

Community Group notes from Waterways Partnership workshop

Part of Networking for the Environment event, Thursday 3 August 2017

This programme focuses on supporting the Council's strategic outcome for safe and sustainable water supply and waterways so it will have multiple and wide reaching benefits, such as empowering and bringing communities together for a common good to appreciate and value the city's water resources. This programme aims to take Council's Education Strategy for Waterways and Wetlands (2000) and education objectives in the Christchurch City Council's various water strategies, to refresh these and bring them into line with the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) and Council's strategic direction.

What will this programme be doing differently?

- Post 2010 earthquakes and organisational changes, refresh and better co-ordinate educational resources, marketing and communications campaigns and funding across agencies through to community groups.
- Develop a long-term working partnership between the Council, ECan, Ngāi Tahu, DOC, with Christchurch-West Melton Zone Committee in delivering a school environmental education programme.
- More effectively engage stream care groups and communities with Council projects, e.g. helping to plant and maintain artificial wetlands built as part of the Land Drainage Recovery Programme or stormwater management programmes.
- Providing funding and resources for community groups in the programme.
- Commit funding and staff for delivery of a stormwater component through Enviroschools and Learning Through Action programmes.
- Commit resources to raise industry and the community's awareness and appreciation for valuing water and sustainable use of water.
- Alongside stormwater management infrastructure implementation, the education programme will provide a holistic approach to tackling stormwater issues.

Outcomes aimed for:

- Through this programme "working together to improve waterways", communities and leaders are empowered to sustain the vitality of our natural environment (Resilience Greater Christchurch Plan), to value water resources.
- Honour the water strategy in the Council / Ngai Tahu, Te Hononga Agreement.
- A well informed community that supports strategic partners with making important decisions with respect to:

- Long Term Plan funding for implementation of water services and infrastructure;
- Key legislative changes to District Plan and Regional Plans to restrict use of materials that are sources of heavy metals that ends up in the stormwater.
- The programme is delivering on a wide range of Council strategic/plan outcomes.
- Effective working relationship between strategic partners to deal with issues around the city's water resources.
- Greater numbers of people involved in water education and project events over successive years.
- Surveys undertaken over successive years, show people involved with waterway events and the general public have a greater level of understanding about the positive difference they can make to improve our waterways and better manage water resources.
- Council's Strategic Priorities – Safe and sustainable water supply and improved waterways, and enabling active citizenship and connected communities being realised.
- Along with legislative changes, increasing number of people helping to stop contaminants at source so that they do not enter stormwater. This results in less demand for stormwater treatment infrastructure. Examples would be minimising the use of copper cladding on buildings and protecting it so it does not leach. Diverting roof water to private rain tanks or rain gardens.
- Reduction in the per capita abstraction of water for potable water use over time.

Current activities of groups and organisations present at this workshop

Activity	Group
River clean up – Mother of All Clean Ups Education displays at events and speaking to groups Submissions to government, e.g. stormwater, discharge into rivers, dedicated river rangers Support water-life, e.g. whaka inaka (EOS Ecology) project Networking	Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network

Website	
<p>DOC has 'stretch' goal to protect and restore 50 rivers from source to sea</p> <p>Long-fin eel protection proposed for Otakaro/Avon</p> <p>Draft Threatened Species Strategy – includes fish, plants, invertebrates, birds</p> <p>DOC is meant to regulate whitebait fishing – problem with lack of staff on ground to do so</p>	Department Of Conservation
<p>Enviroschools is a national programme, developed by a charitable trust called the Toimata Foundation. Currently facilitate the programme in approximately 31 schools in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. Holistic programme – whole school approach to sustainability, empowering young people to take action for a more peaceful healthy world.</p>	Enviroschools, ECan (A Taylor)
<p>Designing/planning a regenerative food and biodiversity space</p>	Roimata Food Commons
<p>Fencing</p>	The Okuti River Project
<p>Broader role.</p> <p>Manage volunteers.</p> <p>Train in safety for volunteers (groups).</p> <p>Recruit international volunteers</p> <p>Support existing organisations and projects</p> <p>Our 'Wild Futures' programme has tuna/long-fin eel as a key national species – keen to identify projects relating to this</p> <p>Broad range – lots of riparian planting and planting maintenance</p> <p>Work with schools – as above, water, portable nurseries</p>	Conservation Volunteers New Zealand
<p>Work with agencies and community to educate/improve lake and environs, also wider catchment</p> <p>Living Lake Symposium (2 yearly) and State of Lake Report</p>	Waihora Ellesmere Trust
<p>Environmental monitoring – water quality, water birds</p> <p>Support waterway research – university</p> <p>Education via website – www.thestyx.co.nz</p>	Styx River Living Laboratory Trust

