

For immediate release

12 March 2008

RECYCLING INITIATIVES SUPPORTED IN ROTORUA SCHOOLS

The Paper for Trees project will be reignited in Rotorua's schools with funding support from the Rotorua Trust.

The project, which is run by the environmental trust EERST, will be working with waste operators and the Rotorua District Council to assist schools in getting a sustainable collection service operating. Marty Hoffart, Zero-Waste educator, said the Paper for Trees project sees schools receiving native trees in return for the recycling of paper and cardboard. "All but one of the 34 schools in Rotorua is signed up for Paper for Trees but only about half are currently active due to the difficulty of getting the recycling to town." Funding from the Rotorua Trust will be used to instigate measures to assist with the collection of the recycling materials from schools in Rotorua.

The programme began about eight years ago and has been hugely successful with hundreds of schools across the country now involved. The EERST trust supports the project by supplying bins and posters for classrooms, offices and photocopying rooms, as well as assistance and support by visiting the schools and working with them. "About 70 percent of all schools' waste is paper but many need assistance to set up good systems to deal with their recycling which is how EERST can help. "We also work to find corporate sponsorship for the schools so they can continue to run the programme long term." Mr Hoffart said corporate sponsorship of this kind is useful for many organisations as a means of off-setting their carbon emissions. The native trees given to schools for the project are supplied by Design Mobil. One tree is donated for every three wool sacks filled with recycling. Mr Hoffart said schools don't have to plant the native trees at their school but may choose to take part in a community planting project.

Sustaining New Zealand communities through the health benefits of Yoga, Meditation and Ayurveda is the theme of the upcoming second New Zealand Hindu Conference.

The conference, to be held in Auckland from 16 – 18 May, will be attended by government agencies, professionals, university staff, business leaders, Maori elders and community and youth leaders. Dr Guna Magesan, conference coordinator, said the conference will discuss how the practices of Yoga, Meditation and Ayurveda can positively contribute to the general, physical, mental and social well-being of communities in New Zealand.

“Obesity and stress related health issues are a major concern for New Zealand and these time-tested practices have long been proven in addressing these issues.” He said the purpose of the conference will be to put across the views of experts in these areas as well as to create awareness and discuss the benefits to the wider community. “We have international experts who are coming to the conference to discuss some interesting results using these cost-effective and simple techniques, Dr Magesan said.

As a build-up to the conference, two workshops on Yoga were held in October 2007 and February this year. Later this month (March 2008) a free seminar on “Spirituality and Mental Health” is also being organised. The speakers will give Judeo-Christianity, Maori, Buddhist, Islam and Hindu perspectives. The Rotorua Trust has supported the Hindu Council of New Zealand by donating funding that will go towards the registration of 10 people from Rotorua to attend the community health conference. “We have at least 15 people from Rotorua interested in attending. They are from different ethnicities including Maori, European, Islanders and Indians.” The remaining funding from the Trust will be used to promote Sanskrit (an ancient Indian language) classes in Rotorua. The coordinator of this programme in Rotorua is Ma Kalaadevi, a non-Indian Yoga teacher.

The six local organisations to receive funding from the Rotorua Trust recently were:

EERST Paper for Trees project	\$3,540
Enviro-Challenge Enviro-Challenge	\$7,500
Hindu Council of New Zealand Conference and Sanskrit classes	\$2,400
Maori Education Trust Maori Media Awards	\$10,000
Rotorua Careers Expo Careers Expo	\$10,000
Western Heights High School Role Models	\$2,000

Ends

For more information please contact:

Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust

Alison Perrin

Donations Assessor

Telephone 07 347 6239

Web www.rotoruatrust.org.nz

EERST

Marty Hoffart

Telephone 07 578 7025

Web www.eerst.co.nz

Hindu Council of New Zealand

Guna Magesan

Telephone 07 343 5587

Issued by:

imPRove it Public Relations Ltd

Telephone 07 348 1444

Mobile 027 430 8876

Email annette@improveit.co.nz

Web www.improveit.co.nz

To unsubscribe, change or update your email address:

Please click this link <http://www.improveit.co.nz/unsubscribe.htm>