

## **Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch Chairperson's Annual Report. June 2023 to June 27th 2024**

SŌC's goal is the promotion of strong sustainability in Ōtautahi/Christchurch and its environs. While we work continuously across a range of areas within this broad kaupapa we do have specific foci within each calendar year.

This past year engaging in local democratic processes has taken a considerable amount of time and effort as all local government agencies have been consulting on and releasing long term plans. Youth engagement has been a priority. Plus, with the requirement for all Incorporated Societies to re-register, (including produce a new constitution), and the retirement of our long-standing treasurer, organisational matters have been more demanding than would be normal.

In early 2024 we were approached by the local Christchurch 350.org climate group and this group will now be a sub-committee of SŌC as defined by our new constitution. Until that is operational the climate group is operating as a delegation (see our current constitution). We welcome them warmly and hope that they achieve the outcomes they seek from their re-orientation to a more locally based infrastructure.

### **Submissions**

- Park Terrace Cycleway and Rolleston Ave changes. Written submission made to the Waipapa Community Board. Attended and addressed the Community Board hearing on the proposal.
- Worked with Christchurch Envirohub to submit on the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan.
- Submission to CCC Organic Waste Management Plan
- Submission to MBIE on the National Energy Strategy
- Submission to Environment Canterbury - Long Term Plan 2023-2033. Attended and spoke to the hearings. Consultation with ECan also involved meetings and workshops prior to the development of the LTP and the Regional Plan.
- Submission on Christchurch City Council Long Term Plan 2023-2033. Attended and spoke at the hearings.
- Submission on Selwyn District Council Long Term Plan 2023-2033. Attended and spoke at the hearings.
- Submission on the Avon Ōtakaro Stormwater Plan. Spoke at the CCC meeting at which this plan was adopted.

If you have an interest in what we said please speak to the Chairperson for more information. Some of the main topics we focused on with all councils hearings included: transport choices especially cycleways and public transport, protecting and supporting biodiversity (including marine - particularly at Environment Canterbury), open participatory democracy (including speaking out for evidence-based decision making), community development and sustainable buildings.

### **Speaking for the Planet**

SŌC 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 21st at Tūranga. For more information on any of the S4P events of the past 6 years [S4P page on the SOC website](#). NZAEE and SŌC 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. A special thank you to Environment Canterbury who again in 2024 supported this project through the WAI Fund. Jocelyn Pappriell has led this project superbly and we thank her very much for her massive commitment to this project.

### **University Outreach**

In March 2024 the Chairperson gave a talk to university students at Unilodge, a residence within the University of Canterbury, re ecological tools and activities to enable their engagement in local environmental activities.

## **Sustainable business**

Paul Hawken: “ To change the world you need to change business.”

A number of our organisational members are small, local businesses with a sustainability intent and a sustainability story. We are wanting to support these members more than we have. In December 2023 we engaged a designer, Claudia Jardine, to produce marketing material that highlighted the sustainability stories of these businesses, which we utilised through our Facebook page.

In order to engage with local business more successfully in an ongoing way we have engaged Anthea Ibell to act as business liaison. For more information, please contact her through [info@sustainablechristchurch.org.nz](mailto:info@sustainablechristchurch.org.nz)

## **Living Wage**

We continue our strong relationship with the local Living Wage organisation. Joyce Yager is our representative on the local Living Wage board and works closely with Nathaniel Herz-Jardine; including with organising an upcoming meeting (August 6th, 2024) to inform and engage the wider community in thinking about an alternate approach to council assets management.

## **Car Sharing**

In November 2023 the executive team met with Dr Chrys Horn to ‘think tank’ the topic of private car sharing in Ōtautahi Christchurch. If you are interested in this, please contact SŌC or Chrys for more information.

## **Relationships with other organisations.**

SŌC believe strongly in the need for a strong connected network of organisations working together for the common good within the third sector. We are all in this together.

Colleen has represented us on the organising group of [One Voice te Reo Kotahi](#). OVTRK works primarily on policy and as does SŌC works across all four well beings, bringing people from each sector together regularly. In the last 2 years a major focus has been a continuing liaison with the Greater Christchurch Partnership.

We continue our strong links with Christchurch Envirohub, and value the relationships we maintain with a range of individual organisations within the environment sector.

In May 2023 SŌC joined Volunteering Canterbury. This membership is proving valuable not only in terms of connecting with potential volunteers but also because of the courses they offer to people engaged in the third sector, particularly those in governance.

SŌC have applied for membership of SEWN the Social Equity and Well being Network.

As mentioned previously we have a strong connection with Living Wage and value the connection we have through them with other organisations sharing that kaupapa.

## **Communications**

In early 2023 the executive decided to engage Anthea Ibell as communications contractor. She administers our Facebook page, sends out our newsletters, and is keeping our website updated. In 2024 we hope we can get some funding for her to update and refresh our website so it more accurately reflects and records the expanse of work we do, supports our membership better, acts as a better link to all our allied organisations, keeps our archives safe and accessible to people wanting to research through our site; as well as being generally future-proof and user -friendly.

## **Communication by the numbers:**

In 2023-2024 a total of 5 newsletters were sent to 390 members/supporters.

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

The SOC [Facebook page](#) was maintained for the same purpose and is currently liked by approximately 1400 and followed by approximately 1600 people.

### **Further plans for 2024-2025**

Some of our priorities for the coming year have been covered above. However, we also have plans in relation to waste minimisation and sustainable building. These may involve field trips, but plans are still being developed. If either of these topics is of particular interest to you, please speak to a committee member.

We are also looking for a person to lead our work around water sensitivity and in particular to represent SŌC within the CCC Waterways Partnership. If this could be you, please speak to the Chairperson.

We remind our members and supporters that a primary feature of SŌC as an organisational team is that we strive to support and enable anyone who wants to enhance strong sustainability in Ōtautahi and has their own ideas about how to do this. So, if you have been thinking about something you believe would work well and are looking for support to advance this get in touch via the Chairperson.

### **Goodbye and Welcome**

Finally, a huge thank you to Dave Evans for his amazing service to SŌC. An executive member for 20 years and the treasurer of our organisation for 10 years. Remarkable - and only a part of the work Dave has done for our wider community. We are delighted that he has plans to continue his involvement in ways that are just a little different but still very much connected to our world. Nevertheless, we will miss him!! Our meetings will take a bit of getting used to in this new Dave-freed era.

We are also delighted to welcome Thi Thoan Pham, our new friend Zoe, to take over the accounts work Dave has done for so long, so well. She is extraordinarily well qualified for this work, but more than that has an interest in sustainability and in supporting the third sector. We feel very lucky to have her join us.

### **2023-2024 SŌC executive**

**Chairperson:** Colleen Philip

**Vice Chairperson:** David Guthrey

**Treasurer:** Dave Evans

Nathaniel Herz-Jardine

Ben Jassin

Kat Miller

Phil Pearson

Joyce Yager

**Patron:** Dr John Peet