<p>Promoting awareness of 6 values of waterways</p> <p>Submitting on resource consent applications</p> <p>Annual community event “Summer in the Styx”</p>	
<p>Difficulty with funding on private land</p> <p>Banks Peninsula – bank stabilisation work</p> <p>Excited, energised, working together, fulfilling responsibility, ECan/CCC with good partnership</p> <p>BP – Ecan/City Council</p>	<p>General comments (Pam Richardson?)</p>
<p>Coordinator for four wetland restoration projects</p> <p>Coordinate annual Mother of All Clean Up event (litter collection event)</p> <p>Produce banners, leaflets, booklets, field guide and other educational materials on values of wetlands</p> <p>Organise public planting events</p> <p>Organise annual Farewell to Godwit event</p> <p>Committee member of “Estuary Fest”</p> <p>Developed an Ecological Management Plan on behalf of Christchurch residents</p>	<p>Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust</p>
<p>Freshwater biodiversity: talks, education sessions, monitoring support for stream care groups e.t.c.</p>	<p>Working Waters Trust</p>
<p>Involving water – clean up events along waterways, estuary and beach frontages. Supporting volunteers doing this.</p>	<p>Keep Christchurch Beautiful (Linda Keall, tidykiwi@clear.net.nz)</p>
<p>Advocacy for restored Avon floodplain, wetlands, mahinga kai in the Avon Red Zone</p>	<p>Avon Ōtākaro Network</p>
<p>Ōtukaikino Wetland restoration.</p>	<p>Living Memorial Trust (Matthew Brosnahan)</p>

Activities groups/organisations would do if they had a bit more funding

Activity	Group
<p>Riparian planting</p> <p>Community engagement – public meeting on health of Opawaho</p> <p>What are community led solutions?</p> <p>Develop education programmes targeting local schools</p>	<p>Roimata Food Commons</p>
<p>Huge waiting list of schools wishing to join the Enviroschools programme – we can not meet this need as it is a facilitated programme. We need to resource staff and schools adequately to maintain integrity of programme. Approximately 40-50 schools on waiting list in Christchurch.</p>	<p>Enviroschools, ECan (A Taylor)</p>
<p>Part-time paid administrators to create stable and long-term projects</p> <p>Dedicated River Ranger to Opawaho/Heathcote paid by CCC</p> <p>Education – school involvement and projects</p> <p>Walk map</p> <p>Advertising</p> <p>Expand river cleanup – link to understanding ecology and volunteering for the river</p> <p>Dedicated website administration</p>	<p>Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network</p>
<p>Transport for school groups to do monitoring in streams</p> <p>Catchment wide plan for Wairewa!</p> <p>Seed funding for plan development</p> <p>To make attractive to businesses who might be able to invest</p> <p>Funding for maintaining plantings</p> <p>Protecting high value streams/ivers, not just degraded ones!</p> <p>Control for wilding pines. These get chopped sown and slips occur = sediment.</p> <p>Board walk and bird hide at Lake Forsyth/Te Roto o Wairewa to promote lake values</p>	<p>The Okuti River Project</p>

