

# **UC Sustainability Office Report**

## Sustainability Progress in 2013

Sustainability planning at the University of Canterbury is based on the draft '[Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022](#)', which breaks sustainability planning into short, medium and long term objectives. Annual planning for sustainability at UC is handled by the Sustainability Office and the operational elements of this are encapsulated in the Engineering Services Operational Plan.

Progress for 2013 in the physical infrastructure/resource use, teaching and learning and community engagement components of the overall Sustainability Strategy is described below.

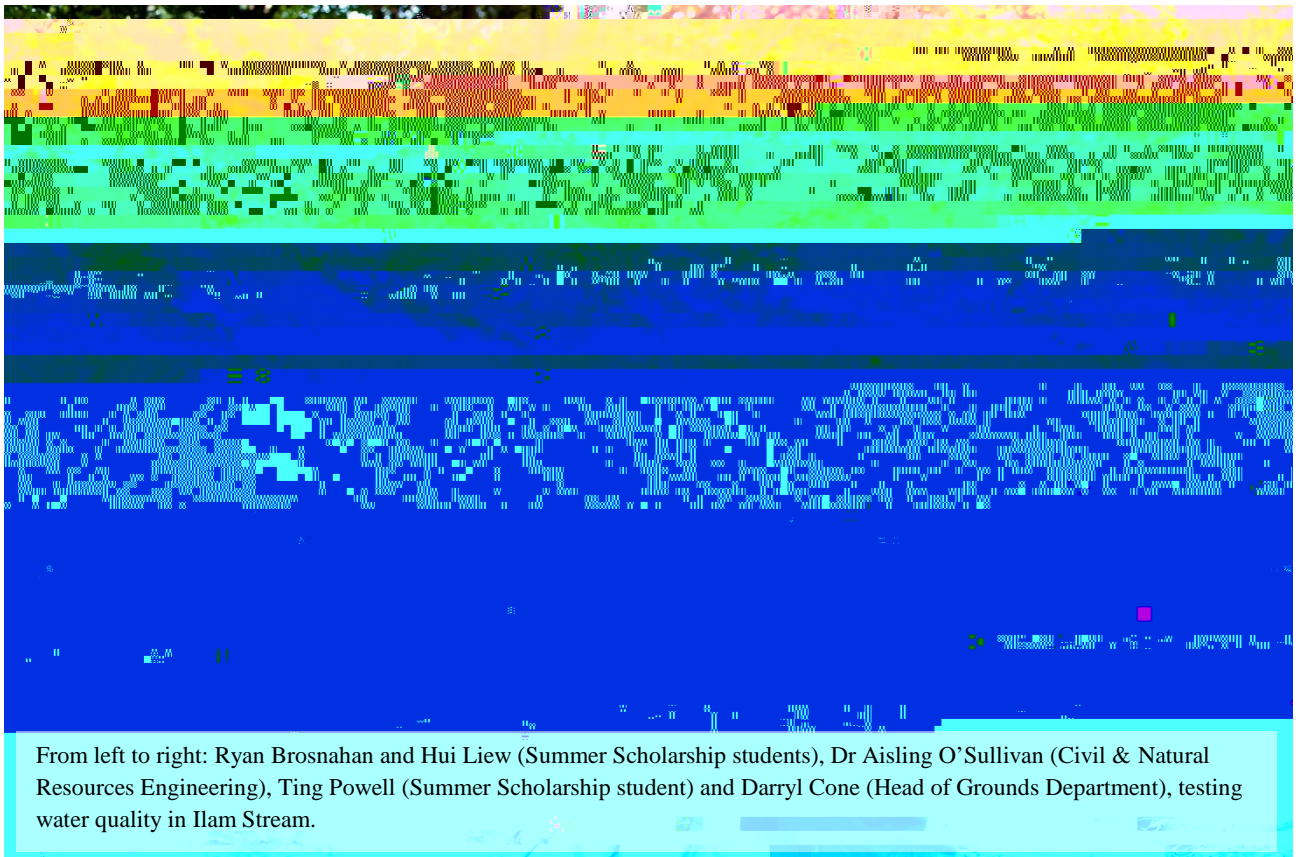
### Carbon reporting

The University of Canterbury remains the only university in New Zealand (and was the first in the Southern Hemisphere) to be certified with the Certified Emissions Measurement and Reduction Scheme (CEMARS). This allows us to comprehensively track our Greenhouse Gas emissions and reduce them. Our carbon profile can be found [here](#).

At the same time a collaboration with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority helped establish a goal for UC to be carbon zero by 2050, and progress on advancing this vision is expected during 2014.



