

SUSTAINABLE WHANGANUI TRUST



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2021-2022



CONTENTS

2	A word from the Chair
3	Trustee Profiles
4	Other team member profiles
5	Influence of the Whanganui River
6	Relationship Building
7	Our values, & charitable purposes
8	Our Projects
9 & 10	Waste Hierarchy
11	Treasurer's commentary
12	Impact reporting
13	Connectivity
14	Environment Hubs Aotearoa
15 - 25	Project Profiles <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Whanganui Environment Base & Reuse Academy• Zero Waste Services• Fruit Trees in Schools (& in communities)• Predator Free Whanganui• Green bikes• School Holiday Programme• Plastic Free Whanganui• Bike Users Group• Whanganui Kai Hub
Back cover	Contact Details

**Annual Report compiled by:
Joe Thompson, 2023**

**Cover photo credit:
Finn Boyle, 2023**

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Kia ora koutou,

It has been about 17 years since a group of like-minded people held a meeting to discuss ways we could encourage Whanganui citizens to think and act sustainably.

We wanted locals to understand why it was important for our city, Aotearoa and also the Planet to be sustainable. We formed a group looking at farming and horticulture, cycling and walking, waste and recycling, sustainable building as well as valuing our heritage. We have been successful in encouraging cycling and in the process have rescued many bikes from becoming scrap. We've planted fruit trees in schools - showing that fruit doesn't all come from shops. The ReUse Academy behind the Resource Recovery Centre has not only shown that a prison building can be recycled, but reminded people that there can also be an after-life for many things such as fabric, old calendars, packaging and glass jars - to name a few.

I feel proud to have been one of many who want to see Whanganui and the Planet have a sustainable and resilient future.



John Milnes

Chairperson, SWT

TRUSTEE PROFILES



JOHN MILNES

Chair

Lifelong advocate and activist for sustainability and community living, founding member of SWT. John is also a regular Whebster volunteer & Plastic Free Whanganui veteran



GRAHAM PEARSON

Treasurer

When not managing SWT's funding and reporting obligations, Graham coordinates Castlecliff Coast Care. He also volunteers as a regular Whebster



KATY NEWTON

Trustee

Through her career at DoC, Katy has acquired a wealth of knowledge in conservation and project leadership



CHRIS SMITH

Trustee

Chris brings conservation expertise to SWT, as well as project management and connection through his day-job at Wildbase Recovery



BERNADINE BOURKE

Trustee

Bernadine is passionate about being involved in the community, and brings her extensive H&S / risk analysis experience to the table



HADI GURTON

Trustee

Lifelong Zero Waste educator and founding member of SWT, Hadi supports sustainability because he loves Papatūānuku - mother earth

OTHER TEAM MEMBER PROFILES



DONNA MUMMERY

Secretary
(Rtd.)

Donna has been a consistent member of the SWT team for many years, and still volunteers, keeping the Eco Library at the Environment Base organised



ROBIN WILLIAMSON

Advisor to the trust

Long-term member of SWT and lifelong sustainability advocate, Robin brings considerable energy, context, and project skills to the team



ALLAN HOLDAWAY

Green Bikes Manager
(Rtd.)

Allan brought an inventive flair to Green Bikes during his long tenure. Highlights have included whacky constructions for Lights On Bikes and Soap Box Derby events



MIKE WILLIAMSON

Green Bikes Mechanic

Mike picked up the baton from long-term Green Bike Manager Allan when he retired. He has helped clear and organise the workshop ready for reopening late 2022



JANET FYSON

Reuse Academy Coordinator

Janet brought lots of exciting ideas to her role, taking over as the RUA coordinator after the Covid lock-downs.



LYN PEARSON

Fruit Trees Coordinator
(Rtd.)

Former trustee and long-term advocate for community action and civic participation, Lyn has coordinated the Fruit Trees in School and in Community activities.