<p>Essentially more of the same</p> <p>Provide more mentoring support about volunteer engagement/management</p>	<p>Conservation Volunteers New Zealand</p>
<p>More monitoring</p> <p>Predator control</p> <p>Resources for education</p>	<p>?</p>
<p>Public access that is suitable – i.e. will not impact but allows people to interact more with Te Waihora</p>	<p>Waihora Ellesmere Trust</p>
<p>Striving to keep the Ilam Stream a stream rather than it reverting to a drain</p> <p>Currently the flow of the stream is augmented from a water race. In our experience, augmentation is crucial. If there is not a constant water flow, people consider the waterway a drain rather than a stream.</p> <p>Maintaining the flow of the Ilam Stream so that there is permanent flow. There is a major problem with the sea-ward migration of springs in Christchurch.</p>	<p>Network of The Ilam Stream</p>
<p>Advocating via several on-line publications and print media to raise awareness of the effects of unsustainable water abstraction and usage practices.</p> <p>Media campaigns etc</p>	<p>NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers</p>
<p>Encourage and support new community led projects including e.g. monitoring and establishment of restoration plantings, species reintroductions and other novel but meaningful projects.</p> <p>Outreach.</p> <p>Dissemination of the values that the river represents.</p> <p>Seed money to develop plans. Especially landscape concept plans. Get buy in > firm up ideas, source additional funding</p> <p>Establish an ‘arts laboratory’ to disseminate environmental issues via interactive and engaging art.</p> <p>Support a Masters or PhD student scholarship? \$5K p.a.? \$10K p.a.?</p>	<p>Styx River Living Laboratory Trust</p>
<p>Provide a walkway (public access) from Sutherlands Road to Milns waterway so the degrading impact of Hoon Hay Valley Stream can be readily identified. Use picture boards to highlight the issues.</p>	<p>Cashmere Stream Care Group</p>

<p>We run a schools environment programme. Could look at developing an extra arm of that related to water quality, sustainable action</p> <p>Work out a way to engage schools we work with, in water quality issue – schools looking after their stormwater, waterways</p> <p>More of the same – would be able to run more rubbish collection, resource more volunteers.</p> <p>Extra would be used to fund development of add-on school programme – would need to be discussed and approved by our executive committee</p> <p>We have and are developing further, social networks for passing on information and sharing events e.t.c. Could develop these more to share information directly relating to water quality and community action.</p>	<p>Keep Christchurch Beautiful</p>
<p>Provide speaker to Rotary/Probus/schools to advocate/educate value of wetlands in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula</p>	<p>Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust</p>
<p>Scoping implementation of waterway restoration works to improve stormwater treatment, fish habitat e.t.c.</p> <p>Support service for community streamcare groups by freshwater ecologists/experienced project managers</p> <p>Public ‘connect with your local stream’ project. Education and experience on-site. Meeting biodiversity in streams such as longfin eels.</p> <p>‘Urban Eel’ project – restore longfin eel habitat, work with community to reduce pollutants for the eels, education programmes/events/stream visits</p> <p>New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society Conference November 2018 – have a community outreach programme</p>	<p>Working Waters Trust</p>
<p>Running workshops on planting, design and preparation of site maintenance for waterways</p>	<p>?</p>
<p>Using the Avon Red Zone to implement exemplar projects for stormwater management that inspires others</p> <p>Advocate for community engagement and involvement in stormwater/water quality projects</p> <p>Advocate for a swimmable Avon by 2030. Inspire the public to embrace the goal.</p>	<p>Avon Ōtākaro Network</p>

How much extra funding these groups/organisations need per year (extra)

