

Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch Chairperson's Annual Report. June 2020 to May 27th 2021

SŌC's goal is the promotion of strong sustainability in Ōtautahi/Christchurch and its environs. So, the threads of strong sustainability interwoven form an organisational background to our work.

The climate and ecological crises focus our work.

The Ōtautahi Christchurch Ecosystem Mapping re-launch is being celebrated at the AGM May 27th. Support of this work will continue in 2021. The work from 26 years ago has influenced what is planted around Ōtautahi Christchurch and we need to give voice to it again so further generations of our people plant what belongs in this, their place.

Climate Challenge Project work.

The Climate Challenge Kaiapoi project reported on in 2020 was only half completed due to Covid 19. Sarah Wright's PACE programme hours (University of Canterbury) were halved and we could only do half of what we planned. We had a great resource developed but were unable to fulfil our goal of taking it into neighbourhoods and triggering neighbourhood conversations and commitments. I arranged a meeting with Kate Steel Biodiversity advisor at the Waimakariri District Council to present what we had done. We asked if WDC would or could pick this work up and continue with it. We have been advised that with Sarah's blessing this is now being considered including by the youth rōpū and we wish them well with whatever outcomes they can achieve progressing the goals of this work.

SŌC intends to continue with Climate Challenge project work and will again apply for funding to bring this programme to other local areas in the CCC area. However, the executive have decided in advance of this to support the work of Te Pūtahi in the Climate related Christchurch Conversations programme they are running. The first of these is Sunday May 30th at Tūranga and is themed on 'Transport'.

Participatory Open Democracy.

SŌC launched a project "Seeding Change: through Participatory Open Democracy - the POD project" early in 2021. We contracted Jules Xavier -Hendry to get the work started delivering our initial vision. We held a meeting April 16th in partnership with Christchurch 350.org to discuss how we could collaborate on this work with others. From that meeting a decision to run an interactive calendar and online tool to facilitate consistency and coverage in relation to pro-active engagement with the local councils and other government agencies and individuals.

We also heard the 'civics education' thinking Jules was engaging with others on - in particular youth and other third sector organisations; and in particular her discussions with Lottie Vinson on ways to partner with the WEA on this important aspect of adult and community education and Jacinta O'Reilly from the Phillipstown Hub where the work they are planning may synergise well.

To this point SŌC have been funding Jules's contract with our own funds. We would like to seek funding for the ongoing project. If you have thoughts about where we should apply please contact Jules via info@sustainablechristchurch.org.nz

Youth Engagement/Educational

'Speaking for the Planet' is being organised by SŌC again in partnership with NZ Association for Environmental Education. The competition event is being held this year at Tūranga on June 11th. This year's theme is Ecological Restoration which is interpreted for the purposes of the competition entries to 'Supporting Life on Earth'.

SHIFT Resources /Transitional Engineering

We have decided not to continue with the idea of a sited library preferring to support the LIFT library run by Juliet Adams. Instead we are starting a circulation system; releasing books into the community. If you have books you think are 'transformational' and /or educationally important and want to give them to us to use in our SHIFT programme please get in touch. We have made a slow start, 3 books have begun circulating. 2 of these were gifted to SŌC by Dr Susan Krumdiek - copies of her Transitional Engineering book. Executive members enrolled in the online transitional engineering course run through Uni of Canterbury led by Susan

and Fiona van Petegem. TE and the concept of designing for energy downshift is fundamentally important work happening locally and globally. We are pleased Fiona is joining the SŌC executive and will help us connect with what is happening in a helpful way and keep this work front and centre for our team.

The Environmental Leadership and Heritage of Christchurch /Canterbury Project

Diana Shand ECO Canterbury ,Colleen Philip and (more recently) Ann Brown SŌC assisted by Victoria Bliss CCC and Ali Bower ECan have brought the first stage of this project to completion. Please come to the Networking for the Environment event on June 29 where the work will be presented for the first time. Help celebrate the wonderful people whose oral histories form the substance of this project.

Water Sensitivity.

In November 2020 we held a public meeting in partnership with Christchurch 350.org on water sensitive cities (Rachel Treen) and how we might move Christchurch/Ōtautahi to being a more water sensitive place through on-site solutions (Vicky Southworth). We are continuing this work in 2021. The theme of both our outreach stalls at the Tūhaitara Coastal Park Open Day in January and the Estuary Festival in February was water sensitivity focusing on four on-site solutions citizens might action. The interest shown told us this is a topic that resonates. We have a field trip to sites of interest around Christchurch on July 3rd, 1.30 pm onwards.

Marine

Executive members (Joyce, Anthea, Colleen) held a meeting with Raquelle de Vine to scope how we might engage in a supportive way with Algalita South Pacific.

We congratulate the organisers of Seaweek and note the range and quality of events including that run by Blue Cradle.

As we enter the UN Decade of Ocean Research we are pleased to see the developments in Canterbury and will endeavour to engage with and support them.

Land Use Change

Our land use change group went into hibernation last year as Covid 19 impacted our planned field trips. Peter Wells has moved to Blue Cradle and we would love someone else with a passion for regenerative agriculture, food security and/or related topics to join us and build our capacity in this area.

Alternate Economics

SŌC have been supporting Global Shapers as they analyse and organise around aspects of the economic system that we may have influence for change on as a community. SŌC executive members attended a meeting at Travis Wetland Education Centre with Global Shapers and await their decisions on ways forward from that meeting.

Jobs, Livelihoods, Employment/Just Transition.

