HE MANAKO TE KŌURA I KORE AI.

Wishing for crayfish won't bring it.
VISION
A society where aroha, wairua and mauri is restored.

MISSION
To nurture kaitiakitanga and help restore the whenua.

PURPOSE
A tohu to connect people and place.
FROM THE CHAIR

This year, I was honoured to step into the role of Chair, after three years as a trustee. I have thoroughly enjoyed further strengthening my understanding of what we do for the community and environment, and working alongside my fellow trustees to guide and plan for the future of EcoMatters, so we can continue to thrive.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that we are facing an ecological crisis in terms of needing to dramatically reduce our human impact on the environment.

I truly believe that we can still turn things around for the better. It will take bold calls from our leaders as well as direct action from individuals like you and me to make this happen, but it can be done.

The highlights celebrated in this annual report show there is a groundswell of awareness and more importantly action, all of which is moving us in the right direction.

I want to thank my fellow trustees, the EcoMatters team, our funders, our valuable volunteers and everyone who has been involved in our wide variety of events, activities and projects. Without you, our community and our environment would be a very different place.

Ngā mihi

Charlotte Moore
EcoMatters Chair

FROM THE CEO

Nau mai, haere mai and a warm welcome to our Annual Report 2018-2019, featuring the highlights and most importantly, the stories of the people we’ve worked alongside, in the past year.

This year the theme of our report is 'Tipping Point' - the point at which a series of small changes or incidents becomes significant enough to cause a larger, more important change. Scientists remain justifiably concerned that our ecological systems are at a tipping point in terms of their degradation.

But we also hope that the stories in this report show how people taking direct action with the help of organisations such as ours, are collectively working to restore some measure of balance in our urban ecosystems - this is its own kind of tipping point.

Indeed there appears to be a growing recognition of the need for collaboration between government, not for profit organisations, businesses and the community to tackle local environmental challenges. It’s important we take time to celebrate this shift in attitude and willingness to work together. So we hope that you find this report both encouraging and hopeful!

On that note - we want to thank all of our funders for their ongoing support and confidence in the work we do. To our board for their willingness to keep the EcoMatters waka on course and steering strongly. To our dedicated team who work so hard to deliver tangible environmental outcomes for Auckland. And finally to the incredible band of volunteers who so generously donate their time to our vision, purpose and cause.

Ngā mihi

Damon Birchfield
EcoMatters CEO

Charlotte Moore
EcoMatters Chair
This year, we’ve especially focused on improving how we measure our impact. An important part of this work has been connecting our work more closely with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The SDGs or “Global Goals” provide a high level framework for understanding where to focus the most effort to achieve critical sustainable development outcomes. The goals are part of an international commitment the New Zealand Government has made to pursuing social and environmental justice outcomes.

This chart shows our impression of the impact that the work we do has against each of the 17 goals. It shows that we see ourselves as contributing most strongly in areas linked directly to the environment, for example climate action, life below water and life on land.
EcoMatters

**OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE**

- **Amount of waste diverted from landfill**: 519,311 kg
- **People engaged**: 151,040
- **Weeds collected**: 259,946 kg
- **Seedlings grown & trees planted**: 13,919
- **Workshops & events**: 3,053
- **Bikes repaired**: 1,710
- **Homes improved**: 500
- **Facebook post engagement**: 29,722
- **Streamsides restored**: 25.5 km

**OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE**
Community is at the heart of everything we do. As our purpose states, we aim to be a tohu, connecting people and place.

Our New Lynn EcoHub includes learning and meeting spaces, as well as our store, just one of the many places we can share knowledge and tools to help people live more sustainably.

We love getting out and about, meeting people and making new connections, through community outreach activities. And we enjoy lively interactions in the digital space, within our social media community and informative website.
Learning

With the help of our own experts and those from around Aotearoa, our education programme covered topics as diverse as sustainable living, land management, biodiversity, energy efficiency, waste reduction and tikanga Māori.

A particular highlight was the Love Our Kauri hui and webinar, held in November 2018, bringing people together to discuss the significant local issue of kauri dieback.

EcoWest Festival

We were proud to deliver EcoWest Festival again in 2019, with more than 120 different free and low-cost events hosted by 44 different organisations, groups and individuals, all
empowering the community to live more sustainably.

A first for West Auckland was our dynamic signature event, Cycle-Powered Cinema, showing environmentally-themed films, courtesy of those turning the bike wheels to run the projector.