INFLUENCE OF THE WHANGANUI RIVER

The Whanganui River is the defining thread of this rohe, of Whanganui. Through centuries of interbeing with the river, Whanganui hapu have developed a distinct and powerful tribal wisdom. Now codified in law and policy, this invitation has echoed around the world - inspiring pilgrimages to this place and campaigns for similar legislative leaps in other countries. This is Whanganui's greatest contribution yet to the global movement for redefining human relationship with(in) nature. Sustainable Whanganui Trust is inspired by this "think local, act global" approach. All of our activities come from the rootstock of caring for Te Taiao, but thanks to the invitation of the Whanganui River, we now have a source of local inspiration, and kawa with which to assess and guide our small waka on this big river of positive change.

SWT Strategy Lead

JOE THOMPSON



Cecelia Kumeroa, Whanganui Artist
(commissioned by SWT, 2015)

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING



Photo Cred: Geoff Hipango

Whanganui Enviro Hui at Te Ao Hou Marae organised by SWT.

With representatives from: Te Kōpuka, Bushy Park/Forest & Bird, Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board, Predator Free Whanganui, Sustainable Whanganui Trust, Whanganui District Council, Whanganui Kai Hub, Zero Waste Network, Multicultural Council, Castlecliff Coastcare, Socio-Ecological Learning Environment, Healthy Families WRR, and Te Ao Hou Marae.

FROM VALUES, THROUGH



PURPOSE, TO PROJECTS

**Projects
Led And
Supported
By SWT**

Whanganui
Environment
Base

ReUse
Academy

Green Bikes
Pahikara
Matomato

Zero
Waste
Services

Fruit Trees
in Schools
& Community

Predator Free
Whanganui

Bike
Users
Group

Whanganui
Kai Hub

School
Holiday
Programmes

Plastic Free
Whanganui

WASTE HIERARCHY

Te Pūnaha Whakarōpū Para



Riro taonga mai,
hoki taonga atu.

The waste hierarchy

The waste hierarchy is commonly used as a way to think about waste. Essentially it says that reducing, reusing and recycling is preferable to disposal.



Riro taonga mai,
hoki taonga atu.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Since relocation to the WRRRC the income from the Re Use Academy (RUA) has steadily increased but has taken a dip due to Covid closures. This 6K to 10K income has paid for the basic operational costs of rent/power, phone/internet connection, accountancy and insurance fees. This income was severely reduced due to closures during Covid restrictions. Volunteers running the RUA/WhEB have minimised these outgoings.

A range of projects has been funded through grants from Whanganui District Council, Whanganui Community Foundation, COGS, Lotteries, Quakers NZ and the TG McCarthy Trust. The COGS/Lotteries grants in 2021/22 were to appoint coordinators, to support SWT's projects. These funds were held over till late 2022 due to Covid restrictions.