More meetings with Unions Canterbury and individual unions is planned for later this year. A just transition to a climate friendly future is an important aspect of conversation and it is good to see the theme of this year's May Day celebrations in Blackball reflecting this from within the union movement.

Business Sustainability

As Paul Hawken says "to change the world we must change business".

Anthea Madill and Joyce Yager have been working in this area. Using the opportunity of connection with a business that was open to looking at this Anthea inducted Joyce into how to prepare business sustainability plans which Anthea has expertise on. Joyce applied this in a context where she had some 'soft power' and where the goodwill allowed. The things learned from this will inform our work with businesses. Joyce has prepared a report on her work which you can access on our website (after the AGM).

We have started to highlight in our communications businesses that our members have identified as local businesses that are making a decent effort toward sustainability. Please submit articles yourself for our website, Facebook and/or newsletter if you are impressed by a local business. They do not have to be perfect! Let's encourage and support those making a significant effort. We know they face many barriers and our support may be a real boost to their efforts.

Sustainable Development Goals Summit

Ann Brown has been on the stakeholder group for the SDG Summit representing SŌC. The Summit is approaching online hui #3, Working Together for Change, 24th June. This is the final online hui of the series before the main face-to-face event, Collaborating for Systemic Change, 2nd-3rd September 2021. There has been two well-attended online hui so far, Be the Change and See the Change. The SDG Summit Working Group is currently conducting research into the efficacy and feasibility of a Sustainable Development Goals Alliance; more details will be available at the face-to-face event in September.

In response to a call for Expressions of Interest, Jules Xavier-Hendry (supported by Joyce Yager) submitted a proposal to run a session at the Summit. The session would introduce the Participatory Open Democracy project and gather contact details from individuals interested in learning more or contributing to the project in some way.

SŌC direct links with other organisations.

As stated in this report already we partner with a number of organisations in the work we do and support others in the work they lead. All our work is intended to develop as partnerships or coalitions. However, it is important to note we hold memberships of ECO (Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa) and Hui E. Colleen is part of the organising group of One Voice Te Reo Kotahi as are Katherine and John Peet and Jules Xavier-Hendry (representing Generation Zero). Two of our executive members are contracted by Envirohub and we look forward to watching the ongoing development of Envirohub's role in Christchurch/Canterbury.

The importance of networking cannot be overstated and we thank Ali Bower and Environment Canterbury for the ongoing opportunities offered to the environmental third sector organisations of Canterbury to do this supported by the agency's resources through the Networking for the Environment programme.

We thank the WEA for their ongoing support of SŌC work through providing a cost effective venue for many of our events, for assisting with advertising and for the direct partnering now occurring with some of our work streams (in particular S4P and POD).

Communications

Our website continues to develop and is an important portal for people reaching out to our organisation. SŌC have taken over from Rosemary Neave who has hosted this for us in times when it was not possible for the executive to do so. Our thanks - immense thanks- to her for her support.

The SOC Facebook page now has 1185 followers (as at May 24th).

WE have sent 7 newsletters out this past year and our mailing list has increased to 361 members and/or supporters (as at May 2021).

Submissions

Climate Commission Draft Report

Environment Canterbury Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031 (attended & spoke to hearings)

Christchurch City Council Long Term Plan 2021- 2031 (attended & spoke to hearings) We were also involved in the stakeholder advisory sessions (Anthea and Colleen representing SŌC in separate meetings) which were held in advance of the release of the draft strategy. We need not remind you of the limits to consultation with bureaucracies but we still value this engagement and intend to continue to do so when invited and thank the CCC particularly Tony Moore the Sustainability Advisor for the opportunity we had.

Selwyn District Council Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031

Christchurch City Council Draft Climate Change Strategy 2021 (attended and spoke to hearings)

This has been a huge amount of work to engage constructively. We noted in our submissions to CCC the load this amount of consultation in a short period of time has been on third sector organisations.

Executive for the 2020- 2021 year.

Colleen Philip (Chairperson)
David Guthrey (Deputy Chair)
Dave Evans (Treasurer)
Anthea Madill (Secretary)
Rosemary Neave
Kat Miller
Joyce Yager
Ben Jassin
Peter Wells
Ann Brown

Dr John Peet (Patron)

Finally I wish to thank all our members and supporters for your support of SŌC but most especially on behalf of everyone involved with SŌC I wish to extend my deep thanks to our executive team. They are a fabulous group of people to work with. We will miss Peter, Rosemary and Kat coming to executive meetings and thank them very much for what they have done for SŌC but are pleased to know they will continue to be in our close circle of friends.

SŌC is a small regional third sector organisation which relies on the time and energy of mostly volunteers. We are able to work successfully on things that our individual active members have an interest in, understanding of and the knowledge skills and passion to advance in the time they have available. If you see gaps in our work that matter to you then please consider joining us and helping progress our kaupapa. We even have vacancies on the executive and would welcome new members; although this is not the only pathway for you to engage.

Looking forward to the coming year, we know that we must limit the workload of the voluntary executive team to make sure that SŌC itself remains sustainable. In 2020 we engaged a contractor Kate Horrell to do work on a range of outcomes including publicity and administrative tasks, and the success of this trial indicated to us that paid contract work to support the executive's efforts must be part of our way forward. We are currently working on establishing a Give a Little page for SŌC. If you have expertise at funding applications or any ideas of other alternate types of fundraising we could perhaps pursue please let us know.

Kia kaha koutou
Nga mihi nui
Colleen