

SUSTAINABLE WHANGANUI TRUST

INSPIRING CARING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



CONTENTS

2	Our Values and Aim
3	Influence of the Whanganui River
4	Strategic Focus
5	Relationship Building
6	Connectivity
7	What We're Busy With
8	Impact Reporting
9	Supporters & Funders
10	Environment Hubs Aotearoa
11 & 12	Meet the Team
13	Project Profiles
14	• Whanganui Environment Base & ReUse Academy
15	• Zero Waste Services
16	• Fruit Trees in Schools & Communities
17	• Predator Free Whanganui
18 & 19	• Green Bikes & Bike Users Group
20	• Enviro-map
21	• Kids Creative & School Holiday Programmes
22	• Plastic Free Whanganui
23	Initiatives We Support
24	Challenges & Opportunities
	Contact

OUR VALUES & AIM

OUR VALUES: We stand for environmental sustainability, social equity, cultural richness and community participation in the Whanganui region



We are an open, inclusive group: our members put their time and energy into looking after the local community and environment, as well as advocating for national and international change.

OUR AIM is to lead our community in becoming more resilient: offering comprehensive, useful and timely advice to help people become more self-sufficient. Sustainable Whanganui Trust intends to put Whanganui on the map in terms of assisting the community to create and utilise practical solutions for sustainability.

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. 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.



STRATEGIC FOCUS



RELATIONSHIP BUILDING



photo credit: Geoff Hipango

Whanganui Enviro Hui at Te Ao Hou Marae organised by SWT.
With representatives from: Te Kōpuka, Bushy Park/Tarapuruhi, Forest & Bird, Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board, Predator Free Whanganui, Sustainable Whanganui Trust, Whanganui District Council, Whanganui Kai Hub, Zero Waste Network, Multicultural Council of Rangitikei/Whanganui, Coast Care Castlecliff, Socio-Ecological Learning Environment, Healthy Families WRR, and Te Ao Hou Marae.

CONNECTIVITY

WE WORK ALONGSIDE AND CONNECT WITH MORE THAN 60 LOCAL AND NATIONWIDE ORGANISATION. THIS GRAPHIC SHOWS OUR KEY CONNECTIONS.



SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS

Our volunteers get a great vote of thanks here for keeping our WhEB office and ReUse Academy open, and for keeping our many projects running successfully.

We are ever grateful too that some of our operational and staff costs, and a range of projects have been funded through grants from: Whanganui District Council, Whanganui Community Foundation, COGS, Lotteries, Environment Hubs Aotearoa, and Te Awa Community Foundation.



ENVIRONMENT HUBS AOTEAROA (EHA)

In 2021 SWT joined Environment Hubs Aotearoa – 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 restoration, but they initiate and collaborate on several environmental initiatives in nearby communities. This is well illustrated by their work at Waioeka undertaking weekend restoration with Ngāhi Rongorua, and in initiating Greening Taupō, Kōwhiri 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 utilize 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 TE POKAPU TIAKI
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 restorative communities, making the For 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 Treebank, where members provide peer-to-peer help, and contribute to community projects, in exchange for time credits, and Aro Aro, a community upcycling space, that promotes upcycling and clothing repair sessions, sewing 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 Hauraki, through education, awareness, advocacy, and coordination, to meet the need for greater collaboration and partnership building across different groups in the Hauraki-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 Tira o Waiāinga.

FROM EHA ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

WHAT WE'RE BUSY WITH

Projects
Led And
Supported
By SWT

Whanganui
Environment
Base

ReUse
Academy

Green Bikes
&
Bike Users
Group

Zero
Waste
Services

Fruit Trees
in Schools
& Community

Predator Free
Whanganui

Eco-
product
Refills

Repair Cafe
and
Tool Library

Kids Creative
Sessions
and
School Holiday
Programmes

Plastic Free
Whanganui

IMPACT REPORTING

VISITORS TO THE ENVIRONMENT BASE



COMMUNITY EVENTS WITH

462

ATTENDEES



227



FRUIT TREES GIVEN AWAY AT

10 KURA
&
3 COMMUNITY EVENTS

GREEN BIKES:
234 HOURS
AND
104 BIKES DONATED
23 BIKES SERVICED
525KG BIKE PARTS
DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL



PROVIDED



AT 9 EVENTS WITH

15,250

ATTENDEES

51 M/CUBED
OF WASTE DIVERTED

MEET THE TEAM



HADI GURTON

Chair

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



CHRIS SMITH

Co-Chair

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



GRAHAM PEARSON

Treasurer

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



JOHN MILNES

Secretary

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



BERNADINE BOURKE

Trustee

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



KATY NEWTON

Trustee

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





ROBIN WILLIAMSON

Adviser to the Trust

Environmental advocate and long-serving member of SWT, Robin brings considerable energy, context, and project skills to the team



MADDIE STANLEY

WhEB Coordinator

Maddie brings energy, enthusiasm and a love for community to her role as WhEB Coordinator. She hopes to make sustainable living more achievable for more people



SHARON FRANCIS

Fruit Trees Coordinator

Sharon is thrilled to share her 20+ years of gardening expertise and speciality training in fruit trees and vegetables with whanau, kura and school communities



ALASTAIR GOODWIN

Green Bikes Manager

Alastair is dedicated to Green Bikes and hopes to turn Whanganui into a bike users' paradise



MIKE WILLIAMSON

Green Bikes Mechanic

Mike's mission is to keep bikes from landfill, get them back in use in the community and share some fix-it skills along the way

PROJECT PROFILES

- **Whanganui Environment Base and ReUse Academy**
- **Zero Waste Services**
- **Fruit Trees in Schools & Community**
- **Predator Free Whanganui**
- **Green Bikes & Bike Users Group**
- **Enviro-map**
- **Creative Kids Sessions & School Holiday Programmes**
- **Plastic Free Whanganui**

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

The WhEB and RUA are volunteer-run community waste reduction and education spaces run by volunteers affectionately known as "Whebsters". The WhEB also hosts Green Bikes. Other events and pop-ups have used this space over the years: from movie nights to lecture series, zero-waste school holiday programmes and more.



The RUA has been a space for Whanganui residents to donate and repurpose tonnes of useful items that would have otherwise gone to landfill. There is a Jar Bar, Gardening Room, Textile Treasures, Crafty Corner, Paper & Packaging, Man Cave. These rooms are a hit with teachers, parents, students, arts and crafters, and the general public alike who delight in reimagining and repurposing things.

In the WhEB office we're selling eco-refill cleaning and health-care products!

TOWARDS ZERO WASTE



Zero Waste Services education, event recycling and composting

Some of Whanganui's largest events have benefitted from Zero Waste Services: New Zealand Masters Games, Festival of Cultural Unity, Home & Lifestyle Show ...

(contact Hadi@sustainable-whanganui.org.nz)

Sustainable Whanganui Services

business waste audits have been undertaken in 11 diverse organisations in Whanganui: supermarket, hospitality, construction, manufacturing, retail, government, education, local council.

Post-audit reviews showed, following implementation of SWS recommendations, that between 15-50% recyclable and compostable waste was diverted from landfill resulting in considerable cost savings in landfill fees. (contact Robin@sustainable-whanganui.org.nz)

FRUIT TREES IN SCHOOLS (& IN COMMUNITIES)

