

Environment & Conservation Organisations

2007/08¹ Annual Report

1.0 Introduction

At the 2007 AGM, the ECO Executive Committee was given priorities for working on a number of issues. First equal priorities were Vote for the Environment (both local and central government elections, and the definition of campaign objectives for the Vote for the Environment charter) and climate change and energy. Additional priorities were: oceans, marine and global governance, protecting the RMA, water, and Antarctica. We have worked steadily on these issues and on others as they came to our attention. We know that ECO member bodies have also worked attentively on these matters and more.

This annual report relates to June 2007 – June 2008. It has been prepared by members of the ECO Executive committee in association with that committee and with the great help of ECO Executive Officer, Amelia Luxton.

During the year members of the Executive Committee, ECO member bodies and volunteers have worked cooperatively amongst themselves and with other bodies. Thanks are due to all who stepped up and took a good share of the load.

2.0 Activities: Campaigns

2.1 Climate change and energy.

ECO has actively engaged in climate change and energy issues, with participation in a range of activities. ECO has pressed the case for early and significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, fairer and more environmentally sound design of climate change and energy policies particularly the Emissions Trading Scheme, related forestry policies and the Biofuels Bill.

ECO has worked closely with the member bodies and other groups on climate change policies and energy and forestry policies. ECO and other environmental groups negotiated a joint policy on climate change and forestry with the Forest Owners Association and other forestry interests.

ECO has participated in a number of Institute of Policy Studies and other official workshops and lectures, policy discussions and debates in the media on these issues. We have pressed the case for effective, fair and urgent means to reduce greenhouse emissions, provisions for transport alternatives, energy efficiency and demand

¹ The Annual Report relates to the work from AGM to AGM - that is from 1 July 2007-30 June 2008. The Financial Report relates to the financial year, 1 April 2007-31 March 2008.

management and avoiding perverse impacts of policy on native ecosystems in New Zealand and elsewhere.

2.2 Vote for the Environment

For a number of reasons, mostly to do with overload on the climate change and energy front and other issues, ECO did not manage to do a great deal on the local body elections, despite having wanted to.

For the 2008 forthcoming General Election, ECO is in conversation with the Vote for the Environment partners, Forest and Bird and Greenpeace NZ over policies and arrangements for the non-partisan joint campaign to promote better environmental policies and practice.

It is intended that the ECO annual conference will contribute to the development of policies for that process and that the 2008 Annual Conference is an opportunity to develop both our thinking and that of the political parties on our priorities.

Going forward, we will be developing means to press our case with joint work.

ECO made submissions on the Electoral Finance Bill, including on some of the issues that now turn out to be particularly problematic. It is unlikely that the Vote for the Environment campaign would be such as to require registration under those provisions.

2.3 Oceans, Marine Matters & Fisheries Campaign

ECO has actively pursued our goals of improving the laws, policy and practice on marine, oceans, fisheries management and governance.

2.3.1 Oceans

We have pursued the Oceans Policy process in New Zealand, although that is now renamed and cut down in scope to the EEZ Regulations process. We have made submissions in both 2007 and 2008, participated in workshops, organised a public meeting to discuss this issue (May 2008) and have met with officials and Ministers to discuss this issue which we continue to track closely.

2.3.1 Fisheries

Deep Sea Conservation Coalition; High Seas, South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

ECO is active on high seas governance problems and receives regular reports of international negotiations and meets with officials on these issues. We continue to press for international controls on bottom trawling and for a new regime under the auspices of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea for high seas governance. We work closely with colleagues in the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition and have teleconferences and other communications to this end. Barry Weeber attended the Noumea negotiating session of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)

negotiation session in September 2007 and at Guayaquil in Ecuador in March 2008. On both occasions, he was part of the New Zealand delegation representing ECO, nominated by the New Zealand environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

2.3.2 Antarctic Marine Biodiversity and Fishing

ECO continues to press for improved Antarctic Treaty System management, including a large marine reserve in the Ross Sea, as advocated by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), for more active control of fishing, including illegal, unreported or unauthorised fishing in the Southern Ocean and for New Zealand to take a more conservationist stance.

Barry Weeber, and to a lesser extent, Cath Wallace have worked on these issues in association with colleagues and collegial organisations and others in New Zealand and elsewhere, particularly within the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition and IUCN.