### Landscape & Biodiversity

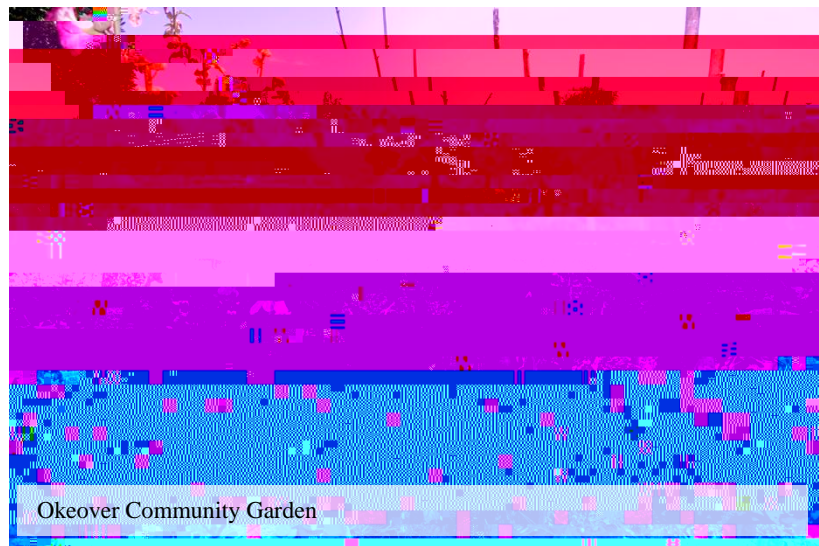


From left to right: Ryan Brosnahan and Hui Liew (Summer Scholarship students), Dr Aisling O'Sullivan (Civil & Natural Resources Engineering), Ting Powell (Summer Scholarship student) and Darryl Cone (Head of Grounds Department), testing water quality in Ilam Stream.

The Grounds Department initiated a trial along the Ilam Stream during 2013 by turning off the artificial flow and encouraging the stream to find its own natural course, with a view to enhancing the native habitat.

The trial resulted in a much reduced channel and new plant species populating the space within a matter of months.

The community garden on the Dovedale site received attention at a selection of community events and course related activities, and hosted a large group of university managers from Jiangxi Province of China. Towards the end of the year the garden was transformed in function to include allotment gardens for a local school and garden beds for large crops that can't be easily grown at the Okeover Community Garden, and is now a satellite site of Okeover.

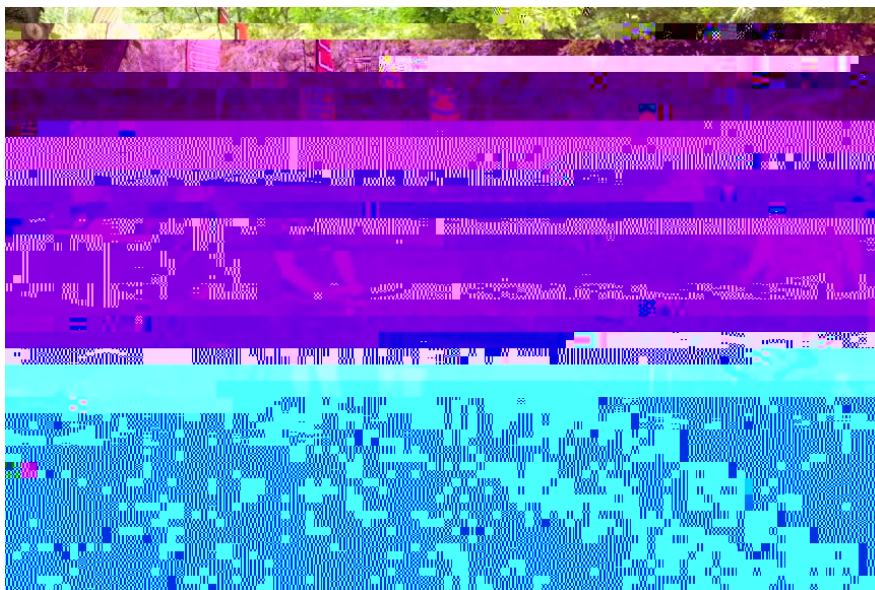


The Okeover Community Garden had a very strong year with huge student interest generated through a new student club, DigSoc. Between 24 May and 28 December over 388kg of produce was harvested and distributed.<sup>6</sup>

## Transport

As UC prepares to consolidate teaching on Ilam Campus, and begins work on the Regional Science Innovation Centre as well as continuing an extensive remediation programme, on-site travel options are being closely looked at. This includes developing priority access ways for both pedestrians and cyclists.

There has been a dramatic decline in the availability of cycle parking facilities since the earthquakes as areas are closed down for remediation (it is estimated that over 700 bike parks have been lost). However, planning is underway to turn this around in 2014 by repositioning existing stands so that more use can be



made of them, and by purchasing new stands.