GRAHAM PEARSON
Treasurer

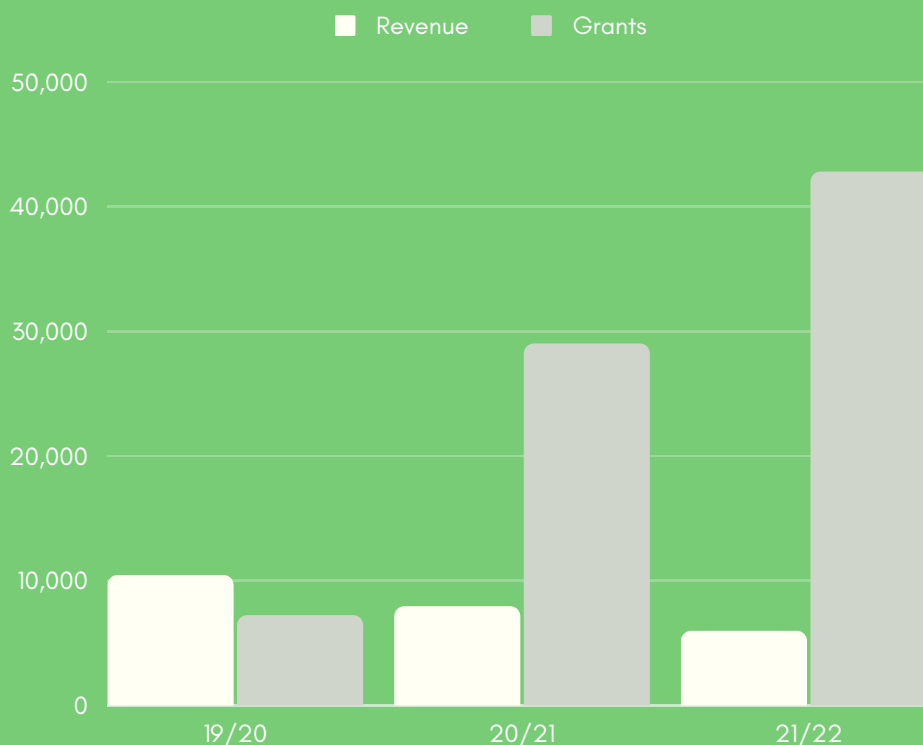


FIGURE 1.

Tracking self-generated revenue, and grants over the past 3 years. For complete financial picture please refer to our audited Performance Reports compiled by Moore Markhams and available on NZ Charity Services website

IMPACT REPORTING

***THESE FIGURES ARE ALL LOWER THAN PREVIOUS YEARS DUE TO THE IMPACTS OF COVID 19**

VISITORS TO THE ENVIRONMENT BASE



2,646



1,043

VOLUNTEER HOURS



10

COMMUNITY EVENTS WITH 1,010 ATTENDEES



227




FRUIT TREES GIVEN AWAY AT: 10 KURA & 3 COMMUNITY EVENTS

GREEN BIKES: 174 ATTENDEES, AND 83 BIKES FIXED UP AND BACK OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



PROVIDED ZERO waste



AT 4 EVENTS WITH 12,500 ATTENDEES 535 M/CUBED OF WASTE DIVERTED

CONNECTIVITY

***WORKED ALONGSIDE AND CONNECTED WITH >25 OTHER GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS, BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL LESS THAN PREVIOUS YEARS DUE TO THE IMPACT OF COVID 19**



ENVIRONMENT HUBS AOTEAROA (EHA)

In 2021 SWT joined the Environment Hubs Aotearoa network – a nationwide network of organisations working with communities to protect, nurture and improve environmental outcomes.

The mission of EHA is to support community-led solutions that empower regeneration and resilience.

EHA has been very supportive of SWT, and our staff and trustees have been attending regular network zui (online meetings), professional development opportunities, and national and local gatherings.

HAERE MAI TO OUR NEW HUBS
Over the past 12 months we welcomed 5 new hubs into our network. Each contributes new local knowledge and individual strengths enhancing our collective mahi throughout Aotearoa. Meet our new members!

THE EHA NETWORK

PROJECT TONGARIRO
The key focus of Project Tongariro is to enhance the values of Tongariro National Park promoting its conservation and recreation, but they initiate and collaborate on several environmental initiatives in nearby communities. This is well illustrated by their work at Māhikaia undertaking weekend recreation with Ngāi Rongonui, and in initiating Greening Taupō, Kids Greening Taupō, and Predator Free Taupō.

SUSTAINABLE WHANGANUI
Sustainable Whanganui stands for environmental sustainability, social equity, cultural richness, and community participation in the Whanganui region. They support the local community resilience, offering comprehensive, useful, and timely advice to help people become more self-sufficient. They assist the community to create and deliver practical solutions for sustainability through several projects, such as Fruit Trees in Schools, with over 40 schools in the region taking part, which now has expanded to the wider community.

ECOCENTRE KAITIAKI TAIAO O TE TAI TOKERAU TRUST
The EcoCentre aims to strengthen connections by creating and nurturing local hubs, facilitating meaningful learning opportunities and contributing to resourceful communities, making the Far North a better place for people to live both socially and environmentally. They provide information on local environmental initiatives and workshops, advice in sustainability issues and low-cost products to help people live healthy, sustainable lives. Some of their key projects are Tai Tokerau Timebank, where members provide peer-to-peer help, and contribute to community projects, in exchange for time credits; and Ani Ani, a community upcycling space, that promotes upcycling and clothing rescue sessions, among other activities.