Amount/what	Group
To meet the demand from schools we would need to employ two facilitators (2 FTE's plus overheads, estimate approx.. \$160K - \$200K p.a.)	Enviroschools, ECan (A Taylor)
Reasonable funding for one or two part-time staff to organise activities detailed on this workshop sheets Reasonable funds to support proposals on this workshop sheet	Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network
\$\$ Minimum of \$20K/year over 5 years Ideally need \$80K/year to operate	The Okuti River Project
Can't really answer this without specific projects/budgets. But never enough funding of course.	Conservation Volunteers New Zealand
Hard to determine. Need to budget for specific projects. This I find is the hardest thing. Could have funding for feasibility study.	Waihora Ellesmere Trust
A budget with the CCC to maintain stream flow (estimate \$5K p.a.).	Network of The Ilam Stream
Extra \$100,000 for staff to undertake advocacy, advice, projects	Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Summer scholarship/Masters \$10K p.a. Summer in Styx Event \$5K p.a. Monitoring equipment \$5K p.a. Volunteer education/recognition/administration \$15K p.a. Artist in residence/scholarship \$10K p.a. Outreach/dissemination \$10K p.a. Data management and analysis \$2K p.a. Species reintroduction e.g. Fernbird \$20K Planting on private property \$20K Total \$97K	Styx River Living Laboratory Trust

<p>Full time CCC staff member to coordinate river warden concept, staff pay and overheads \$120K p.a. + resources</p> <p>Employment of a CCC Estuary Park Ranger to work with public, schools, ecologists i.e. Andrew Crossland</p> <p>\$5,000 for promotion/advertising/flyers to promote planting and weeding events</p> <p>\$10,000 to produce – print informative leaflet on our estuary – we can do the design and content</p> <p>\$20K annual funding for Mother of All Clean Ups event. Involve all ages.</p>	<p>Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust</p>
<p>Pay volunteer coordinators to manage volunteers!</p>	<p>?</p>
<p>Full time contractor/staff (~\$60K/year) (difficult to find part-time staff with qualifications).</p> <p>Pilot/seed funding to try an idea out e.g. \$5K</p>	<p>Working Waters Trust</p>
<p>More \$\$? Always useful – but how much? \$5K?</p>	<p>Keep Christchurch Beautiful</p>

Other support needed for these groups and organisations

What	Group
<p>Enviroschools Canterbury would like a partnership with CCC, in-kind support from staff sharing expertise with schools and supporting their sustainability initiatives. CCC could employ facilitators and 'own' the Enviroschools programme.</p> <p>Opportunity to have a conversation with key staff around the Enviroschools programme (at the CCC). Currently the Enviroschools Canterbury governance group includes: WDC, SDC, HDC, TDC, MDC, ECan, DOC. CCC is missing!!</p>	<p>Enviroschools, ECan (A Taylor)</p>
<p>Up to date information on river health to allow community engagement</p> <p>Information on impact of light industrial area in Woolston. Possibility of community monitoring?</p> <p>Land to set up a nursery</p>	<p>Roimata Food Commons</p>
<p>Ōtākaro/Avon, Ōpāwaho/Heathcote and Styx Rivers NZ's first "Taonga Rivers" – legally protected. See only NZ river with this status (Whanganui).</p> <p>Aim for inspiring name for Waterways Programme that galvanises people to support from anywhere and any way</p>	<p>Department Of Conservation</p>
<p>CCC, ECan, DOC and Ngai Tahu – in-kind support</p> <p>Assistance with grant application writing and submissions</p> <p>Public relations support</p>	<p>Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network</p>
<p>Mentorship on funding agencies</p> <p>Develop legal framework</p> <p>Advertising</p> <p>Signage</p> <p>Volunteer coordinator</p> <p>Funding for administration costs – e.g. printing, phone calls</p> <p>Paying for coordinator/volunteer time!!</p> <p>Initiating discussions with landowners who are 'allowing' stock into waterways – too difficult for a local to do!!</p>	<p>The Okuti River Project</p>

