

# Annual Report for 2012 – 2013, September 23, 2013

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

- Fairly steady membership of around 100 – 120 members (individual/family) plus 5 organisations
- A total of 292 subscribers to the website/newsletter, steadily increasing (includes members with email addresses)
- 2 staff members - General Manager and Finance Manager
- Contracted Restoration Consultant, working on the Sustainable Drain Management project and also with schools
- Several active volunteers, working on specific projects and assisting with events
- Existing MOUs with ECan, CCC and TAK. In 2012/13 we reviewed our MOU with TAK and signed a new MOU with SDC

## Funding & support

- Core funding for 2012/13 from ECan, SDC and CCC
- Statutory Agencies Group – facilitation funding
- Office space provided by ECan
- Additional funding from project funding - for 2012/3 this included Community Environment Fund and Sustainable Farming Fund, Creative Communities (SDC) funding, with some additional funding from DOC for a project to commence in 2014.

## The Action Plan

- WET's *Action Plan* was formally adopted at the 2012 AGM
- The Action Plan now guides the day to day work of the Trust and provides a framework for our annual reporting to the community.

## Keeping in touch

- The WET website is 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)
- Around 6,400 visits to the website from over 3,500 individuals, up from last year
- Four newsletters were emailed or posted out to members and subscribers, plus all members notified by post of the AGM and proposed minor changes to the Trust Deed
- 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?
1.11 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	A biennial "State of the Catchment" report, available prior to next symposium. Consider information needs of different groups within the community in reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 'State of the Lake' report, using small sets of agreed indicators, is being prepared for the 2013 Living Lake Symposium. Assistance is coming primarily from Lincoln University and ECan, with additional inputs from other partners including DOC, Ngai Tahu, SDC, CCC &amp; F&amp;G.</li> </ul>
1.12 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"> <li>• Displays at Ellesmere A&amp;P Show, Courtenay A&amp;P Show, Little River A&amp;P Show, South Island Agricultural Field Days, Celebrating Selwyn, South Island Dairy Event</li> <li>• Web pages created and updated – eg Sustainable Drain Management project (SDM) page</li> <li>• Supplied some web content for other organisations, eg Whakaora Te Waihora (WTW)</li> <li>• SDM short video produced</li> <li>• SDM – Guide to managing your drains booklet</li> <li>• Halswell catchment field trip</li> <li>• Various community planting events, with displays, speakers etc</li> <li>• Other flyers, handouts as required</li> <li>• Working directly with schools, including Lincoln HS, Tai Tapu, Leeston, Springston and Southbridge</li> <li>• Talks to groups, including U3A groups, Untouched World/ECan Youth Environment Leaders</li> <li>• Presentation to the Selwyn -Waihora Zone Committee</li> </ul>
1.13 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"> <li>• See above for details of displays and other resources</li> <li>• SDM – worked with partners to ensure messages consistent</li> <li>• Produced 10 riparian restoration plans for 10 different landowners (SDM)</li> <li>• Supplied combiguards to several private landowners and community groups (donated by ECan)</li> <li>• Additional display material produced – SDM poster and photos etc</li> </ul>
1.14 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	Details of indigenous biodiversity and restoration projects included in State of Catchment report and remnants protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helped to plan and organise Community Plantout, Green Footprint Community Planting, Tai Tapu Bush Community Planting Day</li> <li>• Restoration projects will be referred to in 'State of the Lake' report</li> </ul>
1.21 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"> <li>• With DOC and OSNZ, led the planning and organisation of a whole lake bird survey, involving several partner organisations and around 40 staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Living Lake Symposium planning</li> <li>• Initiated (with TAK) a mapping project through the Selwyn-Waihora Active Restoration Forum (SWARF) to collate data on restoration activities in the</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>catchment (ECan hosted)</i></li> <li><i>Wildlife data gathered and collated for 'State of the Lake' report</i></li> <li><i>Website updates, regular newsletters</i></li> </ul>
1.22 Facilitating collaborative research projects	Facilitating collaborative research projects	Research projects relevant to the Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Accessed funding and co supervised (in conjunction with Lincoln University) two summer scholars</i></li> <li><i>Hosted an intern from Lincoln University (MINC), working primarily on research for the 'State of the Lake' report</i></li> <li><i>Informal discussions with several researchers eg developed links with the Freshwater Ecology Group (University of Canterbury)</i></li> </ul>
1.23 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"> <li><i>Participated in the lake opening protocol group meetings, representing a range of interests</i></li> <li><i>Submission on the Natural Environment Recovery Plan</i></li> <li><i>Various informal networking opportunities to facilitate links between organisations and projects</i></li> </ul>
1.31 Raising awareness of potential changes to climate (including impacts of projects such as CPW)	Raising awareness of climate change impacts	Written resources, web pages, display material, events and meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No specific outputs</i></li> </ul>

## 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?
2.11 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"> <li><i>Promoted Papers Past project to numerous groups, continued to seek approval for the next set of papers to be digitised</i></li> <li><i>Website updated regularly, and links added to a wide range of information</i></li> <li><i>Using Facebook and Twitter to publicise Trust's activities</i></li> <li><i>Discussions about educational resources with Enviroschools</i></li> </ul>
2.12 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"> <li><i>Informal discussions with various partner organisations, new Green Footprint signage at 2012 site</i></li> </ul>
2.13 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"> <li><i>Negotiated with WTW to facilitate a new round of discussions on developing a Lake Margin Visitor/Research Centre.</i></li> </ul>
2.21 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"> <li><i>Selwyn-Waihora Focus Group meetings (seven WET Trustees and WET Manager participated)</i></li> <li><i>Lake Opening Protocol Group</i></li> <li><i>Lower Halswell/Ahuriri Planning Group (a WTW project)</i></li> <li><i>Participated in some Kaituna Valley Community Meetings (WTW)</i></li> <li><i>Organised a community meeting for Osbornes and Lower Halswell Drainage Districts</i></li> <li><i>Halswell catchment Field Trip (with WTW)</i></li> <li><i>Submissions on Proposed Land and Water Regional Plan and Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy</i></li> </ul>

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?
3.11 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"> <li>• <i>New research undertaken on current and historical recreational use of the lake</i></li> </ul>
3.12 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"> <li>• <i>Included information on regional rules (eg stock exclusion) on website and in SDM booklet</i></li> </ul>
3.21 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"> <li>• <i>Website and newsletter updates on ongoing consultation processes, including focus groups</i></li> <li>• <i>Submissions (noted above)</i></li> </ul>
3.31 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"> <li>• <i>Lake Opening Protocol Group</i></li> <li>• <i>Website and newsletter updates on ongoing consultation processes</i></li> <li>• <i>Initial discussions/meeting about developing interactive applications</i></li> </ul>

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?
4.11 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"> <li>• <i>Negotiated with Whakaora Te Waihora (WTW) to facilitate a new round of discussions on developing a Lake Margin Visitor/Research Centre.</i></li> </ul>
4.12 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"> <li>• <i>Maintained informal links with numerous user groups,</i></li> </ul>
4.21 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"> <li>• <i>Planning and publicity for an Art exhibition, to be held in conjunction with the Living Lake Symposium</i></li> <li>• <i>Hosted, with Inspiring Stories Trust, a lake themed youth film making workshop</i></li> <li>• <i>Media releases</i></li> </ul>