A new category for 2019, Arts on Climate Change involved more than 140 artists, showcasing the arts as a powerful medium to inspire change.

Thanks to Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges and Whau local boards and Panuku Development Auckland for their support.
Community activation and networks

We launched the Whau Low Carbon Network and strengthened the links between this and those in Puketāpapa and Waitematā. These networks bring together individuals and organisations who are supporting low carbon practices in their communities. Thanks to the Puketāpapa, Waitematā and Whau local boards for funding these networks.

Our Talk Tent at Mt Roskill’s Wesley Market took the low carbon message into the community, with local movers and shakers sharing what they are doing to reduce carbon emissions. A highlight was national television coverage on Seven Sharp, about how we’re working with like-minded partners to lobby for a container deposit scheme.

Cycle and Recycle Wednesdays was a ten week activation on a little-used car park in Avondale which initiated community conversations. Activities included a pump track, regular bike fix sessions and a bottle drive, bringing in 8,900 cans, plastic and glass bottles collected from public spaces. We are grateful to Panuku Development Auckland for supporting this.

EcoMatters Store

First and foremost a place where people can seek sustainable living advice, proceeds from our EcoMatters Store also help us continue to develop our initiatives.

The store’s growing reputation as a destination for greener living products has helped us expand our range. We were delighted to welcome a new team member and new team leader this year, both ably supported by volunteers. The store is also a drop off point for e-waste and other items for recycling and reuse.

Volunteers and interns

Our volunteers and interns are a treasured part of our team, bringing knowledge, a different perspective and above all, mahi to help get the job done. We enjoy building relationships with our regulars, introducing first time volunteers to what we do and meeting international interns who contribute their valuable time and expertise.
MEET A VOLUNTEER

Pat is one of our regular volunteers at our EcoMatters Store. She says her role gives her the chance to learn more about sustainable living. “It’s a really welcoming environment. I’ve had some great conversations with customers about their experiences with our products and I love helping them live more eco-friendly lifestyles.”

ECOMATTERS STORIES

Signs for change

What began as an art competition to showcase young people’s response to the climate crisis evolved into an incredible roadside photo exhibition, featuring the ‘Signs For Change’ from eight young artists. And then came the news that 10 year old Farjad will have his first ever large-scale work, an enlarged version of his original piece, exhibited permanently on a wall at Avondale Primary School. What a win for the environment and for our talented rangatahi!

Cash for trash

Lachlan, his Mum Maggie and younger brother Finley were regular visitors to Cycle and Recycle Wednesdays in Avondale. Every recyclable container they brought to us was another 20 cents for Lachlan’s Lego fund and savings, and one less piece of rubbish on our streets.

Maggie says all they’ve collected is simply picked up while they are out walking and it’s ‘quite scary’ how much they find.
Zero waste to landfill by 2040 is one of Auckland’s major goals. We deliver programmes and set up initiatives to make it easy for people to get involved in achieving this vision.

What this means in a practical sense is educating people about using fewer resources, providing services to help people reduce waste to landfill, encouraging more people to compost and teaching people how to recycle right.
Focus on food scraps

In its fourth year, The Compost Collective’s enthusiastic educators taught 6,231 workshop participants the skills to compost their food scraps, keeping these out of landfill. Even those without the space to compost can get on board, with ShareWaste, an online platform helping people to source more food scraps for their compost or backyard chickens.

Work began on developing several community composting hubs across Auckland, so more people can keep their food scraps out of household rubbish bins. Further support to the composting community is provided through very active social media channels, where composters share knowledge and best practice.
We’re proud to deliver this programme right across Auckland, in partnership with Kaipātiki Project, thanks to funding from Auckland Council.

Food waste costs the environment, as well as hitting individuals in their pocket. But thanks to Love Food Hate Waste workshops, 841 more Aucklanders are now loving their leftovers.

We also maintain and update zerowasteevents.org.nz, an Auckland Council funded one stop shop showing event organisers how to run a successful zero waste event.

**Creating connections**

Our work at Wesley Market in Mt Roskill, funded by Puketāpapa Local Board, was given extra impetus this year, with the July 2019 nationwide ban on plastic bags. We worked
closely with stallholders and shoppers for a smooth transition, dramatically decreasing plastic bag litter around the market.

The market now has separate bins for recyclables, compostables and food waste, while spoiled food is no longer sent to landfill - instead a local farmer collects it to use as stock feed.

Humming Gardens saw us partner with Hummingbird Coffee to reduce waste to landfill, strengthen the community garden network and encourage composting hubs to flourish. We connected local cafes with community gardens to divert reusable resources for community use.

We also led work at the Ōrākei Community Garden to make the garden more accessible to the wider community through workshops, improving their composting infrastructure and building connections with other community organisations. This project was funded by the Ōrākei Local Board.

Re-homing, repurposing and renting

We connected resourceful people with a treasure trove of items thanks to our Adopt A Resource initiative. It re-homes unwanted items from businesses, finding new uses for everything from power cables to hairdressing mannequins.

From e-waste to empty toothpaste tubes, and ballpoint pens to curtains, we're a drop-off point for many things that can be recycled, repurposed or upcycled but don’t belong in household recycling. It’s all about helping keep more items out of landfill.

We also rent out recycle bins, and reusable cutlery and crockery, to help community groups to make their events more sustainable.
Community connections

Massey Community Men’s Shed has become one of our strongest allies, thanks to its members’ resourcefulness, which has seen them create everything from boxes for reusable bags to wheelie bin worm farms, mainly from repurposed materials. They say “we appreciate the work that EcoMatters has brought to us... from which we gain a great sense of achievement...”

Powering creativity

Hackland says its community space is always in need of materials to be made into new things, so discovering EcoMatters and our Adopt-a-Resource initiative has had a big impact. Over 25% of all their power infrastructure now runs on EcoMatters sourced extension leads and multiboards, which now power lasercutters, robot arms and powertools for members of the community to use.

Garden of resources

Meet the ‘guardian angels’ of Triangle Park Community Teaching Garden. These scarecrows with very lifelike faces are created from Adopt A Resource items, including foam stuffing and hairdressing mannequins. Garden volunteer Linda says now they’re ‘never lonely when doing the compost’. The garden also benefits from a steady supply of firewood, sawdust, coffee grounds and shredded paper, all sourced through connections made through EcoMatters.
We're all about getting more people cycling. And we do this by empowering people with the skills, knowledge and equipment to ride and maintain a bike confidently, through free help with bike servicing, route information and maps.

When someone travels by bike, that's potentially one less car journey contributing to our climate crisis and another person staying active. Each used bike we rescue and refurbish keeps it out of landfill and puts it back in use, for loan or to purchase at low cost.
The buzz at our Bike Hubs

Our New Lynn Bike Hub in Olympic Park was our first location, opening in April 2017. Now in its third year of operation, visitor numbers continue to grow and we have a regular team of volunteers helping out.

In November 2018, we opened a second location in Henderson, which is now revitalising a seldom-used car park next to a busy intersection. In eight months of operation, we are already seeing similar visitor numbers to our New Lynn Bike Hub.

Both our Bike Hub locations operate partly as social enterprises and have proven

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

7,097 VISITORS

HIGHLIGHTS

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Both our Bike Hub locations operate partly as social enterprises and have proven
they can generate additional operating income through the sale of refurbished donated bikes, bike parts and accessories.

**Reaching out, right across Auckland**

The joy of cycling doesn't stop at the borders of West Auckland. During September and November 2018, we staged a pop-up Bike Hub at Silo Park, in the heart of Auckland city. We interacted with more than 50 people each day we were open, all with the goal of strengthening their love of cycling.

We held a regular series of Saturday Bike Fix drop-in sessions at Te Oro Music and Arts Centre in Glen Innes during spring and summer. These were so popular work is now underway to set up a Bike Hub in the neighbourhood.
Our team also supported events in Bayswater, Glen Eden, Oratia, Mt Roskill, Henderson, Avondale, Owairaka, Mangere and Mt Wellington.

**Pedal Puketāpapa**

This year we launched a new cycling map, with suggested routes for enjoying all the delights of Mt Roskill, Three Kings and Hillsborough. With rides suitable for young families through to more confident on-road cyclists, it takes in parks and playgrounds, iconic maunga, picnic spots and cafes.

**Thanks to our funders**

We couldn't do what we do without the generous support of the Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges and Whau local boards, Panuku Development Auckland, and a new funder for this year, Auckland Transport.
BIKE HUB STORIES

Loaning for learning
Nora and Abdul, originally from Saudi Arabia, dropped into our New Lynn Bike Hub one sunny Saturday in September. In their home country, Nora was not allowed to cycle. We sorted her and Abdul out with loan bikes to get them started. Nora took to cycling like a duck to water, balancing well on her first attempt.

Beginners to bike-savvy
We love meeting everyone who stops by our Bike Hubs. Kaushic borrowed a balance bike for his daughter Aania to help ignite a love of cycling, while at 92, Henderson local Maurice is an advertisement for the benefits of cycling. He dropped in for advice on maintaining his folding bike, which he takes away on various adventures.

MEET A VOLUNTEER
Volunteers are at the heart of what we do here at EcoMatters. Mark is one of our regulars at the New Lynn Bike Hub. Sometimes the creative muse hits us and together we create new additions to our bike beasties family, all upcycled from bike bits.
Inspired by a vision of communities who are more connected with their natural environment, we aim to initiate and support projects that help achieve this outcome.

Our community garden showcases what is possible in your own backyard, while our nursery is the starting point for full cycle restoration planting. From expert advice on tackling pests and weeds, to improving the health of our waterways and making it simple to get neighbourhood nature projects going, we’re all about supporting our communities to care for Papatūānuku (Mother Earth).
Nature starts in our backyard

At our New Lynn EcoHub, our community garden and native plant nursery are flourishing. With the support of our regular volunteers, this year more than 10,000 plants were grown in our nursery.

Our community garden focused on increasing its productivity, especially in food production as well as trialling new compost systems and encouraging more sustainable use of food waste.

People power to target pests and weeds

To protect and restore Auckland’s unique natural environment we assist residents

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

SEEDLINGS GROWN 10,666
WEEDS COLLECTED 259,946 KG
to play their part in tackling pests and weeds. We manage everything from an ongoing weed bin service in the Waitākere Ranges through to programmes that offer specialist advice on pest plant management. In particular the Bufferzone programme supports residents living in the buffer between regional parks and private land to better manage highest risk pest plants. Our Backyard Waitākere programme helps to eradicate the dastardly Climbing Asparagus plant from coastal areas.

Our Nature team’s work programme is funded and supported by the Waitākere Ranges, Henderson-Massey, and Whau local boards.

**Waterways in the west**

For more than a decade, we’ve worked closely with

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**PLANTS PLANTED**

3253

**VOLUNTEER HOURS**

8547

**RUBBISH COLLECTED**

2860 KG
the Glen Eden community on Project Twin Streams. As the most heavily urbanised area of the project catchment, we’ve focused on engaging local residents to become involved in every element of restoration, from planning to implementation and monitoring.

The Sunnyvale Backyard Stream and Manutewhau projects are creating healthier waterways and connecting people with their local streams, thanks to support from Henderson-Massey Local Board.

**Enabling and celebrating**

The Love Your Neighbourhood scheme makes it quick and easy for grassroots environmental activities to get off the ground. A total of 85 projects were funded in this last year, with individuals and groups using up to $500 for local clean ups, community plantings, food growing projects, pest trapping and setting up composting or rain harvesting systems.

Thanks to Henderson-Massey, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Waitākere Ranges and Whau local boards for making this funding available.

**Industry pollution**

Fifty businesses in Henderson-Massey’s industrial area were visited to share knowledge and resources about local stream life, hazardous material usage and reducing the risk of pollution entering streams. The Industry Pollution Prevention programme was funded by the Henderson-Massey Local Board.

**Guardians of the Gulf**

EcoMatters partnered with Crave Global to develop a prototype crowdfunding platform aimed at addressing water quality issues in the Hauraki Gulf. Funded through Foundation North’s Gulf Innovation Fund Together (G.I.F.T.), the platform brings together businesses, resident and not for profits to create environmental campaigns.
NATURE STORIES

Education in action

Meet Josh, who we now describe as an integral member of our band of regular volunteers. He’s a local, living in the Waitākere Ranges and attending Green Bay High School and loves working outdoors. Helping to take care of Waikumete Stream at Love Your Stream sessions is building both his practical and theoretical horticultural skills, and giving him the opportunity to connect with our other volunteers and interns.

Digging in for fresh food

Children at Glenavon Early Childhood Centre are enjoying the fruits of some hard work, after creating a new raised garden to grow produce, thanks to Love Your Neighbourhood funding. Glenavon Community Hub coordinator Eva Wongchiu says it’s exciting to see the young ones ‘getting stuck in with such enthusiasm’ helping with digging and planting. Buoyed by its success, they are now planning a community garden too.

