

SUSTAINABLE WHANGANUI TRUST

IMPACT REPORT

2024



CONTENTS

2	Our Values and Aim
3	Influence of the Whanganui River
4	Strategic Focus
5	Reaching Out to Local School Communities
6	Connectivity
7	Supporters and Funders
8	Environment Hubs Aotearoa (EHA)
9	What We're Busy With
10	Impact Reporting
11 & 12	Meet the Team
13	Project Profiles
14	• Envirohub
15	• Zero Waste Services
16	• Greening Whanganui
17	• Predator Free Whanganui
18 & 19	• Green Bikes
20	• Repair Cafe
21	• Kids Creative Sessions
22	• Plastic Free Whanganui
23	Initiatives We Support

OUR VALUES AND 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 hapū 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



REACHING OUT TO OUR LOCAL SCHOOL COMMUNITIES



CONNECTIVITY

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

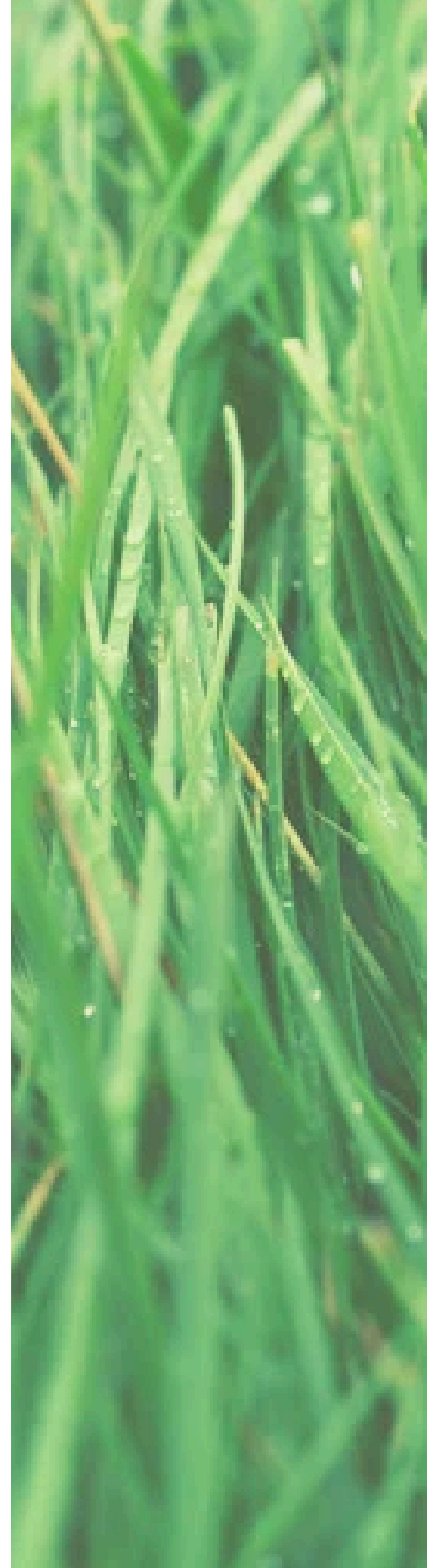


SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS

Our volunteers get a great vote of thanks here for their work at our new Envirohub, and for keeping our many projects running successfully.

Early in 2024 we undertook the mammoth task of relocation to 23 Drews Ave. Staff and volunteers worked tirelessly for two months, sorting, packing, storing, transferring, painting and setting up at the new location. Alastair and Mike's Green Bikes team deserve a special mention, for creating an amazing storage set up at the new location. We are very proud of our bright new retail space alongside the vibrant shops in Drews Ave.

We are ever grateful too that some of our operational and staff costs, and a range of projects have been funded through grants from: Environment Hubs Aotearoa, Whanganui District Council, Whanganui Community Foundation, Lotteries, Four Regions Trust, Horizons Regional Council, Trident Homes, Whanganui Collegiate School and Powerco.



ENVIRONMENT HUBS AOTEAROA (EHA)

Since 2021 we've been connected with Environment Hubs Aotearoa - a nationwide network of 22 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.



FROM EHA IMPACT REPORT 2024

WHAT WE'RE BUSY WITH

**Projects
Led And
Supported
By SWT**

Whanganui
Envirohub

ReUse
Shop

Green Bikes
and Bikes in
Schools

Zero
Waste
Services

Greening
Whanganui/
Fruit Trees
in Schools

Predator Free
Whanganui

Eco-
product
Refills

Repair
Café
Whanganui

Kids Creative
Sessions
and
School Holiday
Programmes

Plastic Free
Whanganui

IMPACT REPORTING

VISITORS
TO THE
ENVIROHUB



3,597



1,249

VOLUNTEER
HOURS



16

COMMUNITY
EVENTS

227



FRUIT TREES
GIVEN AWAY AT
14 KURA/SCHOOLS
WITH
55 CHILDREN
19 ADULTS

GREEN BIKES:

