

## **Chair's Report to the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting**

### **Context**

This year marks our 21<sup>th</sup> as a Trust of volunteers serving the people of Palmerston North and their natural and built environments. As a Trust we recognise environmental sustainability as a core element of Palmerston North's ongoing well-being of residents, as reflected in our vision that Palmerston North becomes more environmentally sustainable and vibrant. We aim to achieve this by working across community sectors including government, education, volunteer, and business. We measure our impact by assessing the community's status and attitude toward principles and practices of environmental sustainability, and by success of the projects we have a direct involvement in funding or delivery.

### **The PNCET Team**

We have continued to enjoy the support of a team of seven Trust members through the year. Trust members are Margaret Hunt, Brendan Lucas, Fleur Hirst, Dr. Ee Kheng Ang, Dr. Karine Chagne, Paul Horton, and Brent Barrett. In the coming year there is scope to recruit one or two new members to extend our capacity and networks.

### **PNCET Achievements 2011-2012**

Over this year 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 working with Vision Manawatu on a Solar Schools initiative to put solar electricity generation on secondary schools as a source of renewable energy and an education resource. This project is reliant on sourcing funds.

In the Trust's Education and Advocacy area we have made written and oral comprehensive submissions to PNCC and Horizons draft Long Term Plans, and to the PNCC District Plan changes including Rural-Residential and City Objects. We have submitted to Horizons regards the Manawatu District Council application to continue

treated sewage discharge to the Orua River, seeking a better outcome for the river and water quality in the lower Manawatu River.

In the Trust Resource Development area, we have focused on network development including Vision Manawatu and Environment Network Manawatu, and a presence at various community events. Trust processes and documentation have been improved through the compilation and ratification of a Board Member's Handbook outlining the basics to Trust policy and procedures complementing and giving impetus to our Terms of Reference and Trust Deed provided by PNCC. We have also compiled Trust information and image resources for a revamp of the Trust website at [www.pncet.org.nz](http://www.pncet.org.nz), planned for the coming year.

In the Trust Supported Projects area, we have had an active year in grant making, with 10 grants totalling \$12,030 for the 12 months to June 2012. All grants are made through an on demand application process.

The Trust has also made an underwriting loan in the amount of \$11,600 to the Reel Earth Environmental Film Society of Aotearoa New Zealand, Inc; an initiative of which we are a founding sponsor.

Targeted grants were made to green space development (Monarchs in Apollo Park), community media (HEARTH radio), education (PNGHS, Rangiwahia Environmental Arts Centre, Community Arts PN), community gardens (Te Hotu Manawa O Rangitaane O Manawatu) and environmental events (Reel Earth, Forest & Bird Manawatu, Environment Network Manawatu).

### **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 the community. Financially, the Trust is in a modest position, with financial assets in excess of \$100,000.

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 independent grant making to community groups; noting that community led initiatives often provide a good return on investment.

There continues to be scope to recalibrate PNCC grant activities across the community sectors in order to better align with stated PNCC vision and strategy, and the wider Regional Development Strategy co-developed by Manawatu District Council, Palmerston North City Council, Destination Manawatu, and Vision Manawatu.

### **Looking Ahead**

The major opportunities for improved environmental sustainability remain around freshwater, sustainable transport, carbon footprint, and city planning & urban design. These areas create the opportunity for the Trust to continue to develop and increase our impact in the City for sustainability outcomes.

My focus as chair remains with the development of a capable team and achievement of environmental sustainability outcomes in the City. I greatly appreciate the support I've received in my fourth year as elected Chair, and thank each Trust member and the Trust Administrator for their support and voluntary contributions to the Trust's work over the year.

In the year ahead we will look to increase depth of our networks in and beyond the City, increase our capacity for advocacy, advance projects including securing support for the Solar Schools initiative, recruit one or two new members, develop and communicate position statements on sustainability, and enhance our community interface including re-development of our internet presence.



Brent Barrett, Chair  
Palmerston North City Environmental Trust  
Palmerston North, Aotearoa / New Zealand  
20 Sep. 2012