

Avon River Residential Red Zone

PROJECTS FORUM

9:30am – 4pm

Saturday 16 March 2013

Function Room

CCC Civic Offices

Worcester Boulevard Entrance



AvON Forum Project Presentations

The Mahinga Kai Project

The natural environment of greater Christchurch is of special cultural and historical significance to Ngāi Tahu. Prior to European settlement, Ngāi Tahu, maintained numerous kāinga and pā within the greater Christchurch area. From these settlements, Ngāi Tahu gathered and utilised mahinga kai (natural resources from the network of springs, waterways, wetlands, grasslands and lowland forests).

Mahinga kai is the concept that exemplifies the complex, interconnected cultural beliefs and practices of Ngāi Tahu in relation to the environment, describing not only the species gathered but the places and practices involved in doing so. Mahinga kai, meaning to mahi ngā kai (work the food), is a management concept, a way of thinking that involves and understands the simultaneous protection and use of resources. Ngāi Tahu approached this from an integrated management model known as Ki Uta Ki Tai (from the mountains to the sea)

The Waitangi Tribunal stated that the issues involving mahinga kai were the most emotionally charged elements of the Ngāi Tahu claim. In the new millennium mahinga kai continues to be a vital ingredient of the wellbeing and livelihoods of Ngāi Tahu. Ngāi Tahu is recognised as a statutory partner in the earthquake recovery and rebuild process and the mahinga kai management paradigm and its associations remain paramount to local hapū and rūnanga, especially those who continue to live around, protect and utilise important mahinga kai, wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga. This is particularly true for Ngāi Tuahuriri who holds traditional mana whenua over the majority of the affected area and Ngāti Wheke who share some of this responsibility. Protecting, rehabilitating, enhancing and maintaining such sites and resources, and the rights of Ngāi Tahu to access these, is critical.

Robin Wybrow

The Mahinga Kai Project, Ngai Tahu

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River of Flowers

The River of Flowers is a commemorative event held every 22 February at over a dozen riverside sites and provides an opportunity to:

- come together as a city by dropping flowers into the rivers
- hold two minutes of silence to remember those who have died, been injured, or who have lost their homes
- write notes of hope and post them on a tree of hope
- acknowledge the importance of the rivers in the life and heritage of the city
- strengthen the connections between communities - particularly those most affected
- celebrate our strength - resilience and supporting one another

Michelle Whitaker & Evan Smith
Healthy Christchurch and AvON

Michelle.Whitaker@cdhb.health.nz

Riverside Heritage Garden Park

We wish to establish Riverside Heritage Garden Park within the boundaries of Banks Avenue, River Road, Medway Street and Woodchester Avenue as a publicly owned heritage, ecological and recreation reserve including community gardens and restoration of areas of indigenous habitat. We have identified over 450 existing trees and shrubs within the site of which approximately one third are indigenous, one third fruit trees and the remainder mature exotics. The site includes heritage gardens and orchards. We wish to work with mana whenua to include cultural heritage and values within the Riverside Heritage Garden Park, while also acknowledging European heritage within the site.

Mark Christensen
Riverside Heritage Garden Park Society

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Prosperity from Trees

Our long-term vision is to create an urban forest ecosystem along the Avon-Ōtākaro corridor promoting Christchurch as the "Garden City" and the "City of Trees". Workshops, engagement and surveys with the wider community (residents, local business, iwi, governance and community groups) will determine the types of activities and scale required. Owing to soil disturbance and pollution, the area will require characterisation prior to replanting to match the trees to the site. Trials of trees chosen by the community engagement process will be tested. A functioning urban forest system will contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community and the ecosystem.

Alan Leckie
Scion - The New Zealand Forest Research Institute

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Reviving the Dawn Chorus with Trees

The high degree of endemism in the New Zealand flora and fauna is remarkable. Most of our plants and animals are unique and are not found elsewhere. Historically NZ was a forested country covered in a lush cloak of native ever green species. Today our native forests are a shadow of their former self, pitiful remnants that attempt to support our unique bird and insect fauna. The red zone of Christchurch provides a unique opportunity to bring native biodiversity back into our city, like Zealandia has done for Wellington. My vision is to create a functioning urban forest system that provides a source population that supports a city filled with the rich sounds of our nation's dawn chorus.

Steve Pawson
SCION Research

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The Rebuilding of Pleasant Point Yacht Club

PLEASANT POINT YACHT CLUB - demolished but not destroyed. The Club was to open for its 89th year on September 5th 2010, but the events on the morning of the 4th put paid to that. The Clubhouse and the grounds beside the South Brighton bridge, were so badly damaged, that any thoughts of sailing our 2010/2011 season from that site were out of the question. The 22nd of February quake finished off the buildings and in June 2011 they were demolished and the reserve cleared. The Club is focused on re-establishing a new club facility in the South Brighton Domain.

Nigel Humphreys
Pleasant Point Yacht Club Inc

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A Comprehensive, Connected, Community-Centred Cycle Network

The Mission of Spokes Canterbury is to promote the bicycle for everyday use. Our Vision is that by 2020, Christchurch will be considered one of the top 5 cycle cities in the world. Our Goals are to establish a comprehensive, connected, community-centred cycle network and to encourage increased use of bicycles in Christchurch.

Nigel Rushton
Spokes Canterbury

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Stormwater to Wetlands

The Avon River is contaminated and continues to be vulnerable to contamination. Only one-third of the water entering the Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai is clean enough to sustain life. Stormwater from urban residential areas transports contaminants via kerb and channel directly into our fresh water systems. Wetland ecosystems can filter sediment and contaminants and provide many other vital services. Appropriately constructed and managed artificial wetlands and swales in the Avon River catchment Residential Red Zone can be very successful at removing sediment and certain contaminants, and must now be incorporated into sustainable urban design plans.

Ann Kennedy
AvON

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Barkerton Park "Strengthening the Social Fabric"

Think "Barkerton Park" it delivers the restorative and rejuvenative sense of well-being that accrues to entire communities valuing interspecies companionship and 'placemaking' safer, healthier and lifelong spaces. A hub for a city wide network of friendly walking trails enabling the Garden City to invent itself around the safety and wellbeing, of its citizens, families and its communal space. The benefits are highly indicated and the work and money required minimal. The speed of implementation is paramount, needed now and not difficult at all. "Barkerton Park" is a rates neutral, quick return, evidence based, inter-generational social capital driven bottom up design.

Blair Anderson

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The School of the Naked Dog

The Great Otakaro Avon River Walk

The River of Life Project held an inaugural one-day mouth to source walk of the Otakaro Avon River in 2012. We are holding a second walk on March 23 in 2013. It is our intention to make this an annual pilgrimage for Canterbury people to walk. This project helps to build a closer connection between the people who live here and the river, as well as build awareness of the issues that affect the Avon and other urban waterways. It is also an opportunity to build support for the vision of an ecological and recreational reserve in the residential red zone and lower reaches.

Mark Gibson

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The River of Life Project

Boatshed Cafes for Avon

Cafes have become popular meeting places. This project aims to support community connection in residential areas where no meeting facilities exist. A joint goodwill project between demolition authorities and communities, recycling residential garages from the residential red zone has the potential to create destination attractions because of their enterprising nature, utilisation of materials and co-operative actions. Jetty and decking to cater for outdoor café dining would complete the project to put an attraction back into damaged suburbs. As a recovery project for suburbs like Dallington or Avondale it has the potential to be a community-led project and that would be a really positive outcome for the communities.

The Boatshed Cafe Project

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several eastern residents associations

Community Food Resilience

Research conducted assessing ways of enhancing food security within the red zone area through the possible use of community gardens. The main outcomes were that soils are limited by water availability rather than nutrients, the sandy liquefaction soils have retained a large amount of organic matter aiding in water retention and more research will need to be conducted across the red zone area to determine whether the soil is suitable (i.e contaminant free) for establishing community involved gardening or urban agriculture.

Daniel Gilmour

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University of Canterbury

Phytoremediation of Red Zone Contamination

Many urban soils in NZ are contaminated because of road runoff, vehicle and industrial emissions, lead from old painted surfaces, overzealous pesticide use, and leaching from treated timber. Converting such land to grazed pasture may result in contaminants entering food products and harming NZ's image in overseas markets. Lincoln University research has shown that some NZ native plants are effective in contaminant immobilisation. Their effectiveness can be improved by the use of soil conditioners such as biochar. We seek to use such combinations to immobilise contaminants while improving local biodiversity, aesthetics, and the quality of nearby water bodies.

Brett Robinson

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Lincoln University

Flat Water Sports Facility

To develop a flat water sports facility adjacent to the Avon River. From a water sports perspective this would help overcome issues that were evident prior to the Earthquake including challenges in terms of the Avon River's capacity, accessibility and safety for water based sports. These challenges have increased post Earthquake with the river becoming shallower and narrower and with usage now back to a level similar to that pre Earthquake. It would be equally beneficial to have this sports hub in close proximity to other potential sports hubs that may be developed in the area.

Bruce Johnston

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Avon River Users Group

Lost Civilisation

It is time to be bold and edgy with ideas for the future city. This project is complementary to the Eco-Sanctuary Anchor Project proposal. It would provide an additional, partially protected refuge for native wildlife, spilling over from the eco-sanctuary. But it would feature an Indiana Jones type experience of nature fighting back. It basically involves leaving areas of red zone residential houses in place (after removing hazardous or re-usable materials) and instead of sending the rest to the tip, letting it decompose and submerge into the 'jungle'. It will be another novel attraction for rebuilding the CHCH economy.

Colin Meurk

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The Apex Site

The site is very high profile being adjacent to two busy roads and 'T' intersection and intended to be a notice board for groups and organisations involved in the Eastern Suburbs recovery. High vehicle traffic and proximity to two schools mean that this is a prime site for providing information to the local area users. Located at the northern end of Linwood Ave at the junction of Woodham Road and Avonside Drive the vision is to use large font text on billboards to promote organisations ideas and proposals. Low set up costs, regular maintenance and community support are planned to develop the site into an information hub and focal point for sharing ideas and projects with the public. Landscaping through volunteer projects to reflect the microcosm of Residential Red Zone initiatives will beautify an otherwise empty barren site.

David Cross

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AvON Network

New Brighton Business Recovery

The New Brighton Business and Land Owners Association seeks to lead economic recovery for New Brighton. Through a strategic series of initiatives and planning we are underway to be leading effective and positive changes for the eastern seaboard of Christchurch. We appreciate the asset that we have in New Brighton and are excited and enthused at being able to lead and assist in the economic recovery of our suburb. We embrace the Water Park proposal of Tim Sintes & David East as a cornerstone project in this recovery.

Paul Zaanen

Newbrightonba@gmail.com

New Brighton Business and Landowners Association

Lower Avon Heritage Trail

The Avon is a catalyst to narrate the underlying heritage values of the Avon-Otakaro River corridor. VISION: That Christchurch has a garden heritage trail attraction that can be marketed for domestic and international tourism. PROPOSAL: That the lower Avon River serve as both a time-line and a frame of reference for a series of protected heritage sites extending from the city's original Ngai Tahu food-gathering place, O-tautahi, to the city's estuary. Sites are selected to demonstrate the development of gardens, both Maori and Pakeha. Each site would have an information panel recording the local provenance and significance of the site.

Di Madgin

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Lower Avon Heritage Trail Group

Forest Regeneration in the Residential Red Zone

We sampled 100 properties in the RRZ to determine the regeneration responses of native and exotic woody tree and shrub species after abandonment. In the absence of garden management we are seeing a "new" vegetation dynamic driven by new substrate availability, dispersal of seeds by birds, and the presence of surviving seed sources. The regeneration of native species was initially rapid and, in some situations, prolific. On the other hand, over the last 6 months there has been a rapid upsurge in exotic woody seedlings such as gorse, broom, lupin and Robinia. Vigorous and intensive management of these species will be required for a native forest to succeed.

Glenn Stewart

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Lincoln University

Wriggling into the Red Zone

Ecological restoration is about the creation of healthy environments and recovery from catastrophe, disturbance and pollution. The hidden benefit is the protection and building of our most valuable resource - good quality soil. Healthy soil provides a home for a rich community of native New Zealand earthworms. Below our feet, they have learned to live alongside the newbies - their exotic settler earthworm cousins. Together these creatures provide life to soil; improving the growth of plants, filtering pollution, benefiting water quality and a whole range of other ecological services. We aim to show that red zone restoration has become their business.

Prof. Nicholas Dickinson

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Ecology Department, Lincoln University

Cycling Hub Opportunity with Avon-Otakaro

Canterbury Cycling Development Trust (CCDT): a motivated group of people dedicated to the advocacy of all things cycling in Christchurch. Our aim is to see cycling infrastructure kept to the forefront of any plans for the rebuild of Christchurch and provide a united voice for all cycling codes through the recovery process. As a city there is an opportunity to make things better than they were. For cycling this means we can look forward to better cycle networks to enable people of all ages to move from places and spaces safely and utilising a transport mode of choice. The CCDT have been working alongside rowing, kayaking and dragon boating, advocating from the cycling community to maximise the opportunity community has across the length and breadth of the Avon Corridor. Cycling crosses, social, family, community, health and transport aspects which affect us all. We support all initiatives within the Avon Corridor that aid in the recovery and sustainability of this community space.

Darron Charity

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Canterbury Cycling Development Trust (CCDT)

Hand Over a Hundy: Christchurch East and Community Gardening

Hand Over a Hundy is a programme where participants are connected with a mentor and \$100 worth of resources to start a garden in their home. The challenge is to recoup that \$100 through sales of seedlings or produce, or savings on their food bill. The \$100 (a 'hundy') is then handed over to a new family for the following year. Community gardens are an important part of any neighbourhood and the role of existing gardens within this programme will be presented, along with the potential for a full spectrum of new community gardening initiatives in the East.

Bailey Peryman

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Soil and Health Canterbury

Places of Tranquillity

Healthy Christchurch is leading this initiative with Greening the Rubble and Lincoln University creating six gardens of beauty and peace to fill in some vacant sites in central Christchurch. This project is in partnership with the city's ethnic communities to ensure that these communities' voices and presence is more visible in the rebuild of our city. Lincoln University Students created 40 beautiful designs; six winning designs were selected from the 995 votes cast. The first gardens will be Pacifica (Maori/Pacific) and South East Asia. It is hoped that these gardens will one day be located permanently in the residential red zone.

Michelle Whitaker
Healthy Christchurch

Michelle.Whitaker@cdhb.health.nz

Eco-Sanctuary Anchor Project

Christchurch is a biodiversity hotspot, but is also the only City without ready access to our rare and endangered wildlife in a predator-proof sanctuary. We have historically undersold our nature heritage assets; now is the time to put this right and create a 150 ha refuge, complementary to the other parks and natural areas in and around the city. Let's have kiwi and takahe out their - and eventually kakapo? This will expand the experience of our citizens and contribute to the eco-tourism portfolio of the city.

Colin Meurk
Travis Wetland Trust

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Spring River Festival

2012 was the inaugural year of the Spring River Festival held each Labour weekend on the lower Avon corridor, estuary and beaches – the playground of the city! An exciting programme packed with many events, the festival recognises the importance of the Avon-Otakaro River and estuary to the history, health and wellbeing of Christchurch and showcases the vitality and potential of the east as "Otakaro: place of the game". There is something for everyone, whatever their age, ability or interest, with a diverse range of activities embracing sport, recreation, culture, heritage, environment, gardens, entertainment and community.

Evan Smith
Avon-Otakaro Network

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Cost Benefit Analysis of Different RZ Proposals

The AvON Otakaro Network, with support from the Pacific Development Conservation Trust, has commissioned Dr Suzanne Vallance and Dr Peter Tait (Lincoln University) to conduct an independent cost-benefit analysis of three different uses of the Avon River Red Zone. These are a) letting the land lie fallow, b) converting the land to a dairy farm and c) a blend of 'other' uses. The first stage of the research is to establish the full range of potential 'other' uses, along with their costs and benefits. Our purpose here today is to start this process of documentation.

Dr Suzanne Vallance
Lincoln University

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Big Picture: Avon Living Strategy

AvON is setting up an online repository – a Drop Box account – into which documents that describe or specify project proposals can be placed (when you feel comfortable about publishing these). This will include a data base of projects and project contacts to facilitate networking, synergies and integration between projects. This facility will be open access for project champions and have general read access for the general public. We will encourage authorities – particularly those teams working on uses of the Avon River Red Zone lands, to use this as an invaluable resource. We call this the Avon Living Strategy.

Evan Smith
AvON

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Big Picture: Eastern Vision

Eastern Vision is focused on ensuring planning for the recovery of the east of Christchurch is done as an integrated whole rather than on a piecemeal basis. To do this we have produced a starting point, baseline "Fact Map" which shows contours above sea level, CCC flood plain boundary, residential red zone lands and primary amenities such as schools, etc. We intend to take this around the east to provide opportunities for grass roots engagement in planning processes, 2D visioning of possibilities, new ideation re projects, etc. We will then attempt to distil and integrate all the community views and feed these into formal planning processes.

Humphry Rolleston
Eastern Vision

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Big Picture: GIS: How can we help?

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) use digital technology, spatial data and critical thinking to answer questions, solve problems and communicate ideas. The Red Zone is a clearly defined geographic location. Therefore much of the data used and produced by Avon-Otakaro projects will be spatial data. This presentation will briefly explain what GIS is, then ask the audience to think about how GIS might be able to help their favourite project. It will also offer some ideas about how Participatory GIS might help project participants and East Christchurch residents vision the future of the Red Zone and the East.

David Colyer
Geography Dept, Canterbury University

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Big Picture: Natural Environment Recovery Programme

Environment Canterbury is leading the development of the Natural Environment Recovery Programme (NERP) to facilitate the restoration and enhancement of the natural environment, and capture opportunities to build future resilience. It is one of many recovery programmes being developed under the Recovery Strategy for Greater Christchurch – Mahere Haumanutanga o Waitaha.

Chrissie Williams
ECAN

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