115 BIKE HUBS
OPERATED
1180 VOLUNTEER
HOURS
AND
102 BIKES SOLD

151 BIKES SERVICED
FOR SCHOOLS AND
KINDERGARTENS

2000KG BIKE PARTS
DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL



PREDATOR FREE:



TRAPPING COMMUNITY
MEMBERS 44
TRAPS BORROWED 37
KILLS RECORDED 302

PROVIDED



ZERO
waste

AT 15 EVENTS WITH
22,150
ATTENDEES
25.5 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 is also a regular volunteer at the Envirohub



JOHN MILNES

Secretary

Lifelong advocate and activist for sustainability and community living, and founding member of SWT. John is also a regular Envirohub volunteer



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



DALE COBB

Trustee

Joining the Trust in 2024, Dale brings many years of commercial experience and management to the Trust. A true local, Dale has encyclopaedic knowledge and many connections



**MARION
SANSON**

Legal Advisor

Joining SWT seemed a logical step for Marion after retiring from work as a community lawyer. She is passionate about making it easier for people to make choices that are good for the environment



**ROBIN
WILLIAMSON**

Lead Coordinator -
rtd 2024

We are grateful for Robin's many contributions to the vision of SWT over the years. She retired in 2024



**MADDIE
STANLEY**

Envirohub
Coordinator

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



**ALASTAIR
GOODWIN**

Green Bikes
Coordinator

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



**SHARON
FRANCIS**

Greening Whanganui
Coordinator

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



ROSI MERZ

Predator Free
Coordinator

Rosi Merz is a local ecologist with expertise in systemic restoration and predator control strategies



MARGI KEYS

Project Lead
Repair Cafe

Margi is an avid cyclist, lover of nature and grammar nerd.

PROJECT PROFILES

- **Envirohub**
- **Zero Waste Services**
- **Greening Whanganui**
- **Predator Free Whanganui**
- **Green Bikes**
- **Repair Cafe Whanganui**
- **Kids Creative Sessions**
- **Plastic Free Whanganui**

ENVIROHUB

Sustainable Whanganui relocated to 23 Drews Ave in early 2024. Our new Envirohub is our HQ and is home to many of our projects and events. At Drews Ave we provide Whanganui residents with a location to donate and repurpose useful items such as glass jars, fabric and sewing equipment, and garden equipment that would otherwise go to landfill. We have grown our range of eco-refill cleaning and health-care products. We have set up a much-expanded Green Bikes area. Traps can be borrowed from our Predator Free trap library. A small meeting room provides a space to host monthly creative children's workshops, and educational sessions.



Our staff are supported by a dedicated team of volunteers who assist shoppers and those seeking advice four days a week.

Funding has been secured to expand the retail space in late 2024 and we look forward to welcoming our visitors into an enlarged and improved space.

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, and the Home & Lifestyle Show (contact Hadi@sustainable-whanganui.org.nz)

Business Waste Audits

have been undertaken in diverse organisations such as supermarkets, hospitality, construction, manufacturing, retail, government, education, and 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.

GREENING WHANGANUI

Formerly Fruit Trees in Schools



Greening Whanganui is all about fostering community engagement to increase planting throughout Whanganui and we support our communities (kura, schools, marae, churches and other community groups) to achieve their planting/environmental goals for the wellbeing of people, and also our native fauna.

We provide education on growing natives and fruit trees/vegetables with easy access to resources to increase planting success and can help with the maintenance of supplied plants. Since 2008 we have planted hundreds of flourishing fruit and nut trees at over 60 kura.

