

# Annual Report for 2015 - 2016, September 19, 2016

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 4 organisations
- A total of 371 subscribers to the website/newsletter, steadily increasing (includes members with email addresses), plus 250 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
- Renewed MOU with ECan; new MOU with DOC (Living Water programme); existing MOUs with CCC, SDC and TAK

## Trustees

Chair:	Ruth Markham-Short
Deputy Chair:	Ray Maw
Secretary:	Judith Kidd (until February 2016)
Treasurer:	Grant Bonniface
Trustees	Hamish Rennie Brett Painter Rob McPherson Peter Chamberlain Kelvin Coe Ken Hughey John Lay Brian Reid Murray Stephens

Judith Kidd resigned from the Trust Board in February 2016, Rob McPherson resigned from the Trust Board April 2016 shortly before he died.

## Funding & support

- Membership subs and donations
- Core funding for 2015/16 from SDC
- Office space and other in-kind support provided by ECan

- Additional funding from project funding - for 2015/16 this included significant funding from the 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).

## The Action Plan

- The updated *WET Action Plan* continues to guide the work of the Trust.
- An *Action Plan Update*, the Annual Plan for 2016/17, was agreed at the August 2016 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 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).
- Around 8,900 visits to the website (up from around 6,000 last year) from around 5,200 individuals (up from 3,700).
- Three newsletters and a notice about the symposium 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	<i>What have we done this year?</i>
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 “ <i>State of the Catchment</i> ” report, available prior to next symposium. Consider information needs of different groups within the community in reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported work of Ken Hughey in developing an integrated monitoring strategy for the Lake and environs, including advocating for the establishment of an independent coordinator position to drive the implementation of this strategy;</li> <li>• Publishing of the 2015 <i>State of the Lake</i> report.</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• Planning, organising and hosting the fifth <i>Living Lake Symposium</i> and field trip held November 2015;</li> <li>• Publishing the 2015 <i>State of the Lake</i> report;</li> <li>• Displays, including at the <i>Living Lake Symposium</i>, <i>Ellesmere A&amp;P Show</i>, <i>Little River A&amp;P Show</i>, <i>Ngāti Moki Marae Open Day</i>, <i>Canterbury Plantout</i>, <i>2016 Lincoln Envirotown (LET) Kidsfest</i> (on behalf of <i>Living Water</i>)</li> <li>• Web pages created and updated – e.g. <i>2016 Bird Survey</i>, <i>Living Lake Symposium 2015</i>, <i>State of the Lake 2015</i>, <i>Living Water Updates</i>;</li> <li>• Other flyers, handouts as required e.g. <i>Bird Survey results</i>, ‘<i>What We Do</i>’;</li> <li>• Working directly with schools, including <i>Darfield High School</i>, <i>Lincoln High School</i>, <i>Lincoln</i>, <i>Burnham</i>, <i>Leeston</i>, <i>Springston</i> and <i>Southbridge Primary Schools</i>, including partnering in the <i>Kids Discovery Plantout</i> project;</li> <li>• Talks to groups, including <i>Untouched World/Environment Canterbury</i> (ECan)</li> </ul>

			<p><i>Youth Environment Leaders, several Lincoln University classes, including all 600+ LINC 101 students, U3A, LET Sustainable Business Awards;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Signed an MOU with the Department of Conservation (DOC) relating to a partnership to work with Living Water (DOC/Fonterra), to increase community awareness and engagement within the Ararira/LII catchment.</i></li> </ul>
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"> <li>• <i>See above for details of displays and other resources;</i></li> <li>• <i>Information available on website and in newsletter, including in relation to PC1 (Selwyn-Waihora Plan Change to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan);</i></li> <li>• <i>promoted Sustainable Drain Management (SDM) project resources and disbursed funding for technical expertise;</i></li> <li>• <i>Restoration planting projects including Green Footprint and Canterbury Plantout;</i></li> <li>• <i>Funded and supervised follow up research on SDM project 2011-13 (SDM funding);</i></li> <li>• <i>Worked with Ngāi Tahu/Whakaora Te Waihora on collation of information about biodiversity plantings and landholder engagement;</i></li> <li>• <i>Worked with Living Water, particularly on projects relating to Ararira Wetland/Yarrs Flat.</i></li> </ul>
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	Active participation in restoration activities; updates to Selwyn-Waihora Restoration Map (Canterbury Maps).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Helped to update information behind Canterbury Maps through Selwyn Waihora Active Restoration Forum (SWARF) – map not yet updated;</i></li> <li>• <i>Helped secure funding for a Summer Scholar (Lincoln University)for 2016/17 to improve mapping of biodiversity in Selwyn;</i></li> <li>• <i>Green Footprint Community Planting; assisted Te Ara Kākāriki (TAK) with Community Plantout;</i></li> <li>• <i>Facilitated SWARF meetings with a biodiversity focus.</i></li> </ul>
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"> <li>• <i>Continued to support the work of Ken Hughey in developing an integrated monitoring strategy for the Lake and environs and linking this to the 2015 State of the Lake Report;</i></li> <li>• <i>Liaising with and supporting LU staff taking students out to gather data;</i></li> <li>• <i>Publishing the 2015 State of the Lake report;</i></li> <li>• <i>With DOC, Christchurch City Council and Birds NZ coordinated wetland bird survey 2016 with around 50 volunteers;</i></li> <li>• <i>Website updates, regular newsletters.</i></li> </ul>
1.2.2 Facilitating collaborative research projects	Facilitating collaborative research projects	Research projects relevant to the Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Secured funding and provided supervision for a summer scholar research project (SDM Plan follow up);</i></li> <li>• <i>Informal discussions with several researchers, particularly in relation to finding sites/topics/contacts;</i></li> <li>• <i>Established a fund to support research and monitoring related to the state of the lake.</i></li> </ul>
1.2.3 Undertake full investigation of impacts, considering a wide range of values within an integrated systems approach, of any proposals for development/	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 discussions, representing a range of interests;</i></li> <li>• <i>Provided technical expertise, through the SDM project, to farmers re small sediment traps;</i></li> <li>• <i>Presentation on Targeted Stream Augmentation (TSA) at our 2015 AGM; Fish &amp;</i></li> </ul>

