

Sustainable Whanganui Trust

Impact Report 2024-2025



**Inspiring caring,
resilient communities**

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OUR VALUES & AIMS

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

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.



CECELIA KUMEROA, Whanganui Artist
Mural commissioned by SWT, 2015

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.

Projects Led and Supported by Sustainable Whanganui Trust

Monthly events with local volunteers repairing items for locals



Bike repair and maintenance by the community for the community

Garden to plate programme in schools; encouraging planting of fruit trees and natives



Protecting our native biodiversity with a community trap library

Central information hub and waste minimisation base



Bulk refills offered at competitive prices

Supporting Zero Waste at large events



Creative art workshops reusing and recycling items

IMPACT REPORTING



VISITORS TO THE
ENVIROHUB

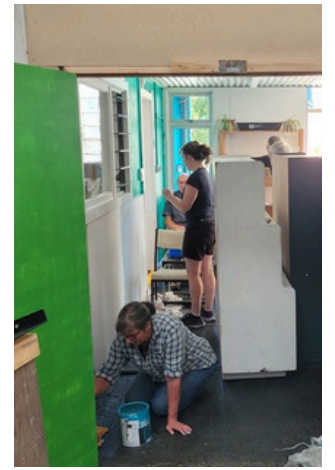


3161

VOLUNTEER
HOURS



2594



1021
GREEN BIKES
VOLUNTEERS
HOURS



15
DONATED BIKES
TO SCHOOLS



1190
REPAIR CAFÉ
VOLUNTEER HOURS

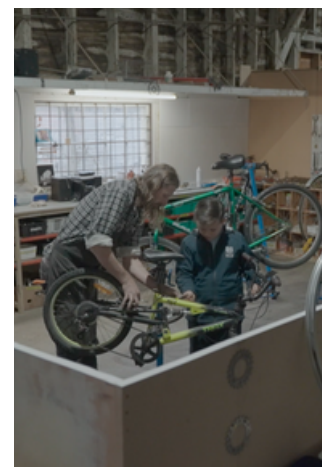


595
CAFÉ VISITORS

150



GREENING
WHANGANUI
YOUTH
PARTICIPANTS OVER
17 SCHOOLS



67
TRAPS
LOANED



**180 BIKES REPAIRED
AND SOLD**



REPAIR CAFÉ



These monthly events aim to recreate a repair-not-replace culture as skilled volunteers do their best to repair visitors' items. These specialists advise visitors about local repair businesses and parts suppliers and help diagnose faults.

Our dedicated team of enthusiastic non-repairer volunteers collect data and run the café. New volunteers regularly join us, bringing a variety of skills and experience.

Repairers have fixed a wide range of items: small electrical appliances including sewing machines and overlockers, clothes, bed linen, teddy bears and other soft toys, books, ceramics, leather goods, wooden, plastic and metal items, costume jewellery, musical instruments and sound equipment.

The Whanganui project is one of more than 75 not-for-profit Repair Cafés under the umbrella of Repair Café Aotearoa New Zealand (RCANZ) which is part of Repair Café International with 3000 different groups around the world that offer at least one event a month.

REPAIR CAFÉ

Repair Cafe celebrated its first year in April.

The numbers have grown - visitors, volunteer repairers and numbers of items repaired.

This is a great success story. We hope it becomes a sustainable long-term feature of Whanganui.



595
CAFÉ
VISITORS



331
ITEMS REPAIRED
1190
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

506
ITEMS
ASSESSED

GREENING WHANGANUI

Greening Whanganui is all about fostering community engagement to increase planting in our district.

Working with kura, schools, marae, churches and other community groups and individuals, we have information and advice to support the successful planting of natives, fruit trees and vegetables.

The Fruit trees in schools and Garden to Plate programmes are ably led by Sharon Francis, and the feedback from schools is very positive.



**150
STUDENTS**

**17
SCHOOLS**

Greening Whanganui
is sponsored by the
Bartlett Group

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, the community are able to borrow traps and record on Trap.nz so that collective efforts can be tracked. Predator Free Whanganui seeks to combine local values and context with expert knowledge of pest control and trapping nationally.

This project has not successfully found funding. The trap library is up and running, and members are adding their catches to trap.nz. We will continue to pursue reliable funding for this project to enable follow up co-ordination and trainings.

67
Traps Loaned

80
Animals Caught
[Rats & Possums]



GREEN BIKES



Green Bikes is an open workshop for the Whanganui community to come and fix their own bikes. Our focus is on repairing donated bikes and selling them cheaply while teaching people to fix their own bikes.

WE PROVIDE:

- Access to our library of specific (and sometimes costly) tools
- Repair workshops for schools and community
- A guiding mechanical hand to get people started, and support their learning
- Refurbished donated bikes, as parts or whole, for sale at low/affordable prices.



FACEBOOK: WHANGANUI GREENBIKES
INSTAGRAM: GREENBIKES_WHANGANUI

WE OFFER STUDENT DISCOUNTS AND ACCEPT WINZ QUOTES

GREEN BIKES



Green Bikes continues to be a vibrant Sustainable Whanganui project. The Drews Ave workshop is a welcoming and busy space. The schools programme is popular, and the sharing repair skills with young people continues to be a key element in this project. We seek funding to continue year by year.



15
BIKES
DONATED TO
SCHOOLS

157
BIKES FIXED FOR
SCHOOLS

14
SCHOOLS

136
YOUTH
PARTICIPATED

338
WORKSHOP
VISITORS

51
SCHOOL
WORKSHOP
SESSIONS

180
BIKES
REPAIRED
& SOLD

1021
VOLUNTEER
HOURS



Green Bikes is grateful for the support from:
Four Regions Trust,
Horizons Regional Council and Lotteries.