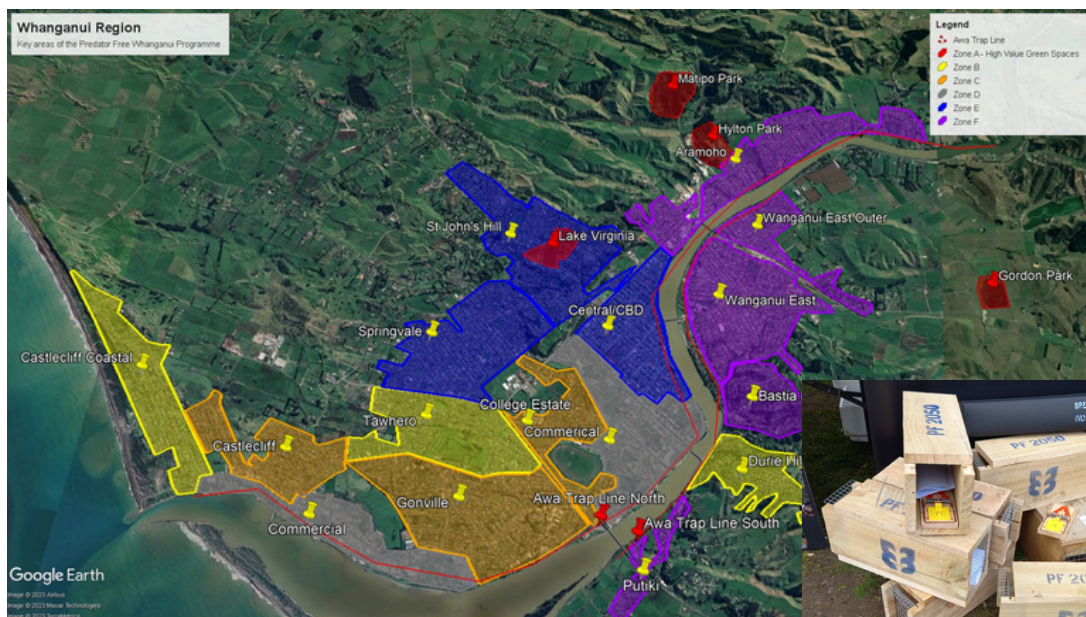
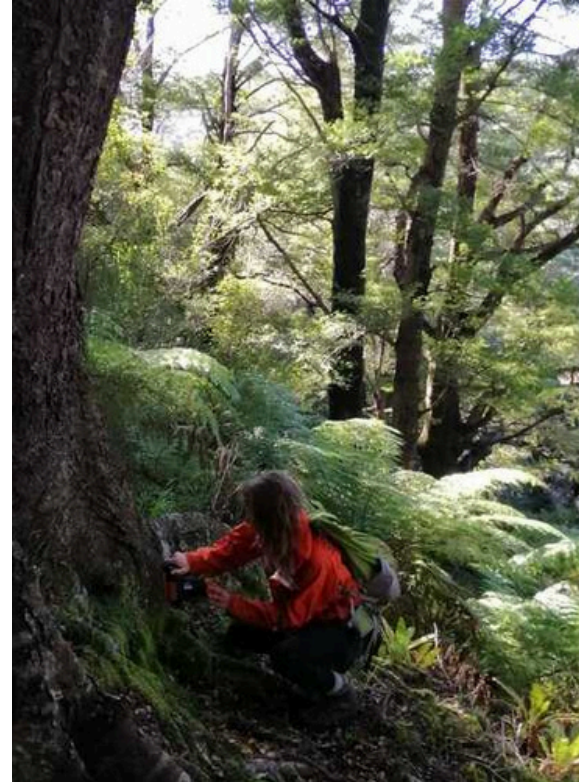


For more info please contact Sharon fruittrees@sustainablewhanganui.org.nz



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 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.



PAHIKARA MATOMATO GREEN BIKES

A PROJECT OF
SUSTAINABLE WHANGANUI

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.

Funding secured from Horizon Regional Council's Climate Response Fund has enabled Green Bikes to become a "Park Tool School" authorised learning location.





Biking to school fosters independence and teaches responsibility. Children learn valuable life skills like planning their routes, managing time and taking care of their bicycles. While many Whanganui schools encourage their students to cycle and have a fleet of bicycles for training purposes, they lacked on-site skilled bike maintenance. Green Bikes has used funding from Lotteries to construct a bike-based mobile workshop that is taken to schools and community events to provide bike repairs. Supporting seven schools this year, repairs were made to 134 school bikes and a further 17 at kindergartens.

REPAIR CAFE



Repair Café Whanganui held its first event in March and is running monthly events until November. As at 1 July, 220 visitors had participated, 121 kg of potential waste had been prevented from landfill and 827 kg of CO2 emissions had been prevented from entering the atmosphere. And a total of 34 volunteers, including 19 repairers, have been involved. Repairs include clothes and soft toys; wooden, plastic and metal items; small electrical appliances; sewing machines; ceramics; leather goods; musical instruments and sound equipment; and costume jewellery.



KIDS CREATIVE SESSIONS

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

Offered free and including a shared morning tea, the emphasis is always on the “doing”, not the final product.



Participants have made terraria, bug hotels, robots, homemade paper, leaf art, cardboard creations, sock animals and much more!

Thank you to the Whanganui District Council Creative Communities Scheme for funding this programme in 2023-2024



PLASTIC FREE JULY

Sustainable Whanganui volunteers continued the tradition of having a stall at the Whanganui River Market on Saturday mornings during July; to promote and educate the public about simple but effective means by which they can live their lives with less plastic. We also decorated our shop window to remind passers by to get involved.

Thank you to Whanganui District Council who sponsored an awesome raffle with brilliant local plastic-free goodies.



INITIATIVES WE SUPPORT



We love to be a part of the Whanganui Women's Network events: La Fiesta (February-March) and Winter Wonderfest (August)



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



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



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

**THANKS
FOR
READING**



GET IN TOUCH

FOR ENVIROHUB & GENERAL ENQUIRIES
WHEB@SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ

FOR ZERO WASTE SERVICES
HADI@SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ

FOR GREEN BIKES
GREENBIKES@SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ

FOR PREDATOR FREE
PREDATORFREE@SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ

OFFICE ADDRESS
23 DREWS AVE, WHANGANUI, 4500

PHONE
06 345 6000

WEBSITE
SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUI.ORG.NZ

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

INSTAGRAM
[/SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUITRUST](https://www.instagram.com/SUSTAINABLEWHANGANUITRUST)



SUSTAINABLE WHANGANUI TRUST

INSPIRING CARING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES