

Report from the Executive Committee of Avon-Ōtākaro Incorporated

2019/2020

The year reviewed in this report marks the ninth since the 2011 quakes and AvON's existence. It has been marked by the approval of the OARC Regeneration Plan and Global settlement by the Crown and Council. However, it has also been marked by the slow and gradual transition from Crown to Christchurch City Council as the main lead agency in the future, the setting up of the Transformative Land Use Group and the establishment of a number of OARC facilitators. The operational projects that have progressed to date in the OARC have all been transitional and that looks to continue for at least another year, until ownership is completely transferred to Council.

The last year saw AvON record the following Achievements:

- Matariki in the Zone 2019 in the Richmond red zone with Richmond Community Garden, Avebury House Community Trust and Ngāi Tūāhuriri (1000+ attendees);
- Approval of the OARC Regeneration Plan that aligns very closely with the AvON vision;
- Supported sign off of Global Settlement;
- Successful advocacy for a Symposium on Long-term Governance and follow-up with a review of models of governance elsewhere in New Zealand to inform debate on governance of OARC;
- Riverside Refuge project stage 3 completed in collaboration with Green Lab, Working Waters Trust and Richmond Community Garden;
- New exhibit collation and display for events of projects undertaken by AvON to date;
- Undertook the lease and trial of the electrothermal weeding machine in a variety of habitats focusing on a diverse range of weed species; unfortunately the trial wasn't successful in terms of finding a practical alternative to glyphosate spray;
- Meet in the Middle 2019 with Anika Moa headlining (2000+ attendees, lower than anticipated due to weather and change to a Saturday);
- Implementation and opening of the John Taylor memorial;
- Successful Mother of All Clean Ups 2020: Home Edition despite lockdown conditions, in collaboration with other river care groups – led by AvON;
- We remain an active community representative of Community Water Partnership development and Stormwater Superhero Project with CCC and ECan;
- The Mahinga Kai Exemplar is being maintained to a high standard;
- Planning for Matariki in the Zone 2020 and Meet in the Middle 2020 well underway, however this will depend upon relaxation of the Covid-19 lockdown conditions;
- Work with child-centred projects from Banks Ave School and Whitau School continues to progress with good support and recognition, work on the Adventure Ave Stage 1a bike tracks began early this year;

- Collaboration with a range of proponents and organisations is ongoing to realise the Riverlution package – with Richmond Community Garden leading this initiative. This includes ongoing maintenance of Di Madgin’s heritage garden at 373 River Rd;
- Production and publication of a suite of video interviews with a range of mayoral, council and community board candidates in the local Elections;
- A number of Eastern Vision forums were undertaken;
- Successful advocacy for and approval of a package of funding for OARC Facilitation, including convening of regular meetings of these and creation of comprehensive stocktake of projects in diverse realms of activity;
- Advocacy for good community engagement in the implementation of long-term Council projects – ongoing work needed in this area;
- Successful development of a five-year Strategic Plan and re-specification of the Primary contract role as emphasis transitions from advocacy for a Regeneration Plan to vigilance over its implementation and the implementation of contractor succession plan;
- On-going advocacy for good interim governance of Transitional Use;
- Advocacy with LINZ and CCC for better process around approval of licences and leases for transitional and transformative projects;
- Resumption of a programme of forums for project proponents and communities neighbouring the OARC.
- Successful delivery of the white-post opening project remains dependent upon our raising top up funding.

As the year progressed it was decided to cease any Eastern Vision operational programme and roll forums for neighbouring communities into the AvON programme. The role of EV Programme manager has been wound up.

We have made at least six funding applications this year for the next financial year to support the change of focus to strategic brokering rather than advocacy, and limit our project delivery role to Child-centred projects and whole-of-corridor projects (eg trails, white post openings).

Our sincere thanks go out to all the contractors, volunteers and supporters that have contributed to this success.