

Wānaka Back to Life
October 26 HUI, WAO 2021

Creating a network of Parks and Corridors,
Enhancing Biodiversity and our
Community resilience and well-being
A unique attraction for visitors

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In collaboration with Tim Barke (Lake Wānaka Tourism)
and Julie Perry (WAI / ALREC)
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Tēnā koutou kātoa,
Ko Alps toku maunga
Ko Wīwī toku iwi
No Wānaka ahau
Ko Florence Micoud toku ingoa
Noreira, Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou kātoa

Hi, I'm Florence Micoud, I come from France and I have lived for nearly 20 years in Wānaka, where I raised my family, I was librarian at Mount Aspiring College for 15 years and was involved in many sustainability initiatives.

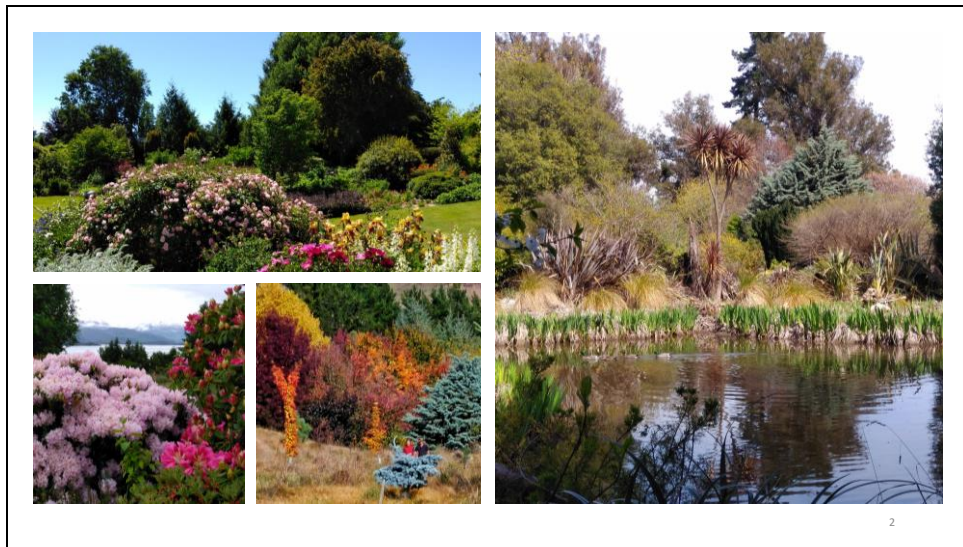
I thank you for offering me the opportunity to share our vision of "Creating a network of Parks and Corridors, that will enhance Biodiversity, our Community resilience and well-being and be a unique attraction for manuhiri".

Where does this vision come from?

My partner and I are creating gardens and a park on our 5 acres property at the limit of Wānaka urban area. Our vision is that one day, it will be open to the public.

In the meantime, we share the beauty and love for nature with friends and as part of my Guided Garden Tour Business.

Slide 2



I started Beautiful Gardens of Wanaka last year to share the incredible beauty and wellbeing gardens provide me.

There are outstanding properties!

Many gardens are 30+ years and their gardeners are aging too!

Many owners I know would like to protect their trees and parks, their creation of love after they pass. But many of these gardens wonderful abundance, ecosystem services and beauty are at stake of subdivision.

Slide 3



I feel very strongly about Papatuanuku and kaitiakitanga and have always lived as sustainably as I can.

So when I created Beautiful Gardens of Wānaka, I naturally applied a sustainable* business model by principle, with a Hybrid people's mover, no packaging morning teas, manaakitanga, flexibility to adapt to our changing world and, in essence, educating and inspiring.

Joining the Back to Life programme, it became clear that the vision we had for our park was useful and answering to many common issues (the yellow arrows).

We shared this vision with the Council several times, but it takes more than one!

I believe that this platform US-HERE-NOW can take it to fruition.

*A system is sustainable when:

It doesn't use always more materials extracted from the earth crust – minimize fossil fuels

It doesn't accumulate substances at a faster rate than the ecosystem can digest – waste free

It doesn't deplete or damage ecosystems as a faster rate than the ecosystem can recover – regenerate

It allows everyone to meet their needs – equity, sharing

Slide 4



Here are Google Maps historical images. They show that the town was very bare 40 years ago, and there are now patches of green, but also patches of green replaced by housing. The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, as the proverb goes. But here in our climate, it is more 40 years ago, so all the trees that are mature today are very precious. In the past, there were reserves and tree plantations close to town. With the town enlarging, the need for parks in the urban area is even more important.

Slide 5



Do you recognise this bare isolated land? It could be Brazil! It's actually Orchard Road, everything has been cut from Ballantyne road.
Just the old orchard is left. This historic orchard could feed a box of apples to everyone in the community! Is it going to be saved or chopped down?

