

Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch Chairperson's Annual Report 2019-2020

Any organisation is only as good as the people involved. SŌC is so fortunate to have a great team of people at its core who hold our kaupapa very much to heart and are prepared to work hard to achieve what we often and not entirely flippantly express as “trying to save the world in 9 years”. [Counting down!]

My thanks as Chairperson to all of them on behalf of all our members, supporters and friends. We have a [diverse group](#) and this is reflected in the diversity of work we do.

Speaking for the Planet

This speech and art competition was very successful in June 2019 when it was held at Tūranga library. This year while we were all set to run it in a similar way the 2020 event was, due to Covid 19 and the resulting Lockdown, an entirely [on-line affair](#), which culminated for us in a prize giving held on Facebook Live on World Environment Day June 5th. The theme for this year's competition was Biodiversity: On Earth Every thing is Connected. We will be holding an exhibition of the art works entered at Envirohub plus showcasing the winning speeches at an event later in the year. Our thanks to all the young people who entered and congratulations to everyone for doing so in such extraordinary circumstances. Particular congratulations to all the winners of the different categories. Results can be seen [here](#). Our thanks also to Jocelyn Pappriell, Anthea Madill and Dave Evans who all worked hard to make this year's competition such a success.

Climate Challenge Kaiapoi.

Dave Bryce inspired us to look at how we could use his model of an Eco pledge leading to local support for communities to engage constructively on thinking, talking, working on the climate challenge at a local community level. The University of Canterbury have the PACE (Professional and Community Engagement) internship programme. We were very fortunate to be able to work with Sarah Wright a student from this programme who hails from Kaiapoi. She led this project from February until May and now SŌC have the opportunity to continue to work with people from the Kaiapoi area on this. Our thanks go to Sarah for her excellent ideas, work ethic and willingness to help SŌC with this in a very constructive way. She had to completely adapt her plans to the Covid climate and did so enthusiastically and effectively. My thanks to Anthea for coming on board to help with this project when we realised the huge change of methodology required.

Land-use change group.

Paul Hawkins et al in “Drawdown” lists land -use change as one of the top ways, and we at SŌC believe one of the fastest ways, to combat climate change. SŌC are progressing relationships, ideas and looking to support action around Canterbury. This group tend to have any discussions/meetings while on field trips of interest. In October the group went to the Waiau/ Uwha region to visit a farmer with plans for a nohoanga and river restoration plans we are interested to support and in March we went to Tūhaitara Coastal Park to enjoy seeing the progress being made there right on the edge of our city. Next we plan to engage with community around Waipara where the [Resilient Hurunui](#) group are inspiring change.

Our public meeting (held in partnership with [350.org](#)) featuring Di Lucas on October 18th called “Forests in and of Landscapes” was filmed and can be [viewed here](#). Di is taking her team's messages about best use of land and land types to audiences up and down Aotearoa. Dairy can be ok BUT. She describes how. Will we listen?

Her concerns about the proliferation of pine planting are shared by many.

Transport.

53% of Christchurch's carbon emissions come from transport. SŌC would be remiss not to engage with attempts to change that. We invited Will Hunter to our September 2019 executive meeting to discuss how we might support what he is doing. Will is pushing the switch from petrol to EVs – [Christchurch EV group](#), events, demos, expanding to electric bikes too. Launching an education trust funded via private donors. School education etc. Pushing for government funding for subsidizing purchasing EVs. Currently Leading the Charge reimburse costs for promotions etc.

This is not all SŌC would like to do and the new executive will be addressing this in the near future. If transport is of particular interest to you don't hesitate to get in touch.

Changing attitudes and behaviour.

Changing attitudes and behaviour is a central motivation for the Climate Challenge work.

A group discussion was held at the WEA in November 2019 as a follow up to the workshop on this topic which was held as part of the Restoring a Kind Climate forum in June 2019.

We held a movie screening of [2040](#) at Tūranga library (in partnership with CCC) attended by 120 people. If you would like to host a screening of this movie contact SŌC and we can give you contacts for you to arrange to do so.

The SHIFT (sustainable, inspiring, factual, transitional) library.

For the first part of this year Sophia, Kat and Colleen along with Christine Dann (Fabian Society) were progressing this work to enable the dispersal into the community of books useful for activists and potential activists. The work was placed on hold for a period given the situation nationally and the temporary closure of the WEA which is the place we intended to house some of the resources. To be continued!

Sustainable development goals/ the SDG summit Christchurch/University liaison.

