



Annual Report for 2014 – 2015, September 21, 2015

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 349 subscribers to the website/newsletter, steadily increasing (includes members with email addresses), plus 147 Facebook followers
- 2 staff members - Adrienne Lomax, General Manager and Bruce Johnston, Finance Manager
- Several active volunteers, working on specific projects and assisting with events
- Existing MOUs with ECan, CCC, SDC and TAK

Trustees

Chair: Ruth Markham-Short
Deputy Chair: Ray Maw
Secretary: Judith Kidd
Treasurer: Grant Bonniface
Trustees: Hamish Rennie
Brett Painter
Rob McPherson
Peter Chamberlain
Kelvin Coe
Ken Hughey
John Lay
Brian Reid
Murray Stephens

Funding & support

- Membership subs and donations
- Core funding for 2014/15 from SDC
- Office space and other in-kind support provided by ECan
- Additional funding from project funding - for 2014/5 this included significant funding from the Whakaora Te Waihora (WTW) partners (ECan and Ngāi Tahu), funding for facilitation of the Te Waihora Agencies Group which was provided by group members, project funding from WWF and DOC

The Action Plan

- An *Action Plan* review was conducted by Trustees in the first half of 2015. A revised *Action Plan* was approved at the June 2015 Trust meeting, subject to any feedback from members requesting changes. No changes were requested.
- An *Action Plan* Update, the Annual Plan for 2015/16, was agreed at the July 2015 Management Committee meeting and circulated to Trustees for comment. It will 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 6,000 visits to the website from around 3,700 individuals. This is slightly down on last year, 2013/14, as website traffic is boosted by the biennial symposia with the last one held in November 2013
- Four newsletters were sent 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?
1.1.1 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	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"> • Supported work of Ken Hughey in developing an integrated monitoring strategy for the Lake and environs, including assisting with facilitation of a reference group • Facilitated a meeting of fish experts; • Planning for the 2015 State of the Lake report, including identifying and briefing section authors.
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"> • Planning for the fifth Living Lake Symposium to be held November 2015; • Planning for the 2015 State of the Lake report; • Submissions made, including on SDC Open Space Strategy, ECan and SDC LTP, ECan and SDC Significance and Engagement Policies; • Displays, including at Ellesmere A&P Show, DOC Open day (Conservation Week), Canterbury Plantout, Living Water Community Open Day, Greenpark School Opening; • Web pages created and updated – eg 2015 Bird Survey, Living Lake Symposium 2015; • Sustainable Drain Management (SDM) – third short video produced: Harts Creek Restoration; • Various community planting events, with displays, speakers etc; • Other flyers, handouts as required e.g. Sustainable Drain Management • Working directly with schools, including Darfield HS, Prebbleton, Ladbrooks, Greendale, Leeston, Springston and Southbridge, including partnering in the Kids Discovery Plantout project;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Talks to groups, including Untouched World/ECan Youth Environment Leaders, several Lincoln University classes;</i> • <i>Presentation to the Selwyn -Waihora Zone Committee – Harts Creek video</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 SDM resources and funding for technical expertise;</i> • <i>Secured funding for follow up research on SDM project 2011-13</i> • <i>Worked with Ngāi Tahu/WTW on collation of information about biodiversity plantings, leading to establishment of a Hub to manage the programme, coordinated by WET;</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 restoration projects	Details of indigenous biodiversity and restoration projects included in <i>State of Catchment</i> report and remnants protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Information on website and in newsletter,; including SDM resources;</i> • <i>Assisted TAK with Community Plantout, Green Footprint Community Planting;</i> • <i>Facilitated SWARF meetings with a biodiversity focus.</i>
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"> • <i>Website updates, regular newsletters;</i> • <i>Supported work of Ken Hughey in developing an integrated monitoring strategy for the Lake and environs;</i> • <i>Liaising with and supporting LU staff taking students out to gather data;</i> • <i>Planning for the 2015 State of the Lake report;</i> • <i>With DOC and OSNZ coordinated wetland bird surveys 2015 with around 50 volunteers.</i>
1.2.2 Facilitating collaborative research projects	Facilitating collaborative research projects	Research projects relevant to the Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Worked with the Waterways Centre to hold forums to identify potential lake related research topics;</i> • <i>Informal discussions with several researchers, particularly in relation to finding sites/topics/contacts.</i>
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"> • <i>Participated in the lake opening protocol group discussions, representing a range of interests;</i> • <i>Submissions made, including on SDC Open Space Strategy, ECan and SDC LTP, ECan and SDC Significance and Engagement Policies;</i> • <i>Helped facilitate range of feedback to ECan Code of Practice for Defences against Water (includes drain maintenance activities);</i> • <i>Provided technical expertise, through the SDM project, to farmers re small sediment traps;</i> • <i>With ECan Engineers, drafted drain management plan for Halswell Old Course;</i> • <i>Facilitated research forums to identify possible research topics for Waterways;</i> • <i>Requested that CCC publicly notify the Rocket Lab proposal.</i>
1.3.1 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"> • <i>No specific outputs</i>

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?
2.1.1 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; Using Facebook and Twitter to publicise Trust's activities; Uploaded and promoted SDM videos. The Harts Creek video has been viewed around 930 times (to Sept 9) and has been shown to many groups including by Dame Margaret Bazley at an Environmental Awards event in Southland; Input to Dairy NZ riparian restoration guidelines; 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
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"> Discussions re WET having a presence at Greenpark School, now leased to Ngāi Tahu. Work with Living Water, including liaising with LU Landscape Architects, on opportunities at Yarrs Flat/Ararira Wetland.
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 and the Lake Margin Working Group (sub group of TWAG). Included addition of new group members – CDHB, Waterways (UC/LU) and Living Water; Ensured broad representation at symposium planning meetings; Submissions made, including on SDC Open Space Strategy, ECan and SDC LTP, ECan and SDC Significance and Engagement Policies; Included items in newsletter and links on website to promote opportunities for community engagement with planning processes

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?
3.1.1 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"> Facilitated science hui for WTW; Added reports/links to website e.g., NIWA update, Variation 1 info; Planning for monitoring strategy and state of the Lake reporting.
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 research topics forum for the Waterways Centre on behalf of the Agencies Group; 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; • Submissions (noted above); • Publicised community consultation meetings and info re LWRP Variation 1 and Code of Practice for Defences Against Water.
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; • Influence of lake level management identified as a cross cutting theme for the 2015 symposium and report.

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?
4.1.1 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"> • Funding application (with Waterways) for a visitor centre unsuccessful and discussion re a visitor/research centre on hold; • Discussions re WET having a presence at Greenpark School, now leased to Ngāi Tahu.
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; • Collating information on recreation for the State of the Lake report 2015.
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, DOC Conservation Week Open day; Styx Living Lab Open Day, Living Water Community Day, Canterbury Plantout, Greenpark School opening); • Liaised with Darfield HS to organise an art exhibition for the 2015 symposium.

Ruth Markham-Short, Waihora Ellesmere Trust Chair