BEAUTIFICATION TRUST
The Beautification Trust is a social enterprise on a mission to connect and empower communities to learn, love and look after our environment. The Trust promotes environmental education, community events and beautification projects all over South and East Auckland, with three key focus areas: love, respect and restore the environment; teach and facilitate environmental and sustainability education; and create communities of belonging and connection.

THE BASKET
The Basket was set up to contribute to an environmentally and socially just Hauaki, through education, awareness, advocacy, and coordination, to meet the need for greater collaboration and partnership building across different groups in the Hauaki-Coromandel region. Their long-term goals are to support and connect initiatives that build community resilience in relation to inequality issues such as housing, climate change, food security and sovereignty, environmental restoration, biodiversity, waste reuse and community-based education on themes such as Te Tahi a Whanganui.

PROJECT PROFILES

- **Whanganui Environment Base
and ReUse Academy**
- **Zero Waste Services**
- **Fruit Trees in Schools & Community**
- **Predator Free Whanganui**
- **Green Bikes Pahikara Matomato**
- **School Holiday Programmes**
- **Plastic Free Whanganui**
- **Bike Users Group**
- **Whanganui Kai Hub**

WHANGANUI ENVIRONMENT BASE (WHEB) & REUSE ACADEMY (RUA)

The WhEB and RUA are volunteer-run community waste reduction and education spaces currently located at the back of the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre (WRRRC) run by volunteer "Whebsters". WhEB is the name for the overall space, which hosts the RUA, Ecolibrary, and Green Bikes projects. The WhEB has hosted other events and pop-ups over the years, from movie nights to lecture series, zero-waste school holiday programmes and more.



For many years the RUA has been a space for Whanganui residents to donate and reuse tonnes of useful items that would have otherwise gone to landfill. From the Jar Bar - where thousands of glassware items have been cycled through, supporting home preservers and small businesses, to the gardening room where thousands of pots and trays have given both budding and experienced gardeners opportunity to grow their own food cheaply. Rooms full of crafting supplies just waiting for creativity to reimagine, upcycle, and repurpose - a resource for Whanganui teachers, educators, and families as well as the general public.

ZERO WASTE SERVICES



Sustainable Whanganui offers Zero Waste Services including recycling and composting services for events, and business waste audits.

Events:
Hadi@sustainable-whanganui.org.nz

Audits:
Robine@sustainable-whanganui.org.nz

FRUIT TREES IN SCHOOLS (& IN COMMUNITIES)

