

Lincoln Envirotown Trust AGM - Chair Report 2017



Sam Rowland

As our district continues to grow, so does the work of Lincoln Envirotown Trust (LET). We continue to partner with other organisations and businesses to keep our mission successful. This year we have implemented our usual events and initiatives and completed refinement and review on others.

We continued to implement our three year strategic plan (2016-2018) with our mission and three main focus areas being;

MISSION: To educate, support, research and promote sustainability, by working with the community, for the community and in partnership with others.

1. **CONNECTING:** Getting the sustainability message out into Selwyn District
2. **BUILDING COMMUNITY:** Grow our projects by increasing participant numbers and new ideas
3. **EDUCATION:** Provide environmental education to all ages

We have provided over 6,000 hours (equivalent to \$120,000) of voluntary time into the community over the past year. We have many part-time employees or contractors to help us achieve our mission including; LET Manager, Project Manager, Project Coordinator, Garden Coordinator, Timebank Coordinators x2, Funding Manager, , RBA Coordinator, RBA Assessors.

LET would not be able to carry out its work without receiving external funding. Thanks to our Funding team, Meredith Jones and Dave Fitzjohn, we have received funding from the following in 2017; Selwyn District Council, Rata Foundation, Brian Mason Trust, Pub Charities, Creative Communities Grant, Living Water, Lotteries Commission, COGS, SIFT, LinC, The Gift Trust and local businesses. We have had continuing support from Lincoln University who provide us with the essential office, computers, printing etc. We also couldn't run our events without the donations from many businesses.

I would like to thank those that have helped us during the past year, we could not have done it without you.

Below is a brief summary of projects, initiatives and events run from November 2016 until November 2017. For more information feel free to contact me on chair.lincolnenvirotowntrust@gmail.com

Projects, Initiative and Events

Lincoln Envirotown Community Gardens

STATUS: Pre-existing project

STRATEGIC GOAL: Connecting, Building Community, Education

The Community Garden is continuing to be a great social hub of Selwyn with Thursday working bees and workshops going well, with people coming from many locations around greater Christchurch. The plot holders continue to grow a wide range of vegetables and their tidy plots demonstrate good gardening techniques. The community plots and surrounding areas are well looked after by Ruth and her team, with produce from these plots offered to helpers, visitors and Maternity Hospital staff.

Thanks to funding from the Lotteries Commission which enable us to employ Ruth Wood as our Garden Coordinator.

Workshops that have been held this year:

8th December 2016: Composting by Terry Windle on 8th December.

5th March 2017: Open day.

25th March 2017: Vegetable Gardening Works by Terry Windle.

29th April 2017: Basic Bonsai Techniques by Tony Bywater.

13th May 2017: Fruit Tree Culture by Keith Dickson.

10th June 2017: Stone Fruit Trees by Warwick Mottram.

19th August 2017: Don't treat your soil like dirt – a soil workshop by Roger McLenaghan and Judith van Dijk of Lincoln University.

16th September 2017: Starting and Maintaining a Worm Farm by Sharon Breakwell of Wastebusters Ashburton.

23rd September 2017: Spring into Action – a guide to vegetables and herbs for the growing season by Rachel Vogan.

30th September 2017: Lawn Maintenance by Clare Scott.

14th October 2017: Veges 101 by Graham Burge and Errol Wood.

4th November 2017: Composting by Terry Windle.

We have formed a successful partnership with Lincoln and Districts Community Care this season to enable people to learn how to grow vegetables, cook healthy meals and preserve excess produce, all through workshops and support. We have been providing the gardening workshops of the 'Plot to Pot' series.

We are very grateful to Ruth and Errol Wood, our presenters, the locals who gift us supplies, The Canterbury District Health Board and Lincoln Maternity Hospital, and our funders.

Selwyn Timebank:

STATUS: Pre-existing project

STRATEGIC GOAL: Connecting, Building Community, Education

The Selwyn Timebank has had a strong year in 2017, since last year, members have increased from 74 to 168 and transaction numbers have tripled (237 trades). In June we reached our 200th member and, a record 78 trades were registered (compared to 28 trades in April and 37 trades in May). More and more goods are being traded, which is a good development in the light of reduce-reuse-recycle!