Barry Weeber has followed the scientific and policy meetings closely. Barry attended several CCAMLR meetings last year.

Barry also works with the Pew Environment Trust and ASOC on Antarctic krill matters, including the connection with climate change impacts.

ECO welcomed the Antarctic biodiversity and marine life census work undertaken by governments and science organisations. We remain concerned about the lack of integration between the Antarctic Environmental Protocol and the activities conducted under the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), particularly in relation to fishing.

Illegal fishing continues to be a concern. We regret that the Cook Islands and Vanuatu are both apparently operating open vessel registers and allowing fishing vessels over which they exercise no effective control to fish under their flags, in the Southern Ocean and in the South Pacific and elsewhere.

2.3.3 Ross Sea MSC proposals

ECO has engaged in the MSC process to certify some fishers (New Zealand and the St Helena, UK) in the Ross toothfish fishery. This is a high seas fishery that involves many countries. Given the experience with hoki, ECO is doubtful that the process will be positive for Antarctica.

2.3.4 New Zealand Fisheries and marine issues

ECO continues to press for better fisheries management, with respect to both the targets of fisheries management and the scope of fisheries management. In particular, we have pressed for inclusion of a wider range of considerations than harvest values, and have pushed for more protection for the marine environment, both in formal terms and in on-going decision making within the Fisheries Act 1996 and related law, such as that protecting marine mammals and the Marine Reserves Bill and Act. We supported better provision for the Precautionary Principle under the Fisheries Act (s10) but note that this has not been passed by Parliament due to opposition from some parties.

2.3.5 Hector's and Maui dolphin and New Zealand Sealions

ECO welcomed the greater protection offered to the critically endangered Maui dolphin population in recent decisions by the Minister of Fisheries, and wishes to see such protection secured and extended geographically, and to the endangered Hector's dolphins. We continue to work on this with colleague organisations.

2.3.6 Fisheries Plans

ECO is participating in several of the Ministry of Fisheries latest iteration of fish plan processes despite having significant reservations about whether the plans will be an effective management tool for fisheries.

We have supported efforts to have fisheries plans developed within the context of ecosystem based management and the precautionary approach. Clive Monds and Barry Weeber are both active members of particular plan development, but we remain concerned that the policy and ecosystem focus of fisheries management is weak. Moreover, we do not agree that participation in the development of such plans should be restricted to those selected by government. We do consider the process should be run by government. We oppose any devolution of such processes to the fishing industry.

The plans are providing a focal point for community desires for local management options, local management being very poorly served by the Fisheries Act.

The Ministry has consistently failed to recognise the imbalance in resources of the different stakeholders participating in fisheries processes. Participation in any fish plan process places huge demands on people's time and resources. These are in short supply for most stakeholders in the environment, recreational and customary area. On a more positive note, it is the first ministry process that has seen significant engagement from customary fishers.

Fisheries plans ought to be a crucial part of environmental and resource management, but the unfamiliarity of MFish with the norms of environmental management and their focus on single fish stocks means that key elements needed for them to succeed are missing.

A key element in moving fishing fisheries planning forward is recognising the need for better environmental management and environmental impact assessments and integration of these in fisheries processes.

2.3.7 Aquaculture

Aquaculture reforms are being pursued by the government in an attempt to rescue its last attempts at reform which have proved ineffective. ECO understands proposals have gone to Cabinet for some non-legislative changes plus options for legislated reform. We understand that some of those proposals could reduce community participation through 'call-in' procedures.

ECO is involved in an Environment Waikato aquaculture plan change working group which is looking at amending the Wilson's Bay AMA in the Firth of Thames to allow for

fin fish farming of kingfish. Fin fish farming is potentially far more polluting than shell fish farming and also has high nutrient inputs via the feedstock as opposed to shellfish removing nutrients. There appears to have been no consideration in the proposed reforms of the ecological impact of the burgeoning demands for fish meal and fish oil on world wild fish stocks. Some 4-7kg of feedstock is needed to produce 1kg of farmed fish. Feedstock species are usually 'industrial or waste' species that are not used for human consumption but are vital parts of the food chain for species we do eat.

Marine Protected Areas

ECO has been disappointed with the Government's marine protected areas (MPA) policy. The new standard for MPAs and classification system failed to include the most up-to-date scientific information. The criticisms of the deepwater classification by NIWA were ignored by Ministers.

So far there are two marine protected area working group operations – one for the West Coast and one for the Sub-Antarctic Islands (excluding Snares Islands). ECO is represented on the Sub-Antarctic working group.

2.4 Strengthening the RMA

ECO continues to provide advice to the community on how to use the provisions of the Resource Management Act through www.rmalink.org.nz and via ad hoc advice.

On a policy level we noted the OECD report on New Zealand's environmental performance and the dearth of information and inconsistency of RMA reporting. We note with concern that as in 2003/04, the 2005/06 Ministry for the Environment Report on the operation of the RMA shows that, of the resource consents with conditions that needed to be monitored, 40% were not monitored. For those that are, compliance action tends to be weak, though some local authorities have taken decisive action on some cases.

ECO has made submissions on a few RMA cases including the Mokihiui dam proposal and the proposals for hydro on the Arnold River, which we opposed. Rick Barber and Barry Weeber on our Executive Committee deserve our particular thanks for defending the West Coast in submissions on resource consents.

2.5 Water and Land Use

The Water Programme of Action of the government has finally developed a draft methodology for measuring ecological flows and has a draft National Environmental Standard on Ecological Flows with submissions due on July 29 2008. Regrettably, there is no sign of an Environmental Flows document, which would allow for other aspects such as amenity and in-stream uses.

ECO has been represented at some meetings of the NZ Business Council for Sustainable Development (NZBCSD) water management and allocation project. Members of the

Executive Committee for the most part have not been able to attend these meetings but NZBCSD has sent us documents relating to the work.

ECO held a seminar on the proposals with NZBCSD for ECO member groups in Wellington in April 2008.

We have made it clear that we value innovative thinking and that water policy and practice must improve. We have also made it clear that we do not agree with any proposal to the effect that the community must compensate anyone for relinquishing water when the health of the environment is at issue or for public purposes.

2.6 Education for Sustainability

ECO continues to support sustainability education funding. Various members of the Executive committee have worked on these issues both on the policy and in practice. ECO has staffed stalls on public education particularly on climate change, most recently at the World Environment Day 'Eco Party' in the Wellington Town Hall.

Maiki Marks is our specialist in Maori environmental education. Others on the Executive such as Aaron Packard have been both educators and students. Cath Wallace is an environmental educator in the tertiary sector and others have been active on many levels.

2.7 Open Society and Legal Aid

ECO continues to press for a more open and participative society. To this end we continue to defend environmental legal aid against those who would abolish it and it remains something we value highly for our members and for society. We continue to make the case for it to extend to laws other than simply the Resource Management Act 1991.

2.8 Biodiversity

The decline of New Zealand's native biodiversity and the loss of tropical rainforests and marine and Antarctic biodiversity continue to concern ECO. The New Zealand Environment 2007 Report published by the Ministry for the Environment in January 2008 and numerous international reports on global change and biodiversity losses illustrate the critical and urgent need for action to protect biodiversity on land, sea and ice.

We have championed the protection of biodiversity on many fronts, in climate and Biofuels policy and in Antarctica, the high seas and New Zealand's marine areas. Water policy is clearly a major front critical for aquatic ecosystems and species, as well as human welfare. We continue to press for biodiversity protection on many fronts, including the RMA consent processes and in fisheries and oceans management. The under-funding of the Department of Conservation and the loss in 2008 of the Marine Policy Unit and significant marine policy, science and technical capacity, as well as other

aspects of DOC's work is of great concern. Improving DOC's conservation performance and its funding remain vital tasks.

2.9 Public Access

ECO has mostly left public advocacy for access to the terrestrial environment to the many vocal recreational organisations and to NZ Fish and Game who are articulate in the cause. We have taken advice on these issues and have from time to time been able to help them.

2.10 Biosecurity

Invasive species in New Zealand and in Antarctica and the marine environment continue to be of considerable concern to ECO.

As well as all the usual concerns about the funding and organisation of New Zealand's and Antarctic efforts (or lack of these) to reduce plant, animal and bacterial and fungal invasive species, ECO has been especially concerned this year at the potential for carbon sink and Biofuels planting to introduce or spread invasive or weedy species. This potential set of risks is not confined to New Zealand but also exists in other places.

ECO has been alarmed at reports of inadequate management, monitoring and non-compliance with GE laws and consent conditions on GE plantings. Steffan Browning has done a huge amount of work in this area for ECO and other organisations.

2.11 Forests

New Zealand Climate Policy Accord

In October 2007 ECO and various other environmental groups reached an Accord with Forestry interests on climate change policy. The Climate Change Accord follows the New Zealand Forests Accord of 1991. The purpose of the Accord is to show support for climate change policies that will immediately provide a price on greenhouse gases that will result in real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and avoid adverse effects on the environment, while supporting the use of forests launched and plantations to sequester greenhouse gases. ECO was closely involved in the recent negotiations and the Accord was signed by Cath Wallace for ECO.

Discussion on illegal logging and a joint call for a ban on the import of products from illegally logged forests is underway with a view to developing a joint position with the Forest Owners Association and with others including the Wood Processors Association. Since this would be a trade measure, New Zealand would have to impose controls domestically as well, so we are in discussion with others who might produce, import or sell forest products in New Zealand. It is not clear the extent of the agreement that can be reached, but ECO and other groups are working on this issue with good faith with the forestry, importing and products sector.

Revelations that imports of oil palm kernels to New Zealand have risen to the extent that these are now a mainstay of much supplementary dairy feeding, and have grown so much as to moderate shipping rates for the reverse direction of trade, is causing ECO particular concern. This is because oil palms are displacing tropical forests, often through clearances that cause harm to local communities and biodiversity alike, as industrial croppers move in and displace forest dependent communities. This also increases the greenhouse footprint of New Zealand dairying with the removal of rainforest sinks. Oil palms, grown for biofuels and for cooking, do not contribute more than the sinks that they displace.

2.12 International

World Conservation Union – IUCN

ECO remains an active member of IUCN – the World Conservation Union, and participated in 2007 in a Regional Member’s meeting and in New Zealand meetings. The IUCN community has been extremely well served by Diana Shand, Oceania Regional Councillor from New Zealand and by Aroha Mead, co-opted councillor on indigenous matters. Cath Wallace and Barry Weeber are both members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and attended several meetings in New Zealand and in Brisbane.

Preparations are underway internationally for the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain, from 5-14 October. ECO has developed sessions on Antarctica and on high Seas governance with colleagues and has also both submitted and supported draft motions for consideration at the Members’ Assembly. Members include governments and non-government agencies. ECO will need help to get people to this Congress so if you have suggestions, these would be appreciated.

Documentation for the Congress can be found at www.iucn.org. We would appreciate advice from members as to who is going and on the policy matters involved.

As noted above and below in other sections, ECO is a member of and works collegially with other organisations including the Antarctic and Southern Oceans Coalition and its members and the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition. We also have a developing relationship on marine conservation with the Pew Environmental Foundation. Some of their interest also relates to New Zealand.

2.13 Antarctica

ASOC

The Antarctic and Southern Coalition is a body with which ECO maintains regular contact and ECO continues to be a member but raising an annual membership fee is difficult. Barry Weeber has worked two-day per week position with ASOC working on the Antarctic Krill Conservation Project. Cath Wallace has represented ECO on the ASOC Council and Barry Weeber on the ASOC Board.

3.0 Activities: Ongoing Liaison

3.1 Meetings with government agencies

Over the past year, ECO has participated in meetings with these Government agencies:

- The Department of Conservation
- The Ministry for the Environment
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- The Environmental Risk Management Authority
- The Ministry of Fisheries
- The New Zealand Treasury (on climate change and the design of the Emissions Trading System).

In some cases these are in ECO-only meetings, others are regular and/or stakeholder meetings and still others are broader policy debates or ad hoc meetings on particular international meetings or agreements or other matters.

3.2 Participation in Working Group etc

ECO has been represented on a number of working groups:

- Sub-Antarctic Islands Marine Protected Area Working Group (Barry Weeber);
- Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Management Plan Working Group (Clive Monds);
- Northern Scallop and Coromandel Scallop Fisheries Management Plan (Clive Monds)

3.3 Non-governmental organisations

ECO is a member of the following:

- The World Conservation Union – IUCN - and the New Zealand Committee of IUCN-NZ
- The Association of Non-government Organisations of Aotearoa
- The Climate Defence Network

- The Climate Action Network
- Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC)
- Deep Sea Conservation Coalition

ECO maintains cooperative relations with a range of other New Zealand and international organisations, and has liaised with colleagues internationally in sharing concerns about the impacts of human activity on the marine environment, the oceans, and fish stocks worldwide.

4.0 Activities: Outreach

4.1 Publications

There were five 'ECOLink' newsletter publications produced during the year: August 2007, October/November 2007, December 2007, and March 2008 and May/June 2008.

The SeaNet project web site has proved to be extremely well used. We know that it registered 110,354 hits in the eight-month period May-December 2007 at an average of 13,794 per month, and an average of 3,204 visitors per month or 104 per day. CDs are available at a small charge and hard copies have been produced and distributed, but in small quantities.

ECO hosted several workshops on the SeaNet site and in May 2008 a public seminar was held in Wellington as a guide to having your say on the marine and coastal environment, with the support of the Wellington City Council.

Also in May, ECO also hosted a lively discussion about the Oceans policy, again with the help of the Wellington City Council.

ECO engaged partygoers at the Eco Party at the Wellington Town Hall on Friday 6 June 2008 with a stall and free information. This was part of the World Environment Day associated events.

4.2 Projects

SeaNet Project

The SeaNet Project was completed this year to a high standard, although not quite within the deadline. The website, which had been live since April 2007, was upgraded with additional marine and oceans information and improved functionality.

Identified errors in the database were corrected and new groups were added to the list. The finished database and directory are clearly being well received and in the period from

May – December 2008 over 110,000 hits were made with tens of thousands of people using the site.

Final reports have been submitted to the governmental funding agencies, the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust, the Environment and Heritage Committee of the Lotteries Grants Board, and the Digital Strategy Community Partnership Fund. Thanks to Greenpeace and to Colin Benson for companion funding for this project, and to all those who worked so well to bring the project to fruition within budget and to a high standard.

Thanks to Tim Jordan and to Wellington Community Net for hosting this database and for work on the project.

The database is available at www.seanet.org.nz and is available on CD on request. A limited number of hard copies are also available for sale.

ECO acknowledges the assistance of the Wellington City Council for funding the SeaNet seminar on engagement in marine issues.

RMAlink

The RMAlink website is from time to time updated when additional information comes to hand. The Wellington Community Net is the web host. ECO needs to consider in the coming year whether to seek funding to upgrade the site to make it useful to members, friends, other community groups and the interested public.

4.3 Submissions

ECO made a number of submissions during the year, which included but were not limited to:

- Under the RMA to the West Coast Regional Council and Buller District Council – on the Mokihinui hydro proposals.
- Finance and Expenditure Select Committee – Climate Change (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill.
- Local Government and Environment Select Committee – on the Biofuels Bill.
- Board of Inquiry, Department of Conservation – Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (2 submissions).
- Department of Conservation – on the Hector's and Maui's Dolphin Threat Management Plan
- Marine Protected Areas: Protected Areas Classification and Protection Standard
- Department of Conservation – on the Proposed Population Management Plan for New Zealand Sea Lions *Phocarctos hookeri* and the NZ Sea lion Species Management Plan 2007-2017

- Ministry for the Environment – Proposed National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission.
- Ministry for the Environment – Improving Regulation of Environmental Effects in New Zealand’s EEZ (2 submissions, Sept 07 and Feb-March 2008).
- Department of Conservation – West Coast Conservation Management Strategy.
- Justice and Electoral Select Committee – Electoral Finance Bill.
- Ministry of Fisheries - Review of Sustainability Measures And Other Management Controls For The 2007-08 Fishing Year
- West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board – West Coast Conservation Management Strategy 2007– 2017
- Commerce Select Committee – Regulatory Responsibility Bill, August 07
- Justice and Electoral Committee – Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Delegation Bill
- Ministry of Transport: Ratification of Maritime Treaties, Jan 08

4.4 Website

The ECO Executive has been working on the re-development of the ECO website this year. It was decided to move the ECO website to the Wellington Community Net webhost, which currently hosts the SeaNet and RMAlink websites. A new ECO website is currently being designed. It will run on a Content Management System, which will make it easier for us to update regularly and the new design will increase usability. ECO also aims to add more content to make the website a more useful tool for member groups. The new website will be launched in the near future.

5.0 Administration and Governance

5.1 ECO Executive Committee

The members of the Executive Committee during the year were: Rick Barber (Westport), Steffan Browning, (Blenheim), Kimberley Cleland (Dunedin), Tony Dean (Treasurer, Wellington), Georgina Hart (Wellington), Megan Harte (Christchurch), Chris Hay (Auckland), Josie Howitt (Alternate, Dunedin), Tushara Kodikara (Alternate, Wellington), Elizabeth Lee (Wellington), Maiki Marks (Co-chair, Paihia), Viv Milne (Bombay, South Auckland), Clive Monds (Thames), Jo Newman (Auckland), Aaron Packard (Wellington), Cath Wallace (Wellington), Barry Weeber (Co-chair, Wellington), and Silvia Zuur (Wellington).

Particular thanks to the outgoing members of the Executive including Aaron, Kim, Viv and Silvia.

5.2 ECO Staff and Volunteers

Many thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their time and expertise to help ECO over the past year:

- Colin Benson for his help with computer repairs
- Chris Clarke for invaluable help with the ECO databases
- Leister Cooper for help in the resource centre
- Tim Jordan for his advice and help with SeaNet and ECO websites
- Philip Lee, Nick Young and Clive Monds for the website and computed related work.
- Meghan Hughes for editing the ECOLink newsletter
- Elizabeth Lee for all that she does, in particular helping with the Wellington Street Appeal and catering the oceans seminars;
- Christine Lee for helping with ECOLink mailouts;
- Clive Monds for taking care of the ECO website;
- Tony Dean for looking after the accounts;
- The various Wellington Friends who helped with the Street Appeal

ECO farewelled Kate Lower as our Executive Officer who had been in the position for over 5 years. ECO was fortunate to welcome Amelia Luxton to this position.

Tushara, Aaron, Georgi, Kim, Silvia and the other students or former students have provided great ideas, good organisation, fun and links to the rest of the student community.

5.3 ECO Members and Friends

There are 62 member groups currently on the ECO database. Four groups joined during the year”, The Surfbreak Protection Society, Organics Aotearoa New Zealand, Lincoln Environment Organisation (LEO) and the New Zealand Trust for Conservation Volunteers, who rejoined ECO after their membership had lapsed. One group, The Tree Council Auckland, resigned during the year owing to different areas of interest. The Whale and Dolphin Adoption Project also left ECO as their operation is closing down.

The number of subscribing Friends of ECO has remained unchanged at around 370. There are also about 165 other ‘complimentary’ Friends or other supporters not formally affiliated. ECO currently has about 30 autodonors who contribute regularly through automatic payments. The support of the autodonors is very important to ECO and we are grateful for their support. It is essential for ECO to gain more Friends and autodonors, and this will be a priority over the next year.

6.0 Financial Situation

6.1 Overview

ECO continues to have a very tight financial position. We have pared our expenses down to the bone, and we must raise more revenue. Investment in ECO and its activities represents very good value.

The greatest gift to ECO is the work done by member groups, Friends, volunteers and the hard working members of the Executive Committee and their networks, and by the Executive Officer. Particular thanks to the members of the Finance Committee, including Amelia Luxton, Tony Dean (Treasurer) and Barry Weeber (Chair).

6.2 Grants, Gifts and Fundraising

On the financial front, particular thanks to the individuals who gave donations and the autodonors. Thanks too to Antarctic New Zealand who provided \$2,000 to sponsor the Antarctic section of the Annual Conference and books and graphics.

The Wellington City Council donated \$250 to ECO to hold two seminars, one to help people have their say on marine and coastal management, the other on Oceans Policy.

The Treasurer's Report and audited accounts are presented separately. The main message to be seen is that ECO operates extremely thriftily, with much effort unpaid. More revenue would enable more effective representation of environmental principles. Help from member bodies in raising funds for core ECO work is needed.

7. The Future

ECO is in good heart, with a healthy influx of young groups and supporters as well as dedicated stalwarts.

As we look forward, we know that climate change, marine and fisheries policy, biodiversity and sustainability and many other issues will continue to need the efforts of ECO and our member bodies'.

ECO will continue to work for a better future.