

## **Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch Chairperson's Annual Report. June 2021 to June 2nd 2022**

SŌC's goal is the promotion of strong sustainability in Ōtautahi/Christchurch and its environs. Threads of strong sustainability interwoven form an organisational background to our work. The climate and ecological crises are the focus.

### **Climate/ Education/Open Participatory Democracy /Jobs and livelihoods**

SOC again organised in partnership with NZ Association for Environmental Education “**Speaking for the Planet**” a speech, art and spoken word, music video and impromptu drama competition for young people. The competition day was June 7th in 2021 and this year will take place at Tūranga on Friday July 1st. For more information on any of the S4P events of the past 4 years including the upcoming 2022 competition please go to the [S4P page on the SOC website](#). NZAEE and SOC are very grateful for the ongoing support of our sponsors and supporters and very proud of the calibre of entries from the young people of our region. Jocelyn Pappill has led this project superbly and we thank her for her enthusiasm and hard work.

SOC attended a stall at Te Pūtahi ‘**Christchurch Conversations**’ event on “Building for the Future”. Anthea and Colleen also provided expertise and helped lead a workshop at the waste minimisation forum organised by Te Pūtahi.

SOC were deliberately supporting Te Pūtahi with their programme of ‘conversations’ on climate in 2021 rather than continuing with our more localised conversation initiative the ‘Climate Challenge’ which we worked on through 2020. However, we are now turning again to the local, community conversation strategy. We have found **the idea of local conversations** has continually emerged as vital at meetings we have been holding ever since the gathering ‘Restoring a Kind Climate’ that SOC organised in 2019 and in all the discussions we had then and have had subsequently about ‘changing attitudes and behaviour’. We believe this local community based conversation approach is an important way forward as we seek to change the attitudes and behaviour of our fellow citizens who while caring about climate issues struggle often to find a way through to meaningful action. Fiona introduced the SOC executive (and [350.org](#) activists) to the ‘**Climate Collage**’. ‘Climate Collage’ was developed in France by Cedric Ringenbach, an engineering professor in Climate Science and Energy and is an interactive game -based activity designed to get people in small groups thinking and talking about the climate crisis and looking toward action. Currently we are exploring ideas as to how to progress using this tool, perhaps integrating it with the Climate Challenge.

Jules Xavier-Hendry was contracted by SOC to work on **civics education and engagement** across age groups (the POD project). This included a workshop at the Sustainable Development Goals conference in Christchurch in September 2021. We struggled with capacity constraints as we do with a number of our projects and were unable to continue working with Jules directly but are delighted to be able to continue the participatory open democracy theme of our work by partnering with The Living Wage Movement and other organisations to **organise with youth** around the themes of climate, democracy and the Living Wage for the rest of 2022. Two constant themes when young people are asked what are the biggest issues for them are the climate crisis and the impact of low wages. SOC are pleased we have been able to substantively contribute with funds and with a representative on the steering group of this initiative. For more information on this project please go to this [post on the SOC website](#).

A stall was held at the University of Canterbury student outreach/clubs day. Thanks to Yaz for organising this and we hope that our work with the youth organising project can serve as an adjunct to this type of activity.

### **Economics - alternate**

Sophia (wearing her Global Shapers hat) supported by SOC continued to organise meetings with the alternate economics ‘team’ that formed around the forum held in 2020. Currently the decision has been made to continue to meet around four times annually to ‘think tank’ and to support each other as we feel our way toward the most effective actions we can take. We believe these will emerge but at the moment it is a time for this group to continue to reflect, community build and build our personal and group resilience in the face of what can seem like overwhelming status quo ‘forces’. We have been recently discussing system change rather than alternate mechanisms. The last meeting we discussed Living Wage and WeALL (the Wellbeing

Economics alliance) with our guests Nathaniel Herz - Edinger and Dr Paul Dalziel. Contact either Sophia or Colleen to get on the email list if this is an area of some passion for you and would like to join in with us.

### **Business Sustainability.**

Paul Hawken's statement "To change the world you need to change business" is echoed in the title of the June 2nd business expo and public meeting '[Changing Business to Change the World](#)'. We are welcoming Sue Coutts from the Zero Waste Network as our guest speaker and thank the WEA for partnering with us to bring Sue to Ōtautahi Christchurch and for helping us host this event.

SOC are fortunate to have 3 businesses that have joined as organisational members and we are all in SOC committed to supporting local businesses that are striving toward a strongly sustainable future for themselves and therefore for our community, country and world.

### **Ecological**

The public meeting to re-launch the Ōtautahi Christchurch Ecosystem Mapping project with guest speaker Di Lucas the developer of the maps at our 2021 AGM was well attended and a positive contribution from SOC to some of the ecological work needed for our city to be strongly sustaining our local natural world. Fiona van Petegem is on the board of the recently formed Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust. With links to people and organisations operating in the ecological 'zone' SOC are well placed to contribute as and when we see an opportunity to do so.