<p>“Living wage” payment for volunteer/coordinator e.g. \$20/hr to cover time and allow retention of key volunteers. Could put limit on this e.g. 10hrs/week</p>	
<p>Riparian enhancement: quality vs quantity. Maybe more habitat nodes with critical mass rather than long linear edge effected strips</p> <p>Citizen Science (naturwatch.org.nz) to increase ecological literacy of community through structured social medium platform that engages people with nature</p> <p>Working with nature rather than against will <u>save</u> money e.g. ecology involved in sustainable and biodiverse design</p>	Colin Meurk
<p>Technical support always good/appreciated. Keen to ensure our on-ground actions reflect best practice.</p>	Conservation Volunteers New Zealand
<p>Whole catchment approach is required for the improvement of the health of Te Waihora. This includes CCC.</p> <p>Workshops for volunteers on planting, weeds, predator control, monitoring.</p>	Waihora Ellesmere Trust
<p>Assistance from CCC for work on the stream that only they can do (because of resource consents etc) to maintain stream flow</p>	Network of The Ilam Stream
<p>The voice of the rivers?</p> <p>River boundaries don’t respect local government boundaries</p> <p>Project oriented groups = \$</p> <p>Strategic approach = not \$ but need to treat differently across greater Christchurch. Conversation needed!</p>	Network Waitangi Otautahi
<p>Affirm the support expressed by CCC and ECan for strengthening the Third Sector and connections with Tangata Whenua</p>	One Voice Te Reo Kotahi
<p>We are focusing on ecological “health” of our waterways by highlighting areas under stress; and the undesirable consequences – socially, environmentally and economically.</p> <p>Those who cause the negative impacts should be held accountable for the cost.</p>	NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers

Issue: Aquatic flows need flow to remain “aquatic” i.e.: as an ecosystem! Modify consents to ensure the flow necessary > action? ECan, CCC?, WDC?, SDC?. Who? Monitored by voluntary action?	
Create a ‘River Workshop’ for delivery to students of engineering and architecture around topics like heavy metals, sediment, stormwater, invertebrate needs. Fund an expert like Shelley McMurtrie (EOS Ecology) to develop a two lecture programme for each of the universities/polytechnics that offer these courses	Cashmere Stream Care Group
CCC leading by example, e.g. painting the fish logo on stormwater grates	?
Encouraging communities to take up the challenge of developing working examples to showcase to encourage others to get involved	Banks Peninsula Zone Committee
Engagement between proposed CCC education staff and Styx River Living Laboratory Trust to connect young people with the Trust and hopefully ensure future members	Styx River Living Laboratory Trust
Getting landowner involvement Funding to assist education and advocacy	Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Bring everyone together. Water festival. Partnership. Create showcase	Pam Richardson
Knowledgeable Park Ranger time Bring back river warden concept – it worked! A dedicated Estuary Park Ranger desperately needed Website/facebook development and support. I.T. staff availability Continuation of this Networking for the Environment event(s): regular get together of like minded people	Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust
Belfast storm water drain through Ōtukaikino Wetland to Ōtukaikino River. Coordination needed. CCC/DOC/IWI/Ngai Tahu/NZTA pilot project. At design phase.	Living Memorial Trust
Technical support. GIS mapping. Freshwater monitoring equipment/stats/advice.	?

Teach your contractors how to spray weeds without killing native plants!!	?
Funding for networking, relationship building, admin. All these hidden costs of carrying out projects.	?
Funding for a service/on-going programme, rather than short term project funding.	Working Waters Trust and Avon Ōtākaro Network
Create a charity that visits businesses, residential properties, to suggest water sensitive design/stop pollutants at source (like the model of the Community Energy Action Trust)	?
Support groups working together – lots of groups doing great work and we can learn from each other	?

"Parked topics"

- Keep community boards in the loop
- How does this Partnership link with greater Christchurch? (e.g. Selwyn, Waimakariri) and existing structures such as CWMS and Zone Committees?
- Could contestable funding be expanded to be incorporated by Zone Committee?
- Please ensure focus on citywide as well as local community board areas
- Does greater Christchurch want to join?
- What if group can't do it but needs CCC to do it? (e.g. some of NOTIS's needs) What fund? Priorities?
- Consideration – bigger threat from private landowners – support for the landowners to manage sediment
- Other agenda items
- Banks Peninsula waterways managed by ECan. In Christchurch, managed by CCC. How will this be managed in relation to this Partnership?