



# Annual Report

2023

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# Executive Summary

Food Secure North Canterbury (FSNC) is a collaborative initiative addressing food security challenges through partnerships with various organisations, including Satisfy Food Rescue, Kaiapoi Food Forest, Kaiapoi Community Garden, Oxford Community Trust, Kaiapoi Community Support, Community Wellbeing North Canterbury, and both the Waimakariri and Hurunui District councils. This collaboration allows us to leverage partners' expertise and resources for wider outreach and improved access to resources.

Over the last year, FSNC has organised community forums and workshops, fostering connections among stakeholders and the wider community to empower individuals with essential food security skills and knowledge.

Funding has been used to support various initiatives, such as purchasing bulk food and chillers for North Canterbury food banks, funding an educational facility for the Kaiapoi Food Forest, and contributing to the exciting Kaiapoi Community Hub.

FSNC's collaborative approach has been instrumental in achieving positive outcomes, with each partner contributing their unique expertise. Satisfy Food Rescue excels in redistributing surplus food, Kaiapoi Food Forest and Kaiapoi Community Garden share knowledge on growing food, while other partners offer insights into community challenges and local governance.

Looking ahead, FSNC plans to organise more events and activities to foster active community involvement and ensure a secure and sustainable food future. We celebrate the importance of collaboration in addressing food insecurity and remain committed to equitable access to nutritious food for all, guided by the whakatauki;

**Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi.**

*With your basket and my basket, the people shall thrive.*



# Our Vision

Nourished and empowered communities.



# Our Mission

To pioneer change that enables our community to be food secure through sustainability, innovation, and collaboration

# Our Values

## **Kaitiakitanga – Guardianship/Protection**

We are committed to the conservation, replenishment and sustainability of the environment. We aspire to safeguard our communities' future.

## **Whanaungatanga – Connection/Relationship**

We will work in an inclusive and cohesive manner. In our work we will use mana enhancing practices, resulting in an empowered, equitable and nourished community.

## **Rangatiratanga – Leadership/Authority**

We will provide intentional leadership that nurtures innovative and courageous responses to food security in our communities.



# Strategic Goals

1. Increase food access
2. Education and skill sharing
3. Raise awareness and involve/engage communities
4. Capacity and capability through collaboration
5. Policy and planning







# *Partner Report:*

# Satisfy Food Rescue

Being a key stakeholder of Food Secure North Canterbury has connected the work of Satisfy to the wider public, thus raising our profile which has benefitted Satisfy in a few ways;

- Increased donation of excess produce from local gardeners; significantly more walk-in donations from locals over the past 6 months.

- Increased interest from individuals looking for volunteer opportunities at Satisfy.

- Networking and collaboration opportunities - We are supporting more events and smaller recipients through our work with FSNC (SEDE project, Back to Basics, supplying food for educational workshops hosted by FSNC).

The Harvest Collaboration between Satisfy and the Oxford & District Lions continues and for the third year running harvested produce is collected weekly to support Satisfy recipient organisations. This collaboration was developed through an early stage community forum that FSNC hosted back in 2020. This project has donated a whopping 28,926kg of fresh produce to Satisfy which supports the food banks of North Canterbury and many other recipient organisations which we know has been of significant value.

A few more highlights from Satisfy over the past 12 months;

- We purchased a brand new electric van which is larger than our previous van, allowing us to pick up more food on our daily runs. This purchase also provides a more sustainable method of transport for food, reducing our ongoing running costs and has a less negative impact on our environment.
- We have been fortunate to employ a new Communications and Funding Specialist to help raise our profile and develop new funding streams to support the work that we do.
- We continue to support our food banks to provide food to those that need it most in our community. Our food banks have seen a significant increase in demand, and need from the newly vulnerable due to the cost of living crisis placing significant pressure on individuals and families. We are grateful to be able to support our food banks at this time of increased need.