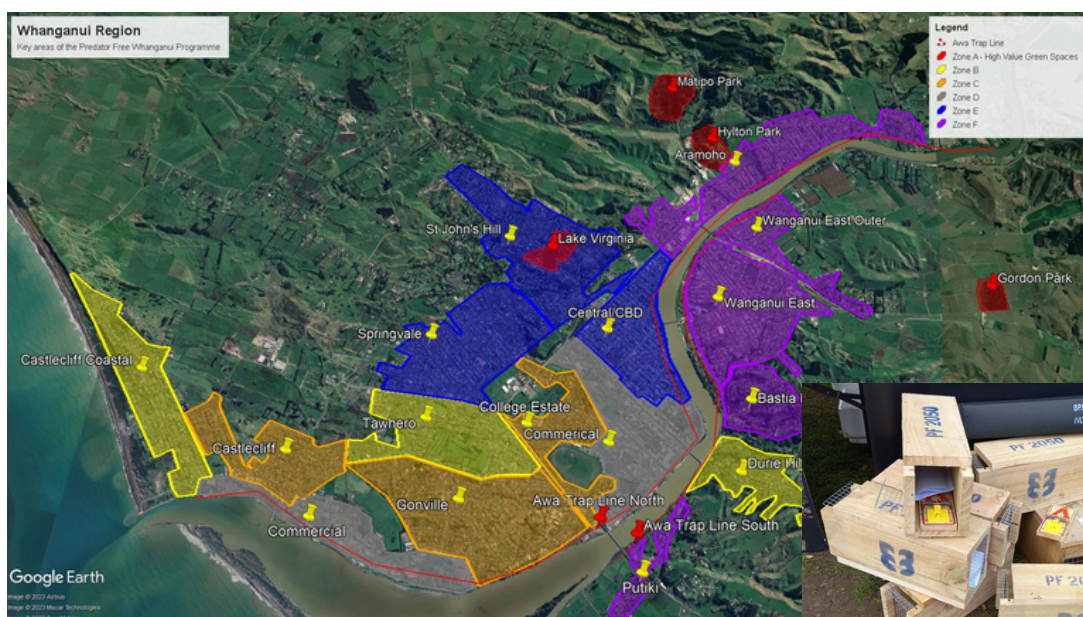


FTiS connects up education organisations with fruit trees and pruning workshops to support a network of local kai for our tamariki and wider community. This seasonal project has coordinated the planting of hundreds of flourishing fruit and nut trees around Whanganui since 2008. Also offered is pruning assistance and other helpful advice.



PREDATOR FREE WHANGANUI

PrFW is a new initiative that has recently come under the umbrella of SWT. PrFW exists to support a wide network of collaboration around the Whanganui Rohe towards national Predator Free 2050 goals. With a growing trap library, and plans to kick off new community-managed traplines in public spaces, Predator Free Whanganui seeks to combine local values and context with expert knowledge of pest control and trapping nationally.



GREEN BIKES

Pahikara Matomato
A project of
Sustainable Whanganui



Green Bikes is an open workshop for the Whanganui community to come and fix their own bikes. With friendly mechanics on hand to help, the focus is on learning how to DIY and providing access to our library of tools, building skills and knowledge in the community.



WHANGANUI CHRONICLE

Soap Box Derby wows crowds

26 Jan, 2021 05:00 AM

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

Open to all members of the community these sessions allow children to use and develop their creative skills using donated and recycled items.

Offered free or for a Koha, often including a shared lunch, the emphasis is always on the “doing” and “trying”, not the final product.



Participants have made cards, robots, flower pots, wrapping paper, a solar food drier and many decorations and family presents. Plus lots of great art works.



PLASTIC FREE WHANGANUI

Plastic Free Whanganui is a passionate group of advocates and activists who have held “Plastic Free July” stalls at the River Markets over successive years to educate locals how to live with less plastic. Prior to legislation banning plastic supermarket shopping bags, PFW’s activities included hosting film evenings and stringing 2000 plastic bags across Castlecliff Beach and along the Awa walkway to raise awareness. PFW also created a sewing workshop at Whanganui Prison which saw over 6,300 fabric shopping bags made and distributed. This saved curtain fabric offcuts from landfill and gave new skills and purpose to the inmates involved. SWT acts as an umbrella organisation in its support of this decentralised group of green warriors!



BIKE USERS GROUP



Pancake breakfasts were a favourite activity of the biking community, featuring in the groups contribution to the national February "Ride your Bike" month. Free bike checks and bike film nights were also organised.

WHANGANUI KAI HUB

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH KAI



Whanganui Kai Hub emerged from cross-community wānanga about how to grow a better kai system for Whanganui. An immediate opportunity of reducing food waste and sharing it with the community was identified and many individuals and groups came together to establish Kai Hub.

SWT supported by being the umbrella organisation, providing infrastructure and advice, pathways for funding, and accountability. Kai Hub is now a separate charitable trust, and has rescued over 50,000 kg of food since beginning activities in 2021. It also runs community kai events, workshops, and classes, connecting people with kai in many different ways



WHANGANUI KAI HUB

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH KAI





KA MIHI
KI A KOE
MO TO ARO

-

THANKS
FOR
READING



GET IN TOUCH

FOR WHEB, RUA & GENERAL ENQUIRIES:
WHEB@SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ

FOR ZERO WASTE SERVICES:
HADI@SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ

FOR GREEN BIKES
GREENBIKES@SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ

FOR PREDATOR FREE
CHRIS@SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ

ADDRESS:
83 MARIA PLACE,
WHANGANUI, 4500

PHONE:
06 345 6000

WEBSITE:
SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ

FACEBOOK:
[/SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI](https://www.facebook.com/SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI)

