



Energise Otaki Inc. Chairman's Report 30th August 2018 for the 2017/18 year

It has been a busy year for Energise Otaki, now in its second year since the formation of Energise Otaki as an Incorporated Society and this report is intended to present the key activities of EO Inc. for the previous year.

Key activities:

1. Curtain Bank – providing curtains for Otaki Community Card Holders in conjunction with Sustainability Trust Wellington and the CAB Otaki, running for the third year now (40 families – 142 curtain pair).
2. LED lights for recipients of curtains from the Curtain Bank, funded with a grant from KCDC for the Curtain Bank operation.
3. Curious Mind Project, funded by MBIE in the previous year, continued with special projects getting more Otaki College students involved in STEM subjects.
4. EVelocity – Otaki College students were building two-and three rom old bikes and fitting them with electrical motors. They took in the national competition and delivered a stellar performance in many categories(speed, design, capabilities).
5. Green bikes project (getting more students involved in repairing bikes) continued until the end of the 2017 school year but has come to an end for now (lack of project teacher).
6. BikeBox Otaki – creating a bike repair facility and bike library (modelled after the Paekakeriki Bike Library) in an old shipping container based at St Peter Chanel School. We have recruited a bike-enthusiastic volunteer who will help with the fit-out of the BikeBox and run the facility for the community, which will attract all different groups within in the Otaki Community. This project is possible with a Waste Levy Grant from KCDC.
7. EO provided reconditioned bikes to students at St Peter Chanel School who did not own any bikes, allowing the giving the children greater mobility and allowed the students in summer to go by bike to the Otaki Pool. Bike safety training, provided with the help of the Bike Library Paekakeriki, was part of the deal and will continue in spring.
8. Otaki College Horticulture Block – Ongoing work in conjunction with the college and volunteers. In April a Garden Party, in co-operation with the Green Team of KCDC, took place and attracted over 50 visitors. Beside planting workshops and design yourown pizza, EO organised a display of the EVelocity bikes and invited participation of electrical cars and bikes for trial runs. The garden still provides some vegetables for the Foodbank and sells surplus to the Transition Town Fruit&Vegetable stand over the summer months, earning some money for new seedlings.
9. We revisited the Coppicing woodlot (established in 2016 by the EO interns), thinning and cutting the poplars and willows with the help of volunteers and some students. The wood

(which is still more on the thin side) will be dried and sold as kindling wood next winter and the profit will be used for a special school event like a class party.

10. KCDC Surplus solar water panels were sourced for the pool at Otaki College, extending the usage time of pool by two months and made the temperature more comfortable.
11. Energise Otaki is still in discussion with KCDC and getting closer to finalise the establishment of a Community Solar Farm.
12. We are working on raising the awareness in the community through participation at public events like the Otaki Community Expo, giving presentations about our idea of 'energising' Otaki. More effort was put into publicity with press releases and the EO facebook page. We are also working on a revamp of the EO website.
13. We have introduced special presentations about Energy related subjects to make our monthly meetings more interesting and hope to attract new members for the group. We have heard so far about the future of car batteries, the conversion of soft plastic to oil and gas and how to convert food waste in our community to energy.
14. EO continues to engage with other community groups to further benefit the community by way of its resilience messages. These include (but not exclusive to) Transition Towns Otaki, Otaki Energy Co-op, Volunteers Kapiti, Nga Hapu o Otaki.
15. The most exciting news is that Energise Otaki was successful in the new social funding model KCDC introduced in 2018. It was a long and complicated application process but the funding is now guaranteed for three years. Overall EO will receive \$134,000 (\$40K, 46K, 46K). This allows Energise Otaki to fund a Co-ordinator role over the three years starting as a part-time position.

In summary (as the Chairman) I believe Energise Otaki Inc. has shown it is a small but strong and effective society within the local community. Its visions and key goals are pressingly relevant to our community and the results are for all to see by way of the groups actions and summarised in this report. At this point a big thank you goes to our volunteers who help in different projects. A special thanks to Stuart Pritchard for the ongoing help for the Curtain Bank Project (i.e. transport of donated curtains to Wellington and return loads of remodelled ones to Otaki). I also wish to thank the committee. Hanna, as treasurer, has done a great job with EO's books and has been a tireless volunteer. Lloyd, as secretary, has painstakingly recorded the minutes at each meeting and as the owner of the Otaki Mail, he has been critical in getting the EO messages out to the community. A big thanks to Gael helping from a strategy and planning perspective and to Iain for his technical input to the community owned Solar Farm project.

30th August 2018



Leigh Ramsey
Chairman Energise Otaki Inc.