



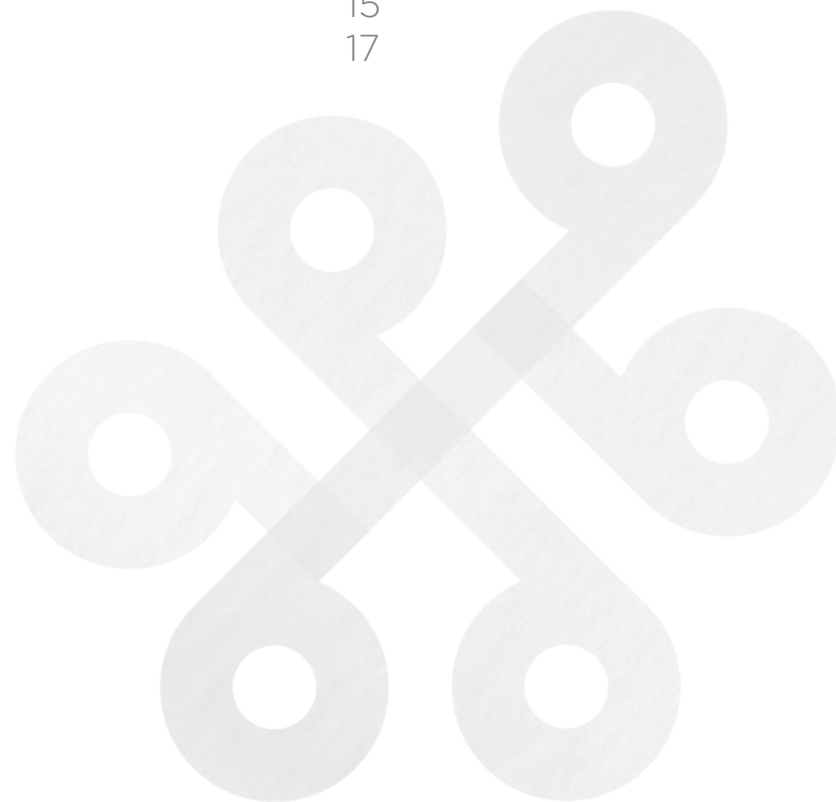
zero
waste
NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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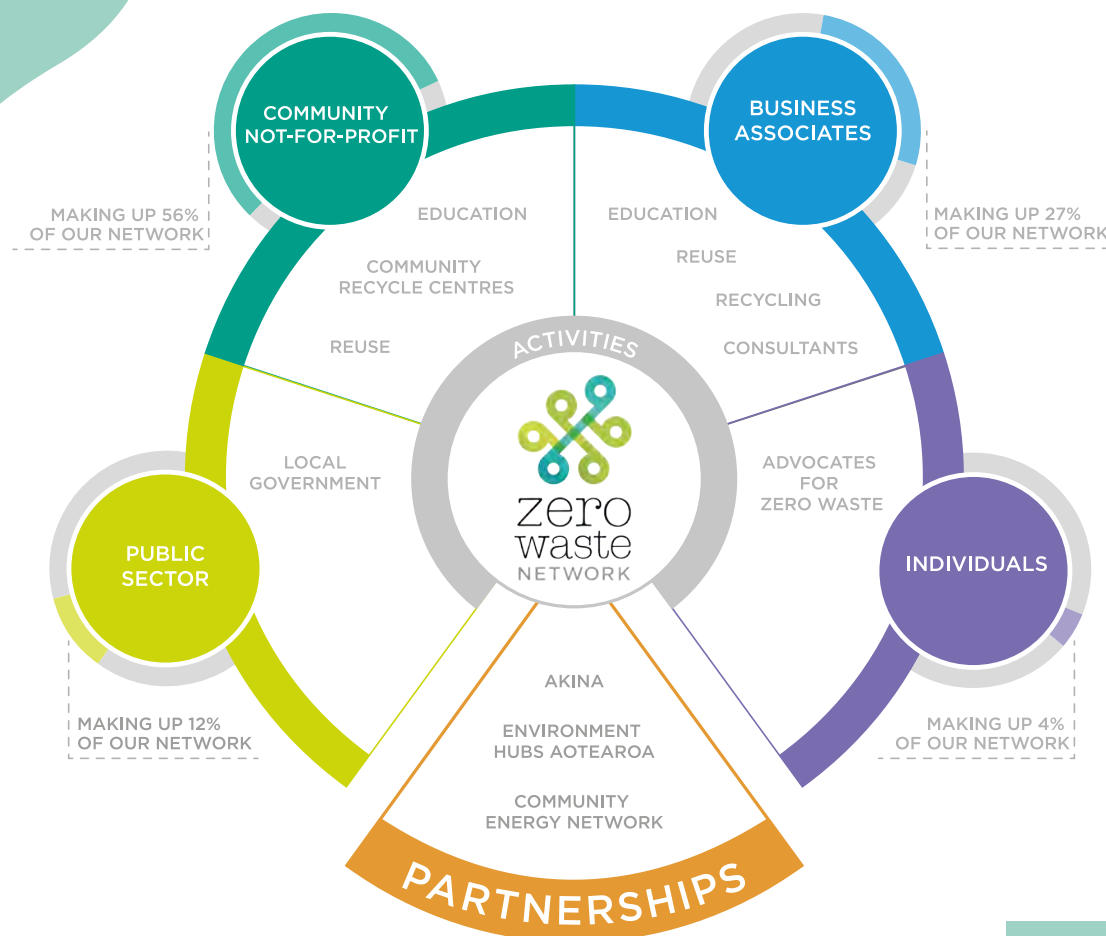


ZERO WASTE NETWORK

The Zero Waste Network represents community enterprises across Aotearoa New Zealand who are working towards zero waste.

