

January 2024.

Phil Schofield

Chairman's report for HBFFT meeting Feb 9, 2024.

2023 activities and highlights.

Dave's report covers our activities during the year. We completed a change in role from Project Manager to General Manager this month with the inclusion of the communications, administration, and financial roles to allow trustees to govern while our GM to manages our activities within the budget.

Highlights of our outreach activity during the year:

Ministerial announcement of the Carbon positive partnership with MPI, Landwise, Heinz Wattie and McCains in February.

The Healthy Soils Healthy Profits event which created much discussion and provided us with a good range of resources for our outreach activities this year.

Funding

Sponsorship partnerships with our existing sponsors were reinforced (HBRC, HDC, Napier Port, BM) although the cyclone recovery work made the current sponsorship environment tough. Bayley's were unable to continue their sponsorship.

New sponsors who came on board during the year include Pan Pac and Populus People who did an increasing amount of pro bono work for us.

We have contracted Craig Ireson to help us explore more funding opportunities and his work is just beginning.

Projects

- Carbon Positive project enters its second year and planting plans for our third annual process crop are underway. This project is creating a great deal of interest both locally and internationally (through Heinz and McCains) with regular field walks that are well attended. In 2025 we will be due to measure soil C stocks again and check on progress towards our aim of improving soil health while growing profitable crops.
- We continue to work towards soil C based projects that provide evidence and potential GHG mitigation options for pastoral farmers. We were notified mid 2023 that crown funding for Soil C stock research on pastoral farms was not available for now. Possible avenues being explored are:
 - the establishment of commercial Regen Registry registered soil C projects in a farmer partnership with US company AEI and NZ pastoral industry.
 - Partnering with HBRC Land For Life project to add Soil C stocks and changed pastoral management to the monitoring programme for the monitor farms.

Board Structure and Governance:

We added some more structure to our governance during the year by adopting three new documents to guide us:

1. code of conduct for the board.

2. Skills matrix to identify the current trustee's skill mix.
3. Trustee recruitment process.

Trustees:

We were sad to say goodbye to John Van Der Linden this November. During his 4 years on the board he put a great deal of time and thought into our activities and He chaired the board for two years. His skills and passion for our work will be missed as will his meticulous attention to detail.

We have this month appointed Andrew Russell and Xan Harding to our board and welcome their input from our February meeting.

2024.

Post Gabrielle the need for improvements in land managements systems has become obvious. This creates and opportunity for us to steer the rebuilt farming systems in directions that are good for the land, water, people and environment.

Early in 2024 we will review our strategic plan.

I look forward to working with you to explore the best ways forward to accomplish the Future Farming Trusts mission and vision.