

# 2021 SAGE Annual Report



**Lincoln University**

# SAGE Annual Report

Written by the Sustainability Action Group for the Environment (SAGE)

## Contents

Introduction.....	3
Background.....	3
SAGE 2021.....	3
SAGE Activities 2021 .....	3
1. Biodiversity on campus.....	3
2. Sustainable Transport.....	4
3. Waste Reduction .....	5
4. Sustainability week.....	5
5. SAGE seminar series .....	6
6. SAGE BBQ.....	7
SAGE 2022.....	7

## Introduction

As Aotearoa-New Zealand's specialist land-based university, our mission "for the world" and "live well" is always with the aspiration to "protect the future". The Sustainability Action Group for our Environment (SAGE) is a Lincoln University Staff Committee that exists to see Lincoln University as a thriving community that 'treads lightly on the Earth', living out its commitment to be an international leader in promoting and achieving sustainable practices. It complements the Lincoln University Sustainability Plan 2021, as well as sustainability initiatives coordinated under student organisations LUSA and LESS. This 2021 report will briefly reflect on SAGE's 2021 achievements and provide insight into next year's plans and ambitions.

## Background

In 1990 the student run group Lincoln Environmental Organisation (LEO) was established. Three years later the University Council adopted an Environmental Charter. This quickly led to the adoption of an Environmental Policy in 1993 (a first among New Zealand tertiary institutions). In 1999 the University agreed to establish an Environmental Task Force with the aim of implementing the Environmental Policy. In 2017 the University presented a Sustainability Policy and in 2017 SAGE convened as an active group consisting of staff members who promote sustainability campus wide.

## SAGE 2021

At the beginning of the year Sue Jarvis, Chair of SAGE since 2017, decided to step down and pass on the role of Chair to Jorie Knook. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Sue for all her work for sustainability at Lincoln University.

Furthermore, the university implemented its Sustainability Plan this year, which outlines university wide goals and commitments towards sustainability in all aspects of the university's activities: research, curricula, extension, building design, facilities management and operational practices, including all university properties and farms.

The implementation of this plan has provided SAGE the opportunity to reflect on its aims and actions around sustainability on campus. New terms of reference were put together by the policy subcommittee and will be elaborated on under 'SAGE 2022'.

## SAGE Activities 2021

### 1. Biodiversity on campus



Mid 2021 the biodiversity subcommittee largely merged into the Arboretum Governance group, with all members of the initial SAGE subcommittee now part of this group. SAGE continues to support this group, by providing funding for native plants (please see financial report for more details)

## 2. Sustainable Transport



The SAGE sustainable transport sub-committee supported sustainable transport via several initiatives this year:

- It contributed to the organisation of a 'green transport breakfast' during Lincoln's *Sustainability week* in August, where everyone who carpooled, bussed, walked or biked to university was rewarded a free breakfast.
- It arranged a bike mechanic on campus to offer a free bicycle service/safety check to students and staff. This initiative was started in October 2021, and during the rest of the year the mechanic was invited once a month. This successful initiative (in which more than 40 commuting bikes were serviced!) will be continued in 2022.



Figure 1 and 2: Bike mechanic on site

- Participated in several meetings with Environment Canterbury (ECAN) regarding improved bus services and explore possibilities such as subsidising student/staff fares (using funds generated from parking fees).
- Metro vouchers: more than 300 vouchers of \$10 were purchased to enhance bus use amongst LUs 2022 students. These vouchers will be handed out during orientation week in 2022.

### 3. Waste Reduction



Lincoln University is working to clean up our waste stream here on campus. SAGE contributed to two main initiatives this year:

- SAGE contributed to the funding of an independently conducted waste audit (see financial report for more details). This audit contributed to the identification of improvements on the waste stream on campus, such as better signalling
- SAGE members were involved in a pilot around organic waste on campus, led by Facilities Operations Manager Paul Dryden. This allowed the piloting of green bins in several main campus spaces, such as Grounded (in Forbes building).

### 4. Sustainability week



In August SAGE, in collaboration with LUSA and LESS, organised sustainability week. During this week a range of activities were organised, such as: a sustainability breakfast, an op-shop event, a panel discussion on regenerative agriculture and a planting session in the Arboretum.



