

A person wearing a red jacket is holding a small stem with yellow flowers. The background is a blurred landscape with a lake and greenery.

wao

**Annual
Report
2022**

rīpoata
ā-tau
2022

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01 About This Report



+Generate Tourism Hui, Wao Summit 2022

Kia ora, and thank you for taking the time to read the 2022 Wao Annual Report.

This report reflects back on the incredible impact Wao has achieved in just five short years, not only in the Wānaka community, but across the entire district. This report delves into our achievements to date, with specific focus on the year, 2022.

The report is intended to be read online to save on paper - **there is no need to print it out.**

We are happy for the information provided in this report to be widely read and circulated, but we ask that you respect our copyright, and if you'd like to use any excerpt of this report for your own means we ask that you seek prior permission from us.

For questions about this report or feedback please contact us via **kiaora@wao.co.nz**

Noho ora mai,
Wao

02 Welcome from the Chair

Stepping into the role of chair this year has been a new experience for me. It afforded the opportunity to lead on the importance of human sustainability both within the Trust and as an essential part of our work to create a thriving environment with the people that live in it. In the rollercoaster of post pandemic optimism with hopes for a return to familiarity alongside events confirming that we are indeed forging a new future further magnifying the need to take responsibility for our own health and wellbeing it could not have been a better time.

We successfully received grants from a number of funders and thanks to the generosity of sponsors and donations we were able to follow through on our strategic plan for the year. The initiatives and events we successfully ran affirmed the appetite in our community for action in the area of sustainability. The Climate Action Initiative (CAI) was oversubscribed with businesses keen to take part and receive support to calculate their greenhouse gas footprint and create an actionable plan to address it. The regular Green Drinks had an excellent turnout with people keen to learn about various aspects of environmental change and solutions. We held our first month-long Biketober, planned and organised entirely by our Get SMART team of local volunteers.

With successfully running the 2021 Wao Summit despite the odds, we embraced the learnings and challenges it provided us to create and host the 2022 Wao Summit in October. A week of events celebrating how people are making a difference and how a bigger difference can be made by connecting with each other. The Summit attracted international attention for showcasing robust projects and programmes in our region on all aspects of sustainability. Most importantly we were rewarded with the evidence of people's behaviour being influenced and inspired following their attendance.

This year has also been of significance to us being the 5th year anniversary of Wao. We have celebrated the incredible work over those years. We also welcomed new members to our board bringing further depth and breadth of expertise and practical support. We were recognised in the Ignite Business awards and one of our co-founders Monique Kelly was nominated as Sustainability Superstar at the Sustainable Business Network awards.

What has been achieved is due to the partnerships and collaborations with others and it is with my deepest thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers, fellow board members, individuals and organisations who have allowed us to create more than the sum of our parts.

It is with great excitement that we are looking to 2023 with the return of the Autumn Harvest Festival, as well as a new food resilience work stream funded by QLDC, and a film festival in May. There is much to be done in the coming year that will be achieved by working sustainably with joy.

Claire Akin-Smith, Chairperson



03

Wao Board

The board is a mix of skills and backgrounds. With a flat structure, many of the members contribute both from an operational and governance level. Wao welcomed in 2022 three new trustees to the board; Annabel Burgess, Geoff Tomkins and Julia Blackford. A big thank you to Darrin who is stepping down for all of his incredible contribution to Wao over the past five years.



[Annabel Burgess](#), trustee, is a sustainability consultant helping businesses close the gap between sustainability theory and action.



[Dr. Carly Green](#), trustee, PhD in International Climate Change Policy. Her business Environmental Accounting Services provides technical expertise to Wao.



[Julia Blackford](#), trustee, with a background in food tech and NPD within FMCG, special focus on food systems and plant based food innovation.



[Anna Craig](#), trustee, holds expertise in communications and her business Conscious helps elevate awareness for Wao.



[Darrin Brown](#), trustee and chairperson, has an accounting business in Wānaka, Greenhawk, and provides financial services to Wao.



[Monique Kelly](#), trustee, has worked at the international level in policy and standards development, is a small business owner, company director, and CEO for Wao.



[Claire Akin-Smith](#), trustee and chairperson, is a human health strategist with expertise in what makes people perform at their best.



[Geoff Tomkins](#), trustee, is retired and an active Rotary member with experience in consulting and project management.



[Olivia Bonifant](#), secretary for the Board of Trustees and Wao Program Manager.

04 Celebrating Five Years

Wow, we're five already! It seems like only yesterday we were holding our first meeting at one of the local Wānaka cafes. Wao is a true collective - a group of passionate individuals focused on mainstreaming sustainability and regenerative thinking - not just in the Southern Lakes but across the entire country.

The name Wao, an acronym for Working As One, was also chosen for its māori kupu - forest. The forest symbolises the space between the ecological ceiling and social foundation, which we need to transition from a siloed monoculture into a self sustaining, diverse, thriving ecosystem. Wao, the forest, with its intrinsic diversity, natural regeneration and climate regulating abilities.

Celebrating five years of building up the soil and planting the seeds of change to inspire, educate and enable communities to shift towards a regenerative way of living in harmony with our earth's systems.

Celebrating the five year anniversary of Wao, the Wao tree that was first designed in 2021 was developed into the Wao "five" (pictured on the right), with each aspect of our community depicted in the shape of a five. Reflecting on what has been achieved as a community in five short years, and will be detailed further in this report.



05 Strategic Plan



06

Our Mission: Inspire, Educate, Enable

The social science behind building up our community soil and planting seeds of change focus on the first three areas of the change management cycle.

Where there is loss, inspire.

Where there is doubt, educate.

Where there is discomfort, enable.



Our Drains Are Streams, Wao Summit 2022



ECOSYSTEMS ANALYSIS

TAKE STOCK of current situation and get baseline. Establish an ecosystems directory of key partners using SDG framework.

06 REVIEW
CHECK WE'RE ON TRACK.
New behaviour has become entrenched. Review vision, baseline & roadmap. Integration of new factors, increase understanding of situation & continue with engagement of partners.

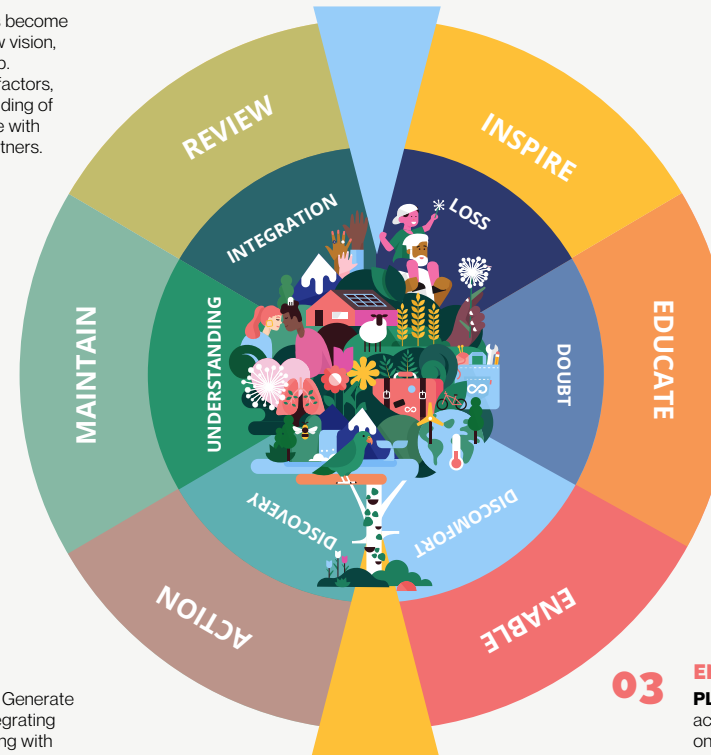
01 INSPIRE
ESTABLISH COLLECTIVE VISION to act as north star to guide action. Inspire through looking at current best practice and change makers. Replace sense of loss with hope.

02 EDUCATE
PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIGHTBULB MOMENTS. Raise awareness around urgency of the issue. Negate doubt by founding information on global goals, science based targets & best practice.

05 MAINTAIN
MAINTAIN COURSE. Sustain effort to ensure vision is reached. Understand need for sustainability for wellbeing, capacity & resourcing perspectives.

04 ACTION
TAKE ACTION. Generate wins through integrating action plan starting with easiest first. Ensure communication between groups to cross pollinate ideas & enhance sense of discovery.

03 ENABLE
PLOT ROADMAP. Enable action collectively. Deciding on key levers to pull and co-design roadmap to reach the vision outlined by group. Ensure everyone is involved to lessen discomfort & create ownership of solutions.



DANGER ZONE

If not enabled, behaviour will go back to original position.

07 Sustainable Development Goals

We are based at the headwaters of the mighty Mata-Au/Clutha River. It receives its waters from the rain and snow that lands in the Southern Alps in warm winds from Australia and the Pacific and cold blasts from the Southern Ocean and Antarctica. This water flows through the Otago region and out into the sea. It connects us with our land and other peoples through this water cycle.

Just as we cannot forget that we are part of this natural cycle, we are also part of a global community. This community faces joint challenges that need to be solved through partnership and collaboration. The United Nations (UN) [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) provide not only goals and targets but also shared language and a framework to measure our joint acts against. Each one of the 17 goals has to be viewed in the context of the whole. They provide us with a comprehensive matrix in which we work.

Our work is based on these goals and inspired by Kate Raworth's [doughnut economics](#) along with [Teina Boasa-Dean's](#) interpretation of this through a Māori lens. The space between whenua (land) and rangi (sky) is where we inhabit, where everything is interconnected. When speaking about climate action, we cannot ignore other species who share this planet with us, the water, air or land just as we have to take into consideration our human, social and economic needs.

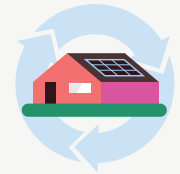
This year, we have looked at translating the SDGs into a local context, one which demonstrates more clearly their interconnectedness, reflects our priorities and deepens their meanings. The Wao community and icons on the right illustrate our interpretation of the goals.



Climate Action



Regenerative Tourism



Better Building



Food Resilience & Security



Health & Wellbeing



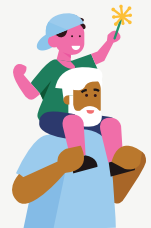
Thriving diverse ecosystem



Partnership & Collaboration



Democracy & Reducing Inequalities



Empower Youth



Communication for Change



Innovation & Decent Work



Circular Economy

08 SDG Stats

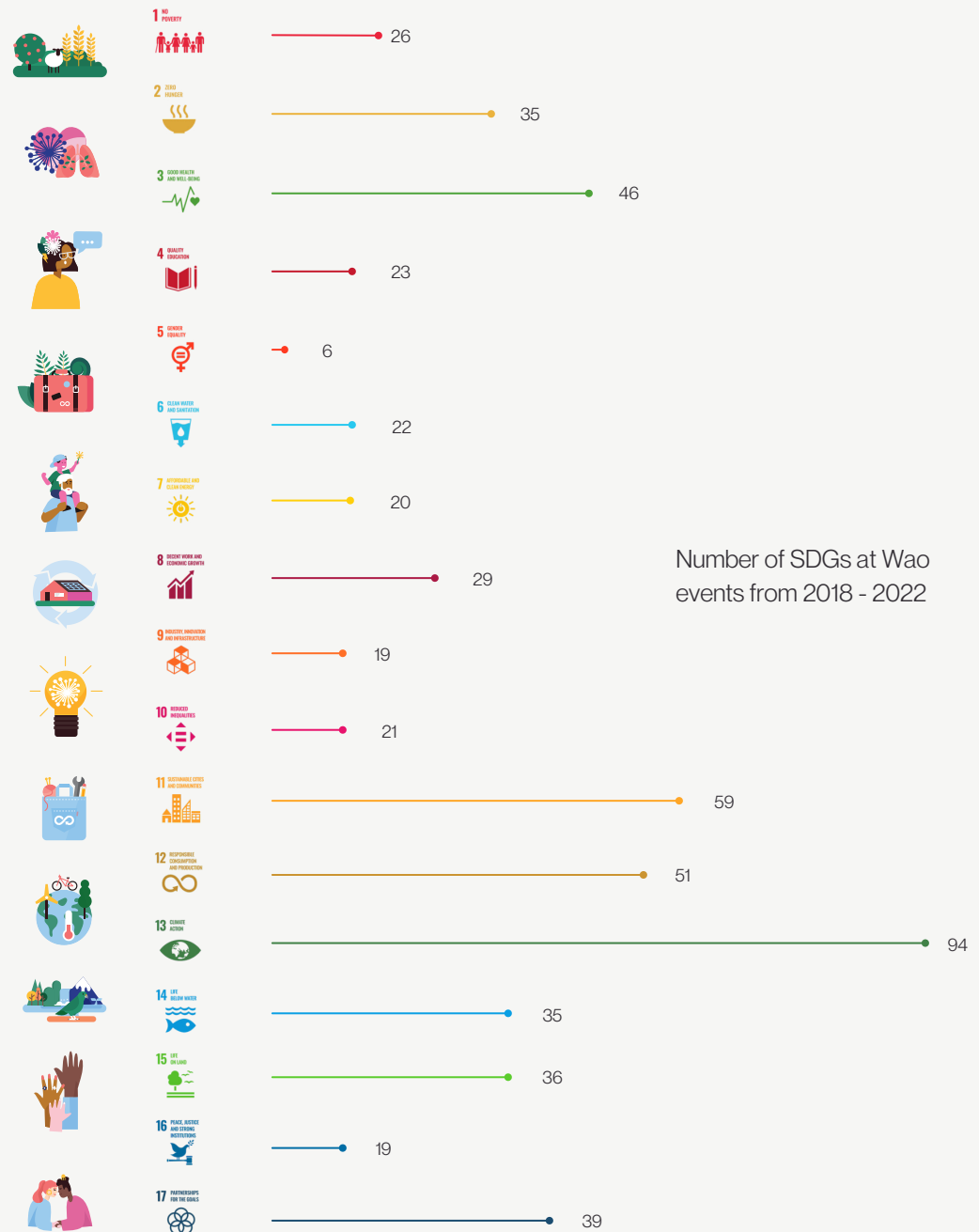
Keeping track of how we are doing is a constant work in progress. Our aim is to ensure we take a broad lens with respect to our work streams and look at sustainability as a holistic whole. For each of the events that Wao has held over the past five years, we have tagged relevant SDGs.

However, we feel that putting boxes around the goals was counter-productive. We came up with our own interpretation of the SDGs. Reflecting their interconnectedness, all events, projects and activities address multiple goals. We also wanted to integrate a stronger cultural element into our updated SDG framework.

In 2022, [Climate Action \(Goal 13\)](#) again was our number one priority and will remain so for the foreseeable future. The [IPCC Sixth Assessment Report](#) outlines why this needs to be one of our core focuses. Related to this, other key actions have focused on building community resilience ([Sustainable Communities](#), [Circular Economy](#), [Health and Wellbeing](#) and [Decent Work \(Goals 3, 8, 11 & 12\)](#)) as well as connecting our community with the natural world ([Biodiversity](#), [Land and Water \(Goals 6, 14 & 15\)](#)). [Education for Sustainable Development \(Goal 4\)](#) cuts across everything we do as this is part of our core mission.

We are currently looking at ways to address [Equality \(Goals 5 & 10\)](#), both within the organisation as well as in the work that we do. We are actively looking at ways to increase the gender balance, as we are a predominantly female-led organisation, and ensure we have a fair representation of our community by engaging in genuine partnerships with all ages, genders, ethnicities, backgrounds and demographics.

Finally, [Partnership \(Goal 17\)](#) is the goal that connects all of our actions together, creating exponential impact. Its importance to our work will be discussed further along in the report.



09

Building Soil 2018-2022

In the last five years, we have focused on "building up the soil" so that the seeds of change have a fertile ground in which to germinate and grow. The end of the year saw a major announcement from our tourism community, setting the goal to decarbonise the sector by 2030. This is a major ambition, which has been made possible through having an informed, active and receptive community who want to push beyond business as usual.

Below is a brief visual outline of some of the work accomplished since 2018. 2022 the priority was to focus our energy on going more in depth on what we do well.