Stef Van Meer  
Manager  
Satisfy Food Rescue







# *Partner Report:*

# **Kaiapoi Community Support**

Kaiapoi Community Support (KCS), a service of Community Wellbeing Trust North Canterbury, offers socio-economic and psychosocial support. We provide onsite services such as food parcels and direct individuals and families to other support services provided by the trust, including social work, youth support, and partner agencies such as Budget Advice, CAPS, Oasis Gambling, and Pegasus Health.

Our support extends to a diverse range of individuals and households across the community, from the Waimakariri River to the south, to the Ashley River in the north, and the eastern seaboard to West Eyreton. KCS partners with governmental and non-governmental agencies to address the increasing pressures on household incomes.

The demand for assistance, particularly for food insecurity, has significantly risen, with monthly increases ranging from 50% to nearly 120%. But KCS is not alone, this is echoed by many food banks across the Canterbury Area.

Our primary focus that drives the mahi we do, has always been to alleviate food insecurity and reduce the associated co-morbidities, whilst working to tackle inequality and adverse associated health outcomes that food insecurity presents.

We provide onsite budget advice, we have CAPS, and close links with Pegasus Health, and community connectors as well as other agencies to ensure that the root cause of the food insecurity and the associated health outcomes are addressed.

KCS are profoundly thankful for the collaboration that is presented through Food Secure North Canterbury, with food sovereignty being the focus. We look toward another year providing socio-economic justice, and ensuring that local food systems tackle hunger and poverty, as we work together towards sustainable food security for all.

Gabrielle Barlow  
KCS Coordinator  
Kaiapoi Community Support

# *Partner Report:*

# **Kaiapoi Community Garden**

The Kaiapoi Community Garden was established in 2010 and has been cheerfully serving our community since that time. While we are an independent, trust organisation, sourcing our own funds for operational purposes, we have found Food Secure North Canterbury (FSNC) to be useful for us for valuable networking purposes.

On October 26th 2022, FSNC organised a forum for all food supply stakeholders in North Canterbury to attend. The brief was to inform those attending what your organisation does in relation to growing, supplying, processing and distributing food within the North Canterbury area and where to from there. As a member of the Kaiapoi Community Garden, I spoke about how the garden began, how it is run - along with community involvement and where to in the future. Oxford Lions members were attending the forum and were very interested in what we were doing. I invited them along to our Open Day on the 6th of November 2022, which they came to, and learnt firsthand about our garden. They were very excited to take this information back to their community.

The advantage of additional networking opportunities, facilitated by FSNC, means we have greater knowledge of the challenges, outcomes, goals and aspirations of other food-related community organisations (local foodbanks, food forest, council organisations etc) and allows us to assist where possible and vice versa.

While we grow the produce in the garden for our pickles, chutneys and jam, through FSNC we connect with Satisfy Food Rescue, sourcing on occasion some other ingredients for preserving, such as sugar when available. The preserves are sold at local community events and our open days in the garden and provide us with valuable revenue, with the proceeds funding the purchase of seeds, hoses or whatever we need to help keep the garden operational.

FSNC share our workshops and open days on their social media, further extending our reach in the North Canterbury area.

Mandy Grenier  
Trustee and Volunteer  
Kaiapoi Community Garden



# *Partner Report:*

# **Kaiapoi Food Forest**

The Kaiapoi Food Forest Trust (KFFT) has found its association with Food Secure North Canterbury (FSNC) to be a mutually beneficial collaboration. Through the regular FSNC meetings, KFFT is kept up to date with the activities of the various kindred organisations operating in the food security ecosphere in North Canterbury. This enables us to support other organisations in their endeavours and to gain their support for our endeavours.

One example of this would be these other organisations putting information about KFFT events on their websites and social media pages, which broadcasts our events to a wider audience than we might reach on our own. Working together with our kindred organisations in FSNC we are thus able to be more effective in our contributions towards greater food security in North Canterbury.

The KFFT has also benefitted by being granted \$50,000 from FSNC towards the costs of the small semi-outdoor educational facility that we are building in the Food Forest to enable us to run on-site courses and programmes to foster greater food security in our region. This grant covers a significant proportion of the budgeted cost of our new facility and as such is greatly appreciated.

The October 2022 Forum organised by FSNC was another good example of the work that FSNC does to create valuable opportunities to network with and learn more about the other kindred organisations working towards greater food security in North Canterbury. For all the above reasons and more, the KFFT will continue to be part of, and supportive of, FSNC.

Gordyn Hamblyn  
Chairperson  
Kaiapoi Food Forest Trust

# *Partner Report:* **Oxford Community Trust**

Oxford Community Trust is a charitable trust that has been operating since 1994, providing food parcels as needed in the community. We partner with other organisations to do this. Most of our local churches collect food for us. The Budget Boutique in Oxford provides funds they raise in their shop for food supplies as needed.

Recently we have partnered with Oxford Area School and the Oxford & Districts Lions. Through this collaboration, the Food Technology students are utilising pumpkins and potatoes provided by the Oxford Lions to create nutritious soups. These soups, along with fruit crumbles, are then frozen and included in our food parcels.

We are fortunate to receive support from Fresh Choice Oxford as well. Their contributions include dated surplus items and occasional collections on our behalf, strengthening our ability to meet the community's needs.

*"I really appreciate the food help I get from Jo at the Oxford Community Trust. As well as other food, they give me a lot of bread each week, which I can make last a week for my family. This really helps with school lunches too. Jo also got me involved with the Community Garden, and I have been going there each week and growing some things for our use. I wouldn't be able to make ends meet, without this help from the Trust."*

Furthermore, our commitment to the community extends to our ongoing provision of Friday Food at the social housing in Oxford. This initiative not only provides nourishment but also serves as an opportunity for individuals to connect and build relationships.

Through these collaborative efforts and community partnerships, Oxford Community Trust continues to make a meaningful difference in addressing food insecurity and fostering a stronger, more connected community.

Jo Ealam  
Manager  
Oxford Community Trust

# *Partner Report:* **Hurunui District Council**

Our 3 Hurunui foodbanks in Amberley, Waipara, and Waikari continue to be busy with a high of 257 boxes a month going to families in the Hurunui. The ongoing support of Food Secure North Canterbury (FSNC) and Satisfy Food Rescue (SFR) is a blessing and crucial to the supply security for our area.

There has been progress made with the food hub in Amberley. The hub is built and ready to be delivered. The siting of the hub continues to be elusive and although many have been explored none have come to fruition. Hurunui District Council are putting out a plea to the community, so we live in hope.

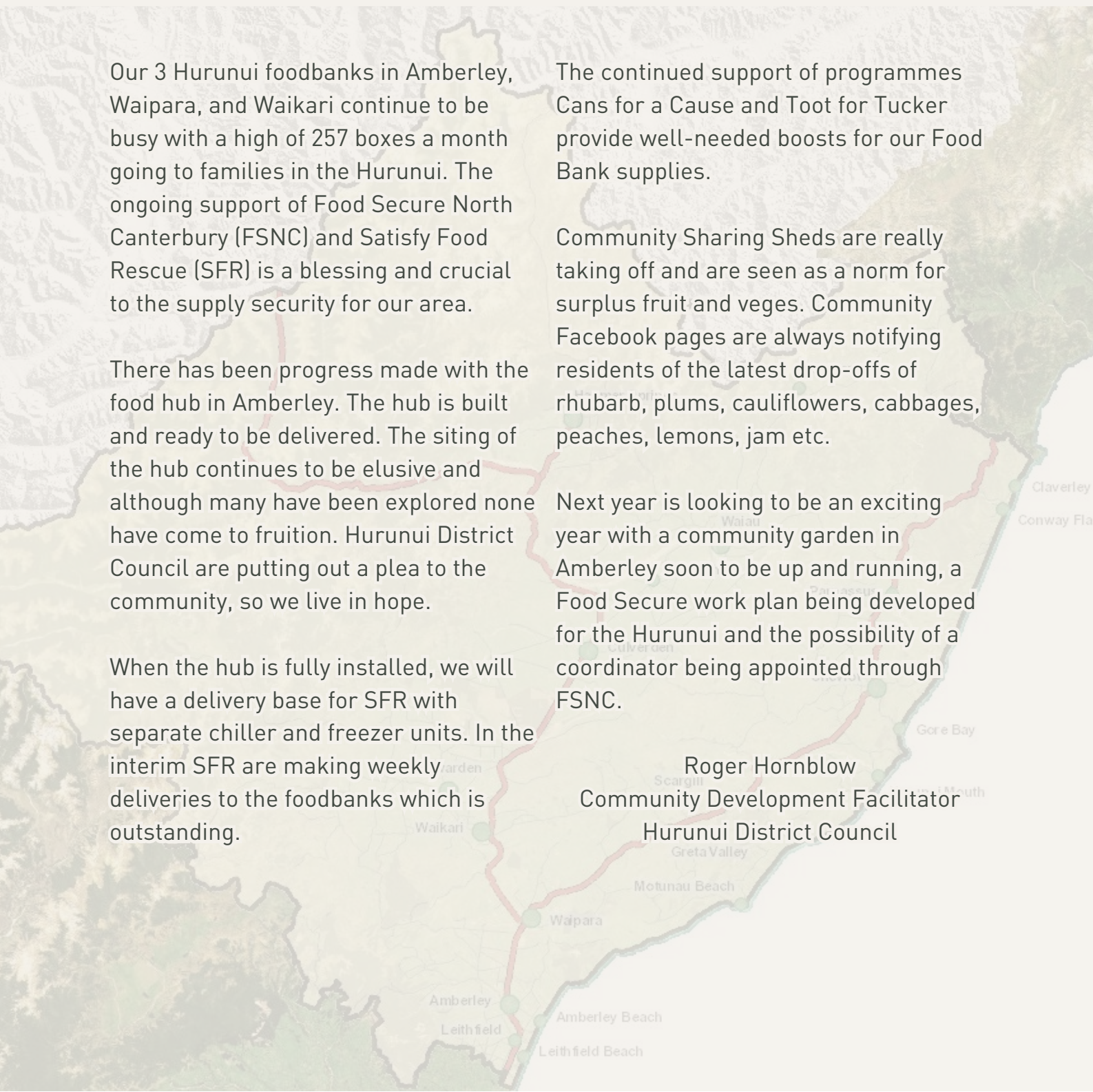
When the hub is fully installed, we will have a delivery base for SFR with separate chiller and freezer units. In the interim SFR are making weekly deliveries to the foodbanks which is outstanding.

The continued support of programmes Cans for a Cause and Toot for Tucker provide well-needed boosts for our Food Bank supplies.

Community Sharing Sheds are really taking off and are seen as a norm for surplus fruit and veges. Community Facebook pages are always notifying residents of the latest drop-offs of rhubarb, plums, cauliflowers, cabbages, peaches, lemons, jam etc.

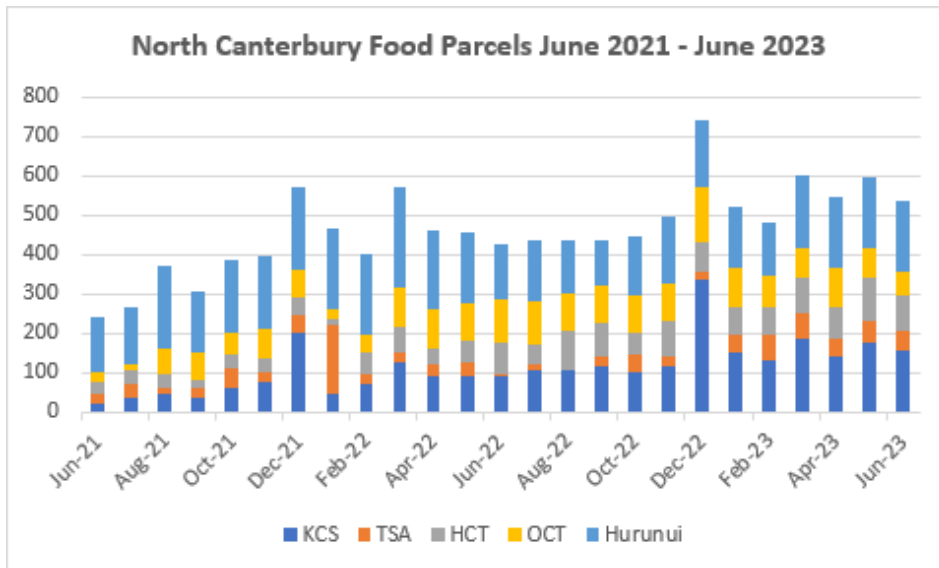
Next year is looking to be an exciting year with a community garden in Amberley soon to be up and running, a Food Secure work plan being developed for the Hurunui and the possibility of a coordinator being appointed through FSNC.

**Roger Hornblow**  
Community Development Facilitator  
Hurunui District Council





# Foodbanks Update



The food banks around North Canterbury have been extremely busy in this economic environment. Food resources have been tight compared to the exponential increase in food parcels being sought from our most vulnerable. Notably, there has been a concerning increase in the number of newly vulnerable clients seeking assistance.

To cope with the overwhelming demand, all of the Waimakariri-based food banks have taken the proactive step of hiring assistant coordinators. These coordinators play a crucial role in supporting the food banks to meet the needs of the community.

Over the past year and a half, the food banks have been working tirelessly in the Supported Isolation and Quarantine COVID Community Response effort, collaborating closely with the MSD-funded Connector roles. This has been a 7-day-per-week on-call service. The communities of Waimakariri and Hurunui are thankful to the food bank sector for this amazing support.

The Food and Budgeting Forum meets tri-monthly to support all the coordinators of the food banks, share food resources and ideas, and ensure wrap-around support for those identified as accessing multiple food banks. The food banks are also represented on the Canterbury food bank forum, enabling them to contribute to broader regional initiatives.

# Kaiapoi Community Hub

Of the funds that Food Secure North Canterbury applied for from MSD's "Food Secure Communities" fund, \$200,000 was tagged for the Kaiapoi Community Hub. Those funds have now been transferred over to the newly formed Kaiapoi Community Hub Trust.

The Kaiapoi Community Hub is a legacy project that will become a vibrant and essential part of Kaiapoi. With a purposeful design, the hub aims to be a thriving centre for various activities. It will be home to Satisfy Food Rescue and Kaiapoi Menzshed, and will feature a communal hall and greenspace. These facilities will also function as a central hub for educational initiatives, knowledge-sharing, and collaborative efforts to tackle food security challenges.



# Events

FSNC hosted the successful “Get a Bite of the Action” community forum, bringing together stakeholders and the wider community to address food security which fostered numerous connections among participants.

We have hosted workshops on safe food preservation techniques, collaborating with Sonia Barrish from Urban Self Sufficiency NZ. The response was overwhelming, leading us to hold two events and equip 40 local participants with skills in preserving surplus produce and low-acid foods without additives or freezer space.

Looking ahead, FSNC has exciting event ideas to engage and empower communities for food security, including sustainable gardening, seed saving, composting, water conservation, meal planning, cooking with local ingredients, preserving food, reducing waste, budgeting, foraging, and community get-togethers.

By promoting active community involvement and empowering individuals with these skills, FSNC aims to ensure a more secure and sustainable food future.









# Media Coverage

## Food hub looking for a home

By ROBYN BRISTOW

Food Secure North Canterbury wants to make collecting food parcels easier for Hurunui's three foodbanks, as demand for food parcels continues to rise.

Hurunui's March audit reveals 184 food parcels were distributed in the Hurunui district, which is the highest number in 11 months since April 2022.

Hurunui District Council community development facilitator, Roger Hornblow, says supplies go out every month from Satisfy Food Rescue in Kaiapoi to Hurunui's three foodbanks in Amberley, Waikari and Waipara.

But lack of a food hub in Hurunui is styming ease of access for collection by the districts food banks, and putting the brakes on Satisfy to connect further into the district, Mr Hornblow says.

Satisfy Food Rescue Manager Stef van Meer says Satisfy has bought a chiller, freezer and portacom which it would like to locate in the wider Amberley area.

"This is to reduce the distances our hard-working food banks travel every week to collect food," she says.

The portacom is sitting at the manufacturer ready to be relocated to a suitable location in Hurunui.

Funding from the Ministry of Social Development has allowed the building project to get to this point. Once a location is found, a co-ordinator will be employed to support it.

But finding a location to lease in the wider Amberley area is holding back progress and proving challenging.

"To get going, only power is required for the three units, with water for the portacom preferable, but not essential.

"Vehicle movements at the site would be a few times a week to start, with potential to grow to once a day," Ms van Meer says. The building and chiller/freezer are easily relocatable, and could be moved if



Helping others . . . Matt and Yohanna Redeppening from the Amberley Leithfield Foodbank unpack boxed supplies. PHOTO: SUPPLY

requirements change for the land the hub was on, Mr Hornblow says.

Aveai Taulamona from Living Waters Foodbank says it would be a huge weight off their shoulders.

"At the moment, Living Waters picks up food from Satisfy Food Rescue in Kaiapoi twice a week.

"Not only would we save on fuel costs but it would be easier for our volunteers. We would be very excited to have the new hub in Hurunui."

In the short-term until a location is found for the hub, Satisfy will make monthly deliveries of bulk food to the Hurunui food banks in addition to the weekly collections, Mr Hornblow says.

"With demand on our foodbanks continuing to rise, collaborating and supporting each other across North Canterbury has never been so important."

Satisfy Food Rescue and the Hurunui District Council have been working together for several years as key stakeholders in the Food Secure North Canterbury collaborative partnership.

"The group are working together on this regional food security project to bring together people, knowledge, and resources, to empower North Canterbury with funding from the Ministry of Social Development.

"We will be looking at how we can maximise and increase local produce to help our residents, especially when prices are rising so steeply, Mr Hornblow says.

He says vegetable gardens had become the new normal and this meant that some people had surplus. "A local food hub would enable surplus homegrown produce to be collected for redistribution through the local food banks."

## Regional policy needed

By DAVID HILL, Local Democracy Reporter

North Canterbury's food rescue organisation says it backs a call for a food waste policy to be developed in the region.

Satisfy Food Rescue chairperson Phillipa Hunt says food security has become more important in the wake of natural disasters and the Covid-19 pandemic.

She was responding to comments from Foodbank Aotearoa New Zealand chief executive John Milligan, who addressed last week's Environment Canterbury (ECan) meeting calling for a policy to reduce food waste in Canterbury.

"Food security is so important, particularly when you see natural disasters, droughts and pandemics, so we can be more resilient and it is going to become more of an issue in the future," she said.

"Here in the Waimakariri, because we responded to the earthquakes, the systems were in place to respond to the Covid situation, which is where Food Secure North Canterbury was able to set up fairly quickly.

"I would be interested in seeing a food waste policy developed and we would want to be a part of it."

Ms Hunt said when it came to reducing food waste, it was about feeding people first, animals second and then composting.

Going to landfill should only be a last resort, she said.

Mr Milligan said globally the world was facing one of its worst food crises in modern history.



Rescuing food . . . Satisfy Food Rescue chairperson Phillipa Hunt (centre) sorts out food with staff members Stef Van Meer (left) and Michelle Campbell. PHOTO: FREL

New Zealand was not immune, with Covid, supply chain issues, rising inflation, climate change and Cyclone Gabrielle.

But he said there was enough food available to ensure every New Zealander had three nutritious meals a day, provided distribution and food waste challenges could be overcome.

"One in five kids will have gone to school this morning without breakfast and many will go to bed without tea," he told the ECAN councillors.

"One-third of all of our food is totally wasted and it is something we need to work very hard at combating."

He said Canada and several European countries had passed food waste laws.

The office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor

produced a report on food waste last year, but the government had yet to produce a policy or legislation.

Food waste was a climate change issue, being a major producer of methane gas, with wasted loaves of bread being among the worst offenders.

Mr Milligan said Canterbury was feeling the effects of food shortages arising from Cyclone Gabrielle, with food and support being redistributed to the North Island.

Families who had left damaged homes and come to stay with whānau in Canterbury were also needing support, he said.

The ECAN councillors voted to refer the matter to the Canterbury Joint Waste Committee.

Public interest journalism funded through New Zealand on Air.

## Second chance for feijoas

TATIANA GIBBS

Almost 200kgs of feijoas have been given a second life, and gifted to over 40 organisations around North Canterbury.

Food banks, schools, and community groups have each received a slice of the 183kgs of feijoas that would otherwise have gone to waste.

The CJ's Plants Drive Thru Plant Farm in Amberley has 300 trees in their feijoa orchard which proves a challenge to manage, as different varieties of feijoas fruit at different times.

The feijoas were picked by Satisfy Food Rescue in a harvest collaboration project aiming to increase access to healthy food and promote zero waste with Food Secure North Canterbury.

Satisfy Food Rescue's operations coordinator Cameron Crawley said the many hands of volunteers made it "quick work". "It's very rewarding to get out into the community to do this kind of work and also connect with our amazing volunteers in addition to ensuring this source of food isn't wasted," Crawley said.

The harvest collaboration project, focused on building local food resilience, sees the equivalent of 62,400 meals a year distributed to community organisations.

Growers supply fresh produce, harvesters collect it, and processors turn the excess pro-



Cameron Crawley, from Satisfy Food Rescue helped save 183kgs of feijoas which otherwise would have gone to waste. Food banks, schools and community organisations in North Canterbury have received excess feijoas grown at CJ's Plants in Amberley.

duce into preserves like jams and frozen stewed fruit if needed to create food with a longer shelf life which then goes out the door to feed those in need.

Fran Cain from Satisfy Food Rescue said foodbanks are "struggling to meet demand". "One of our local food banks who used to get five people in a week is now sometimes seeing up to five an hour. Where funding isn't increasing to meet this need you can imagine how tough it is."

"The other bonus about receiving fresh fruit like this from CJ's is that it is able to be given out through our networks to an

increasing number of homeless who are unable to utilise cooking facilities."

Jane Hayes from CJ's Plants said food sustainability was a "worrying situation".

"I think we are all walking around at the moment complaining about the economy but not doing anything to help. These guys (Satisfy Food Rescue)

are already out there, helping the folks that have been in this worrying situation a lot longer than all of us," Hayes said.

The turned around fate of these feijoas can benefit people struggling with the rising cost of fresh produce, Krysten Phillips of Food Secure North Canterbury said.

A kilogram of feijoas is upwards of \$7.99 in the three

major supermarkets in Canterbury.

"Collaboration is key to community sufficiency," Phillips said.

The harvest collaboration project started in late 2020 when Food Secure North Canterbury funded seed potatoes and fertiliser for the Oxford & District Lions who have since supplied 30,000kgs of vegetables to Satisfy Food Rescue.

# Follow Our Journey...

Visit our website: [foodsecurenc.org.nz](https://foodsecurenc.org.nz)



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