 Annual Report for 2018 - 2019, September 16, 2019

Waihora Ellesmere Trust (WET) is a community organisation dedicated to the improvement

of the health and biodiversity of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and its catchment.

The Trust

* Membership of around 59 paid members (individual/family) plus 3 organisations (Department of Ecology Lincoln University, Southern Woods Nursery and a reciprocal membership with the Summit Road Society
* A total of 370 subscribers to the website/newsletter, plus 564 Facebook followers
* 2 staff members - Denise Ford, General Manager and Bruce Johnston, Finance Manager
* MOU with ECAN and SDC

Trustees

Chair: Ray Maw

Deputy Chair: Kelvin Coe (acting)

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Grant Bonniface

Trustees Hamish Rennie

Brett Painter

Kelvin Coe

Ken Hughey

John Lay

Murray Stephens

Lynette Harris

Craig Alexander

Funding & support

* Membership subs and donations
* Core funding for 2018/19 from SDC
* Rata Foundation grant for Predator program at Yarrs Flat

The Action Plan

* The *WET* *Action Plan* continues to guide the work of the Trust.

Keeping in touch

The WET website and the WET Facebook page are both regularly updated with information about events, items of interest and lake level updates. Photos of events are posted on our Facebook page (with Twitter notifications) and now Instagram.

* Around 7,581 visits to the website (increase from 7,150 last year) from around 4,012 individuals (similar to last year).
* Newsletters to members and subscribers.

1. **A place where healthy and productive water provides for the many users of the lake while supporting the diversity of plants and wildlife that make this place unique.**

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|  | **Action from WET** | **Outputs** | ***What have we done this year?*** |
| 1.1.1 Establish an indicator working party and agree a range of indicators for different values | Facilitate a working party to determine indicators and how to collect and collate data relating to indicators for reporting | Support the appointment of a Project Manager/Monitoring Strategy Coordinator Waterways Centre | * *Liaised with and supported the Project Manager/Monitoring Strategy Coordinator Waterways Centre where possible*   *.* |
| 1.1.2 Raising awareness of impact of land and water use on Lake through education programmes etc | Raise awareness of the impacts of land and water use and potential solutions | Written resources, web pages, AV material, display material, events and meetings, submissions | * *Organising the seventh Living Lake Symposium and field trip in November 2019;* * *Displays, Ellesmere A&P Show, Little River A&P Show* * *Web pages created and updated – e.g. 2019 Bird Survey, Predator Project at Yarrs* * *Other flyers, handouts as required e.g. Bird Survey results, ‘What We Do’;* * *Working with other community groups: helping wth the Kids Discovery Plantout project (TAK and Environschools), TAK plantout days.* * *Talks to groups, including Untouched World,, Lincoln University Students* |
| 1.1.3 Implement best management practices in the catchment (through ZIP and regional planning processes) | Provide advice and support for landowners on implementing best management practices, including riparian restoration | Written resources, web pages, display material, events and meetings | * *Information available on website and in newsletter;* * *Restoration planting projects including Green Footprint and participating with Canterbury Plantout (TAK);* * *Monitoring and Predator control at Yarrs Flat – Predator Workshop with DOC and organising volunteers.* |
| 1.1.4 Protect existing indigenous riparian biodiversity/ restore indigenous biodiversity | Provide advice and support for landowners on protecting/restoring indigenous riparian biodiversity and work with other organisations to collate data on new and existing restoration projects | Active participation in restoration activities; updates to Selwyn-Waihora Restoration Map (Canterbury Maps). | * *Green Footprint Community Planting; assisted Te Ara Kākāriki* *(TAK) with Community Plantout;* * *Facilitated SWARF meetings with a biodiversity focus.* * *Member of the Tarerekautuku Yarrs Lagoon Care Group. Selwyn River / Waikirikiri working group* |
| 1.2.1 Establishing appropriate systems for collecting and sharing data | Contribute to developing appropriate systems for data collection and storage | Good systems in place, notes from meetings , information on WET website, symposium every 2 years | * *Continued to support the work of Ken Hughey in developing an integrated monitoring strategy for the Lake and environs* * *With DOC, Christchurch City Council and Birds NZ coordinated wetland bird survey 2019 with volunteers;* * *Website updates, regular newsletters.* |
| 1.2.2 Facilitating collaborative research projects | Facilitating collaborative research projects | Research projects relevant to the Lake | * *Informal discussions with several researchers, particularly in relation to finding sites/topics/contacts;* * *Promote fund to support research and monitoring related to the state of the lake.* * *Predator control and monitoring around the lake – namely Yarrs Flat* |
| 1.2.3 Undertake full investigation of impacts, considering a wide range of values within an integrated systems approach, of any proposals for development/ infrastructure likely to affect the Lake, environs or tributaries | Encourage investigations into the impacts of any proposed scheme, ensuring a wide range of values are considered | Public reports, progress updates and community informed research projects | * *Participated in the lake opening protocol group discussions, representing a range of interests;* |

1. **A place of cultural and historical significance that connects us with our past and our future.**

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|  | **Action from WET** | **Output** | ***What have we done this year?*** |
| 2.1.1 Develop and update printed resources and web based information on cultural and historical significance to different groups | Review and update resources available, ensure a wide range of interest areas covered | Up to date web site information, new printed resources; information available via range of media (eg Facebook etc) | * *Website updated regularly, and links added to a wide range of information;* * *Greatly increased use of Facebook and Twitter to publicise items of interest about the lake and the Trust’s activities;* * *Created an instagram account -posting photos about the lake* |
| 2.1.2 Develop and update on site interpretative information on cultural and historical significance to different groups | Work with other organisations on interpretation projects | Active projects working towards on site interpretation and/or signage; new signs/interpretation installed on site | * *Informal discussions with various partner organisations;* * *Partnered with Childrens University* |
| 2.1.3 Provide visitor facilities at key access points to the Lake | Work with other organisations on visitor facility projects | Facilities which attract visitors to the Lake | * *Promoted the development of improved visitor facilities around the lake when opportunities arose;* |
| 2.2.1 Allowing different groups an opportunity to articulate their views, including bringing to attention of decision makers | Represent views of WET (as articulated in the Vision and Objects); provide a platform for other stakeholders where relevant | Attendance at key meetings/workshops; hosting events, community meetings; submissions on plans, resource consent applications etc | * *Key advisory member of the Lake Opening Protocol Group;* * *Included items in newsletter and links on website to promote opportunities for community engagement with planning processes;* * *Added links to website/Facebook page for other groups e.g., TAK, LET.* |

1. **A place where environmental, customary, commercial, and recreational values are balanced while respecting the health of the resource.**

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|  | **Action from WET** | **Output** | ***What have we done this year?*** |
| 3.1.1 Gathering data on current and past use, attitudes to the Lake etc which can contribute to decision making | Facilitate collaborative research projects and collation of data | Research detailing current (and past) use, attitudes etc | * *Organising the 2019 Living lake Symposium* |
| 3.1.2 Identifying possible points of conflicts, and appropriate levels of use to ensure there is a balance between values | Facilitate collaborative research projects and collation of data | Research which identifies potential conflicts | * *Website/newsletter info on items that impact the lake and envrions* |
| 3.2.1 High quality participatory community consultation when new developments are planned or key decisions made on land and water use; decision makers consider informal as well as formal consultation | Help to ensure the community is well informed about planning and decision making underway | Community meetings/displays, newsletters, regularly updated website information, submissions on relevant plans/consents etc | * *Website and newsletter updates on ongoing consultation processes;* * *Information on website and Facebook page;* * *Coordinating volunteers for monitoring and predator control at Yarrs Flat* |
| 3.3.1 Undertake research and modelling to improve understanding of the effects of different opening regimes and monitor and report impacts of different regimes on a wide range of values | Continue to be actively involved as a party to the Lake Opening Protocol and act as a conduit for information to the community | Information relating to the resource consent for Lake opening and any impacts of changes (eg website updates, newsletters) | * *Key advisory member of the Lake Opening Protocol Group;* * *Newsletter updates on lake opening issues;* |

1. **A special wide open place for the enjoyment and wonderment of present and future generations; a place of contemplation and tranquillity as well as activity, a place just to be.**

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|  | **Action from WET** | **Output** | ***What have we done this year?*** |
| 4.1.1 Develop a visitor/information centre for the Lake and/or Lake Research Centre | Support the development of a Lake centre for visitors and/or research | Involvement in discussions on the development of a Lake visitor centre | * *No specific activities, but have taken opportunity to promote the concept whenever possible, including to zone committee.* |
| 4.1.2 Encourage recreational activities, while ensuring they are managed in a way that maintains the character of the Lake | Support recreation initiatives | Opportunities to participate in catchment based events which highlight the values of Lake | * *Maintained informal links with numerous user groups;* * *Participated in the 2018/19 Canterbury Plantout and Green Footprint Planting days;* * *Partnered with the Childrens University* * *Two Lakes Healing cycle ride – partnered with other groups to organise and promote this event* |
| 4.2.1 Greater public discussion of the special character of the Lake and environs | Offer opportunities for discussion of the special character of the Lake and what it means to people | Newsletter articles, blog posts, display material, artistic and literary works with links to the Lake and catchment | * *Talks to groups;* * *Displays at events (Little River A&P Show)* |

**Ray Maw, Waihora Ellesmere Trust Chair**