

## Chair's Report to the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting October 2011

### **Foreword**

As a Trust we recognise environmental sustainability is core elements both of Palmerston North's vibrancy and ongoing well-being as a City.

Our vision is that Palmerston North becomes more environmentally sustainable and vibrant. We aim to achieve this vision by working across community sectors including government, education, volunteer, spiritual and business.

We measure our impact in terms of the community's status and attitude toward principles and practices of environmental sustainability, and by our direct involvement in funding and assisting with practical initiatives for environmental sustainability in this city.

This year marks our 20<sup>th</sup> year as a Trust serving the city of Palmerston North in this way.

### **The PNCET Team**

We have continued to enjoy the support of a diverse team of six Trust members through the year, a reduction of four from the year prior with the retirement of Terry Kelly, Christie Creed, Eddie Welsh, Helen Mays and Alan Fielding from the Trust. We note that Terry Kelly has been the worthy recipient of the Manawatu Environmental Champion Award inaugurated by our sister organisation Environment Network Manawatu. We have recently welcomed Fleur Hirst (PhD candidate – Massey University) as a member of the Trust. Trust members are Brendan Lucas, Fleur Hirst, Ee Kheng Ang, Karine Chagne, Paul Horton, and Brent Barrett. We also appreciate the continued capable and professional support of Margaret Hunt, Administrator to the Trust. In light of the changes to Trust membership we expect that the Trust will need to recruit several new members in the coming year.

## **PNCET Achievements 2010-2011**

We have continued activity to aid environmental sustainability in the City; including planning, advocacy, interface with the community and leaders, and grants. As appropriate, our grants are provided in tandem with provision of expert advice and direct non-financial assistance.

In the Trust Led Projects area, we are developing a Solar Schools initiative to put solar electricity generation on intermediate schools and a source of renewable energy and an education resource. This project is reliant on sourcing of funds from external sources.

In the Trust's Education and Advocacy area we have made comprehensive submissions to the PNCC and Horizons Annual Plan process, and to the Horizons Regional Public Transport Plan. We have also presented at hearings for the DB Breweries consent to discharge pollution into a key tributary of the Manawatu River, and made a brief submission affirming the now final decision of the Board convened to consider the Turitea Reserve windfarm proposal by Mighty River Power.

In the Trust Resource Development area, we are in the process of redeveloping the website, including a portfolio of images for use online and in presentations, and have actively recruited for additional Trust members.

In the Trust Supported Projects area, we have had an active year in grant making, with grants totalling \$13,785 for the 12 months to June 2011. All grants are made through a competitive process. This is a reduction from the prior year in which we had accessed capital to fund the Sustainable Manawatu initiative, which has now gone on to attract significant grants from other sources.

The Trust has also made an underwriting loan in the amount of \$20,000 to the Reel Earth Environmental Film Society of Aotearoa New Zealand, Inc; an initiative of which it is a founding sponsor.

Targeted grants were made to events raising awareness about healthy environments (HEARTH radio), education (PNGHS, Cloverlea School), and community events (Reel Earth, Segue Awards, A Greener Way, and sustainable city outcomes (electric bike transport and Mara Kai gardens project).

## **PNCET Assets**

The Trust's members and networks are its greatest asset, and the source of its most notable achievements. It is our mutual accountability and use of those human resources that will deliver the greatest real value to our community.

Financially, the Trust is in a modest position, with financial assets in excess of \$123,000. The PNCC grant, interest earned on investments, and third party grants allow us to continue our competitive grant application programme for entities seeking resources to initiate and maintain environmental sustainability projects in the City.

We acknowledge the PNCC for their foresight in making an ongoing grant to the PNCET for our grant making to community groups; noting that community led initiatives often provide a good return on investment.

## **Future Directions & Leadership**

My focus as chair remains with the development of a capable team and achievement of environmental sustainability outcomes in the City.

As stated earlier, I believe our greatest asset is our Trust members, and it is a central goal as Chair to ensure we are a healthy and focused team working toward a common goal of environmental sustainability for this community.

With the number of retirements this year we will be looking to increase the number of members on the Trust to ensure future leadership and that we have a positive impact on our City.

I greatly appreciate the support I've received in my third year as elected Chair, and thank each Trust member and the Trust Administrator for their support and contributions.



Brent Barrett, Chair, PNCET  
Palmerston North, New Zealand