

The Trust

- Around 100 – 120 members (individual/family) plus 5 organisations
- A further 130 subscribers to the website/newsletter
- 2 staff members - General Manager and Finance Manager
- Contracted Restoration Consultant, working on projects and also with schools
- Several active volunteers, working on specific projects and assisting with events

Keeping in touch

- The WET website is regularly updated with information about events, items of interest and lake level updates. Photos of events posted on our Facebook page
- Over 6000 visits to the website from over 3000 individuals
- 4 newsletters emailed or posted out to members and subscribers

Funding & support

- Core funding from ECan and SDC (covering around 50% of costs)
- Statutory Agencies Group – facilitation funding
- Office space provided by ECan
- Additional funding comes via project funding - for 2011/12 this included Community Environment Fund, Sustainable Farming Fund, Canterbury Community Trust and WWF

Reporting on the Community Strategy and developing an Action Plan

- A report covering achievements contributing to the *Community Strategy* and WET activities since its formation in 2003 was prepared
- Building on the Strategy, an *Action Plan* was developed which will guide our activities and provide a framework for reporting over the next 10 years
- Action Plan and Summary of achievements report supported by CCT funding
- WET also adopted a mission statement:

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.

Acknowledging the past and looking to the future, we:

- **Educate** - enhancing understanding, awareness and the values of the Lake through education programmes, newsletters, and field days.
- **Facilitate** - promoting better management practices through public seminars and by partnering with private landowners, community groups and government agencies.
- **Activate** - providing opportunities and encouragement for people to get actively involved in projects to rehabilitate the ecosystem through riparian and wetland enhancement.

Working to make our place better.

Educate

- Planning, organising and hosting the third Living Lake and Catchment Symposium – over 200 attendees
- Working with schools - Burnham, Lincoln HS, Ladbrooks, Springston, Middleton Grange, Tai Tapu - supported by WWF
- Newsletter/Website updated, new facebook page
- Working with ECan Education team (MoU) and Enviroschools and Waterwatch
- Attending and organising events & field trips - including Ellesmere A&P Show, Harts Creek Field Trip, National Wetlands Symposium
- Produced a new brochure on successful riparian restoration
- Submissions on resource consents, Zone Implementation Programme, CERA Recovery Strategy, Whakora Te Waihora
- Organised UC Community Education lecture series
- Worked with Selwyn Library to promote Papers Past
- Party to the Lake Opening Protocol
- Supported research students working on projects related to the Lake

Facilitate

- Facilitated Statutory Agencies Group - including participation of key agencies in the Living Lake & Catchment Symposium
- Draft Bird Monitoring Protocol
- Initiated discussions on state of the lake reporting
- Working collaboratively and facilitating information exchange through Sustainable Drain Management Project, Statutory Agencies Group, Selwyn-Waihora Active Restoration Forum

Activate

- Assisted with planning and organising the Canterbury Plantout
- Green Footprint partnership (WET/SDC/YHA)
- Working with schools on practical restoration projects – Ladbrooks, Burnham, Springston, Middleton Grange, Tai Tapu
- Continuing to maintain some of the Waihora Ellesmere Catchment Riparian Restoration Programme sites and handing over to all landowners by end of June 2012
- Assisting with development of new demonstration sites

Sustainable Drain Management Project

This is one project which involves educating, facilitating and activating. In the first year we have led the production of 2 leaflets, met with drainage committees, drain managers and individual landowners, produced 10 restoration plans, presented info and displays at several events and gained a greater understanding what sustainable drain management is. Four plans have either been implemented or have planting currently underway and several others are being or will be implemented over the next year. We received a donation of 10,000 combiguards as we have allocated around half to supporting riparian planting initiatives. We also supported a summer scholar, working on this project through the BioProtection Unit.

This project is supported by funding from the Sustainable Farming Fund, the Community Environment Fund and some Canterbury Community Trust funding. We have also had funding support from ECan and SDC and inkind support from our partners. We have funding secured for 2012/13.