

# Annual Report for 2013 – 2014, September 22, 2014

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 322 subscribers to the website/newsletter, steadily increasing (includes members with email addresses), an increase of 30 from last year
- 2 staff members - General Manager and Finance Manager
- Contracted assistance for Living Lake Symposium administration and working with schools
- Several active volunteers, working on specific projects and assisting with events
- Existing MOUs with ECan, CCC, SDC and TAK.

## Funding & support

- Core funding for 2013/14 from SDC
- Office space provided by ECan
- Additional funding from project funding - for 2013/4 this included significant funding from the Whakaora Te Waihora partners (ECan and Ngāi Tahu), Creative Communities (SDC) funding, WWF, DOC and some staff time covered by sponsorship/registration for the Living Lake Symposium 2013

## The Action Plan

- An *Action Plan* update for 2014/15 was approved at the June 2014 Trust meeting.
- The *Action Plan* continues to guide 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 7,800 visits to the website from around 4,100 individuals, up from last year (c.f. 6,400 visits, 3,500+ individuals in 2012/13)
- Four newsletters were emailed or posted out 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?
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, was published for the 2013 Living Lake Symposium. Assistance came from Lincoln University and ECan, with additional inputs from other partners including DOC, Ngai Tahu, SDC, CCC &amp; F&amp;G.</li> <li>• Planning is now underway for a 2015 report</li> <li>• Worked with LU to gain support from WTW for the development of a monitoring strategy to complement existing monitoring</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>• Fourth Living Lake Symposium held November 2013</li> <li>• Publication of State of the Lake report 2013</li> <li>• Submissions made, including on Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP), Variation 1 of the LWRP, Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy and Lake Opening Resource Consent</li> <li>• Displays at Symposium, Ellesmere A&amp;P Show, Little River A&amp;P Show, World Fish Migration Day, Canterbury Plantout</li> <li>• Web pages created and updated – eg Living Lake Symposium 2013, State of the Lake and additional reports, Sustainable Drain Management project (SDM) page, Bird Survey 2014</li> <li>• SDM – second short video produced: Planting Native Plants</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, Rolleston, Tai Tapu, Leeston, Springston and Southbridge</li> <li>• Talks to groups, including 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>• Information available on website and in newsletter</li> <li>• Input to Whakaora Te Waihora (WTW) planning processes</li> <li>• Discussions with DOC/Fonterra about partnership opportunities in the catchment</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>• Assisted TAK with Community Plantout, Green Footprint Community Planting (10<sup>th</sup> planting with over 80 volunteers/staff from WET, YHA, SDC, 3 schools and the local community)</li> <li>• Restoration projects mapped and available on Canterbury Maps through Selwyn-Waihora Active Restoration Forum (SWARF) partnership</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>• State of the Lake report provided an opportunity to collate and share available monitoring</li> <li>• Living Lake Symposium organisation/administration</li> <li>• With DOC and OSNZ, led the planning and organisation of a whole lake bird</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>survey, involving several partner organisations and around 40 staff and volunteers</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>Worked with the Waterways Centre to hold two forums to identify potential lake related research topics</i></li> <li>• <i>Progressed discussion on establishing a lake research/visitor facility</i></li> <li>• <i>Informal discussions with several researchers</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/discussions, representing a range of interests</i></li> <li>• <i>Submissions made, including on Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP), Variation 1 of the LWRP, Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy and Lake Opening Resource Consent</i></li> <li>• <i>Working with WTW to organise a science hui to report progress of several research contracts to the community</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>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>Uploaded and promoted SDM videos</i></li> <li>• <i>Continued to seek approval for the next set of Ellesmere Guardians to be digitised by PapersPast</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 being prepared to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> planting;</i></li> <li>• <i>Worked with LU Landscape Department to gain support from WTW for the development of a master plan for research and visitor facilities at the lake.</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> <li>• <i>Worked with LU Landscape Department to gain support from WTW for the development of a master plan for research and visitor facilities at the lake.</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>Key advisory member of the Lake Opening Protocol Group</i></li> <li>• <i>Ensured broad representation at symposium planning meetings</i></li> <li>• <i>Lower Haslwell/Ahuriri Planning Group (a WTW project)</i></li> <li>• <i>Submissions made, including on Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP), Variation 1 of the LWRP, Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy and Lake Opening Resource Consent</i></li> <li>• <i>Participated in workshops, eg ECan stream rehabilitation workshop – now working on hosting a resource page linked to this topic</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 published on current and historical recreational use of the lake in State of the Lake report</i></li> <li>• <i>Mapping biodiversity project (SWARF)</i></li> <li>• <i>Added reports/links to website e.g., SDM page, State of Lake report page</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>Facilitating discussion through WTW planning processes</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</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>Key advisory member of the Lake Opening Protocol Group</i></li> <li>• <i>Made a submission on the Lake Opening Resource Consent application and appeared at hearing</i></li> <li>• <i>Added information to website on new consent and on current lake opening related research</i></li> <li>• <i>Newsletter updates on lake opening issues</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>Worked with WTW to facilitate discussions on developing a Lake Margin Visitor/Research Centre.</i></li> <li>• <i>Worked with LU Landscape Department to gain support from WTW for the development of a master plan for research and visitor facilities at the lake.</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> <li>• <i>Collated information on recreation for the State of the Lake report</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>Hosted an Art Exhibition in conjunction with the Living Lake Symposium</i></li> <li>• <i>Sponsored a WET category in the photography competition at Little River A&amp;P Show</i></li> <li>• <i>Media releases</i></li> </ul>