2018

- Eco-systems analysis
- First film evenings
- One Summit launched
- Ecofair at One Summit
- TIA workshops
- Better Building Working Group established
- SUC Free Campaign launched
- Te Kakano
- Wastebusters

2019

- One Summit 2019
- Harvest Feast 2019
- Support to Food for Love
- WAI Wānaka Food & Fibre programme at Summit
- Ecofair at One Summit
- 52 Weeks challenge
- TIA workshops
- Re+Generation Schools Project
- SDG Schools Summit
- Civil Share - sharing scheme for resources explored
- Better Building Working Group Survey
- Submissions on need to act on climate to QLDC
- Climate Emergency declared
- 45 attendees at Climate Action Workshops
- Wao Submission on Carbon Zero Bill
- Friends of Bullock Creek
- SUC Free Wānaka
- Te Kakano
- Sustainable Coastlines
- WAI Wānaka
- Wastebusters
- Wānaka Backyard Trappers
- Whaiao RCE Otago

2020

- Reset Summit 2020
- WAI Wānaka Food & Fibre programme at Summit
- Wao Wellbeing day at Reset Summit
- Gen Wao mental health event
- Rebrand from One to Wao
- Southern Lakes Think Tank launched
- Southern Lakes UN Youth Summit
- Kahu Youth at Summit
- Mates in Construction workshops
- Construction Waste workshop funding with Wastebusters, Waste Minimisation Fund
- Wānaka Community Workshop established
- BRANZ Embodied Carbon Workshops
- QLDC Climate Action Plan adopted
- 96 attendees at Climate Action Workshops
- Wao Submission on Building for Climate Change - MBIE
- Max Rashbrooke democracy event
- QLDC Climate Action Group
- Te Kakano
- Southern Lakes Regenerative Recovery Advisory Group
- SUC Free Wānaka
- WAI Wānaka
- Wastebusters
- Whaiao RCE Otago

2021

- Wao Summit 2021
- Harvest Feast 2021
- Support to Food for Love
- WAI Wānaka Food & Fibre programme at Summit
- Our Place at the Wānaka A&P Show
- Sustainable Communities Tour
- Rethink Channel (ybc.tv)
- Southern Lakes UN Youth Summit
- Whaiao with Enviroschools & EBNZ earth build workshops
- CAI program for schools launched
- Beach Clean-Up at Summit
- Construction Waste workshop funding, Waste Minimisation Fund
- NZIA accredited education provider
- Host for Wool Roundtable discussion on circular economy
- Gen Wao repair & sexual wellness event
- CAI funding received
- 144 attendees at Climate Action Workshops
- 38 Businesses sign up to CAI
- 9 Schools sign up to CAI
- Get SMART working group established + Survey + Bikevember
- Wao response to QLDC 10 Year Plan
- Destination Queenstown
- Lake Wānaka Tourism
- Queenstown Lakes District Council
- Southern Lakes Regenerative Recovery Advisory Group
- SUC Free Wānaka
- Te Kakano
- Wastebusters
- WAI Wānaka
- Whaiao RCE Otago

2022

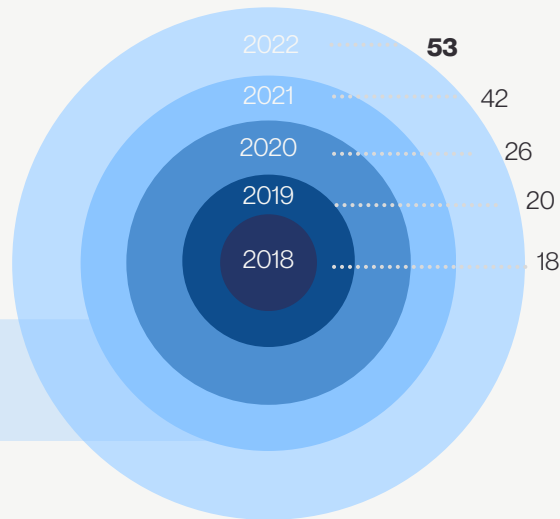
- Wao Summit 2022
- Food Resilience workshops
- Food Resilience Project funding granted QLDC
- Wao Film Festival launched
- Green Drinks launched
- Sustainable Communities Tour Wānaka & Queenstown
- Cultivating Connection series at Wao Summit
- CAI program for schools completed
- Upstream Battle, Our Drains Are Streams, Te Kanano planting, Planning for Our Future at Summit
- Youth Summit climate action workshop
- Construction Waste video education funding, Waste Minimisation Fund
- Construction Waste Workshops completed
- 47 businesses through CAI workshops
- Climate action hui with schools in partnership with Enviroschools
- Biketober 2022 launched
- Get Smart Survey analysed and published
- Bike repair workshops
- Green Drinks - NIWA and POW climate impact on our mountains
- Te Kakano Aotearoa Trust
- Destination Queenstown
- Lake Wānaka Tourism
- Queenstown Lakes District Council
- Wastebusters
- WAI Wānaka
- Link Upper Clutha & Community Networks
- SUC Free Wānaka
- Grow Wanaka
- Kiwi Harvest
- Sustainable Queenstown
- The Lightfoot Initiative
- Hosted Tourism Sector hui

Key

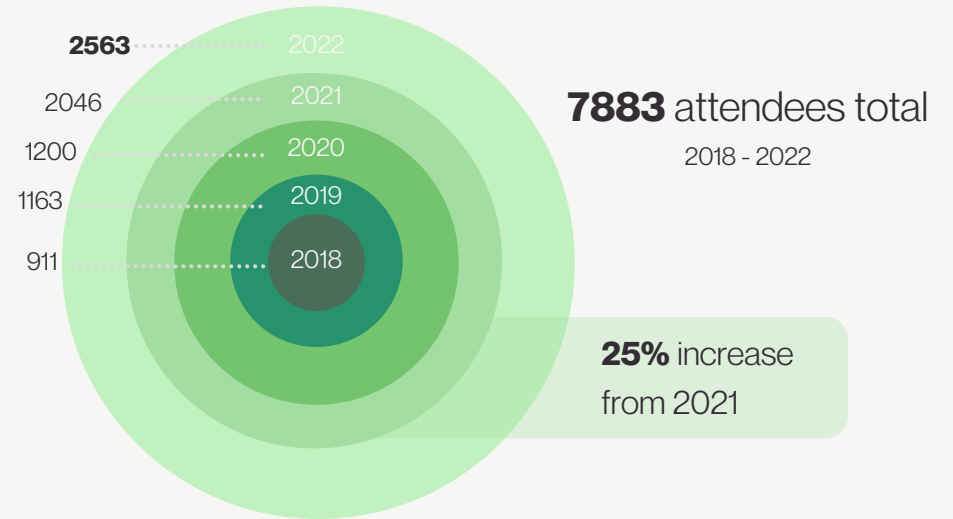


11 Reflecting on Five Years

159 events total
2018 - 2022



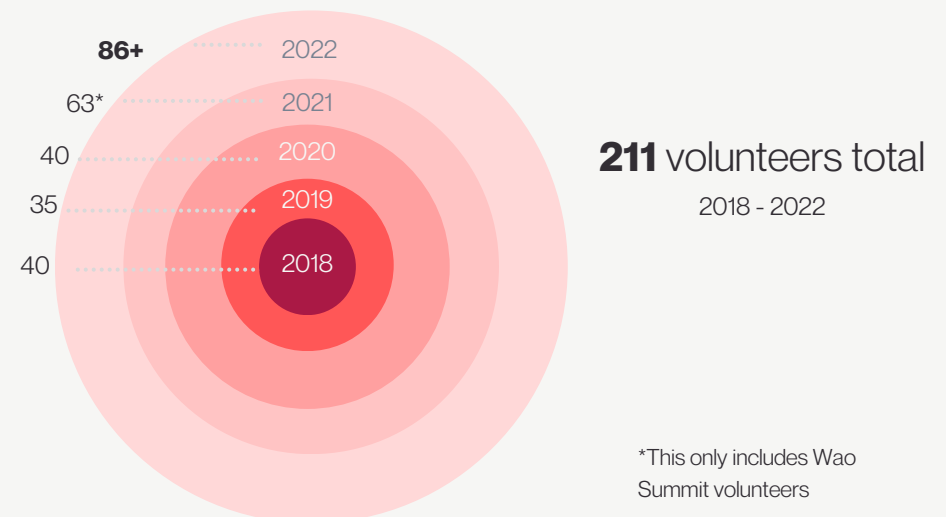
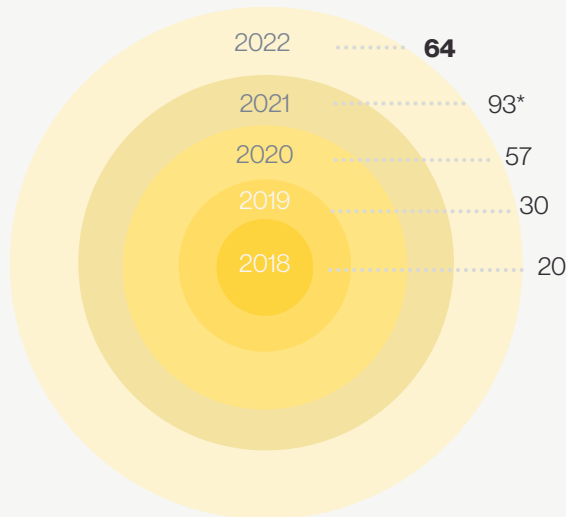
26% increase
from 2021



7883 attendees total
2018 - 2022

25% increase
from 2021

264 speakers &
experts total
2018 - 2022



211 volunteers total
2018 - 2022

*This only includes Wao Summit volunteers

12 Funding

As with any grassroots not-for-profit organisation, funding is crucial to the delivery of our objectives. After three years of being in a 'start-up' phase of the organisation's development, supported by our business sponsors and volunteer labour, proving the need, finding solutions to those needs and building our reputation and mana within the community, 2021 saw growth in support from institutional funders.

2022 was the second and final year of the [Southern Lakes Regional Events Fund \(REF\)](#) which has substantially increased our capacity and reach. With joint objectives, it was a privilege to have the REF involved not only as funders, but the organisations managing the fund, in particular [Destination Queenstown](#) and [Lake Wānaka Tourism](#), were also important partners in helping achieve our purpose with a focus on regenerative tourism. Along with [Queenstown Lakes District Council](#), they have also financed the delivery of the Climate Action Initiative (see page 31) putting local businesses and schools through a programme to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the district. QLDC have also granted funding for another instalment of construction waste education through the Waste Minimisation Fund, as well as the Wao Food Resilience Project, which has begun in 2022 and will largely take place in 2023. [Central Lakes Trust](#) and [Otago Community Trust](#) were other significant enablers, providing funding for the 2022 Wao Summit. We are incredibly grateful for the support provided by the major funders and the trust they have put in us to deliver on our purpose.



Wānaka Backyard Trappers, Sustainable Communities Tour, Wānaka

Finally, to all of the businesses, big and small, that have sponsored us financially or through their in-kind support, thank you. It is incredible to see how many businesses have, or are bringing, purpose beyond profit into their core operations. We have benefited from this and together helped to grow a unique community where we are genuinely bringing the values of regenerative thinking, being kaitiakitanga of this place, into how we do things here.

13 Thank you

The lynch pin to embedding tangible action is partnership. There are countless groups, individuals and partners to thank for supporting Wao over the years. Wao would like to acknowledge the support received in 2022 alone, without which we would not have achieved the incredible impact we did in the last year.

Funders

Wao Summit 2022

Central Lakes Trust
 Otago Community Trust
 Southern Lakes Regional
 Events Fund:
 Lake Wānaka Tourism
 Destination Queenstown
 Tourism Central Otago

Food Resilience Project

Queenstown Lakes District Council

Better Building Education Series

Queenstown Lakes District Council
 Waste Minimisation Fund

Partners & Sponsors

Pollination Partners

Crux
 Environmental Accounting Services
 Freshlink
 Greenhawk Accounting
 Lake Wanaka Tourism
 Mediaworks
 Queenstown Lakes District Council
 Rippon

Hive Sponsors

Conscious
 Wanaka Solar

Honey Bee Sponsors

Hiberna
 Mitre 10
 Mons Royale
 Revology

Nectar Patrons

All Waste
 Cardrona/Treble Cone
 Dunlop Builders
 Grounded Governance
 Interlink
 Next Generation Boats
 The Camp Hāwea
 Wastebusters



14

Wao Team

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Wao this year!

Ainsley Gimmell
Alvaro Morales
Amanda Dalglish
Anja O'Connor
Anna Worsey
Arna Craig
Ash Bickley
Babu Blatt
Ben Akin-Smith
Ben Elms
Ben Wallbank
Berit Landgraf
Bill Nichol
Carly Green
Carol Hunting
Carter Guichard
Charlotte McGregor
Chrissi, Lulu & Niko Pettit
Claire Akin-Smith
Damian Foster
Dani Maguire
Darrin Brown
Dave Currie
Donnelle Dunlop
Elaine Kelly
Eleanor Denston
Ewan Mackie
Fabian Beveridge

Franco Nobell
Fred Leeder
Gabriel Barros
Geoff Tomkins
Georgia Merton
Gus Webb
Hazel Murray
Henry Boyle
Hugo Sinclair
Inka Vogt
Isla Peachy
Jacky Toepfer
Jan Piggot
Jess Larmont
Jo Guest
Joel Herbert
Josh Moody
Jono Craig
Jose Cranfield
Joshua Briscoe
Julia Blackford
Kath Buttar
Katherine Durman
Lara & Sam Metcalfe
Lindsey Schofield
Loran Verpillot
Louis Hubbard
Lucy Francke
Lucy McGregor

Maja Sea
Maria Fredatovich
Mark Sinclair
Mark Anderson
Matias Romero
Max Good
Mel Mueller
Merle Sea
Miriam Engel
Molly Hope
Monique Kelly
Nikki Latham & Erika Gordon
Nicky Gray
Olivia Bonifant
Penny Bell
Pete Bonifant
Pete Cousins
Pierre Marasti
Polly Withers
Prue Kane
Robyn Zink
Ron Bull
Ruth Blunt
Sally Norman
Sierra Alef-Defoe
Sofie Thielemans
Sophie Ward
Sophie Mander
Vivian Oliveira

We wouldn't be here without some key people who volunteered their time and expertise to help us run events. Everyone who helped out contributed to the success of Wao and the delivery of its goal.

From assistance with the running of events, expertise for workshops, working groups and projects, to helping with the accounts and general running of the trust, these people put their valuable skills and expertise into keeping the charitable trust running in 2022. Wao simply wouldn't have the capacity to pull it off without our incredible volunteer army. Thank you all!



15 Our Footprint

As an entity, we are very conscious of the footprint we make. We aim to keep our emissions to a minimum and take active steps to avoid creating emissions in the first place. This year, we reduced the travel emissions relating to speakers by making the decision to use video links to speakers overseas. We also actively encourage participants to bike or walk to our events and provide collective transport options when we need to move people from A to B.

Wao Trustee Dr Carly Green and her team at Environmental Accounting Services (EAS) have conducted a greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint report for the entire operations of Wao for 2022. This includes all of our operations behind the scenes, and events held throughout the year. This number will be communicated as soon as it is finalised by the EAS team.

Our aim is also to run zero waste events. This includes minimising the amount of printing we have, avoiding all single-use plastic, composting organic waste and encouraging event participants to go SUC Free and bring their own water bottles.

To give back to our environment, we donate to the **Te Kakano Aotearoa Trust** who operates in Wānaka specialising in propagating plants of local origin in support of native habitat restoration. In May 2022, the Wao board along with the EAS team participated in a planting day. Wao also partnered with Te Kakano to collect donations for planting at the Wao Summit 2022. From ticketing alone, Wao collected \$840 on behalf of Te Kakano for local planting.

TBC* tonnes CO₂e

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

* Final number to be confirmed and updated as soon as finalised.

1 bin

WASTE TO LANDFILL*

*This is for the Wao Summit 6 day Summit at the Lake Wanaka Centre

\$840

DONATED TO TE KAKANO



16

How We Delivered

Wao delivers on its priorities through a number of means including working groups, events, projects and partnership with other groups. This page summarises the 2022 activities with more details given in the following pages.



53

EVENTS

Getting into the community is core to what we do and hosting events is key to this. More information on events can be found on pages **19-28**.

Wao Summit 2022
Sustainable Communities Bike Tour
Sustainable Communities Bus Tour
Eat Wānaka
Youth Events
Green Drinks
Community Collaborations

3

WORKING GROUPS

Working groups are collaborative groups which have formed around a key priority. More information on working groups can be found on pages **29-31**.

[Better Building](#)
[Generation Wao](#)
[Get SMART, Get Moving](#)

3

CORE PROJECTS

It is exciting to see a number of projects kicking off in 2022, either through grant funding or as part of partnerships. More information on our projects can be found on pages **32-34**.

[Climate Action Initiative](#)
[Construction Waste Workshops](#)
[Food Resilience Project](#)

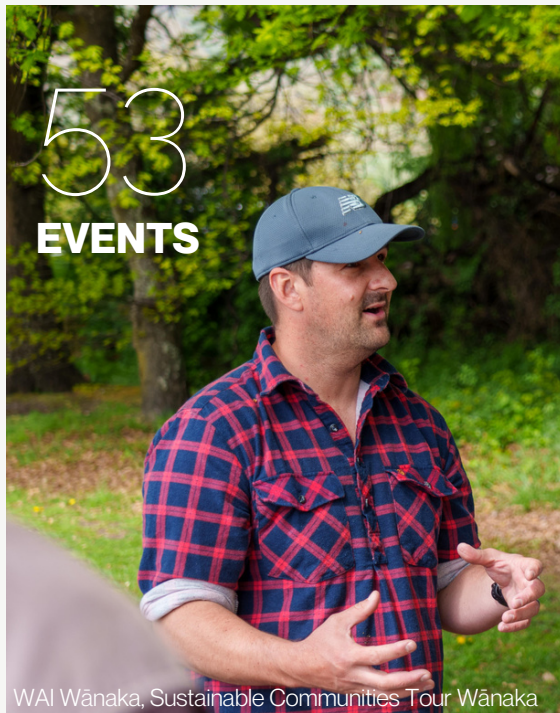
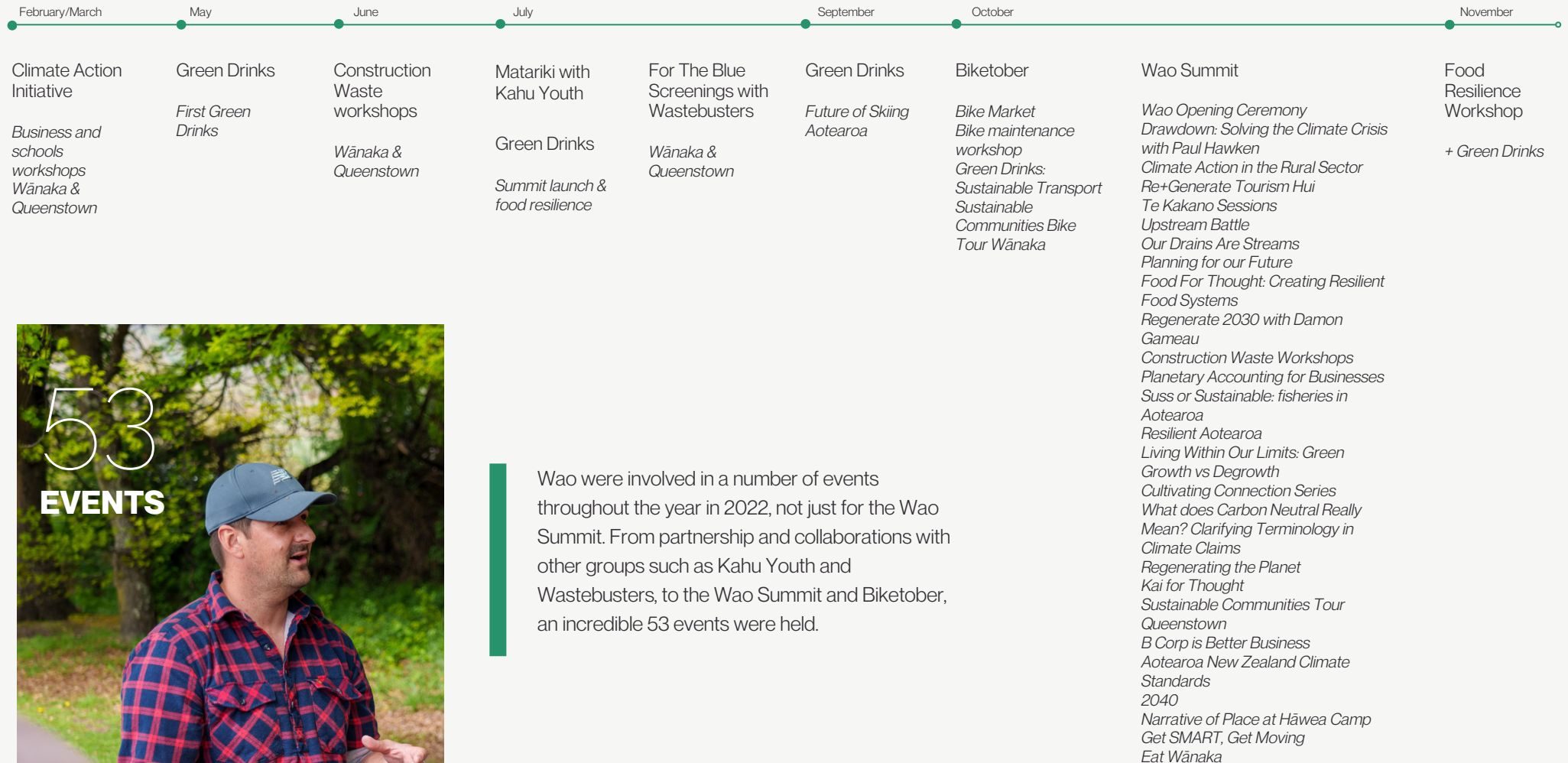
45

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

These are key groups in the community, each involved in amazing things, that we have been privileged to work alongside in 2022. Scroll through to **page 37** to read more about these organisations and their work.

Events

17 Events 2022



Wao were involved in a number of events throughout the year in 2022, not just for the Wao Summit. From partnership and collaborations with other groups such as Kahu Youth and Wastebusters, to the Wao Summit and Biketober, an incredible 53 events were held.

WAI Wānaka, Sustainable Communities Tour Wānaka

18

Speakers & Experts

The team at Wao worked hard to bring incredible thought leaders, both local and national, to our events. In 2022, Wao had the privilege of 64 speakers and experts volunteer their time throughout the year at Wao events. From Project Regeneration's Paul Hawken and Damon Gameau zooming in from overseas, to Nadia Lim at her farm Royalburn, to marine scientist Veronica Rotman talking to fisheries in New Zealand. Each shared their diverse backgrounds and knowledge from various sectors, including waste, food resilience, transport, biodiversity, circular economy, building, climate science and action, wellbeing and kaupapa Māori. Thank you to everyone who accepted our invitation!

Adriana Bird, *For The Blue*
Ailsa Cain, *Kauati*
Allan Harvey, *Wānaka Community Workshop*
Amanda Robinson, *Lightfoot Initiative*
Andrew Blackford, *Naylor Love*
Ash Rabel, *WAI Wānaka*
Barna Szocsis, *Tiaki Bees*
Ben Elms, *Dr. Compost*
Bridget Watson, *Trusting Vulnerability*
Carly Green, *Environmental Accounting Services*
Carolyn Childs, *My Travel Research*
Claire Akin-Smith, *Wao Aotearoa*
Damon Gameau, *Project Regeneration*
Dave Kingan, *Royalburn*
Dean Dunning, *Wānaka Solar*
Dennis Dowling, *DCD Builders*
Emberly Wetherall, *Grow Wānaka*
Felicity Thomas, *Environmental Accounting Services*
Flair McKay, *Southern Culture Club*
Gary Hough, *Kiwiharvest*
Gina Dempster, *Wastebusters*
Ian Maxwell, *Wānaka Community Workshop*
Jacqueline Cheyne, *XRB*
Jade Gray, *Off Piste Provisions*
Jason Bradford, *Sol Cycle Farm and Post Carbon Institute*
Jesse Herbert, *Freshlink Grocer*
Jill Hodgson, *Wakatipu Reforestation Trust*
Jo Guest, *Te Kakano Aotearoa Trust*
Joel Herbert, *Placemakers*
Jonathan Boston, *Victoria University of Wellington*
Jono Conway, *NiWA*
Jose Cranfield, *WAI Wānaka*
Julia Blackford, *Wao Aotearoa*
Kate Meyer, *Planetary Accounting Network*
Kath Buttar, *QLDC Waste Minimisation*
Katherine Durman, *QLDC Climate Action*
Kostya Marchenko, *Next Generation Boats*
Kris Vollegbregt, *Wānaka Backyard Trappers*
Laura Williamson, *1964 Magazine*
Lorane Verpillot, *Te Kakano Aotearoa Trust*
Malcolm Dodds, *AllWaste*
Markus Hermanns, *Grebes*
Mary Hunt, *Wanaka Backyard Trappers*

