



# Annual Report for 2017 - 2018, September 17, 2018

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

- Membership of around 60 paid members (individual/family) plus 4 organisations
- A total of 370 subscribers to the website/newsletter, plus 474 Facebook followers
- 2 staff members - Denise Ford, General Manager and Bruce Johnston, Finance Manager
- MOU with ECan, with CCC, SDC and TAK

## Trustees

Chair: Ray Maw  
Deputy Chair: Ruth Markham-Short (acting)  
Secretary:  
Treasurer: Grant Bonniface  
Trustees: Hamish Rennie  
Brett Painter  
Peter Chamberlain  
Kelvin Coe  
Ken Hughey  
John Lay  
Murray Stephens  
Ronlyn Duncan

## Funding & support

- Membership subs and donations
- Core funding for 2017/18 from SDC
- Office space and other in-kind support provided by ECan

## The Action Plan

- The *WET Action Plan* continues to guide the work of the Trust.

## 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). Facebook likes continue to rise.

- Around 7,150 visits to the website (drop from around 7,600 last year) from around 4,000 individuals (drop from 4,500).
- Newsletters to members and subscribers.

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 this year?
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	Support the appointment of a Project Manager/Monitoring Strategy Coordinator Waterways Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaised with and supported the Project Manager/Monitoring Strategy Coordinator Waterways Centre</li> <li>• Published the 2017 State of the Lake 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>• Hosting the sixth Living Lake Symposium and field trip in November 2017;</li> <li>• Publishing the 2017 State of the Lake report;</li> <li>• Displays, Ellesmere A&amp;P Show, Little River A&amp;P Show</li> <li>• Web pages created and updated – e.g. 2018 Bird Survey, 2017 Symposium</li> <li>• Other flyers, handouts as required e.g. Bird Survey results, 'What We Do';</li> <li>• Working directly with schools, including helping in the Kids Discovery Plantout project;</li> <li>• Talks to groups, including Untouched World, ECO Canterbury</li> <li>• Submitted to Long Term Plans (ECAN, SDC, CCC)</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>• See above for details of displays and other resources;</li> <li>• Information available on website and in newsletter;</li> <li>• Restoration planting projects including Green Footprint and Canterbury Plantout;</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>• Green Footprint Community Planting; assisted Te Ara Kākāriki (TAK) with Community Plantout;</li> <li>• Facilitated SWARF meetings with a biodiversity focus.</li> <li>• Member of the Tarerekautuku Yarrs Lagoon Care Group. Selwyn River / Waikirikiri working group</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>• Continued to support the work of Ken Hughey in developing an integrated monitoring strategy for the Lake and environs</li> <li>• With DOC, Christchurch City Council and Birds NZ coordinated wetland bird survey 2018 with volunteers;</li> <li>• Website updates, regular newsletters.</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>• Informal discussions with several researchers, particularly in relation to finding sites/topics/contacts;</li> <li>• Promote fund to support research and monitoring related to the state of the lake.</li> <li>• Investigating predator control around the lake – namely Yarrs Flat</li> </ul>
1.2.3 Undertake full investigation of impacts, considering a wide range of values within an	Encourage investigations into the impacts of any proposed scheme, ensuring	Public reports, progress updates and community informed research projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participated in the lake opening protocol group discussions, representing a range of interests;</li> </ul>

integrated systems approach, of any proposals for development/ infrastructure likely to affect the Lake, environs or tributaries	a wide range of values are considered		
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## 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>Website updated regularly, and links added to a wide range of information;</li> <li>Greatly increased use of Facebook and Twitter to publicise items of interest about the lake and the Trust's activities;</li> <li>Continued to promote the SDM videos. The Harts Creek video has been viewed online over 1900 times and shown to numerous groups;</li> <li></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>Informal discussions with various partner organisations;</li> <li>Working with DOC, Enviroschools, SDC and others to design and install appropriate signage and education material at Harts Creek Bird Hide.</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>Promoted the development of improved visitor facilities around the lake when opportunities arose;</li> <li></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>Key advisory member of the Lake Opening Protocol Group;</li> <li>Worked with the facilitator of the Te Waihora Agencies Group (TWAG)</li> <li>Included items in newsletter and links on website to promote opportunities for community engagement with planning processes;</li> <li>Added links to website/Facebook page for other groups e.g., TAK, LET.</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>Hosted the 2017 Living Lake Symposium and published the State of the Lake report 2017;</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>Website/newsletter info on items that impact the lake and environs</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>Website and newsletter updates on ongoing consultation processes;</li> <li>Information on website and Facebook page;</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>Key advisory member of the Lake Opening Protocol Group;</li> <li>Newsletter updates on lake opening issues;</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 this year?
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>No specific activities, but have taken opportunity to promote the concept whenever possible, including to zone committee.</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>Maintained informal links with numerous user groups;</li> <li>Partner in 2017/18 Canterbury Plantout and Green Footprint Planting days;</li> <li>Working with local schools and others for signage and interpretation panels at Harts Creek</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>Talks to groups;</li> <li>Displays at events (Ellesmere A&amp;P, Little River A&amp;P Show)</li> <li>Run a survey to get input on Trust activities</li> </ul>