

## **SAGE 2023**

**AGM Wednesday 6 December 2023**

### **The year in review**

Both Daphne and I would like to thank everyone for your support, contributions, conversations and efforts. We have endeavoured to fill the big boots Lin Roberts left, but they were a bit too big!

SAGE is about us all doing what we can for sustainability, however small it might seem.

### **Some highlights of 2023**

Patryk Szczerba's position as Sustainability Officer has increased to full-time this year. This is great and we appreciate your input, Patryk. **Check!**

A number of members attended a B.linc event on 31<sup>st</sup> January titled "**Leading the way in Sustainability**" and presented by Grant Edwards. A few pertinent questions were put in response and the Arboretum claimed as an effort to offset the trees being chopped down around campus – actually SAGE's hard mahi!

Our long-standing member **Mike Bowie** was farewelled on 2nd May with an afternoon tea put on by LU. Some SAGE members were able to attend and gave Mike a card and best wishes from SAGE.

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May the **Kate Meads 'Food-Lovers' Masterclass** about food waste-minimalisation was held at the Lincoln Events centre. SAGE sponsored 10 places in the class, so students and staff could attend. The group learnt about practical things we can do better to tackle the \$1.17 billion of food that is wasted in Aotearoa every year.

<https://wastedkate.co.nz/>

**New Staff Orientation** on 11 July included an introduction to the LU Sustainability plan presented by our Sustainability Officer, Patryk Szczerba. Daphne later presented a brief overview of SAGE and an invitation to join the group.

**Plastic-Free July** – SAGE promoted Plastic-free July, most notably through the efforts of Mike Garth in Mrs O's, where he trailed various plastic-free solutions.

**Sustainability Week** 14-18 August saw LESS and LUSA take the lead with a full programme of activities with good impact including:

- 'The swamp' movie screening
- a waste-busting activity where campus recycling was sorted by entrants on Forbes Lawn with a prize draw
- sustainable transport encouraged through the free pancake breakfast
- SAGE Seminar - a panel discussion "LU's journey from coal to renewable energy" with Panellists: Patryk Szczerba, Alistair Pearson & Daniel Brown, Chair: Lin Roberts Aug 17th

- a 'weeding and wellbeing' working-bee at the arboretum, and
- a display in the library of waste and sustainability-related books and items

#### **SAGE seminars included**

- "Restoring te taiao, te mauri and the human experience of Waitaha (Restoring nature, it's life force and the human experience of Canterbury)" presented by Colin Meurk, October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- "Time to Act: Climate Change, Sustainability and a Circular Economy" presented by John Gould, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Ebike into the future: Sustainable Transport and Saving the Planet presented by Catherine Elliot, Aug 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks again to everyone who has supported Daphne and I in the Co-Chair role.

Special thanks to John Gould for his polished applications for SAGE Sustainability Actions Grants.

#### **The way forward**

Mark made a suggestion early this year about the value of talking informally with others about ideas and what people are doing in the sustainability space. Having some less formal catch-ups during the year, maybe in between the formal meetings may be beneficial. It would be more welcoming environment for people interested in SAGE or sustainability, and it would facilitate wider engagement and involvement through enabling people to make connections with others. Thanks Mark.

New people: There is a new person on the facilities management team – it would be great to get her onboard to see what can be done re waste; and also the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori, (starting with LU in February) who comes from Otago University where she has been a Research Professor at the Centre for Sustainability.

We look forward to supporting the transition to new people leading SAGE!

Thanks to you all.

Daphne Smithers and Barbara Nicholson.