Michael Sly, *Wilding & Co.*
Michelle Wallis, *Royalburn*
Monique Kelly, *Wao Aotearoa*
Nadia Lim, *Royalburn*
Neal McAloon, *Bee the Change*
Nick Mills, *Rippon*
Paul Hawken, *Project Drawdown*
Penzy Dinsdale, *Protect Our Winters*
Pierre Masarti, *Wānaka EV Club*
Robina McCurdy, *The Institute of Earthcare Education Aotearoa*
Ron Bull, *Otago Polytechnic*
Ruth Blunt, *Wastebusters*
Sam Rodney-Hudson, *Melon Health*
Sarah Bacon, *Planetary Accounting Network*
Simon Telfer, *Active Transport Wānaka*
Sophie Ward, *Wastebusters*
Stephan Mäusli, *Hector Egger*
Sue Moore, *Fabricate*
Tim Crownshaw, *Institute for Integrated Energy Systems*
Tim Jones, *Grow Good*
Veronica Rotman, *Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology*

Living Within Our Limits, Wao Summit 2022



64
SPEAKERS
& EXPERTS

19 Our Reach

2563
PARTICIPANTS



Herbal Culture, Eat Wānaka, Wao Summit 2022

One of the core values of Wao is [Whanaungatanga](#), which to us means leaving no one behind. With such a mix of events that appeal to all walks of life, our participants vary in age, gender, interests and backgrounds. Our audiences include school kids, young adults, parents, grandparents, those in the building and construction, rural, hospitality, tourism, business, non-profit and public sectors.

For the first time, Wao hosted events throughout the year, concentrating events not just at the Summit but at Green Drinks, youth events, Climate Action Initiative and construction waste workshops.

Interestingly what we have found this year is that these events serve different purposes. We strive to engage with the unengaged at all events but found that with this year's fifth Wao Summit, the event better served the engaged community. Those that are the innovators, the builders of our regenerative future. The feedback we received from them is that the Wao Summit is a time to connect with each other, affirm and reinvigorate the action they have been taking, and energise them for the year ahead.

Other events, such as the Green Drinks and Biketober, reach those in the community we may not have yet interacted with, and it is becoming apparent in Wao's brand recognition that we are being seen as leaders in this space.

20 Wao Summit 2022

Celebrating five years, the Wao Summit 2022 was a special one. The three core themes of the event were food resilience, modal shift, connection and collaboration. Throughout the week Wao hosted rethink kōrero/conversations (big ideas, compelling conversations), impact sessions (bite-sized lecture-style talks), workshops (for those looking to expand their practical knowledge), film sessions (to inspire you to inspire others), tours (place-based visits to immerse yourself) and community events (the art of connection).

Rethink Kōrero/Conversations. The event kicked off on the 19 October with headline speaker [Paul Hawken](#) talking Regeneration. In the following week another headline speaker, [Damon Gameau](#) also spoke to Regeneration, and later in the week we had two topics held in both Wānaka and Queenstown; degrowth and food resilience.

Impact Sessions. Held over a lunchtime session each day, Wao held lectures on [sustainable fishing](#), [carbon terms and claims](#), the new [Aotearoa Climate Standards and climate action in the rural sector](#).

Workshops. Wao held another [circular economics in construction workshop](#) at the Wānaka Community Workshop, and other event hosts held a [B Corp workshop](#) and a [Planetary Accounting workshop](#).



Narrative of Place at The Camp, Hāwea, Wao Summit 2022

Film sessions. These films were the first of the Wao Film Festival, which will be launched outside the Wao Summit from 2023 as a standalone festival in May. Featuring a number of New Zealand films from Happen Films around regenerating the planet, kai for thought, resilient communities, and a few international films such as Regenerating Australia, 2040 and Motherload.

Tours. Back by popular demand, the [Sustainable Communities Tour](#) was held in Wānaka, visiting a number of local groups. 2022 was the first year a tour was held over in Queenstown, visiting by bus a number of groups within the food resilience ecosystem.

Community events. [Narrative of Place](#) with Ron Bull was back again, this time out at The Camp in Lake Hāwea. A farmers' market style event [Eat Wānaka](#) closed off the week, with various groups, businesses and growers in the local food ecosystem holding stalls.

21 Sustainable Communities Tours

The Sustainable Communities Tour was highlighted in the feedback as one of the most empowering events of the 2022 Summit. The tours, held in both Wānaka and Queenstown take a 'whole systems approach' look at our local regenerative community. The tours shine a spotlight on the amazing working being done by organisations and businesses within our community. One key comment that was brought up at the review session in November was the number of organisations or initiatives in the tours that have been established in the last five years, including the Wānaka Community Workshop, Fabricate, WAI Wānaka, Tiaki Bees, the Wānaka Community Hub, Grow Wānaka, Royalburn Gardens, and Freshlink Grocer. And all of these stops started from small ideas, seeds and have been built up to what they are now by some incredible, motivated and driven members of the community. They are now in full bloom and achieving so much year after year.

The Wānaka tour was all done by bike, exploring local planting, local food systems, circular economy, better building, renewable energy, urban design, urban water, biodiversity and more. For the first time, the concept was expanded into Queenstown. A bus tour took participants on a dive into the local food system, visiting Royalburn, Wakatipu Reforestation Trust, Bee the Change, Kiwiharvest, the community gardens and local composting. The tour highlighted the significance of hyperlocal supplies and services.

The tours highlighted how powerful and motivating connecting with what is actually going on can be. When we talk about ways to connect not only locals but also visitors to the community, the tours provide an exponential learning opportunity.



Tiaki Bees, Sustainable Communities Tour Wānaka



Royalburn, Sustainable Communities Tour Queenstown

22

Eat Wānaka

Eat Wānaka receives its own dedicated section. The first year of the event was incredibly successful with over 200 attendees. The event was run like a market and included organisations, businesses and individuals in the Upper Clutha food ecosystem - from Kiiwharvest who are involved in food rescue, to Grow Wānaka and Dr Compost. Highlights had to be the Love Food Hate Waste stall which had incredible meals prepared by a local chef made from rescued food, all given out for free, with the Wānaka Ukelele Band keeping everyone entertained in the background. Following on from one of our core themes for 2022, food resilience, this event was a great way of connecting the amazing groups building our food resilience with the community.



Kiiwharvest at Eat Wānaka



Eating rescued food at Eat Wānaka



Wānaka Ukelele Band at Eat Wānaka

23 Youth Events



Our Drains Are Streams, Wao Summit

Working in collaboration with partner organisations Enviroschools, WAI Wānaka and Te Kakano, Wao has hosted a number of youth events in 2022. Wao's mission is to educate, inspire and enable all ages of the community, from 0-99. Being able to engage with school-age children ensures inclusivity and that we are taking an all-of-community approach.

Early in the year, the schools' program for the Wao Climate Action Initiative kicked off. The first workshop involved administration and senior leadership staff to calculate their greenhouse gas footprint as a school. The second session involved primary and secondary students for a Climate Change Hui, held in collaboration with Enviroschools and other organisations in both Wānaka and Queenstown. At the Summit, primary school students were involved in a number of events hosted by WAI Wānaka and Te Kakano around planting, stream health and beach clean-ups. For the high schoolers, a whole day session, Planning for our Future, was held at the Wao Summit, with partner organisations involved, for a day of strategic thinking, and learning about global systems and issues across schools in and outside the region.

Wao has identified the real need to elevate youth and provide opportunities to connect with leaders in the community to increase their mental wellbeing and provide assurance of the positive action being taken towards building a regenerative future.



Upstream Battle, Wao Summit

24 Green Drinks



Green Drinks at Freshlink Grocer

Launching for the first time in 2022, Wao Green Drinks were a great success, in partnership and following the lead of Sustainable Queenstown who have run similar successful events for a number of years in Queenstown. Wao held five Green Drinks at different locations around Wānaka in 2022.

The purpose of Green Drinks is to provide more opportunities throughout the year for the community to come together, hear from speakers and experts in a casual setting, and connect with others.

Our topics for 2022 included food resilience with Robina McCurdy and Jesse Herbert from Freshlink; the future of skiing with NIWA and Protect Our Winters; and sustainable transport with Active Transport Wānaka and the Lightfoot Initiative.

In 2023, Green Drinks are being held every second month in different locations in collaboration with other local organisations.

25 Community Collaborations

Matariki

In 2022, we celebrated Matariki together for the first time as a national public holiday. We were honoured to be part of the annual Wānaka celebration organised by the amazing team at Kahu Youth.

The celebrations included a hangi, performances, as well as a star map for participants to fill out, with different organisations representing the different stars from the Matariki cluster (Te Kāhui o Matariki). Wao hosted activities associated with two of these stars; Waipunurangi and Waitā.

Waipunurangi is connected to the rains and other atmospheric conditions and **Waitā** is associated with the ocean and represents the many types of food we gather from the sea.

The activity for Waipunurangi focused on climate, using up-cycled bunting to write pledges for the climate. For Waitā, marine scientist Veronica Rotman educated the kids on plastics in the ocean and their impacts on the food chain.

Plastic Free July

Supporting Wastebusters Plastic Free July, Wao partnered with Wastebusters to deliver a series of screenings of 'For The Blue', a film by young Kiwis, which focuses on the New Zealand impact of plastic pollution on the oceans, and what we can do about it in the national context. The screenings were held in Wānaka and Queenstown, both for the public and at local high schools.



Kahu Youth Matariki celebrations 2022

Upstream Battle, Wao Summit

26

Get SMART,
Get Moving

The **Get SMART, Get Moving** (Sustainable Modes of Active and Resourceful Travel) campaign has truly kicked off this year! The campaign, which started in 2021, has had an active year, with the finalisation of the **Get SMART survey**, the Great Aotearoa Bike Challenge in February, and a successful first **Biketober**.

The **Get SMART Survey** had 367 local participants. The objective of the Survey was to provide a baseline for how we move in the district in terms of how we move and discover what are the barriers to change as well as the motivators for people to use active means of transport. We also partnered with LINK Upper Clutha to get feedback on what types of public transport the community would like, which fed in to the launch of the Upper Clutha community shuttle pilot project in late 2022.

The results were analysed and reported by Sierra Alef-Defoe ([How we get around: Transport habits & aptitude for sustainable transport in the Upper Clutha](#)) and found that most of the trips we make are under 10km, the majority of these being less than 4km. In over 50% of cases, we use an ICE (internal combustion engine) vehicle for these short trips. With car ownership, 8% of us own an EV, 6% a Hybrid and 4% use a shared vehicle. Over 70% of respondents owned a bicycle. Overwhelmingly, respondents wanted more public transport options, safer cycleways and more affordable EV and e-bike options. Why don't we use more active transport? The answer was convenience and comfort of taking the car. Respondents replied that the reasons for changing how we move were based on increased fitness (68%) and wellbeing (56%), reducing our carbon footprint (59%), enjoying nature (53%) and saving money (46%).

Keep an eye out for our 2023 survey, which will continue tracking how we move and measure impact.



Biketober was dedicated to what a more bike-centric Southern Lakes community could look like. The month included a Bike Market, Sustainable Transport Green Drinks, Bike Maintenance Repair Workshops, and promotion of partner events throughout the district such as Cyclorama, Cardrona, Bike Glendhu, WORD and the Lightfoot Initiative.

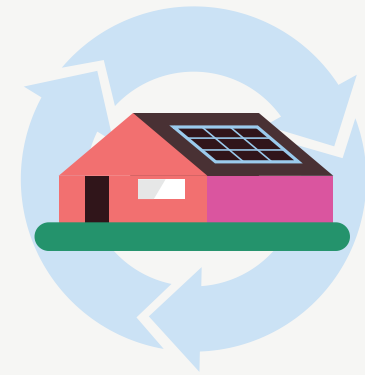
There are many exciting initiatives planned for Get SMART in 2023 to change the way we move around, and we are looking for more partners to be part of Biketober.

If you want to be part of the solution, get in touch!

READ MORE



27 Better Building



Established following the first Wao Summit in October 2018, the Better Building Working Group's mission is to partner with like-minded individuals and businesses and see how to make the sector more sustainable. The three points of focus are raising awareness around energy efficient homes; decreasing construction & demolition waste; and addressing the mental health and wellbeing of those working in the sector.

Following on from funding awarded in 2021 under the QLDC Waste Minimisation Community Fund, Wao completed a series of workshops for construction waste. These workshops address the challenge of construction waste, go through how to set up a waste minimisation plan and discusses how to design out waste. Joel Herbert, Trade Sales Manager at Placemakers and a founding member of the group, talked during the Construction Waste 101 Workshop about the increasing supply pressures builders are facing and the growing need to be resourceful with materials, with AllWaste, Wastebusters, QLDC, Dunlop Builders and Naylor Love also presenting. Workshops were held in both Wānaka (at the [Wānaka Community Workshop](#) (WCW)) and in Queenstown. [Key resources were developed](#) including a Construction Waste Workbook, Site Resource Management Plan, Resource Diversion List Template and Wānaka and Queenstown Resource Diversion Options.

The Sustainable Communities Tour at the Wao Summit integrated examples of good urban design including energy efficiency and solar households with Dean Dunning and his team at [Wānaka Solar](#).

Wao was awarded funding through the QLDC Waste Minimisation Community Fund in 2022 for an education video series on construction waste for the building industry. This will be available mid way through 2023.

READ MORE



Core Projects

28

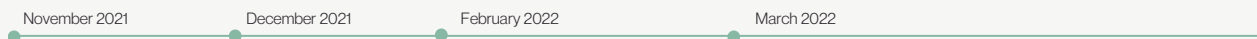
Climate Action Initiative

In September 2021, a proposal put forth by Wao to support greenhouse gas reductions for businesses in the tourism ecosystem and schools in the Queenstown Lakes District was granted funding by Queenstown Lakes District Council, Destination Queenstown and Lake Wānaka Tourism.

The initiative is split into two phases: **Calculate for Climate** provides the tools to understand and measure greenhouse gases within a business or school. The second phase, **Fast Track to Neutral** involves a series of workshops and resources to help participants work through emission reduction strategies and develop their own reduction response plan. Have a look at the timeline below for details on the program's achievements, and head to our webpage [here](#).



READ MORE



Business

59 businesses registered, 37 invited to participate

27 businesses attended over 4 workshops in Queenstown and Wānaka

22 businesses completed reports before workshop 2
total of 5600 tCO₂e estimated emissions

26 businesses attended workshop 2 - Action Planning across two workshops in Queenstown and Wānaka

Schools

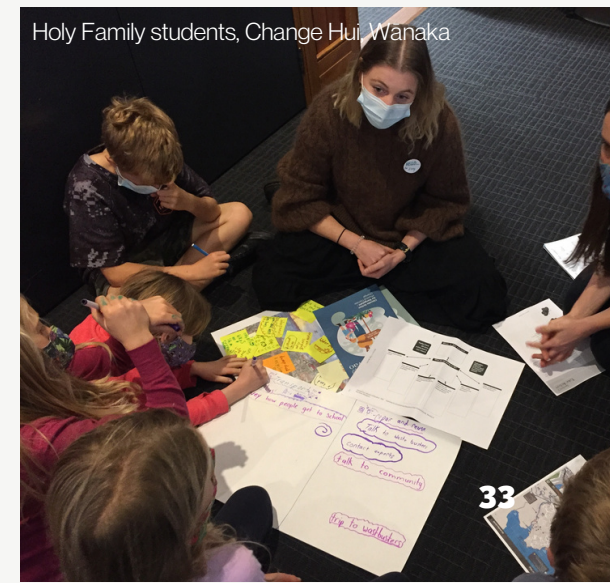
9 schools registered and completed workshop 1

11 schools attended Change Hui with 63 students in Queenstown and Wānaka

2 schools completed GHG report

[2 schools resources](#) completed and trialled in schools - Physical Climate Change and Know Your Number

Holy Family students, Change Hui, Wanaka

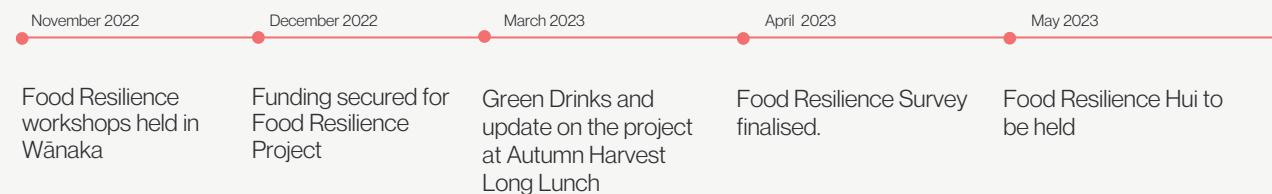


29 Food Resilience Project

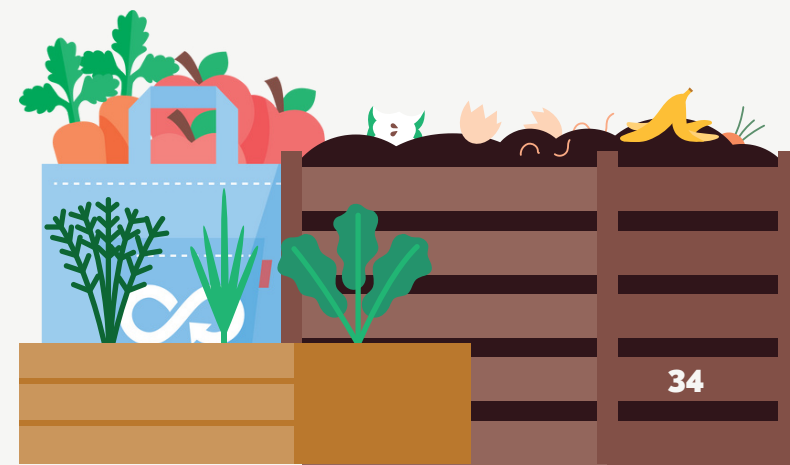
Wao welcomed Julia Blackford to the Board in 2022. Julia has an extensive background in food and plant food science, and has been the lead for the **Wao Food Resilience Project**. Phase One of the project received funding from QLDC in December 2022. Its objectives were to look at the current food system in the district to assess its strengths and weaknesses, map out the main stakeholders in the food system, assess what the risks are in the short, medium and long term are for our community, assess different food resilience models around the world and to facilitate the development of a collective vision and formation of a food resilience network to carry on Phase Two of the Project, which will focus on implementation.

In November 2022, a workshop, facilitated by Robina McCurdy, food resilience expert, was held in Wānaka. This was the beginning of a deep dive into the food system in the district. Research into the food system, a mapping of stakeholders and with interviews with key players have been conducted.

A district wide **survey on food resilience** was conducted from March to April with over 750 participants. The results of the Survey as well as the report on Phase One and food hui will be out in the second quarter of 2023.



[READ MORE](#)



Key Partnerships

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Advocacy & Partnership

On behalf of the Wao Team, we would like to say a huge thank you to all of the organisations, individuals and businesses we have been privileged to work alongside for the delivery of different projects, events and tools, both those led by Wao and those led by our partners in 2022.

One of the golden rules of the SDGs, when they were adopted, is that all goals need to be viewed as interconnected and not in isolation. Goal 17, Partnership, is the lynchpin, the mycelium in our community, creating the networks which help connect people, communities and action towards achieving our collective goals. To achieve our vision, all action must be collective action. Find out about the incredible work they are doing and the impact they are creating by clicking on the links below.

[Allwaste](#)

[Altitude Brewery](#)

[B.Effect](#)

[Bee the Change](#)

[Bike Glendhu](#)

[Bike Wānaka](#)

[Branch Creek Honey](#)

[Cardrona/Treble Cone](#)

[Charge About Queenstown](#)

[Community Networks Wānaka](#)

[Destination Queenstown](#)

[Dunlop Builders](#)

[Enviroschools](#)

[Environmental Accounting Services \(EAS\)](#)

[Fabricate](#)

[Food For Love](#)

[Freshlink Grocer](#)

[Grow Wānaka](#)

[Herbal Culture](#)

[Kahu Youth Trust](#)

[Kiwi Harvest](#)

[Lake Wānaka Tourism](#)

[Lightfoot Initiative](#)

[Love Food Hate Waste](#)

[MA Building](#)

[MAC Team Green](#)

[Naylor Love](#)

[Placemakers Wānaka](#)

[Plastic Free Wānaka / SUC Free](#)

[Protect Our Winters \(POW\)](#)



QLDC volunteers and chef Alvaro Morales at Eat Wānaka

[Queenstown Lakes District Council](#)

[Queenstown Harvest Community Gardens](#)

[Rippon Vineyard](#)

[Royalburn Station](#)

[Sustainable Queenstown](#)

[Tiaki Bees](#)

[Te Kakano Aotearoa Trust](#)

[WAI Wānaka](#)

[Wānaka Backyard Trappers](#)

[Wānaka Community Workshop](#)

[Wānaka Solar](#)

[Wanaka Ukeleles](#)

[Wastebusters](#)

[Whakatipu Reforestation Trust](#)

[Wilding & Co / Michael Sly](#)

What Next?

31

What's going on in 2023?

Both historically and spiritually Wānaka is known as a place of learning. With the demand for urgent change and action, the Southern Lakes District has the opportunity to become a leader in sustainable, regenerative thinking and action. We are quickly moving through a decade which requires significant transitions. We need to change the way we move, consume and behave. This in itself is not easy but looking back over the last five years, we are already on the path.











The wider geo-political environment, the global pandemic and successive storms that have hit the North Island and droughts in the South Island have increased pressures on communities as well as provided us with opportunities to accelerate change. Being energy and resource efficient is now not only about climate but also about insulating ourselves against reliance on fossil fuels. It also brings into sharp relief our need to focus on food resilience and security and the importance of partnership and connection. Above all, the focus is on **Collective Action**.



Wao team, Melissa, Sally, Penny and Babu at Harvest Long Lunch 2023



Wao team, Babu and Aaron at A&P Show 2023

2023-24 CALENDAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
 Wao FILM FESTIVAL					FILM FESTIVAL 18-21							
 GEN WAO						 MODEL UN	TBC IMPACT JOBS FORUM	GREEN DRINKS CIVICS 101		WaoYOUTH SUMMIT		
 COMMUNITY EVENTS			OUR PLACE A&P SHOW				PLASTIC FREE JULY MATARIKI					
 GREEN DRINKS		GREEN DRINKS SLOW FASHION	GREEN DRINKS FOOD RESILIENCE			GREEN DRINKS ENERGY TRANSITIONS		GREEN DRINKS CIVICS 101		GREEN DRINKS ACTIVE TRANSPORT		GREEN DRINKS TBC
 CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVE						<i>CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVE (TBC)</i>				CAI SUMMIT WORKSHOP		
 Get SMART								<i>GET SMART SURVEY 2023</i> <i>GET SMART CAMPAIGN (TBC)</i>		BIKETOBER 1-31		
 BBWG			<i>THIS IS HOW WE BUILD PROJECT</i>			THIS IS HOW WE BUILD DIGITAL		THIS IS HOW WE BUILD WORKSHOP		THIS IS HOW WE BUILD WORKSHOP		
 Wao SUMMIT										WaoSUMMIT 24-29		
 FOOD RESILIENCE			HARVEST FESTIVAL	<i>FRP SURVEY</i>	FOOD RESILIENCE HUI							
			<i>PHASE 1 - FOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT</i>					<i>PHASE 2 - FOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT (TBC)</i>				

32 Arohanui | Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read the 2022 Wao Annual Impact Report. If you'd like to discuss anything in the report in more depth you can get in touch with us on kiaora@wao.co.nz

We cannot emphasise enough the multitude of incredible people involved with Wao, so we sincerely hope we haven't missed anyone in the list below. A huge thank you to:

- Our community – without you we would not be here, thank you for the energy and support that keeps us moving.
- Our team – for being awesome and giving up your valuable time for the cause.
- Our partners – for enabling us to deliver.