MEET AN INTERN

Joining us all the way from Belgium, our Nature team intern Thomas proved himself invaluable, bringing his skills, knowledge and enthusiasm to every project he was involved with. He came to New Zealand for a gap year, with a desire to gain a better understanding of exactly what areas of environmental action he was truly passionate about. To do so, he embraced every opportunity to learn, getting involved with every aspect of the Nature team’s work.
We help people to live healthily and happily in their homes, while also saving money and conserving precious resources for better environmental outcomes.

Our team visits people who are struggling with damp and mould in their home and equips them with the tools and information to make their home warmer and drier.

Families experiencing higher than expected water bills can also get help. We’ll visit them at home to check for leaks and work out a plan for how to reduce their water usage.
Healthy Homes on a Budget

Our Healthy Homes on a Budget workshops (previously known as Homewise) remain a popular option for community groups. We talk to homeowners and renters about keeping their homes healthy and dry. Delivering this information to a group provides more engagement, with participants sharing their own experiences and advice.

Thanks to our funders, the Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges and Whau local boards.

Healthy Rentals

To improve housing quality through warmer, drier homes, for better health outcomes, the Puketāpapa and Whau local boards support the Healthy Rentals service.
This is a free in-house check on items such as insulation and downpipes, while also teaching families about the causes of dampness. Families get free tools and devices, such as humidity detectors and shower timers, to help them save money.

**Saving Water**

Providing tools and advice on how to save water helped put an average of $85 per household back into people's pockets this year. Families can book a visit from one of our team members, who then checks their home for leaks and provides advice on saving water. We've created 136 personalised water savings plans in this past year.

Our funder Watercare Services Ltd make this service possible for all Aucklanders.
HOMES STORIES

No more wasted water

Ann from New Lynn was puzzled by the fact her wastewater charges were higher than her water charges. We were stumped by this too. But with a simple test, we could see the cistern was leaking and in fact, could even hear the toilet refilling. Ann was shocked to realise she was paying for wasted water, but a new washer quickly and easily solved the issue and she was so thankful for the advice.

A warmer, drier family home

Raj and Tash rent their family home, in the Whau Local Board area. When we visited, they had just welcomed their first baby into the world, and were all getting to know each other. We shared tips on how they could reduce humidity in their home to help resolve issues with damp and cold. They wrote to us to say: 'Thank you for your great support... it was very useful and worthwhile and we learnt a lot.'
This report is part of our contribution to the kaupapa of gratitude, responsible consumption and partnership. It helps tell the story of how both funding and effort is nurturing kaitiakitanga (guardianship) and helping restore the whenua and moana (land and sea).

None of this work would be possible without the support of our funders. We would like to acknowledge the critical contribution they make to enable us to achieve meaningful outcomes for our environment and community.

Thank you especially to our primary funding partners: Auckland Council’s local boards - especially the Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges and Whau local boards - and Auckland Council Parks, Infrastructure and Environmental Services, as well as Watercare Services Ltd, Auckland Transport, Panuku Development Auckland, Ministry for the Environment, The Trusts Community Foundation, the Lottery Grants Board and Foundation North.
OUR STAFF

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- Chantelle Compain
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**EcoMatters**

**Nature**

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- Alanah Mullin
  Stream Ranger

- Chrissy Yates
  Nursery Manager

- Melissa Ward
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- Emily Harris
  Team Leader
  Partnerships and Events

- Deborah Teh
  Marketing and Communications Lead

- Ina Patisolo
  Low Carbon Community Coordinator

- Anna Kary
  Digital Media and Communications Coordinator

- Lisa Baudry
  Marketing Assistant
It’s been a privilege to continue as Patron for EcoMatters again this year, a role I have held since 2015.

It is well known that environmental causes and West Auckland are both close to my heart, so it brings me great joy to read these stories of success. These clearly show more and more people are prepared to get stuck into meaningful, locally-focused activities, that together add up to our community making a real difference for the future of our planet.

I commend the leadership shown by the Board of Trustees, and the hard work and enthusiasm of the team and volunteers who are at the heart of the work EcoMatters does. Thank you also to our wonderful funders that make all of these collaborations possible. To me, the only way to tackle the challenges we are facing is to continue to work together with such passion and dedication.

Ngā mihi

Tam Alexander joined the EcoMatters board in 2007, and served as chairperson from 2012 to 2018. We wish to thank Tam for all his years of service and his huge contribution to growing EcoMatters.

We would also like to acknowledge David Kenkel and Mark Harvey who stepped down from the board this year.

FROM OUR PATRON

Sir Bob Harvey
EcoMatters Patron
FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

MEMBERSHIPS