

**RATA Foundation: outcome of funding and next steps**

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[www.climateandnature.org.nz](http://www.climateandnature.org.nz)

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**Background**

Our goal was to create a resource and information hub to share learning, knowledge, and practical actions to address the climate emergency in Canterbury. The content was intended to draw on peer-reviewed research and proven outcomes, presented in accessible ways that empower and enable people to develop climate resiliency for themselves, their whanau, and their communities, using the proven networking and communications model as BRaid uses for braided rivers.

**Outcome**

An application to the Rata Foundation for $15,000 resulted in funding of $10,000 being granted in August 2020. We subsequently designed and created a website using a ‘one-stop-shop’ information portal centred on climate change adaptation and mitigation, from a biodiversity paradigm. That is, the threats to biodiversity and its central role to enable climate mitigation and adaptation. While the focus is Canterbury, the core material has applications nationally and globally. A minimum of 30 pages was proposed, with the understanding that this would be expanded organically over time as needed and subject to funding.

As of today, the website [www.climateandnature.org.nz](http://www.climateandnature.org.nz) has 66 published pages and several draft pages currently being researched and written, under the ‘our places’ section. Unpublished pages include additional groups on the Banks Peninsular, Christchurch wetlands, and biodiversity projects in the Hurunui and Waimakariri Districts. These pages are the key aim of the site and networking hub. The 48 science and policy pages under ‘Nuts and Bolts’ section underpin and support the rationale.

**Next steps**

On Monday February 01, we met with ECan, who have agreed to continue funding the project. They will also facilitate a hui, inviting key stakeholders from multiple sectors across Canterbury to assess the role of the website, the type and range of content, and to develop and foster a networking group and nascent advisory group to ensure the project outputs match the intended goals. This will enable us to start focussing on news and social media content as well as building resources.

We would like to thank you for your support in providing seed funding for this project. We would also love for you to share information about this project to the wider community, as it is, after all, intended to become a networking hub and of benefit to the larger community.

Yours faithfully

Sonny Whitelaw

Manager