SOC partnered again in 2021 with Christchurch Envirohub, the Arthur's Pass Wildlife Trust and other organisations to promote and support weed busting efforts and associated educational work on braided river ecosystems in the Arthur's Pass National Park area. Sadly due to inclement weather the actual riverside weed-busting could not occur in November 2021 as planned but the braided river advocacy work leading up to the time of the event made the effort worthwhile despite that disappointment. We hope the weed-busting can actually happen in 2022 and if it does we will ensure a SOC presence in support of the Arthur's Pass conservation community and the iconic species we are all trying to support.

### **Water**

The educational water sensitivity guided walk organised by SOC and led by Vicky Southworth to inform community members of water sensitivity initiatives particularly 'on site' solutions within the central city area on July 3rd 2021 drew a number of what we might term 'community leaders' and SOC thank Vicky for leading the walk, and thank Liam Foster (WSP) and Justin Morganroth (U of C) in particular for their expertise. To read the notes taken please go to [this post on the SOC website](#).

Since then SOC have moved to sign the Canterbury Waterways Partnership. Currently we do not have an executive member who is leading on water sensitivity issues as Colleen is unable to continue this role. If you have a particular interest in this please consider joining the executive and liaising with CWP on our behalf and continuing the advocacy work started in 2020-21. We have resources and ideas and have strong relationships through which to develop this work but not the capacity to follow through with all of them at the moment.

### **Environmental History**

SOC continued to manage the Environmental Leadership and Heritage of Christchurch/Canterbury oral history project in partnership with ECO Canterbury funded by Environment Canterbury until the completion of the SOC contract with Environment Canterbury for this purpose was completed in November 2021. SOC are very pleased we were able to be involved in the instigation and first phase of this work. It has been very clear that environmental history and in particular the celebration of our 'heroes' has been something that the community strongly desires. Extra oral histories were done in the period up to 2021, more than were envisaged in the contract, thanks to ECan providing extra funds. It is to be hoped that with CCC engaging with the archiving and securing of the work done so far the oral histories taken of the remarkable people interviewed will form a resource and inspiration for local people for years to come. Our particular thanks to Diana Shand who while one of the subjects interviewed also served as a coordinator of efforts to find and secure the interviewees and their stories.

### **Marine**

Marine work in 2022 has been pursued mostly within our membership of **ECO (Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa/NZ)**. ECO have been involved in a wide range of marine policy work and campaigns work through the past year and SOC are proud to be a member and support of this work

at a national and international level. For more on all that ECO has been engaged with through this past year see the [ECO website](#).

SOC has maintained our membership of [Hui E!](#)

Colleen has represented us on the organising group of [One Voice te Reo Kotahi](#).

### **Submissions**

#### **Waste Minimisation Plan**

SOC worked with a number of organisations under the leadership of the Zero Waste Network to produce a collaborative submission and also present one of our own focusing on more local issues and things SOC wanted to emphasise.

#### **National Infrastructure Strategy**

##### **Stormwater plan for the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River catchment (CCC)**

We collaborated with Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network to prepare our submission for this.

**Modernising the Charities Act** We collaborated with Hui E! on a submission.

##### **CCC Annual Plan 2022-23**

##### **Environment Canterbury Annual Plan 2022-23**

Note: we are finding that the collaborations we do for some submissions, led by organisations with relevant expertise, are an excellent way for SOC to be able to provide the relevant agencies with high value submissions but also a way we can manage the workload involved with so much consultation asked of third sector organisations and their largely volunteer teams.

### **Communications**

Total of 5 newsletters sent to 380 members/supporters

[Website](#) maintained to disseminate information on strong sustainability issues and related events.

[Facebook page](#) maintained for the same purpose and is currently liked by 1246 and followed by 1455.

### **2021 - 2022 SOC executive**

**Chairperson:** Colleen Philip

**Vice Chairperson:** David Guthrey

**Treasurer:** Dave Evans

**Secretary (job share):** Anthea Madill, Joyce Yager

Ann Brown

Ben Jassin

Fiona van de Petegem

Sophia White

Yaz Milliner

**Patron:** Dr John Peet

### **A personal note from the outgoing Chairperson:**

As I approach the date I am relinquishing the role of Chairperson of SOC I want to say how much I have enjoyed the four years I have spent in the role and thank everyone who has worked alongside me during that time. It has been immensely rewarding and satisfying. As with any leadership role there have been challenges but the friendship, solidarity and skills of the SOC executive have always shone through and the challenges were more like signposts showing another way than real barriers.

We have a structure in SOC and have developed a team spirit that enables and supports people within the organisation to work and lead on things that make sense to them. I am confident that SOC will continue under new leadership to find constructive and interesting ways to advance our collective kaupapa and wish everyone all the best for the future.

Aroha nui e hoa mā

Colleen