



Report from the Executive Committee of Avon-Ōtākaro Incorporated

2020/2021

The year reviewed in this report marks the 10th since the 2011 quakes and AvON's existence. It has been marked by the passing of one of our founders and soldier Evan Smith. We are grateful to him for laying a foundation for which our vision exists and for the work that he put into succession planning leaving us in good hands. Evan would be proud of the mahi that has happened this year but equally saddened by the glacial pace of the transition of ownership from the Crown to Christchurch City Council and the yet to be established Co-Governance group.

Our organisation will continue to advocate strongly for the establishment of the co-governance model. We will work corridor wide to engage with the surrounding communities to continue to advocate for issues, improve access to the OARC and facilitate transitional activations that enhance, improve safety and security while pushing for maximum ecological restoration.

The last year saw AvON record the following achievements:

- Despite the ongoing threat of Covid 19, Matariki in the Zone 2020 went ahead in the Richmond red zone with Richmond Community Garden, Avebury House Community Trust and Ngāi Tūāhuriri (1000+ attendees);
- In August we organised the Return of the Petition from 2012 that started the process that led to the establishment of the Regeneration plan, this was to mark the plan being signed off and the beginning of the transfer of the land back to the people of Christchurch;
- Continued advocacy for long-term co-governance and a follow-up Symposium to review of models of governance elsewhere in New Zealand to inform debate on governance of the OARC;
- Continued maintenance of Riverbend Refuge project in collaboration with Green Lab, Working Waters Trust and Richmond Community Garden;
- New exhibit collation and display for events of projects undertaken by AvON and other organisations to date; This has been set up a number of events this year, including;
 - End of year celebration at Turanga displaying exhibition and providing a platform for organizations and advocacy groups to speak to their projects
 - Inside the Kiosk at the Botanic gardens during the Grow Otautahi Christchurch Garden Festival
- Meet in the Middle 2021 covid edition included walks in Burwood, Richmond and Dallington during the walking festival and throughout month during the Bikotober calendar;

- Provided assistance to Council staff with the Agents of Discovery map for Richmond, as well as volunteer data on OARC groups;
- Assisted with the coordination of the Student Volunteer Army “Big Give” with over 200 students across a number of sites throughout the OARC;
- Participated in the the Feb 22 Earthquake Memorial event by co-hosting the River of Flowers events, hosting the Medway bridge site and coordinating a community Day with WSP and the Banks Avenue Kids at the Adventure Ave project;
- Provided presentation on the history of Avon Otakaro Network and the varied stakeholders in the OARC to the newly appointed Red Zone team induction week;
- In collaboration with other river care groups we executed another Successful Mother of All Clean Ups 2021: on the river banks and the digital Home Edition, including working with the CHCH East school on Operation River Quest the day before the main event;
- Signed on as partners of the Community Water Partnership development and Stormwater Superhero Project with CCC and ECan;
- The Mahinga Kai Exemplar is being maintained to a high standard and ready to hand back to the CCC for future maintenance;
- Work with child-centred projects continues to progress with good support and recognition and now includes;
 - Banks Ave School work on the Adventure Ave Stage 1b huts which is well underway.
 - Whaitau School continues to take an active role in the zone by having students plant more fruit trees.
 - CHCH East School has recently secured a licence with the Avon Loop Planning Association and the central city schools kahui ako to work collaboratively in the zone.
- Collaboration with a range of proponents and organisations is ongoing to realise the Riverlution Collective package – with Richmond Community Garden leading this initiative. This includes ongoing maintenance of Di Madgin’s heritage garden at 373 River Rd. preservation of the tree hut at 275 River Road, marking of trees of significance, community mulch initiative and the Evans Way memorial at 3 lois Place;
- Collaboration with the Food Resilience Network and CCC to find small orchard sites that can be developed in conjunction with local guardians;
- Guided interns from the UC Pace program to map all the projects both active and proposed. From this work information posters have been created to include in any exhibitions;
- Continued to work with the OARC Facilitators, including convening of regular meetings of these and creation of comprehensive stocktake of projects in diverse realms of activity; Successfully established a second round of funding for this work;
- Advocacy for good community engagement in the implementation of long-term Council projects – ongoing work needed in this area; We provided feedback on:
 - The Policy document for Temporary and Transitional Red Zone Land Use.
 - The resumption of a programme of forums for project proponents and communities neighbouring the OARC.

- Setting up a Signage and Interpretation meeting with local representatives and CCC staff.
- Held a series of workshops on the proposed city to sea pathway as well as bridges and landing design;
- On-going advocacy for good interim governance of Transitional Use; including presenting to TTK insight into the work for the next 12 months;
- Advocacy with LINZ and CCC for better process around approval of licences and leases for transitional and transformational projects;
- Successful delivery of stage two of the white-post opening project;
- Development and investigation of the Bexley legacy project;
- Held a group session with advocacy groups, projects, OARC communities to debate the CCC and ECAN LTP and proposed climate change policy this resulted in clear alignment with the stakeholders once the submissions and deputations were heard;

We wish to thank our funders Tindall Foundation, Wayne Francis Trust and Christchurch City Council for their continued support. Our sincere thanks also goes out to all the contractors, volunteers and supporters that have contributed to the ongoing successes. Without all these contributions we would not be able to continue this valuable work at the level of achievement that we do.