infrastructure likely to affect the Lake, environs or tributaries			<i>Game presentations on trout fishery at Trust meeting.</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"> <li>• <i>Included data on sea level rise in relation to lake opening in the State of the Lake 2015.</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 this year?
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"> <li>• <i>Website updated regularly, and links added to a wide range of information;</i></li> <li>• <i>Greatly increased use of Facebook and Twitter to publicise items of interest about the lake and the Trust's activities;</i></li> <li>• <i>Continued to promote the SDM videos. The Harts Creek video has been viewed online over 1900 times and shown to numerous groups;</i></li> <li>• <i>Third phase of PapersPast still stalled due to copyright issues.</i></li> </ul>
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"> <li>• <i>Informal discussions with various partner organisations;</i></li> <li>• <i>Working with DOC, EnviroSchools, SDC and others to design and install appropriate signage at Harts Creek Bird Hide.</i></li> </ul>
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"> <li>• <i>Promoted the development of improved visitor facilities around the lake when opportunities arose;</i></li> <li>• <i>Work with Living Water, including liaising with Lincoln University Landscape Architects, on opportunities at Ararira Wetland /Yarrs Flat.</i></li> </ul>
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"> <li>• <i>Key advisory member of the Lake Opening Protocol Group;</i></li> <li>• <i>Facilitator of the Te Waihora Agencies Group (TWAG) and the Lake Margin Working Group (sub group of TWAG);</i></li> <li>• <i>Ensured broad representation at 2015 Living Lake Symposium;</i></li> <li>• <i>Included items in newsletter and links on website to promote opportunities for community engagement with planning processes;</i></li> <li>• <i>Added links to website/Facebook page for other groups e.g., TAK, LET.</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 this year?
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"> <li>• <i>Hosted the 2015 Living Lake Symposium and published the State of the Lake report 2015;</i></li> <li>• <i>Added reports/links to website e.g., multiple links for every chapter of the State of the Lake Report 2015;</i></li> <li>• <i>Published and distributed State of the lake report 2015; added links to TSA and trout fisheries related reports.</i></li> </ul>

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"> <li>• <i>Facilitated Lake margin working group of Agencies Group;</i></li> <li>• <i>Website/newsletter info on new planning rules.</i></li> </ul>
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"> <li>• <i>Website and newsletter updates on ongoing consultation processes;</i></li> <li>• <i>Information on website and Facebook page;</i></li> <li>• <i>Wrote to CCC asking for the RocketLab resource consent application to be publicly notified.</i></li> </ul>
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"> <li>• <i>Key advisory member of the Lake Opening Protocol Group;</i></li> <li>• <i>Newsletter updates on lake opening issues;</i></li> <li>• <i>Influence of lake level management was a cross cutting theme for the 2015 symposium and report, resulting in the collation of information useful for decision making.</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	<i>What have we done this year?</i>
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"> <li>• <i>No specific activities, but have taken opportunity to promote the concept whenever possible, including to zone committee.</i></li> </ul>
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"> <li>• <i>Maintained informal links with numerous user groups;</i></li> <li>• <i>Collated and reported information on recreation for the State of the Lake report 2015;</i></li> <li>• <i>Partner in 2016 Canterbury Plantout and Green Footprint Planting days;</i></li> <li>• <i>Promoted bird hide in newsletter after repairs carried out; promoted lake or biodiversity related events led by other organisations.</i></li> </ul>
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"> <li>• <i>Living Lake Symposium 2015, including hosting an art display (Darfield HS);</i></li> <li>• <i>Media releases;</i></li> <li>• <i>Talks to groups;</i></li> <li>• <i>Displays at events (Ellesmere A&amp;P, Little River A&amp;P Show, Ngāti Moki Marae Open Day, Canterbury Plantout, 2016 LET Kidsfest (on behalf of Living water)</i></li> <li>• <i>Sponsored photo competition at Little River A&amp;P Show.</i></li> </ul>