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 dream collages, mosaic plant pots, and nature-based weaving with The Learning Environment. Lots of great art works were made for family and friends!

We are grateful for the funding support from Margaret Watt Foundation for these workshops. We hope to continue and expand these opportunities in the future.

**42
kids**

3 sessions



ENVIROHUB

The Envirohub is a volunteer-run community waste reduction and education space run by volunteers affectionately known as "Hubsters".

This centrally located space is an information hub for all things environmental. Offering inspiration for repurposing and upcycling materials, ways to reduce waste, or boost biodiversity in your area. This is also home for Green Bikes and our kids creative sessions.

The Envirohub is a space for Whanganui residents to donate and repurpose tonnes of useful items that would have otherwise gone to landfill.

In the Envirohub we're also selling eco-refill cleaning and health-care products! Our friendly volunteers are on hand to help with enquiries and purchases.



STRATEGIC FOCUS

Focus areas – 1 June 2025 to 1 July 2027

Community Connections

- A thriving, welcoming Enviro Hub continues to receive good patronage.
- SWT membership database grows and is easily accessible and maintained.
- Enviro Educators hui meets with increasing attendance.
- Children's Art workshops are well attended and utilising recycled/natural materials.
- Strong connections with Whanganui District Council and Horizons Regional Council enables more sustainable outcomes for Whanganui.
- Aligning community initiatives are supported and promoted through SWT Network.

Waste Minimisation

- Home composting workshops funded by WDC commence and are ongoing.
- Composting and Worm Farms education and sales continue and expand on request.
- The Refill Station offerings increase in diversity and maintain regular customer base.
- The Envirohub maintains availability of popular re-use items that can't be easily sourced elsewhere
- A successful Plastic Free July event is held at the River Traders Market.
- The monthly Repair Café event continues, a new venue is found and usage increases. WDC funding is secured.

Nature's Abundance & Community Climate resilience

- The Greening Whanganui/Fruit Trees/Garden to Plate programme in Schools/Community is flourishing and growing in diversity.
- Green Bikes continues to expand their remit and the cycling community's engagement.
- Native fauna is recovering due to a coordinated Predator Free Whanganui programme.
- A successful Feijoabulous festival is held in April.
- Backyard Biodiversity, Community gardens and kai initiatives are supported and promoted.

Sharing Platform

- Sharing Platform options are further developed and promoted.
- Tool Library
- Planting Kete
- Seed Library
- Trap Library
- "Promoting and organising sharing to help our community do more while owning and spending less."

STRATEGIC FOCUS

What will success look like, 30 June 2027?

- Community Connection – A thriving Enviro Hub connects our community with relevant local information enabling positive decision making.
- Nature's Abundance – Kai initiatives have contributed to an abundance of community kai sources. Native flora and fauna are recovering because of coordinated predator free and strategic biodiversity plantings.
- Waste Minimisation – Our community is empowered to make positive waste minimisation decisions, and we lead a range of programmes to meet community aspirations and needs.
- Sharing Platform (eg. Tool library, planting kete, seed library, trap library) are further developed and promoted.

Challenges & Opportunities

We plan to further develop the various sharing platforms based at the Envirohub, such as the tool library, planting kete, seed library and trap library. We are planning to set up home composting workshops for Whanganui residents.

All our projects require co-ordination, venue, volunteers and funding to operate. One significant challenge this year has been the cutting of the national Envirohubs Aotearoa funding. This has meant finding an additional \$35,000 to meet rent and administrative costs. We continue to fundraise for all the core and project costs.

Volunteers are a critical part of Sustainable Whanganui's success, and we are improving our ability to connect with volunteers and Whanganui residents through our social media, plus a sign-up mailchimp newsletter.



CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to our volunteers!

Each contribution - large or small, makes a difference.

Whether it is time and energy, material support, or financial support, we are very grateful for the help.

2594
VOLUNTEER
HOURS



SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS

We are grateful that some of our operational and staff costs, including some of our projects have been funded through grants from: Whanganui District Council, Horizons Regional Council, Whanganui Community Foundation, Margaret Watt, Four Regions, COGS, Lotteries, Environment Hubs Aotearoa, Whanganui Property Brokers



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui



CONNECTIVITY & RELATIONSHIPS

We work alongside and connect with more than 60 local and nationwide organisations.

As a network organisation, we work to connect and collaborate with other organisations nationally or locally when possible, and share information and resources as efficiently as possible.

We have facilitated the set up of a number of projects such as Kai Hub which has now established and been able to become independent.



MEET THE TEAM



HADI GORTON

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 Whebster



JOHN MILNES

Secretary

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



KATY NEWTON

Trustee

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



BERNADINE BOURKE

Envirohub Coordinator & Trustee

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



MARION SANSON

Legal Advisor

Marion Sanson volunteers with Sustainable Whanganui as it seemed a logical step after retiring from work as a community lawyer. It needs to be easier for people to make choices that are good for the environment and that's what SWT is about.



MARGI KEYS

Repair Café Project Lead

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



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 whanau, kura and school communities



MIKE WILLIAMSON

Green Bikes Manager

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



ROB MIDDLETON

Green Bikes

Rob's mission is to work together to keep bikes running and people riding them. Sharing skills and learning along the way.

WANT TO HELP?

Your support helps drive our projects forward and we are grateful for any donations of funds, time, some reuse items, plants and seedlings.

DONATE

Account name: Sustainable Whanganui Trust

Account number: 38 9006 0680546 08

VOLUNTEER WITH US

We welcome your help with any of our projects. Put your good heart into action for our community and our planet. Full training provided.

envirohub@sustainablewhanganui.org.nz

Sign up to our newsletter for updates and volunteer opportunities





GET IN TOUCH

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