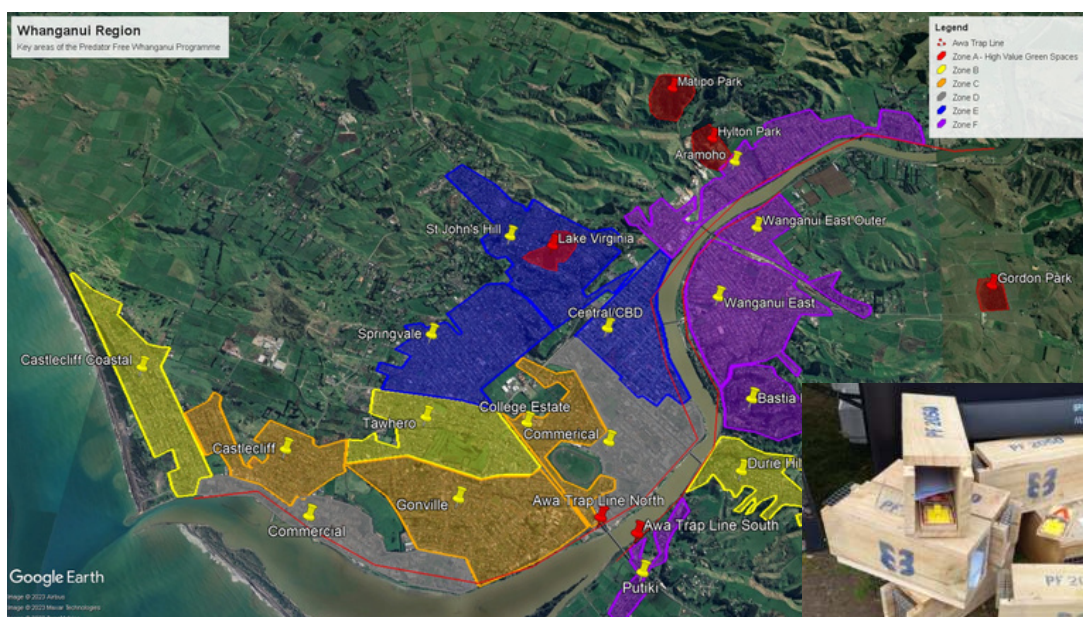


FTiS connects up educational organisations with fruit trees and pruning workshops to support availability of local kai for our tamariki and wider community. This seasonal project has coordinated the planting of hundreds of flourishing fruit and nut trees at over 60 school/kura around Whanganui since 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



Green Bikes is an open workshop where the Whanganui community can 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. A bike trailer allows these guys to visit schools to maintain kids' bikes and run workshops too.



BIKE USERS GROUP (BUG)

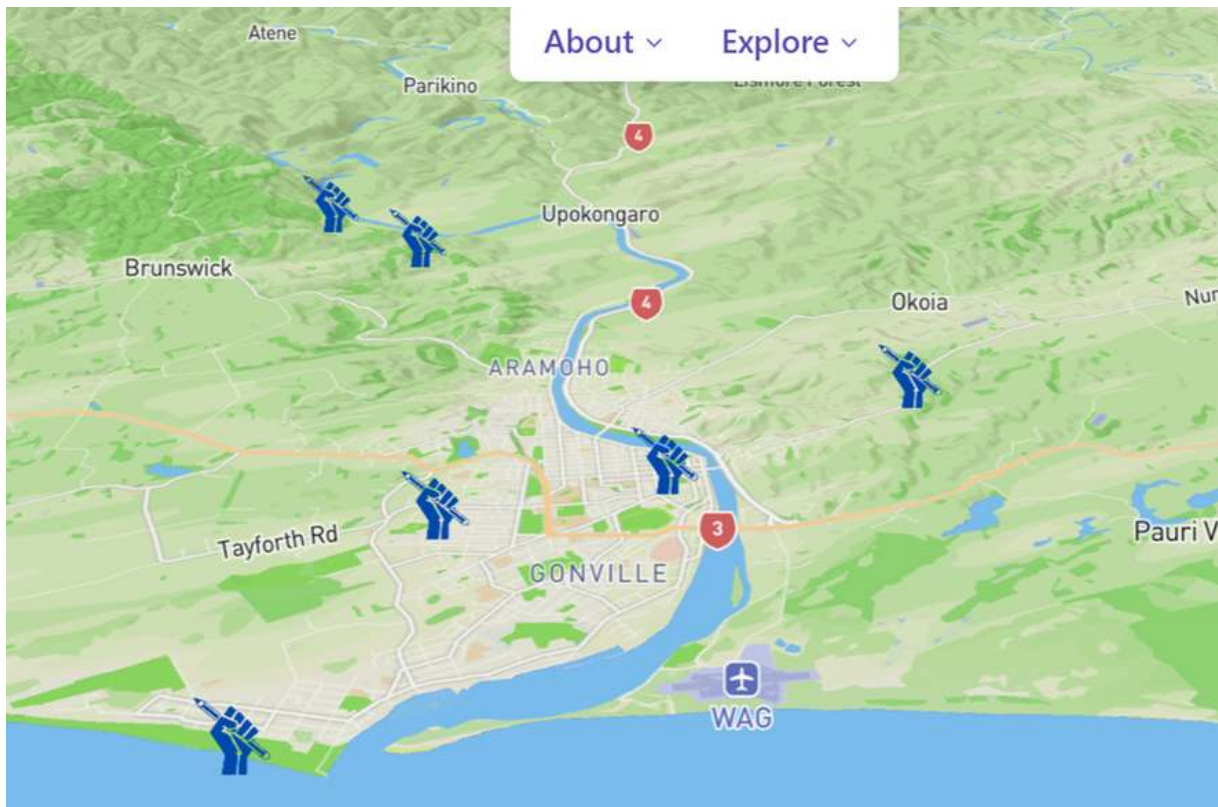


Pancake breakfasts are always a favourite with our cycling community. This is one of the ways BUG contributes to the national Aotearoa "Love to Ride" bike challenge in February. Free bike and helmet checks are offered to cyclists along with their pancake reward for cycling in.

Film nights featuring cycling movies are well-attended.

A Facebook page shares cycle safety tips.

ENVIRO-MAP



Our new Whanganui Enviro-map is online at goodmap.vercel.app/

We plan to develop this resource more over time to become the "go to" for Whanganui sustainability and positive impact information.

There are currently 68 data points populating the map, with 9 categories to filter the information: Active Travel, Agencies & Orgs, Conservation, Education, Home & Energy, Kai, Maturanga Maori, Volunteering, Zero Waste. (19 are foraging spots!)

This beta version seed data has been shared with Environment Hubs Aotearoa to add to its national sustainability mapping initiative.

KIDS CREATIVE SESSIONS & 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 donation, often including a shared lunch, the emphasis is always on the “doing” and “trying”, not the final product.

Participants have made terraria, bug hotels, cards, robots, blow-karts, papier mache and plastic sculptures, 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 group of green warriors!



INITIATIVES WE SUPPORT



The Whanganui Kai Hub emerged from community wānanga discussing better kai systems. SWT supported by 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 its start in 2021. It also runs kai events, workshops, and classes, connecting people with kai!



Supporting reduction of waste to landfill at Whanganui events

- Downer Masters Games
- Home & Lifestyle Expo
- Festival of Cultural Unity
- Puanga/Matariki Celebrations
- Whanganui Vintage Weekend



ReSource Whanganui A to Z website

- 300+ data elements from Aerosols to Zippers in an online directory for locals to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle - before reconciling to landfill



Plastic Free Whanganui and Plastic Free July - supporting less plastic use and therefore less waste to landfill



UCOL "O" Week Community Connect Day - always a great opportunity to meet new and old students and staff, chat with them about our kaupapa and offer info and resources



Whanganui Enviro Educators Hui - a network representing >30 individuals and organisations working and volunteering in the environmental space

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Moving into new premises!
Expanding current projects
Generating new projects -

- Repair Cafe
- Tool Library
- Bulk-buy food staples
- Construction Waste Recycling
- Community-owned Power Generation



SW has new Managers and Coordinators on board to make things happen!

SW has successfully diversified its funding sources over the last few years and has attracted good financial support for staff and projects. Strong partnerships are paving the way to sustainability here.



**KA MIHI
KI A KOE
MO TO ARO**

**THANKS
FOR
READING**



GET IN TOUCH

FOR WHEB, RUA & GENERAL ENQUIRIES
[WHEB@SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ](mailto:wheb@sustainablewhanganui.org.nz)

FOR ZERO WASTE SERVICES
[HADI@SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ](mailto:hadi@sustainablewhanganui.org.nz)

FOR GREEN BIKES
[GREENBIKES@SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ](mailto:greenbikes@sustainablewhanganui.org.nz)

FOR PREDATOR FREE
[CHRIS@SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ](mailto:chris@sustainablewhanganui.org.nz)

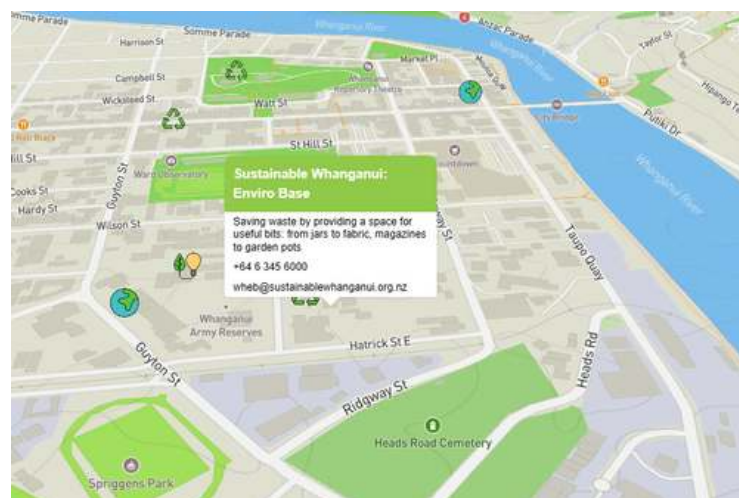
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