Ongoing activities;

- Inter-Timebank trading with other Timebanks (e.g. members of Addington Timebank, Wellington Timebank and Hurunui Timebank).
- Market stalls in Rolleston and Lincoln.
- Orientation sessions at Lincoln and Rolleston once a month.
- Broadcasts via email weekly.
- Facebook posts.

- Collaboration with local organisations e.g. Lincoln and Districts community Care, Salvation Army.
- A column in the Rolleston Review.

Events

13th April 2017: Easter pot luck dinner with egg painting and goods swap.

24 June 2017: Mid-Winter potluck dinner in Rolleston

8th August 2017: celebration for the 200th member, a coffee morning at Robert Harris café in Rolleston

31 August 2017: Pot luck dinner with goods' swap

5 September 2017: Vegetarian Asian cooking class in West Melton.

3 October 2017: Coffee morning, 200th member celebration, Rolleston

7 November 2017: Coffee morning / goods swap Rolleston

26 November 2017: Learning Exchange

9 December 2017: Christmas Potluck event in Greenpark.

We are making an effort to reach 300 members next year. With the current growth rate we should be able to achieve that goal. It will be good for publicity and another opportunity for a celebration and hopefully a similar boost in activities.

Thanks to Thea Hewitt and Evelien Huismans our Coordinators, the Selwyn Timebank Advisory Board and the Community Organisations Grants Scheme (COGS) for funding.

The Mahoe Reserve

STATUS: Pre-existing

STRATEGIC GOAL: Education

Working bees have continued to be held monthly. We have seen the removal of more exotic trees and more eco-source natives planted. The local Kindergarten, Primary and High School still use the reserve for education.

We are busy designing a number of information plaques to provide information to the general public about the species present in the Reserve, thanks to Living Water for sponsorship.

Thanks to the dedicated Mahoe sub-committee, locals, Lincoln High School, Lincoln University students and overseas volunteers who have helped.

Responsible Business Awards 2017 (RBAS):

STATUS: Pre-existing and New

STRATEGIC GOAL: Connecting, Building Community, Education

Tracy-Anne de Silva, Head of the Department of Financial and Business Systems at Lincoln University and her team were commissioned to design a new survey and assessment means, as businesses who had participated in previous RBAS clearly needed new challenges and processes. This was completed in March.

Assessors were appointed to survey and assess businesses throughout Selwyn – this was the first time that all of Selwyn has been assessed concurrently and gave the scope for new awards; an overall Selwyn Winner and top sustainable Educator in Selwyn.

Initially take up was slow owing to some early difficulties with the process, but finally 72 Selwyn businesses took part which was a reasonable start to new awards. Next year will be spent on some further modifications undertaken internally.

Fruit Trees in Schools

STATUS: Pre-existing

STRATEGIC GOAL: Connecting, Building Community, Education

Fruit Trees in Schools is a partnership between Rolleston Izone businesses and LET that stemmed from the 2014 Responsible Business Awards. This project provides up to 10 fruit trees a year to any Selwyn Primary School that is interested and can meet a few criteria. The project lifespan is for five years, with two of those left.

Businesses provide assistance with planting and maintenance, advice and training as required ensuring that the project continues long-term. LET's role is to coordinate with the schools and ensure that their needs are assessed and trees sourced, also to manage the accounts

190 fruit trees and shrubs went into local schools this year.

Thanks to Alan Peacock of Independent Signs, Aaron and Vicky Bartlett from Outdoor Space Ltd and Izone businesses for ensuring the success of this project.