Figure 3: SAGE members and LUSA students cooking sustainability breakfast



Figure 4: SAGE members advocating for sustainable transport during sustainability week

## 5. SAGE seminar series



This year SAGE organised an interesting and well-attended seminar series, consisting of four seminars. The following topics were covered:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2021: Seminar by Jono Frew on ‘Sustainable rural lifestyles and wellbeing’.
- 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2021: Discussion session hosted by Sue Jarvis on: ‘What is regenerative agriculture, why we should implement it and how it is implemented’. Head of the Future Farming Centre Dr. Charles Merfield explained what regenerative agriculture is. Findal Proebst talked about why we should consider implementing Regen ag. Leeston based farmer Simon Osborne provided insight in how regen ag is practiced on his family farm at Doyleston.



Figure 5: a glance into the audience during the discussion session on regenerative agriculture on the 5th of August

- 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2021: seminar by Dr. Paul Broady on 'The current status of the Greenland ice caps and Antarctica'.
- 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2021: seminar by Dr. Colin Meurk on 'Ōtautahi Eco-urban National Park City – Realizing the Vision'.

## 6. SAGE BBQ

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of November SAGE organised a BBQ in the Arboretum, saying thanks for the work that was done in this year, by not only the SAGE members, but also everyone who worked on sustainability at LU, such as the sustainability taskforce, LUSA and LESS.



Figure 6 and 7: SAGEs end of year bbq, an opportunity to thank all LU staff and students involved in sustainability work

## SAGE 2022

In 2022 SAGE will implement its new terms of reference. Following these new terms of reference, SAGE will change its structure from permanent subcommittees to three working groups (coordinated by the chair of SAGE):

- Policies working group** (conscience): this group provides feedback on the implementation of new policies; is in close contact with the Sustainability Task Force; and provides help and reflection on sustainability issues where necessary.
- Engagement working group** (awareness): this group is responsible for identifying, arranging and promoting sustainability initiatives, such as sustainability seminars. Furthermore, this group contains experts on key sustainability topics (e.g. transport, biodiversity, waste).
- Funding working group** (action): this group is responsible for the organisation, coordination and evaluation of the Sustainability Action Grants.

SAGE is looking forward to continuing collaboration with the sustainability taskforce and contributing to a more sustainable future for Lincoln University!

## 2021 Financial Report

Opening Balance (1 January 2021)            \$12,000

Expenses in 2021	Spent (\$)
Membership: Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) Annual fees (2021) <sup>1</sup>	1,235
Arboretum: Management	50
Waste Audit: Sustainably (Facilities Management to contribute up to \$1,500)	1,080
Event: Farewell afternoon tea for Sue Jarvis	200
Gift: Farewell gift for Sue Jarvis	100
Seminar: Donations to charitable organisations on behalf of seminar presenters <sup>2</sup>	207
Event: Sustainability week - 'sustainability breakfast'	139
Event: Cycling promotion – onsite bike mechanic <sup>3</sup>	4,500
Activity: Bus use promotion – Metro vouchers for students <sup>4</sup>	4070
Arboretum: Native trees for the entranceway (Trees for Canterbury) <sup>4</sup>	83
Event: End of year BBQ	331
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,995</b>

### Commentary

1. The ACTS Annual Membership fee in future years will be covered from Lincoln University central funds.
2. The following charitable organisations received donations from SAGE on behalf of the seminar presenters: Westpac Rescue Helicopter Trust (\$40), Christchurch City Mission (\$105), Soil & Health Association of New Zealand (\$25), One Acre Fund (\$36.63, US\$25).
3. The bike mechanic has been contracted to be on campus once a month for 15 months from October 2021 through to December 2022 (\$300/session).
4. Top-up vouchers for MetroCards were purchased at the end of 2021 to support sustainable transport amongst students for 2022.
5. In 2020, SAGE pre-paid Southern Woods Nursery \$4,090 excl. GST to purchase plants and accessories in 2021. Two transactions were made against this deposit in 2021 to the value of \$2,125.33, leaving a credit balance with Southern Woods Nursery of \$1964.67 excl. GST for purchases in 2022.



## 2022 Budget – Estimated Allocation

Item	Amount (\$)
Seminar donations (up to six events)	300
Sustainability week	200
Other events: BBQs, etc.	500
Sustainability Action Grants	4,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000</b>