Every day, we see the town creeping over, breaking ecosystems and beauty, bringing noise and pollution.

With development, lots of mature trees are cut down.

It will take 40 years for any planting to become a mature tree again.

Even when section owners plant hedges and trees, they cannot replace large, old, vast natural areas.

So here is the idea:

Idea in One Sentence

Together we invent a regenerative and climate responsible model of Public / Private partnership using zoning and tax rebates to create an attractive network of parks and wide nature corridors where biodiversity/ecosystems, resilience/wellbeing are enhanced, hosting local food and safe bike/walk/horse/ public transport

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Florence McLeod, September 2021

Together
we invent a regenerative and climate responsible model of
Public / Private partnership
using zoning and tax rebates
to create an attractive network of **parks** and wide nature **corridors**
where **biodiversity** and ecosystems, **resilience** and wellbeing are **enhanced**,
hosting local **food**
AND safe bike/walk/horse/ public **transport**

Slide 7



How does it benefit the community and the environment?

It realizes each QLDC principles of community resilience, connection and wellbeing, bird chorus, zero carbon, pride in sharing

It fits within each UN 17 Goals,

It meets the duty of the local government to care for the people and the planet, and for the future too.

And locals and visitors will love more tracks and more beautiful places to explore, won't they?

So how does it look like?



Park and Alleys

Imagine a landowner, regenerating his own land: maybe creating ponds, planting specimen trees like in a botanic park, planting trees, native or not, whatever they like that is regenerative.

What would support this landowners to keep their private land for future generations (not subdividing it), keep regenerating it and make it accessible to all.

The land could be sold as a whole and with the conditions attached.

I believe it could be as simple as a tax rebate (for example in proportion of the land dedicated to the scheme).

It would result in:

- * Parks and alleys opening vast opportunities for locals and manuhiri to enjoy nature,
- * AND
- * Connecting corridors enabling commuting so that our transport becomes carbon free.

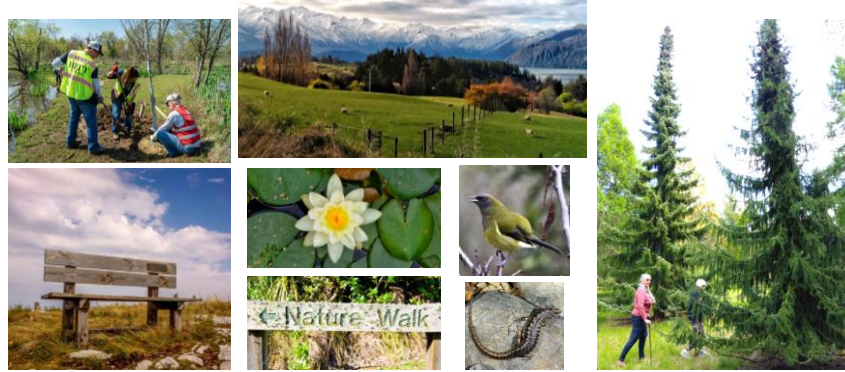
For the tourism sector, the idea has so many benefits:

Creating wonderful new assets, it attracts more visitors, but it also creates more space to “spread the crowds”, which will please the community somewhat disgruntled by the pre-covid volumes.

Diversifying the economy, the idea allows reallocating staff in the project that are meaningful to your activity. Ex: a bike rental shop getting funds to pay the staff to work on a new bike track

And of course, it is regenerative, which is the vision the tourism sector wants to implement, including community, environmental regeneration, education and manaakitanga.

Nature haven



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With our vision, vast areas of private land are regenerated for the pleasure of the landowners, which benefits the environment and climate.
It's good for wildlife and carbon drawdown

It could involve Tree planting (Native and exotic), Bush regeneration, Concerted pest management

It could create Wetlands and ponds

It would protect landscapes

It could have lots of beautiful Viewpoints and old trees, full of birds and ... HERE is our dawn chorus!

Community resilience —

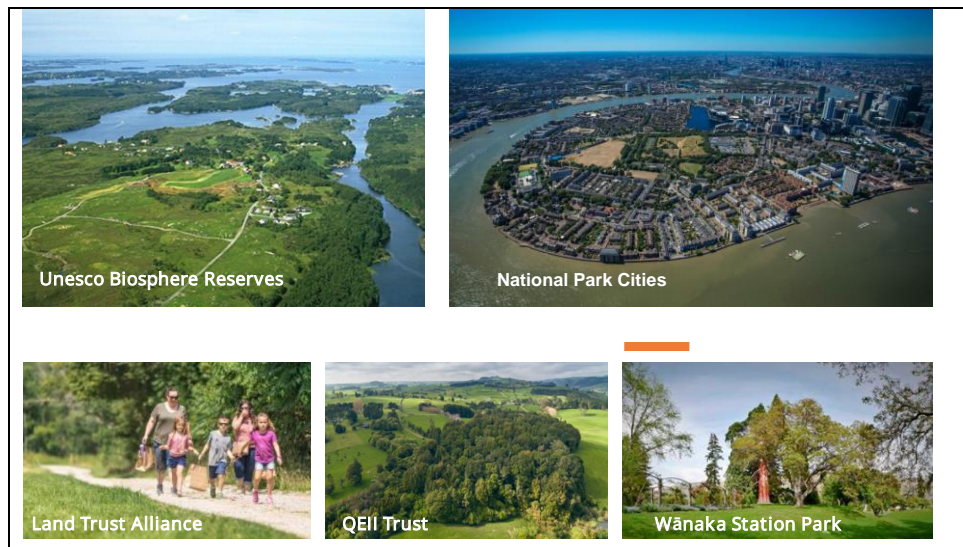


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Some landowners could lend or rent their land for local food initiatives, as Callum already does with Grow Wānaka. We could have

- Orchards
- Garden allotments
- Food forest
- Market garden
- Space for foraging

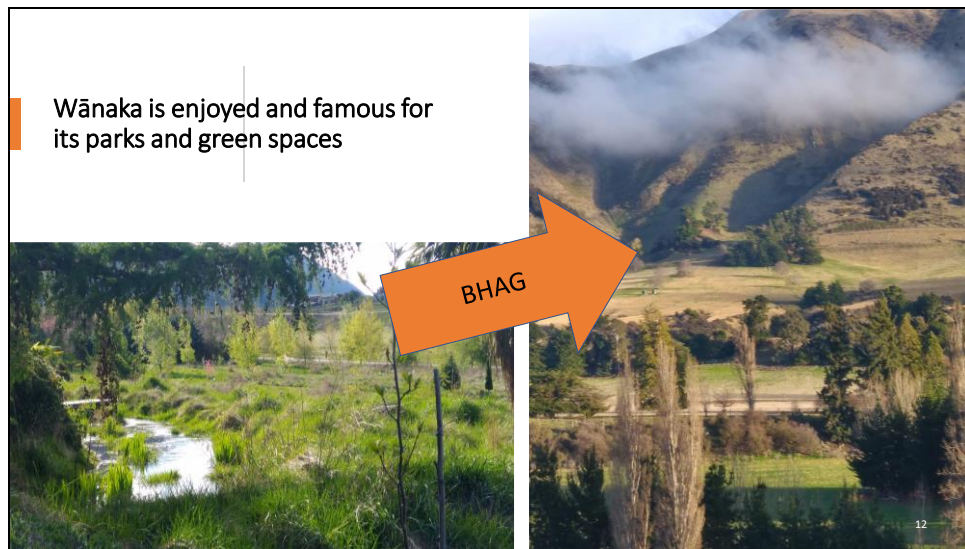
This all greatly improves community resilience, well-being and affordability, and reduce food kilometers too.



There are many places in the world where it's happening already.

- There are 700 Unesco Biosphere Reserves regions in the world, where people work to reconcile human activity with the conservation of biodiversity
- The new “National Parks Cities” concept fosters “Cities rich with wildlife, where people and nature are better connected”. They include London and Adelaide, and Christchurch is considering stepping in.
- In the US, many private trusts are “saving the places people love”, negotiating public funding, tax rebates and best practices for landowners
- In NZ, QEII trust protect nearly 5000 properties, usually large, with a native focus.
- Wellington is developing the Sustainable cities Green space and I heard on the radio this morning that they are putting big money into it.
- And locally, we are blessed to have Wānaka Station Park...

It already exist, we just need to adapt it to our preferences.



How do we implement the vision that we create in our park to our whole Wānaka environment and community?

I am sharing it and I'm holding a list of potential supporters, and similar initiatives. Please let me know if you want to be part of it. And I will present the vision to the Community Board soon.

How to amplify the idea?

Creating a culture of caring for the trees, land, community and future generations. We are in climate emergency and with Covid, even more people are aware and willing to be more resilient and change. I believe the public perspective is changing globally. WAO of course contributes to it.

Lake Wanaka Tourism could:

- incorporate it in their destination management plan (I'm hoping that's what we do today)
- create a workspace to foster it
- and very simply start adding these green spaces on the Wanaka map next editions.

Most importantly, it requires support from the Council. Councillors and planners can choose to commit to regenerative practice today.

It is not Business As Usual but it's a win-win-win situation and Covid has shown that changes can happen overnight, so let's do it! It doesn't require the Council to acquire more land, so it is extremely cost effective. I have heard that the Council has a 20 million surplus. Why wait to use it when we are in emergency?

So that is the idea. Do you visualise it? Do you think we can do it?
I totally believe we can do it if we choose to.

Thank you for listening. I welcome questions.

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