Selwyn Earth Hour, March 2017

STATUS: Pre-existing

STRATEGIC GOAL: Connecting, Building Community, Education

Kim Hill Debate: The Kim Hill Debate is an annual event. Leading people of interest and experts in their fields form the panel and the discussion is always entertainingly chaired by the well-known Presenter Kim Hill. The organising committee is a partnership between LET, Lincoln University and CRI's,

This year's debate was on 'Water a Global Issue Affecting New Zealand', with panellists Bryan Jenkins (Waterways Centre for fresh water), Ken Hughey (Lincoln University & DOC), Peter Townsend (CEO Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce) and Brent Clothier (Plant and Food Research). You can find a link to the debate here; <https://youtu.be/fMf7oHAGnkk>

Thanks to our sponsors of this event Living Water, Plant and Food, Landcare Research, Selwyn District Council, Lincoln Agritech, Bayley's Real Estate, Yealands Winery Ltd and The Laboratory.

The Selwyn Earth Hour Dance: This event was not well attended in comparisons with other Earth Hour dances we have run in the past. Despite that, the people that did attend had a great time and the caller mentioned the enthusiasm and energy levels were high. The committee took a vote and it was decided we will not have an Earth hour Dance in 2018, we will instead run a Matariki celebration in June.

Native Planting by Springs Road/Gerald Street Corner:

STATUS: Pre-existing

STRATEGIC GOAL: -

The native trees planted here are growing well. The area is weeded and mulched by local volunteers.

Kidsfest:

STATUS: Pre-existing

STRATEGIC GOAL: Connecting, Building Community, Education

We have continued with holiday activities with an environmental theme. This year's theme was "The Forest Floor". Again, we had a large number of children and accompanying adults from all over Selwyn and Christchurch, but we were prepared and had hired a bigger room and had a lot of supplies. Lincoln High School Sustainability Council take a lead role with LET in making this event a success.

Keep NZ Beautiful:**STATUS:** Pre-existing**STRATEGIC GOAL:** Connecting, Education

Each year we arrange a trip to our local stream for local children – to raise awareness of what lives in the water, the issues of pollution and to get them involved with water quality testing – and to pick up rubbish – with some education about that too! It is great to see all ages, including parents, come together! Thanks to Enviroschools Canterbury for coordination and to WaterWatch for helping with the testing and New World for the sausage sizzle.

Selwyn Earth Hour Environmental Video Competition, September 2017**STATUS:** Pre-existing**STRATEGIC GOAL:** Connecting, Building Community, Education

This year we launched the Video competition in Earth Hour week, but made the close off on entries later. This was to align more with the school terms. The Earth Hour video competition is open to anyone who can produce a five minute video with an environmental message. It is largely promoted through the schools, but also the wider public. The videos are shown at an Awards evening, with all participants receiving prizes. The overall winner is presented with the Kea Trophy.

This year we had 13 entries, with 129 people at the awards ceremony. All videos shown were of a very high standard. The certificates were presented by Malcolm Lyall, the Deputy Mayor of Selwyn District. Winner of the Preschool category was Kidsfirst Kindegarten Lincoln with their video – Matariki Celebration, winner of the primary school category was Springston School with “Save the Eels” and they also won the trophy for the best overall video. The High School category was won by Aireen Bautista for “Man and Nature” and the independent adult winner was Martin Langlands for “Soldiers of the Flow”.

Thanks to the prize donors; Rolleston Square Ltd, Envrio- Mark Ltd and the Warehouse. Thanks also to New World Lincoln for refreshments

All entries have been published on youtube, click the link below to watch them...

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoF6CeY4jnZU_JhPUixwPqHU62WD5-k_9

BioBlitz**STATUS:** Event ran this year**STRATEGIC GOAL:** Education

In partnership with Living Water, Lincoln University, Landcare Research and Enviroschools we ran a BioBlitz at the Liffey Domain Lincoln on the 7th and 8th April 2017. This events aim was to provide an educational, scientific event to the people of Christchurch.

It was a great success with over 1000 people through in the 24 hours. We ran field trips and talks throughout both days which were well attended, on average around 30/40 participants at each (with many overlapping in times). The night hunts for mammalian predators and creepy crawlies were very popular, with children and adults out with their torches surveying the area.

We found many species and are in the process of completing reports, hopefully one for publication.

