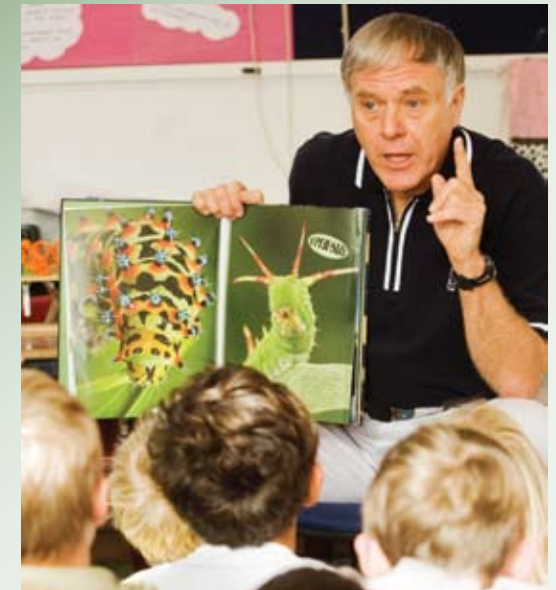
### WINNER

#### Dean Schneider

**Awarded to Dean Schneider, an outstanding individual, for his long-term commitment to protecting and enhancing New Zealand's environment.**

Dean has dedicated himself to helping New Zealanders achieve their potential and encouraging them to develop their skills and knowledge of the environment.

From 1985 he spent 10 years as a full-time natural history photographer and writer. He donated many photos of the hoiho (yellow-eyed penguin) to both the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and The World Wide Fund for Nature. As a result both NGO's started campaigns to save the penguin. Dean has been involved in a wide variety of environmental education projects including teaching, selecting young environmental leaders for awards, youth environment forums, leading delegations at United Nations children's conferences, photography, music, film and video production.



Through his work Dean's enthusiasm has inspired many New Zealanders. His extreme amount of passion and selflessness has benefited both the environment and those who work with him.

Dean has demonstrated exceptional commitment to improve New Zealand's unique environment and he is determined to continue his significant work.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED WINNERS

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#### **Auckland Zoo**

Category: Businesses making a difference

**Awarded for their ability to implement environmental initiatives in unique surroundings.**

The establishment of an environmental interest group at the Auckland Zoo in 2005 (the 'Green Team') has enabled the Zoo to research and implement environmental initiatives, identify priority issues to address, conduct audits and implement their environmental policy.

Two of the most recent significant achievements at the Zoo include gaining ISO14001 certification (an international specification for environmental management systems) in December 2007 and the Zoo's partnership with Enviro-fert in Tuakau to manage the Zoo's vegetation and organic waste. The accreditation was achieved two years ahead of the Zoo's 2009 target.

### HIGHLY COMMENDED

#### **Gretchen Robertson and Monica Peterson**

Category: Innovative solutions for the environment

**Awarded for their efforts to enable New Zealanders to get involved in caring for their local estuaries.**

Gretchen and Monica have spent six years compiling a comprehensive toolkit which enables New Zealanders to get involved in caring for their local estuaries.

The project began when a small community at Karitane, Otago, wanted to learn more about their local estuary. The pair realised there was a lack of resources and materials available to communities to understand the importance of estuarine health. Although useful information is gained through scientific monitoring, some important factors such as culture and values are excluded from conventional monitoring. Gretchen and Monica embarked on the task to design a toolkit applicable to all New Zealand estuaries that harnesses local knowledge as a baseline for future decision-making and provides tools for people to get involved in a way that interests them personally.



## Acknowledgements

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Entertainment: Elena, Violinist. Phone (04) 972 9891

The Green Ribbon Awards recognise outstanding contributions by individuals, organisations and businesses to sustaining, protecting and enhancing New Zealand's environment.

The awards are open to all individuals and organisations in New Zealand who are making a difference to New Zealand's environment.

For more information visit [www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/awards/green-ribbon.html](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/awards/green-ribbon.html)