

Waitai
Coastal-Burwood-Linwood Community Board
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

Date: Monday 7 July 2025
Time: 4.30 pm
Venue: Boardroom, Corner Beresford and Union Streets,
New Brighton

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Urban Greening For Social Well Being

We design, create, and test meaningful green events, ideas, and spaces, which contribute to the social, cultural, wellbeing, and environmental ecosystems in Ōtautahi.



Our Vision for Better off Funding

To introduce and educate the community about the ecology and biodiversity of the local environment, our impact, its importance and its future.



Ecological Residency: New Brighton



Ecological Residency: New Brighton



- Portable outside workshop space
- All-accessible site, for everyone to enjoy and learn from
- Create a community meeting place with seating
- Landscape with local community to increase local biodiversity
- Work in partnership with local organisations
- Provide educational workshops
- Research and development in the area
- Signage regarding the surrounding environment and how we can make a beneficial impact



Updated map of Rāwhiti Domain (off Keyes Road), showing the proposed location of the Mobile Lab and other key features. The Green Lab - 2025

Key:

1. Sub station
2. Proposed location for Platform
3. Community plantings
4. Swale
5. Woodland Playground
6. Community plantings
7. Toilets



One thing leads to another!

Discovering Cockayne Reserve > Seasonal Booklet

Backyard Building at New Brighton Community Gardens & trap boxes > VolCan Big Day Out at Brooker Street > building 70+ traps at PCH with Salisbury Street Foundation

Insects in the surrounding area > Butterfly and moth printmaking > caring for Boulder copper butter site > designed sign for site about life cycle of the butterfly

Renewable energy > Community Energy Activator programme > leading energy efficiency project model house with Department of Computer Science & Software Engineering University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha





bridget@thegreenlab.org.nz



Ngā mihi nui to all the community groups we have worked with and to our funders



Ecological Residence- New Brighton , Better off funding CCC June 24 - August 2025

The Green Lab received funding support from the Waitai Coastal-Burwood-Linwood Community Board through the Better Off Fund. The original agreement was to relocate our Lab to the Red Zone and run ecological workshops from that site.

However, we chose not to take up the lease, as the proposed location is subject to future road development. Council raised concerns that we may end up operating within an active roadworks site. Around the same time, the Guardians of Rāwhiti Domain disbanded, and the Swale and Butterfly Garden in the Domain were left needing a community group to care for them.

Our mission closely aligned with the work the Guardians had been doing in those areas, so it made sense to shift our ecological resilience work to Rāwhiti Domain—even though this delayed the physical relocation of the Lab. That process has been on hold while the CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) report was completed.

Now that the CPTED report is finished, we propose to move the Lab to a location near the sub power station on Keyes Road. This site would not block key sightlines and could help activate an area identified in the report as having antisocial behaviour and poor vegetation management.

We propose to either take a six-month temporary lease or apply for a long-term lease, with the aim of creating a socially interactive space. This would include community co-designed seating platforms and bike stands. We plan to run hands-on building workshops such as fairy houses, insect hotels, and owl boxes, and continue our weekly workbees.

Additionally, we intend to develop workshops based on our seasonal ecological booklets—currently in development for Cockayne Reserve and New Brighton Beach, supported by funding from the Lottery Heritage and Environment Fund.

What we have achieved so far

1. Volunteer Agreement and Site Work at Rāwhiti Domain

We have signed a Volunteer Agreement with Christchurch City Council to work on two sites at Rāwhiti Domain:

- The Boulder Copper Butterfly Garden (beside the pump station), previously cared for by David Anderson (Corfe Reserve Volunteer). This project involves weed removal, planting, Boulder Copper butterfly release, invertebrate monitoring, and managing a predator trap—monitored and recorded via Trap NZ by our volunteers.
- The Swale Area, where we are infilling native plants and caring for surrounding community planting areas.

We have established regular, self-sufficient working bees every Wednesday, under an informal 'Friends of' group since April. We've also had help from Corrections NZ, Conservation Volunteers, and tamariki from New Brighton Catholic School, all supporting ongoing mahi on-site. We are committed to maintaining these plantings for at least 2–3 years, with a goal of ongoing stewardship.

2. Trap Box Workshops – Red Zone Support

As part of this funding, we supported Christchurch City Council Red Zone Rangers and the University of Canterbury Student Volunteer Army (UC SVA) during their "Big Give" event by building trap boxes for the Red Zone. We have since continued finishing the boxes that were not completed on the day, incorporating this work into our building workshops at Phillipstown Community Hub.

3. City Nature Challenge – Community Biodiversity Event

The Green Lab partnered with the Brighton Observatory of Environment & Economics Trust, and Christchurch City Council Regional Park Rangers, to co-host the "Discovering the Cockayne Reserve" event as part of the international City Nature Challenge.

Cockayne Reserve, a Site of Ecological Significance, preserves one of the few remaining patches of riparian wetland in the lower Avon catchment—now reduced to less than 20% of its original extent.

The event invited the community to learn about indigenous biodiversity through wetland plant, insect, and bird identification. We also ran rau pū watercolour painting activities, using natural dyes made from the Nature Dye Garden at the White Room and Rawhiti Domain plants.

The Stormwater Superhero Trailer was present at the event, thanks to support from the Community Waterways Partnership Fund. We've since been invited to run the event again and have received Lottery Heritage and Environment Fund support to create a seasonal booklet on both Cockayne Reserve and New Brighton Beach.

4. Creative Workshops at New Brighton Community Gardens

As part of our ecological residency, we ran several well-attended workshops at the New Brighton Community Gardens:

- A native butterfly and moth printmaking workshop, which attracted 50 participants of all ages. Three student volunteers from Ara Institute's Art & Design Department helped facilitate this busy session.
- Three backyard building workshops were also held outdoors in the gardens, where participants built insect hotels, flower presses, and more, focusing on hands-on learning and sustainability.

5. Interpretive Signage – Boulder Copper Butterfly Site

In collaboration with Christchurch City Council, David Anderson, and scientist / Teacher Bianca Woyak, The Green Lab helped design and illustrate a new interpretive sign for the Boulder Copper Butterfly site. The sign will be installed in front of the garden, in the car park off 347 Keyes Road, to inform the public about the importance and lifecycle of this native butterfly species.

- Volunteers and community partnership
 - Ara- art and design school
 - Corrections NZ
 - Conservation volunteers
 - Canterbury Student Volunteer Amy
 - Volunteers from the community
 - BOEE
 - CCC
 - New Brighton Community Gardens
 - Growing New Brighton
- Leverage/Sponsorship
 - Better off funding
 - Bark and Native plants from Christchurch City Council
 - Insect mentoring equipment from Nature Lab
 - Use of hall at New Brighton Community Gardens

Total volunteer hours: 300 + hours

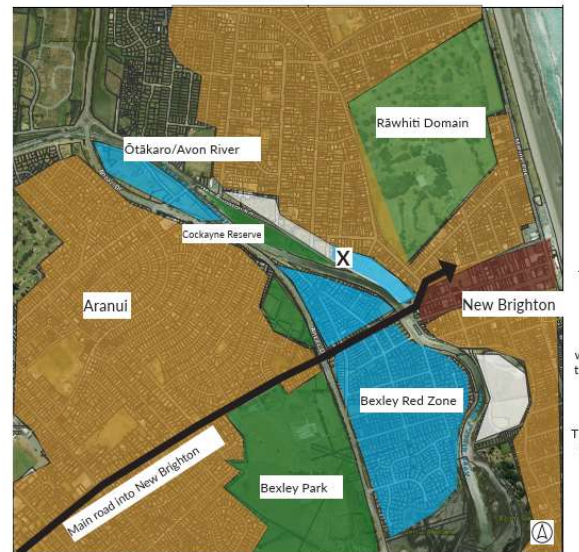
The Green Lab Mobile Workshop

Ecological Residency



The Green Lab Mobile Workshop

Ecological Residency



The Ecological residency site is situated between two residential communities: New Brighton and Aranui. The surrounding green spaces hold significant ecological value. On the banks of the Ōtākaro/Avon River lies the Cockayne Reserve, which extends to cover the wetland area between the river-side base of the New Brighton Road stop bank, from Bower Ave to Pratt Street. Further downstream is the Ihutai Estuary.

This area is home to rare and endangered plant and bird species, adding to its ecological importance.

Site location and wider landscape
Ihutai Estuary of the Heathcote and Avon Rivers



The Green Lab Mobile Workshop

Ecological Residency



Vision

To introduce and educate the community about the ecology and biodiversity of the local environment, our impact, its importance and its future.

How

By moving The Lab to the Rawhiti Domain, New Brighton, and introducing, at street level, The Green Lab to the community

- Supplying a portable outside workshop space
- All accessible site, for everyone to be able to enjoy and learn from
- Creating a community meeting place with seating
- Landscaping with local community to increase local biodiversity
- Working in partnership with local organisations
- Providing educational workshops
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- Signage regarding the surrounding environment and how we can make a beneficial impact



Research and Development

- Invertebrate population declining, and how to increase it
- Effects of introduced species
- Human impact on nature: eg; Plastic weed matting vs wood chips vs flax weaved mats
- Flood awareness
- Seasonal field guilds



Workshops

- Drainage and flood management
- Insects in the surrounding area and insect hotels
- Making trap boxes to encourage a predator free New Zealand
- Owl boxes for Brown owl research
- Built fairy houses
- Backyard biodiversity design
- Biodiversity art
- Discover Cockayne reserve



Landscaping ideas

- Increasing Native butterflies habitat and biodiversity
- Interactive renewable energy system
- Planting maintenance
- Social interaction space; platform, seating
- Bike stands
- Sponge garden



Working in Partnership with:

- The residents and community groups of greater New Brighton and Aranui



Map showing the location of Rawhiti Domain and the area where The Green Lab will be working.



The Green Lab mobile workshop



The Green Lab Mobile Workshop

Ecological Residency Landscape plan and visualisations of Mobile lab and platform



- Key:
- 1. Sub station
 - 2. Proposed location for Mobile Lab
 - 3. Social interaction space
 - 4. Swale
 - 5. Woodland Playground
 - 6. Community plantings
 - 7. Toilets

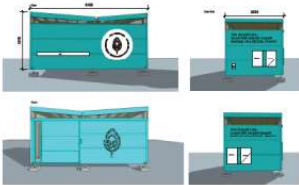
Updated map of Rāwhiti Domain (off Keyes Road), showing the proposed location of the Mobile Lab and other key features.
The Green Lab – 2025



Photo montage visualisation of the Mobile Lab on the south side of the Sub-Station, running a trap box workshop. The Green Lab – 2025.



Concept drawing of Social interaction space with platform and bike stands.
Drawn by Charlie Orr The Green Lab 2025



The Green Lab Mobile Lab

Purpose: Supporting the ecological residency

Function: Storage for workshop materials
Floor Level: Positioned at a minimum height of 200mm
Foundation: Set on an AP20 pad installed by The Green Lab
Operating Hours: No workshops scheduled after 7 p.m.



The Green Lab Mobile Workshop

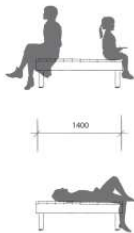
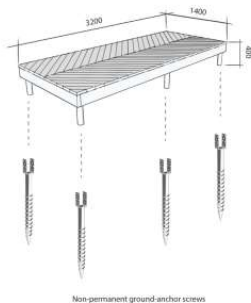
Ecological Residency Design detail of platform and bikestand concept

Concept drawing of bike Stand with Native Flora Motif

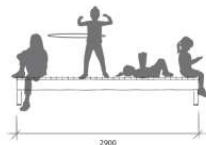
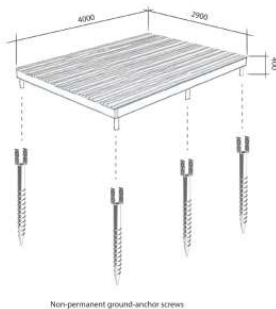


There are currently no bike stands in this area of Rāwhiti Domain. We want to encourage people to ride their bikes to the domain. By creating bespoke bike stands, we can not only support active transport but also add a stronger sense of place. These stands could form part of a consistent design language used throughout the domain, contributing to a cohesive and welcoming environment. Image and design by Charlie Orr, 2025

Design detail drawing of platform concept



The concept of the platforms is to co-design a space that encourages social interaction. These platforms are intended to be multi-purpose—accommodating larger groups such as families or school classes. They could serve as a place to lie down and read a book, rest your bags, or even set up microscopes for educational activities. Their placement is important and would be carefully considered to align with key sightlines, allowing people on the platforms to also act as informal social surveillance—helping create a safer, more connected environment. The platforms will be designed using non-permanent ground anchor screws, allowing them to be removed or relocated if needed. This approach ensures minimal environmental impact while maintaining flexibility in how the space is used over time. Drawn by Charlie Orr for The Green Lab, 2025



Information Session:

Wildlife Management at Bromley Oxidation Ponds/Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Refuge



**263 Bird species
recorded in
CHCH/Central
Canterbury**

THREATENED

Nationally Critical = 8 species
Nationally Endangered = 3 species
Nationally Vulnerable = 8 species

AT RISK

Declining = 11 species
Recovering = 6 species
Relict = 5 species
Naturally Uncommon = 9 species

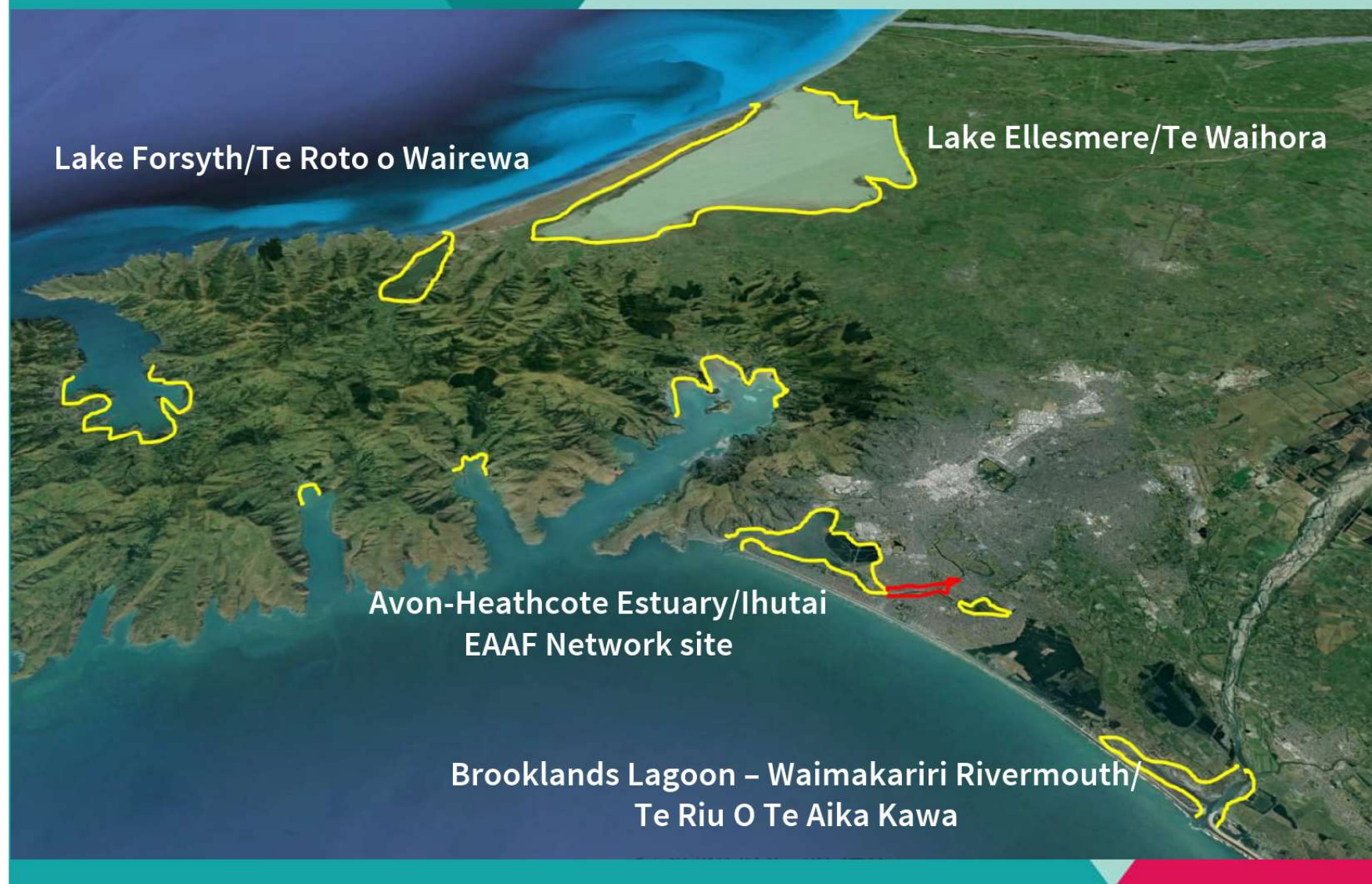
Christchurch
City Council

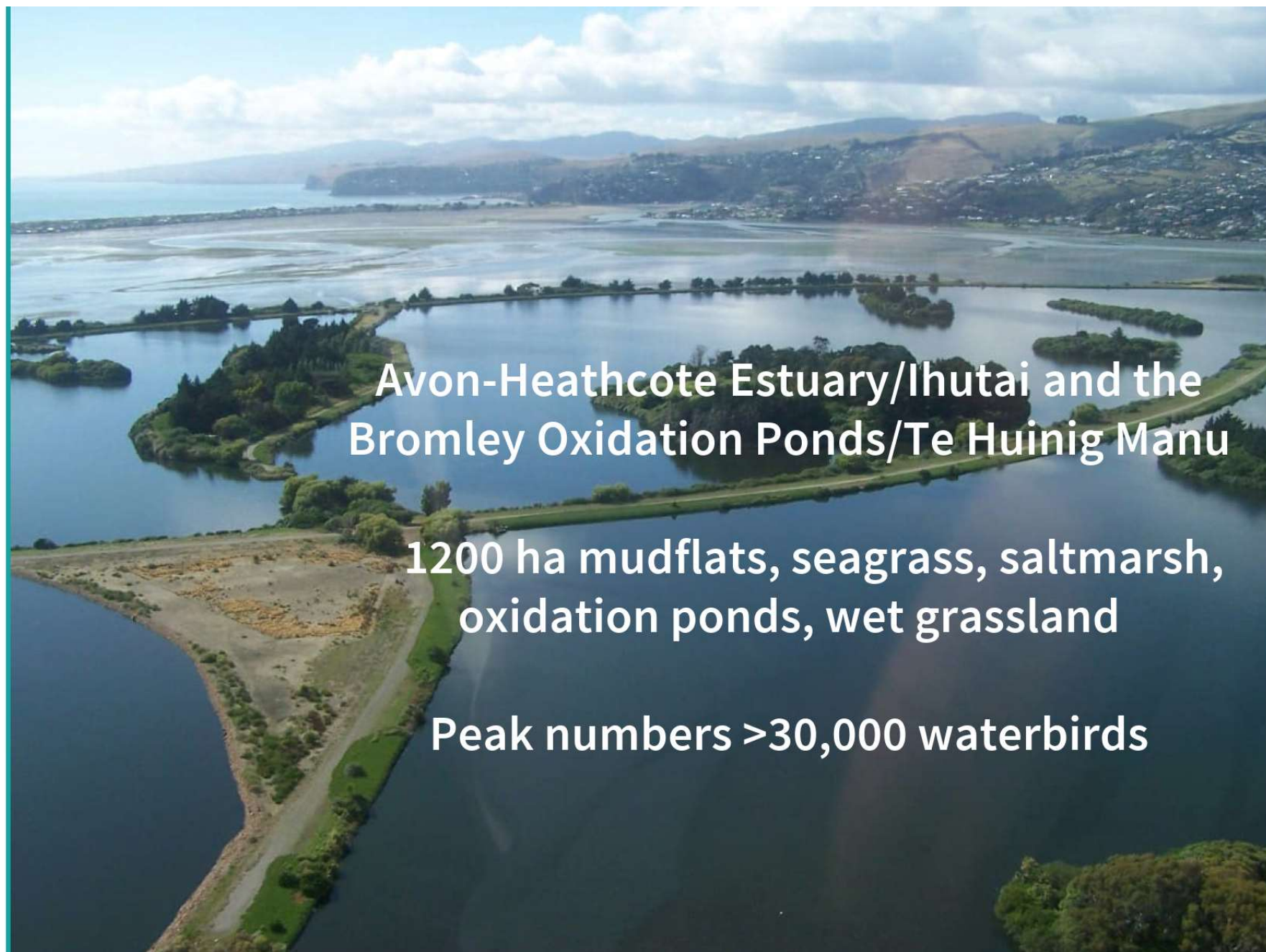


Christchurch and Central Canterbury are a major migration node, moulting site and wintering site for waterbirds.



Four coastal wetlands meet International Importance (Ramsar) Criteria - but only 1 designated an EAAF Flyway site





Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai and the
Bromley Oxidation Ponds/Te Huinig Manu

1200 ha mudflats, seagrass, saltmarsh,
oxidation ponds, wet grassland

Peak numbers >30,000 waterbirds



7000+ shorebirds (waders & terns)



15,000 waterfowl – mostly native

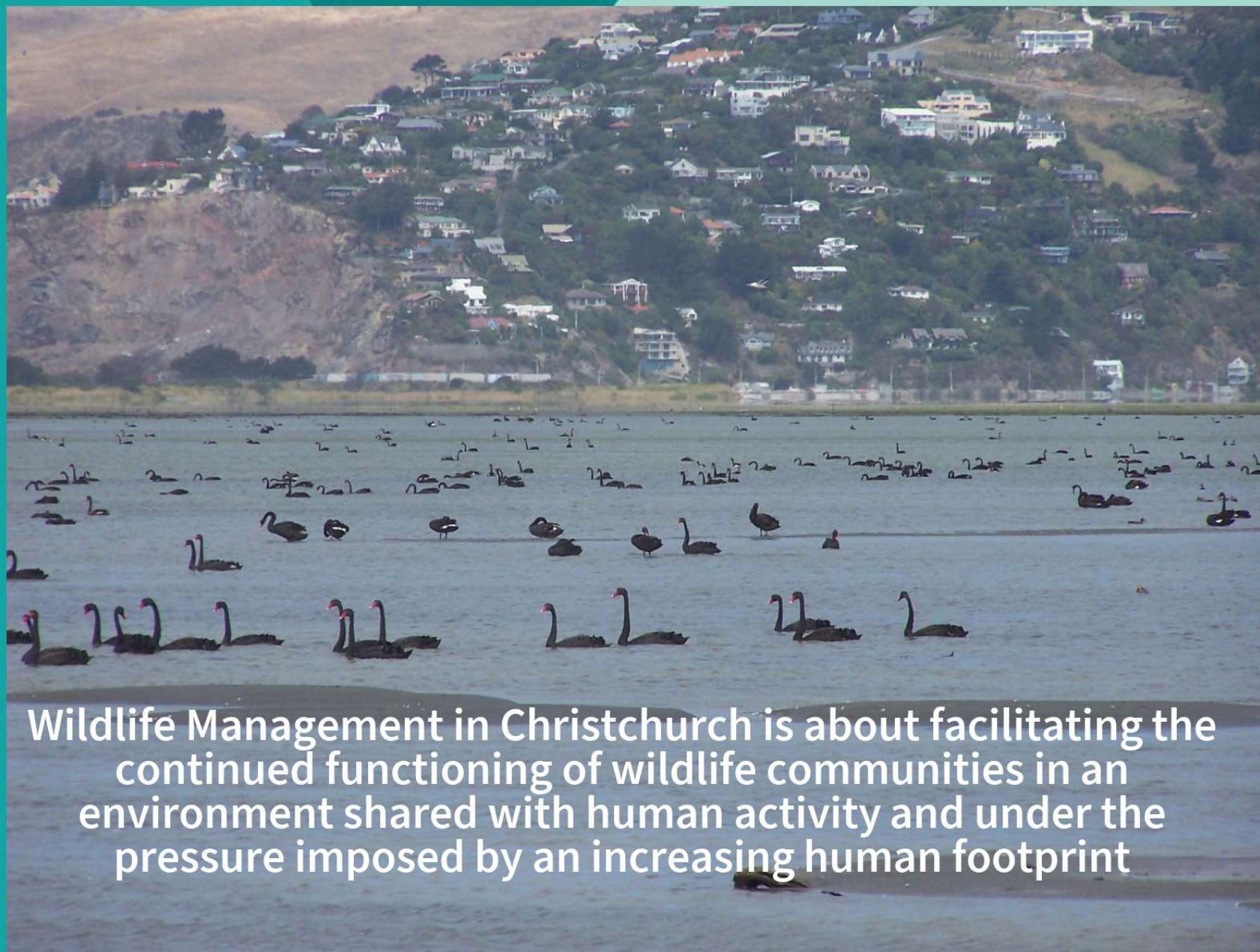




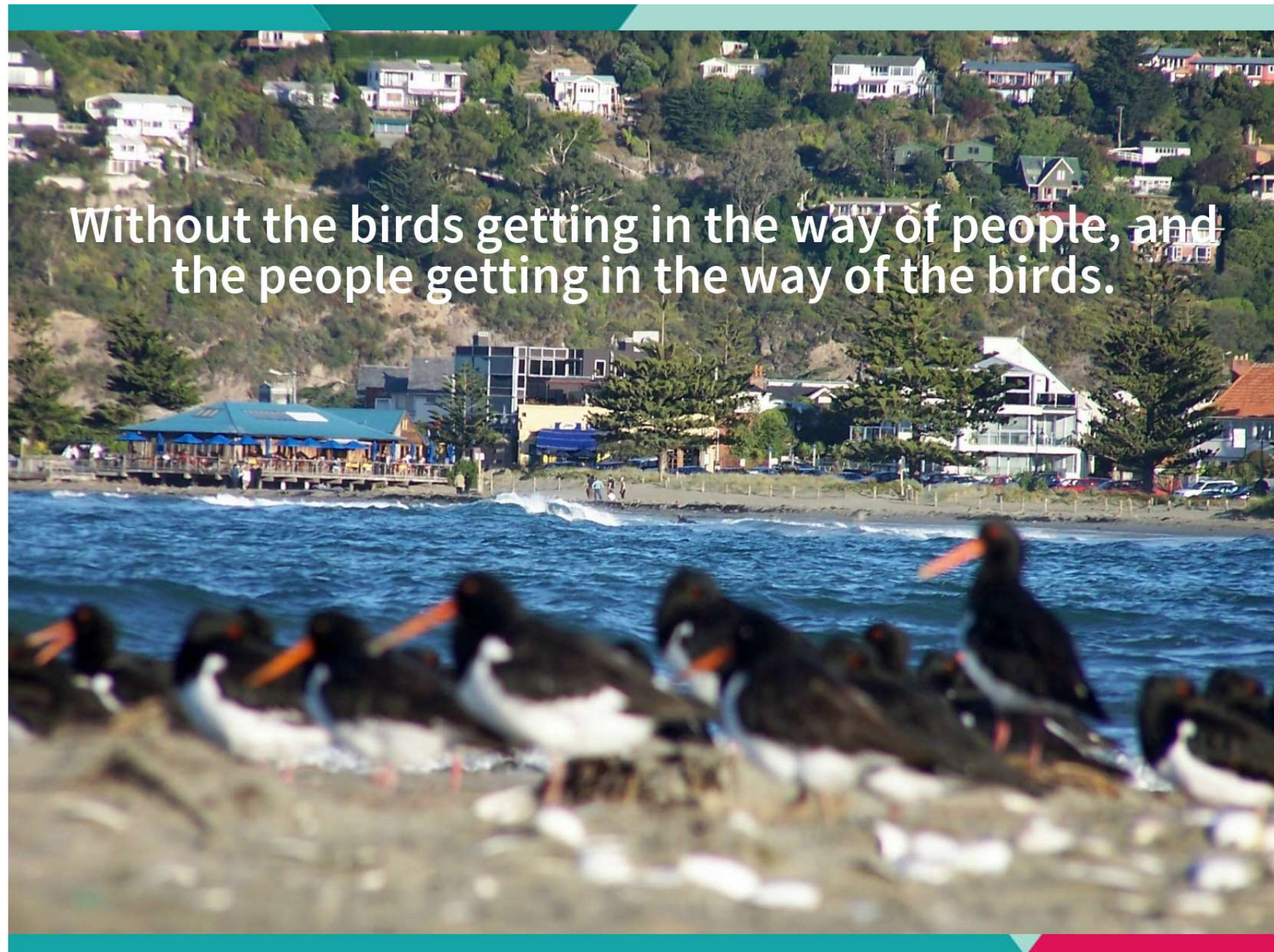
Australasian Shoveler



Grey Teal



Wildlife Management in Christchurch is about facilitating the continued functioning of wildlife communities in an environment shared with human activity and under the pressure imposed by an increasing human footprint





Christchurch City Council
Biodiversity Strategy
2008-2035

Ōtautahi/Christchurch and Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū/Banks Peninsula*

Christchurch
City Council 

Christchurch
City Council 



Avian Disease and Toxic conditions

Improved efforts to minimise disturbance





Dog disturbance





Midges





Welcome Swallow







