



Chair's Report

18 October 2015

Trust Members, Team, and Supporters:

We've done some things differently this year, which I believe in large part has worked. Thank you for travelling and assisting on the journey.

We've recruited three new Trust members. We've contracted a motivated and highly proficient team of three to turn more ideas into action and results. We've identified three focus areas around energy, transport and freshwater. We've begun accessing consulting advice to focus and challenge our thinking. We've continued to provide advocacy and funding support in the community. We've adopted Reel Earth. And we've concluded a full term of the new triennial fee for service funding model with Palmerston North City Council.

The relationship with community groups, in particular Environment Network Manawatu, is positive and strengthening. The 2014 Memorandum of Understanding we hold with them is now being built onto with greater coordination at the team level. This is positive for the two organisations and the community. We've put a strong case to PNCC for continued funding, with noted links between PNCET and ENM.

In summary, we've gone from a few years of fairly low level activity to a rather more active footing, building on the current model in a more evolutionary rather than revolutionary form.

Looking ahead, we have plenty to do! The big picture is to improve our effectiveness with regards key outcome areas such as committing the City to a clean energy future, building sustainable transport support and translating that to action, and ensuring improved outcomes for the river.

A few thoughts on my mind as means to that end:

- Development of a stronger and more engaged support framework for the new team
- Recruitment of additional Trust members
- Development of alliances with individuals and capability while continuing to deepen linkages to ENM
- Explore in a serious way an environment centre that learns from prior efforts and is complementary to existing structures
- Diversify our funding sources, including making some use of our charitable status

We've been asked some fundamental questions regarding whether as Trust members we are advocates, facilitators of change, activists, supporters, etc. While one answer is it depends on the scenario, there is some worthwhile work to do in exploring the best ways to position ourselves to maximise our effectiveness in the areas we've committed to influencing.

The community is already exposed to major risk from climate change and energy exploration, continues to suffer from a polluted area, and reliant on transport options that have unwanted health consequences for people and planet. So there is work in front of us.

Thank you all for your input and support during the transitions of the last 12 - 18 months. I'd like to thank Margaret Hunt for her sterling work as Treasurer, Secretary and member of the Trust. Her administrative support and her spark has been highly valuable over the years, and has kept things sailing along during times where the Chair's energy and attention was elsewhere. I'd also like to particularly thank Alastair Cole for his role as Deputy Chair, and for providing strong leadership in ENM and a solid link from PNCET to ENM over the past few years. Nikki Pindur's contributions in the Project Development role are noted, and wishing her well in her new role at Ministry for the Environment.

I'm looking forward to a productive exciting and enjoyed year ahead, working closely with you all. Environmental sustainability is too important to leave to chance, let's make it happen!

~ Brent

Brent Barrett, Chair
PN City Environmental Trust Inc.