

Annual Report for 2016 - 2017, September 18, 2017

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 70 members (individual/family) plus 4 organisations
- A total of 371 subscribers to the website/newsletter, has fluctuated a little plus 366 Facebook followers
- 2 staff members - Denise Ford, General Manager and Bruce Johnston, Finance Manager
- MOU with ECan, with CCC, SDC and TAK

Trustees

Chair: Ray Maw
Deputy Chair: Ruth Markham-Short (acting)
Secretary: Kelly Governor
Treasurer: Grant Bonniface
Trustees: Hamish Rennie
Brett Painter
Peter Chamberlain
Kelvin Coe
Ken Hughey
John Lay
Brian Reid
Murray Stephens
Ronlyn Duncan

Funding & support

- Membership subs and donations
- Core funding for 2016/17 from SDC
- Office space and other in-kind support provided by ECan
- Project funding for 2016/17: Whakaora Te Waihora (WTW) partners (ECan and Ngāi Tahu) for assistance with the Biodiversity programme), funding for facilitation of the Te Waihora Agencies Group which was provided by group members, Living Water project funding (DOC and Fonterra), State of the Environment project (ECan). These funding streams finished at the end of 2017.

The Action Plan

- The *WET Action Plan* continues to guide the work of the Trust; review and update due in 2018

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). Facebook likes continue to rise.

- Around 7,800 visits to the website (drop from around 8,900 last year) from around 4,650 individuals (drop from 5,200).
- Newsletters to members and subscribers.
- Regular media releases, resulting in several articles about WET's activities in local media.

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.

| | Action from WET | Outputs | What have we done this year? |
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| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Liaise with and support the Project Manager/Monitoring Strategy Coordinator Waterways Centre</i> • <i>Publishing of the 2017 State of the Lake report.</i> |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Planning, organising the sixth Living Lake Symposium and field trip to be held November 2017;</i> • <i>Planning and pulling together the 2017 State of the Lake report;</i> • <i>Displays, Ellesmere A&P Show, Little River A&P Show, Canterbury Plantout, 2017 Bio blitz (on behalf of Living Water)</i> • <i>Web pages created and updated – e.g. 2017 Bird Survey, Living Water Updates;</i> • <i>Other flyers, handouts as required e.g. Bird Survey results, 'What We Do';</i> • <i>Working directly with schools, including Darfield High School, Lincoln High School, Lincoln, Burnham, Leeston, Springston and Southbridge Primary Schools, including partnering in the Kids Discovery Plantout project;</i> • <i>Talks to groups, including Untouched World/Environment Canterbury (ECan) Youth Environment Leaders, several Lincoln University classes, including all 600+ LINC 101 students,</i> • <i>Submitted on the Clean Water proposals</i> |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>See above for details of displays and other resources;</i> • <i>Information available on website and in newsletter;</i> • <i>promoted Selwyn Water Seminars</i> • <i>Restoration planting projects including Green Footprint and Canterbury Plantout;</i> • <i>Worked with Living Water, particularly on projects relating to Ararira Wetland/Yarrs Flat.</i> |
| 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 | Active participation in restoration activities; updates to Selwyn-Waihora Restoration Map (Canterbury Maps). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Helped to update information behind Canterbury Maps through Selwyn Waihora Active Restoration Forum (SWARF) – map has been updated</i> • <i>Green Footprint Community Planting; assisted Te Ara Kākāriki (TAK) with Community Plantout;</i> • <i>Facilitated SWARF meetings with a biodiversity focus.</i> |

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| | restoration projects | | |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to support the work of Ken Hughey in developing an integrated monitoring strategy for the Lake and environs Liaising with and supporting LU staff taking students out to gather data; With DOC, Christchurch City Council and Birds NZ coordinated wetland bird survey 2017 with volunteers; Website updates, regular newsletters. |
| 1.2.2 Facilitating collaborative research projects | Facilitating collaborative research projects | Research projects relevant to the Lake | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in the lake opening protocol group discussions, representing a range of interests; Continued to provide technical expertise, through the SDM project, to farmers re small sediment traps; |

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

| | Action from WET | Output | What have we done this year? |
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| 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) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; Continued to promote the SDM videos. The Harts Creek video has been viewed online over 1900 times and shown to numerous groups; Third phase of PapersPast still stalled due to copyright issues. |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal discussions with various partner organisations; Working with DOC, EnviroSchools, SDC and others to design and install appropriate signage and education material at Harts Creek Bird Hide. |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoted the development of improved visitor facilities around the lake when opportunities arose; Work with Living Water, including liaising with Lincoln University Landscape Architects, on opportunities at Ararira Wetland /Yarrs Flat. |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key advisory member of the Lake Opening Protocol Group; Facilitator of the Te Waihora Agencies Group (TWAG) and the Lake Margin Working Group (sub group of TWAG); 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. |

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

| | Action from WET | Output | What have we done this year? |
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| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be hosting the 2017 Living Lake Symposium and publishing the State of the Lake report 2017; • Updated Education page on website |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated Lake margin working group of Agencies Group; • Website/newsletter info on new planning rules. |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website and newsletter updates on ongoing consultation processes; • Information on website and Facebook page; |
| 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) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key advisory member of the Lake Opening Protocol Group; • Newsletter updates on lake opening issues; |

4. 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.

| | Action from WET | Output | What have we done this year? |
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| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained informal links with numerous user groups; • Partner in 2017 Canterbury Plantout and Green Footprint Planting days; • Working with local schools and others for signage and interpretation panels at Harts Creek |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media releases; • Talks to groups; • Displays at events (Ellesmere A&P, Little River A&P Show, Ngāti Moki Marae Open Day, Canterbury Plantout, 2017 LET Bio Blitz (on behalf of Living water) |