A major development was the City Council's upgrade of Ilam Road, including concrete separators for cycle lanes and two new pedestrian crossings (both of which had been called for in successive Transport Surveys), a great success. The City Council also began discussions with the University regarding a city to university cycle way, to come through campus.

<sup>6</sup> A system for weighing the produce was established in May 2013. Two weeks' of produce were not weighed in June



## Secondary School Support

In 2013 academics from a range of disciplines and the Sustainability Office initiated a pilot project to bring secondary school students on a sustainability tour of the campus. In part this was driven by the realisation that Education for Sustainability as a discipline needs more support in schools at the senior level. Over 150 secondary school students participated, discovering UC's ecological restoration efforts along the Okeover Stream.

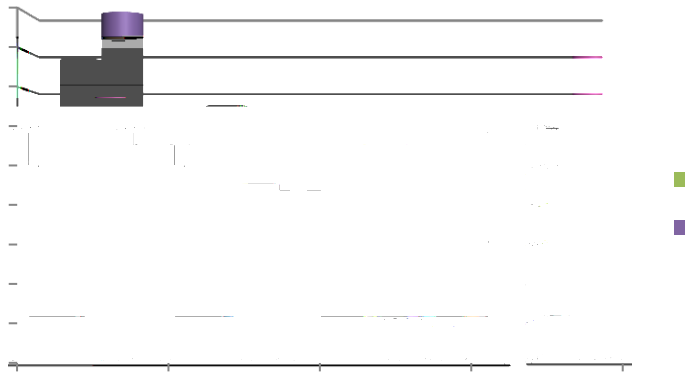
## NZAEE Conference

During 2013 the Sustainability Office was actively involved in planning the biennial conference of the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education. This was held at UC with the opening ceremony at CPIT, and brought together 150 environmental educators and sustainability professionals from around the country and beyond.

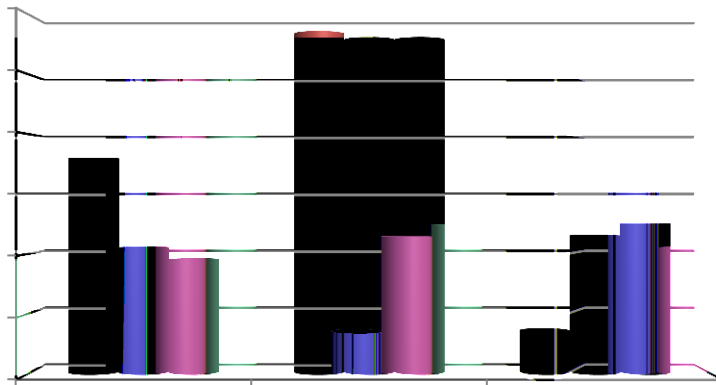
## 2013 Sustainability Survey Results

Students were again surveyed for their thoughts about sustainability in 2013. The full report of the survey results can be found [here](#). The results indicate, once again, that sustainability is an important area of concern for UC students.

In addition to that trend, more students reported that they believe knowledge of sustainable practice would



45% of students reported that they would like a stronger focus on sustainability within their course of studies, up 6% on the 2012 response.



Students again reported that they take action in their own lives to try to be more sustainable, with an increase in those saying they take many practical actions to be more sustainable.

## 2013 Sustainability Award Winners

The University of Canterbury Sustainability Office rewards those departments and people around campus that are making the effort to make this University more sustainable, by organising and hosting the annual Sustainability Awards, as part of Eco Week.

The 2013 Sustainability Awards winners were presented with a range of prizes by the Student Association's Vice President, Andrew Ramsay, at a function held at the Shilling Club – a new venue on campus. The winners were selected by a judging panel consisting of Chrissie Williams (former Christchurch City Councillor and now leader of Ecan's Natural Environment Recovery Programme), Tony Moore (Christchurch City Council's Sustainability Advisor), Bjorn Arndt (UCSA Exec Member - Sustainability) and Sally Airey (Gap Filler Trust). More information about the winners' achievements can be found [here](#).

#### **SUPREME AWARD**

Jason Pemberton, Residential Red Zone Reclamation Project

#### **FAIRTRADE DIAMOND AWARD**

Simon White, Paper Reduction Project

#### **GOLD AWARD: STUDENT**

Hannah Howard, for work with UC Bike and the establishment of the Re:Cycle Project

#### **GOLD AWARD: STAFF**

HydroEco Research Team, for the group's work in monitoring and restoring the Okeover Stream (Ash O'Sullivan, Tom Cochrane, Tonny de Vries, Peter McGuigan)

#### **SILVER AWARD: STUDENT**

