

The second networking event was held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Environment Canterbury in Christchurch. The event was well attended with 45 people representing community based/Third Sector Organisations (TSO), government agencies and philanthropic organisations.

The programme was developed based on feedback from the first event in November 2016 with sessions on building peer support and exploring the creation of an Environmental Hub/Centre for the greater Christchurch area.

### **Session 1: Let's build peer support**

Each table shared their skills and got to know each other a bit better. The amount of talent, knowledge and goodwill to help and support each other was re-affirmed once more. Some people provided their name and skills on a post-it to be shared with the wider group. We now need to determine where and how best to share this information.

Announcements of upcoming events were made by several groups. Dave Evans told us about an interactive calendar he is developing for ECO where groups can share information on upcoming events. This is a much needed tool and the groups expressed appreciation to Dave and ECO.

In closing, the group re-affirmed the value of continuing with these networking events. Brenda Green of CCC offered to host an event in July or August. The topic of funding was suggested, but will require unpacking in order to design an event fit for purpose. Ann Kennedy of AHEIT offered to host the fourth event in October at the Mt. Pleasant Community centre focusing on resource sharing and skill building- lessons learned by the bigger/long standing TSOs.

#### **Next Steps:**

1. Explore interest in establishing a skills registry that isn't available to the general public- Ali, ECan
2. Updates to the group on interactive event calendar development- Dave, ECO
3. Survey to determine what is wanted for Event 3- Brenda, CCC
4. Hold event 3 on funding in July-August- Brenda, CCC
5. Hold event 4 on resource sharing in October- Tanya Jenkins, AHEIT

### **Session 2: let's explore creating a Christchurch Environmental Hub/Centre**

This session began with a presentation by the working group on their proposal for an Environmental Hub/Centre for Christchurch. The proposal is available at <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/our-natural-environment/networking-for-the-environment/>. The proposal was received with enthusiasm and broad support. The group will work over the coming month to refine the proposal, develop a business case and explore funding options. People interested in being involved please contact Sophie Allen at [sophie.earthwater@gmail.com](mailto:sophie.earthwater@gmail.com)

Each table then discussed the proposal, answered a series of questions and fed back their top idea to the whole group. The top ideas are listed below in no particular order. See Appendix 1 for all the comments recorded.

- Regarding the name: Ecological instead of Environmental and prefer a Centre over Hub



- Businesses and Councils coming in and sharing skills, advice and information on monthly basis
- Tools to coordinate groups by location including displays on what is going on by area in (greater) Christchurch
- Co-work on projects
- Eco-café and outreach/advisory services open to public, needs to attract younger volunteers- inter-generational
- Mobile hub- consider construction of a building on 'surefoot' system suitable for the red zone e.g. Wiki house flexibility- pre-fab option
- CCC and ECan get involved and re-direct existing funds- how to achieve this?
  - o Present solutions for holes in policy- gap I.D. and operate in space needed.
  - o Make a physical presentation that lines up with policy
  - o Social change in relation to the environment e.g. water focus, Pest Free 2050, Ngai Tāhu, diversity, cross-community concept behind the proposal "Orbiter is more than a bus".

#### Next Steps:

1. Refine proposal- Working group
2. Develop business case and budget- Working group
3. Support for budget development- Andy Spanton, Selwyn District Council
4. Talk to WEA about project- Working group
5. Survey TSO interest in the hub so can present actual numbers<sup>1</sup>.- Working group
6. Provide clarity on Environment Canterbury Long-term Planning Process- Ali, ECan

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<sup>1</sup>The Third Sector Recovery in Post-earthquake Christchurch report at <http://onevoicetereokotahi.blogspot.co.nz/p/blog-page.html>- has survey information

## Appendix 1: Comments from Table discussions on Environmental Hub

Table 1: Responses to specific questions:

Q1: What sort of functions do you want a hub to have?	Q2: What would you personally use the hub for?	Q3: How can the hub be the most effective in supporting environmental action, leadership and innovation?	Q4: Should the hub collaborate or integrate with other sectors, for example enviro business? And if so, who and how?
Collaborative space, shared printing, technological support= sponsored Professionals available weekly for certain hours e.g. web developer, graphics. accounting	Monthly meetings- in collaboration with bookings of other places e.g. WEA	Practical admin support,	Hub manager lead negotiations for sponsorship
Promotion space- A place that can be fitted out with inspirational design/environment e.g. green walls, biodiversity photos, demo of successful projects.	Hot desks	Media Connections and use of training	In kind contributions- training days from Councils
Volunteer recruitment- events	Information dissemination	Bumping space	Window space- Sponsor business showcase for a month
Funding from Council and liaising opportunities. Close to ECan (regional idea)	Greater/wider Christchurch, including Selwyn district, Hurunui district	Visitors to learn about CHCH environmental development/action	Person based at the hub provides a green mark service for business- auditing and advice
Online calendar and resources and booking spaces	Networking/ Co-working	Groups supporting each other	Leverage off building companies to subsidise cost of building or landscaping
Equipment- display boards, projectors, gps units (potentially offsite storage)	Education- workshops	Outreach/ education/marketing/ communication/capture/ retain next generation	Yes- combine with environmental business e.g. Sustainable

			Coastlines new bldg
Special talks monthly. Technical experts e.g. Di Carter CCC Porthills restoration	Meet like-minded people/network/share ideas	Seminars for building capacity	Yes- with standards/ environment/social/ sustainability
Office and storage- rent by vertical m <sup>2</sup> per month	Advice- Knowledge hub for starting/running organisations e.g. programmes of workshops by guests/pro-bono lawyers/CCC/ECan/ accountants to give Q&As, templates, etc.	Information advisory services.	A cooperative?
Inviting for newcomers- visitors/young people- café		Tools to coordinate activities between groups- enable network coordination and overview of what's happening by area	Next Foundation (?)
Central physical place- Directory Meeting/office/admin support		Action-Provide a business environment, as doing business functions (marketing, social media, budgets, etc. (not a kitchen table environment)	Invitational



Figure 1: A Mind Map of Ideas

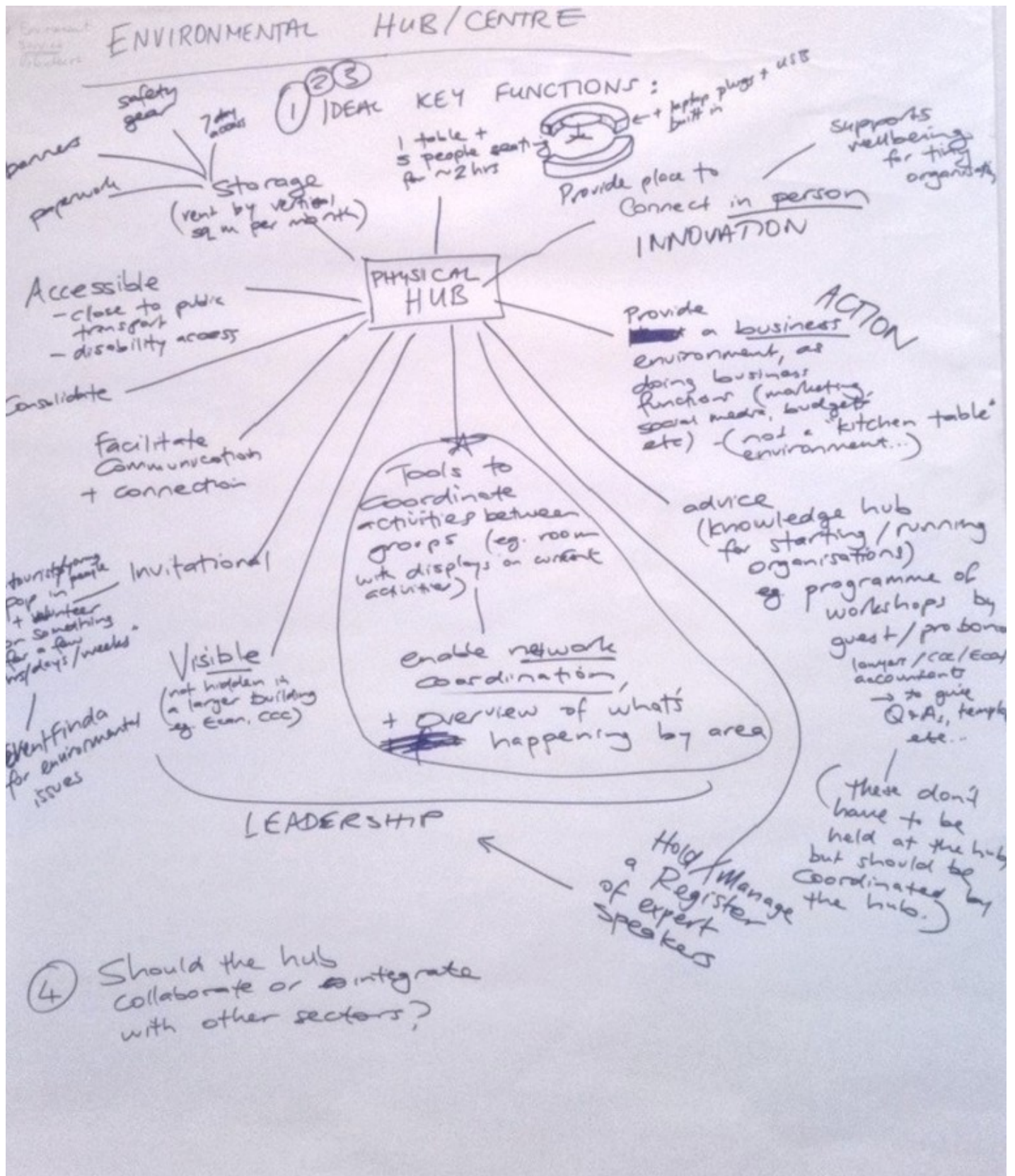




Table 2: Additional Comments and Thoughts.

Physical Space/services	Funding/support	Making money	Purpose/focus
Equipment storage necessary	CCC targeted rate of < \$10 annum per ratepayer	\$200-\$300/m <sup>2</sup> per annum	Is the building for public/tourists or coordinators?
Maintenance and custodianship	Gifting to build eco-friendly home	How to capitalise on tourism?	What is the hub going to do?
Access and key management and secure storage	Corporate sponsorship	How do environmental groups afford rent?	Moving away from providing information to the public because all available online
1 or 2 administrators to share among several groups	Need support from government agencies	How to sell a product on behalf of a business given the size of the groups?	Need for flexibility in focus
Accounting services provided/shared between groups	Concern for WEA- don't undercut their revenue from meeting room rental	Hot desk price too high	Explore who would want to share a hub with social services combined
Accessibility is very important- close to bus exchange	Make sure we don't stand on toes of partnership with WEA	Café business	Role of Councils in supporting the purpose of the hub?
Staged development- start with 200m <sup>2</sup> (1-3 years) and then 300m <sup>2</sup>	All existing hubs have Council funding	Support wellbeing for tiny organisations	Waste reduction
Central city preferred because red zone TC3 foundation requirements	Make submission to Long-term Plan and Annual Plan of City Council		Energy efficiency
Purpose build and design or large internal space	What current buildings and development are in place that could support an eco-hub in public/private partnership		Less information providers as internet provide it
New buildings with vacant floors- temporarily available in CBD			Establish clear objective/purpose and revise options



Part of CCC building as hot desks as part of developing proposal-first step	Knowledge Hub needs good staff		Enviro centre, social justice, global warming, restoration
Old Arts Centre re-establish or Botanical gardens old DOC info site			Volunteering focused organisations included
Subsidised commercial lease in South frame adjacent to EPIC			Integrate with existing food/community gardens Otākākāro Orchards
Ex IRD building on Bedford Row?			Be Visible- not hidden in a larger building e.g. ECan or CCC