SŌC are engaging with the SDGs summit to be held in Christchurch as part of the advisory group supporting the organisers.

SŌC executive members met with Matt Morris, Sustainability Advisor, and others from the University of Canterbury late in 2019 and will continue to engage with other initiatives in sync with people at the U of C. This includes input from executive members and others into the new U of C Environmental Science degree. Community input was sought by the university in the planning stages of this degree.

Unions Canterbury

Colleen and Molly (from Student Strike for Climate) were guests at a Unions Canterbury meeting in March to discuss ongoing liaison with unions particularly around issues related to climate change and other issues of importance both to the environmental and union movements. This liaison between SŌC and unions in Canterbury will continue.

One Voice Te Reo Kotahi

SŌC is represented on the organising group of OVTRK by the Chairperson (Colleen) and Patron (John Peet). [OVTRK](#) frames their work around the four well beings as does SŌC and is a natural partner for us.

School Strike for Climate, [XR Ōtautahi](#) and [350.org Christchurch](#) are some other important partners SŌC works with. We support what activities we can via communications, personnel cross over, combined meetings. SŌC feel blessed to be working in a community of organisations, which while having differences of opinion and methodology at times work so well together for the common good. SŌC notes the emergence of Christchurch's new physical environment centre the "[Christchurch Envirohub](#)" and urge you to visit them at the kiosk in the Botanic Gardens. SŌC continues our membership of [ECO](#) (Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa) and urges people to consider signing up to receive the weekly Tieke email newsletter, which contains analysis and information which activists in Aotearoa really should not do without.

Water

Meeting to be held on May 28th with guests Rachel Treen and Vicky Southworth postponed to August 21st and will be a partnership meeting with Christchurch 350.org.

Palm Oil.

SŌC are centred in Christchurch and its surrounds. But in the local to global challenges we face we cannot ignore the impact of the loss of the lungs of our planet and the loss of biodiversity globally in large part caused by our own mindless consumption of whatever is put on our [local] supermarket shelves. Kat and Amelie led some work with SŌC support to challenge a school and community to think harder about shopping mindfully and avoiding palm oil, and they succeeded. Well done to them both and [this work](#) will continue.

Time Banking, Savings Pools, Local Currencies, Mutual Aid Networks.

These are all practical attempts to challenge the hegemony of current economic systems. SŌC have chosen to join the Bridge to Rocks Timebank. Contact Colleen via if you are interested in joining a local savings pool. For more information on all these economic tools visit the [Living Economies website](#).

Garage sale.

SŌC ran a garage sale in September to raise some funds for the organisation but also to provide a way for recycling into community.

Gift Swap.

Led by Sophia White. This SŌC [stall](#) held prior to Christmas within the market run by “The Conscious Club” held a very different view of gifting up to the public and was very well received as well as delightful to experience.

History Project.

This project is in partnership with ECO Canterbury, funded by Environment Canterbury and supported by the Heritage unit of the CCC. The project aims to collect oral histories of still-living early leaders and other archival sources, to collate them and then share history of the environmental and conservation movement in Canterbury. For more information contact Diana Shand via info@sustainablechristchurch.org.nz.

Submissions.

Executive members on behalf of the organisation wrote submissions for:

- The Zero Carbon Bill
- The Christchurch City Council annual plan
- Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan .
- Clean Car Standard and Clean Car Discount for New Zealand
- The Organics Products Bill.

IT & Communications.

Our website is managed by Dave and Rosemary. Rosemary and others maintain our [Facebook presence](#). Currently we have 1,065 followers for our FB page up from 868 this time in 2019).

Nine email newsletters were sent out over 2019 -2020 to 339 people. To get on the email list to receive these newsletters go [here](#).

Other outreach.

Presentation to a class at Hagley High School by Colleen Philip, Sophia White and Elizabeth Guthrey on sustainability topics - economics, sharing city, building.

The [beach clean-up](#) led by Sustainable Coastlines on Feb 29th.

Estuary Festival. February 22nd. [link](#).

Finally the executive wish to thank all the people associated with the work SŌC has been involved in and to say that we really appreciate the goodwill of our Christchurch/Canterbury community toward us and the things we are trying to achieve. Consider the titles in this report to be chosen for flow not in order of importance and it is perhaps useful to note that this report can only precis our activity this year. People are welcome to contact us about attending executive meetings which are open to all members. There is further information on our [website](#), on our [Facebook](#) and, if you wish to see them, in our executive meeting minutes.

Colleen Philip
Chairperson
25th June 2020.