Battery Recycling

STATUS: Launched this year

STRATEGIC GOAL: Building Community

In March this year in collaboration with Lincoln New World we soft launched our Battery Recycling scheme. This was a specially designed box situated at Lincoln New World. This turned out to be a huge success with 30kg of batteries collected within 3 weeks with no publicity.

Now at the end of October, and after publicity, it does not seem to be slowing down. We have collected 400kg of batteries and counting, diverting all those from landfill. The scheme has been getting a lot of interest from other communities who want to start this too.

Thanks to the Sustainable Initiatives Fund for the funding to start this.

Liffey Native Plantings

STATUS: New

STRATEGIC GOAL: Connecting

Lincoln Community Committee had funds for the beautification of Lincoln and asked Lincoln Envirotown if we had a project in mind. We connected with Andy Spanton from Selwyn District Council and hosted a community planting day of eco-sourced native in the Liffey Domain. This will help increase the native biodiversity present within the domain, and because the plantings are in a visual, well-used area of the Liffey Domain residents will be able to appreciate them.

Thanks to Lincoln Community Committee, Selwyn District Council and LET members for making this happen.

Other Selwyn Areas

STATUS: Pre-existing

STRATEGIC GOAL: Building Community, Connecting

We continue to strive to take our Sustainability and Community strengthening message to other parts of Selwyn. Many individual groups are no longer actively running, but LET ensures it stays in communication with the groups where we are able and offer advice and support to the groups when needed. As well as this LET is pushing many initiatives into Selwyn and have aimed to become a Selwyn-wide organisation. Dave has talked to West Melton Business group about LET and Sue has gone to many communities to spread out message, including Little River. All our projects and initiatives aim to be effective in Selwyn

Speakers:

STATUS: Pre-existing

STRATEGIC GOAL: Education

We invite a variety of speakers to our meetings who talk about topics of interest to LET and the wider community.

March 2017 – No speaker (first meeting of the year)

April 2017 – No speaker due to large amount of events

May 2017 - 'EcoAnts' spoke about Electric Bikes, and brought one for us to try out in the car park!

June 2017 – No meeting (Queens Birthday)

July 2017 – Living Economies by Thea Hewitt

August 2017 – Green Fuels by Heather Locke

September 2017 – Reusable Cups with The Pantry and The Laboratory

October 2017 – Te Whariki by Shannon Goldsmith

November 2017 – Wild Foods and Foraging by Peter Langlands, Wild Capture

Marketing and Governance

STATUS: ongoing

STRATEGIC GOAL: Connecting

1. Changed our Trust Objectives from 'Lincoln Township' to 'Selwyn District'.
2. Spent a lot of time looking at Health and Safety requirements for the Trust and our events.
3. Working on upgrading our current website www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz.
4. Building a larger follow on our Facebook site (www.facebook.com/LincolnEnvirotown)(had our largest post reach this year – 2598!).
5. Newsletter distributed to 895 emails every second month, event calendar in the other month
6. Numerous articles for local Newspapers.
7. Twitter site is active.
8. Eventbrite site being used to send event invitations.
9. Updated thanks you cards and letterheads with the new photos.
10. Updated most of LET's flyers, including; RBAs, Timebanking, Mahoe Reserve and Community Gardens
11. Changed to administering our own payroll with MYOB.
12. Completing financial accounting with MYOB.
13. Updated Employment Contractors and Contractor contracts with a Lawyer.

Networking/Partnerships

We have continued to strengthen our partnerships throughout 2017 including networking with many greater Christchurch groups to improve projects and ideas.

These include;

Selwyn District Council, other 'Envirotowns', Lincoln University, Selwyn schools, the new Lincoln Primary School, early childhood education providers, EnviroSchools, Christchurch Enviro Hub, One Voice Te Reo Kotahi, Environment Canterbury seminars, Water Watch, Canterbury University, Lincoln Community Committee, Businesses across Selwyn, Lincoln New World, The Laboratory, Landcare Research, Plant and Food, Christchurch Timebanking group, Christchurch community gardens group, Lincoln and Districts Community Care, Living Water and more.

More details of all our activities can be found on our web site www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz.