



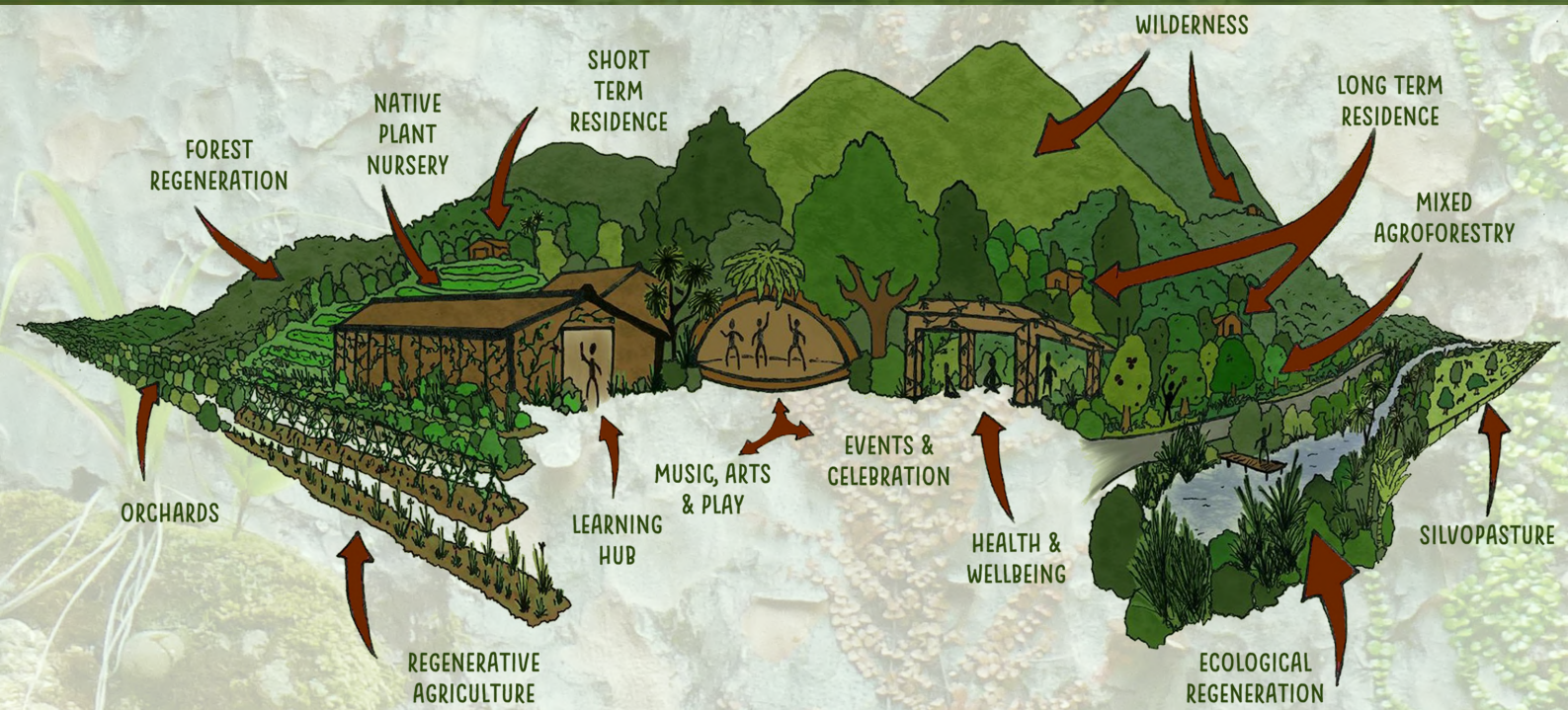
TAHI: SPORE

This spore may grow into an underground network of mycelium that links us all together as a thriving, resilient ecology. Through this network we may share information, resources and nutrients. We may weave our wisdom, expertise and knowing toward a kaupapa [purpose] that transforms the learning landscape of Aotearoa. We invite you to join this ecosystem.

The Centre for Socio-Ecological Learning seeks to nourish a vibrant, shared future by weaving diverse ways of knowing and exploring the relationships between all parts of life. An Activation Group exists to bring this learning environment to life, and this Mycelium Mail exists to enable ongoing communication and engagement between all of us who are passionate about this dream.

We honor the atua and tangata whenua of this land, who whakapapa to the ancestral waka from Hawaiki. We are grateful for your kaitiakitanga and willingness to guard all those who now inhabit this land.

It is in the light of your wisdom that we can foresee a beautiful future. It is an honor to braid our Mauri [life force] with yours and all people of Aotearoa on this life-long journey. Ngā mihi.



**Ka tangi te titi
Ka tangi te kākā
Ka tangi hoki ahau
Tihei Mauri Ora**

The mutton bird is calling
The parrot is calling
And I wish to call
Behold there is life!

*From darkness on the ground
To light at the edge of the forest
We enter the light of awareness
Life comes forth*

ACTIVATION GROUP INTRO



**Julie Crocker. Sam O'Sullivan.
Chris Anderson. Emma Morris.
Cameron Ryan. Dave Hursthouse.**

Over the last few years, six lives have been braiding more and more closely - woven together by a shared dream of a world where people and planet thrive in deep relationship. We share the belief that social and ecological regeneration is dependent on shifting the way individuals and communities learn. In shifting how we learn, we shift how we see, live and thrive.

The six of us have come together to form the Activation Group. For now, we are stewarding the establishment of the Learning Centre - nurturing the soil, clarifying intention, establishing essential systems, and laying the legal foundations. This group exists to nurture this initiative in its early stages and cultivate a space that is ready (enough) for the engagement of many, many more people. Soon this Activation Group will cease to exist, as other rivers join the weave.

Our lineages flow from many peoples and landscapes - from Europe and South Africa to Aotearoa. The rivers of our lives have been formed in rain and from springs, carrying the joys and traumas of our ancestors. As young streams, we explored the world - singing, dancing, running through forests, building in trees, puzzling through games...

The rapids of adolescence brought false narratives of disconnection. Loneliness, confusion, turbulence - all shaped by a cultural landscape of ecological decline and social injustice. The ways forward were murky, unknown and confusing. Yet something came alive: passion.

Our streams began to intertwine with others - connected by shared struggles, joys, and dreams. We realised that not only are we connected to each other, but to all waters, all lands, all ancestors. In beginning to understand the flora and fauna around us, we began to more deeply understand ourselves. In beginning to see where we came from, we began to see where we were going. The banks of our rivers became fortified with the vitality and grace of friendship, passion and purpose.

Over years - as we learned, unlearned, and learned afresh - we began to see ourselves, each other and the world more clearly. We are not just rivers flowing through the landscape: we are the landscape, too.

We are not merely human; we are entire ecosystems, within entire ecosystems. We are not observers of life; we are life. We are not learning about life; we are life learning.

We six are committed to the kaupapa of this learning environment. For now we move as one, twisting and turning with each other, moving toward a future characterised by unity in the face of catastrophe.

You are welcome to join us.

Haere mai. Tena koe.

WHAT'S FEEDING US



Small Arcs of Larger Circles
Nora Bateson



Bilingual Te Ao Māori podcast [the Māori world]
Taringa



Could a Solution to Prison Reform Be Hiding in a Garden?
Focal Point



Tough Talk
Sam O'Sullivan

WHAT'S FEEDING YOU?

What are you reading, listening to, watching, and doing that's relevant to our kaupapa? We can help spread information through the network to provide nutrients for this community.

Reply to this email with relevant information and links, so we can share them around. It's only through high quality nutrients and strong relationships that a network will thrive.

ECOSYSTEM INSIGHT

Patterns that connect our inner & outer ecosystems



**HE AWA WHIRIA
BRAIDED RIVERS**

Imagine the journey of the human species as a metaphorical river - flowing first from the plains of Africa and then branching around the world. Beliefs and worldviews that all had the same roots took on their own distinct flavour and perspective. With every split in the river, the diversity of humanity increased - evolving in countless ways and in relationship with countless environments.

Often different branches of a river will meet up again - the patterns, currents and contents of each river mix with each other. This weaving of rivers is often known as a 'braiding'. In Aotearoa, we can experience braiding in riverbeds across the country - especially the Canterbury plains and other parts of the South Island.

Imagine the way human rivers began to braid. Ships sailed across oceans. Nomads roamed across deserts. Explorers climbed across mountains. On the other side of these physical obstacles, they found other rivers of human consciousness - different and diverse, ecologically adapted to their environment.

Intertwined with the waves of destruction, grief and injustice that accompanied the braiding of human rivers, was the sharing of knowledge, worldview and understanding. The social world we live in today emerges from an infinite number of relationships in-between various cultural rivers coming together.

Just as human rivers braid with each other, they also braid with the rivers of other lifeforms - birds, fish, and insects. Conversations braid, as do emotions and thoughts braid with each other, affecting our behaviour and interactions, which in turn affect our emotions and thoughts. Our internal world is braiding within itself, forming cycles and patterns that can feed or drain our wellbeing. Our emotions braid with our conversations, our conversations braid with our environmental context, our environmental context braids with our thoughts. Every day, in so many ways, the inner and outer rivers of our lives braid with the rivers all around us.

The spaces where rivers braid are loaded with potential. When humans show up to humbly listen, these are the spaces where perspectives shift and wisdom grows.

These are spaces of learning.

**Let us meet where the rivers braid
To give and to receive, with honor,
The abundance of our kete.**

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

We would love to hear from people who are particularly interested in this kaupapa. We're particularly interested in hearing from people about potential land for the Centre,

opportunities for financial support, expertise in developing businesses and organisations, website development, and administration support.