Our mission is connect, educate, enable and inspire them to reach their goal and to be a unifying voice at local, regional and central government levels.

Who are our stakeholders?



Board of Trustees

Chairperson

Marty Hoffart
EERST Trust



Executive Members

Cliff Colquhoun
CBEC



Sue Coutts

Karen Driver
Envision



Jacqui Forbes
Para Kore



Jon Morgan
MPHS



Rick Thorpe
Xtreme Zero Waste



Sue Wallis
Waiuku Zero Waste



Andrew Walters
Global Action Plan Oceania

Chairman's Report



Kia ora koutou

It is with great pleasure that I present our annual results and highlight the impact our organisation has made in the past financial year.

The network continues to grow and mature as we deliver our kaupapa to connect, educate, enable and inspire our members to work towards zero waste.

This year, the board made a start on the journey of embedding Te Tiriti o Waitangi into our work. As New Zealand's foundational document we believe it is important that we prioritise becoming a Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsive organisation. The last year has provided impetus and laid some solid foundations as we move towards a future that embraces more of the reo.

When I moved to Aotearoa from Canada 28 years ago, I knew I was making the right decision. Nothing has reinforced this more than living here while the rest of the globe battled beneath the weight of this horrific pandemic. As the world's governments attempted to address the new threat we came to know as Covid-19, New Zealand took an innovative, sure-handed approach that was unlike most other nations. Consequently, most Kiwis were granted freedoms and benefits few other nations could fathom.

During the period covered by this report –April 1 2020 to March 31 2021 - a national lockdown gave way to remarkably normal life for many. Children have been able to attend school and play sport. We have been able to return to our workplaces, head to the beach or to concerts, have friends around while the rest of the world looked on with disbelief and envy. Of course sectors such as tourism and hospitality have been severely affected and plenty of people have lost jobs and struggled mentally or financially as a direct result of Covid. But we

New Zealanders simply have not seen the loss of life or everyday freedoms that happened overseas.

And if this country can lead the way during a global pandemic, surely we can lead the way on waste problems.

In the 1990's, New Zealand was a trail blazer in zero waste but we dropped the ball. Why can't we close our borders to products and packaging that cause environmental issues, the way we lock out Covid-19? Why can't we create a truly circular economy? That's what zero waste (para kore) is. It's not about trying to find ways to recycle all the wasteful packaging and products the rest of the world produces - we won't recycle our way of this mess. Becoming a little less bad is not going to cut it. Zero waste is about eliminating waste at the source. It is about making things that do not end up as waste. And it's a lot easier to control than a mutating virus.

In my view, zero waste first and foremost should drive policy. Our waste issue cannot be solved without local and central government policy. Zero is the target and zero is the goal. What we really need in Aotearoa is a zero waste government department. It could sit inside the Ministry for the Environment and influence everything waste related. As a nation, we need to set a target for waste reduction. Some local authorities have already set targets and for some, that is zero waste. These goals should be adopted by every council. Call it a national circular economy goal if you like, but we need to set a date and a target of zero and start working towards it.

To be really honest, I have more questions than answers when I reflect on the past year. I don't think we have moved very far in waste reduction terms and we cannot blame everything on Covid.

When it comes to landfills I want to know why we continue to bury things that we have the technology to deal with right now. Why do we dump food, ewaste, recyclable containers, grass clippings, untreated timber, paper, cardboard, steel,

concrete and scores of other materials into holes in the ground. Why isn't every local authority collecting food waste from the kerbside and using this resource to support and develop food resilience for our communities? If climate change is our biggest issue, why have we not banned organic materials from landfills? This problem can be solved simply and quickly, not through new technology but by common sense and political will.

Why are we not laying the cost of dealing with our waste issues at the door of those who create the problem? We need to take a serious look at single use packaging and materials and ask - why do we allow this rubbish to be pushed into our communities and our environment? Why is this taking so long to fix? Why have manufacturers of problematic products not had more pressure applied to them by central government in the form of mandatory product stewardship schemes by now?

The news on this front isn't all bad. It's true that we have heard some positive announcements from the Ministry for the Environment. As part of a wider plan to reduce the amount of rubbish ending up in landfills, central government has declared six priority products for regulated product stewardship under the Waste Minimisation Act.

The Priority Products Declaration is another encouraging announcement that supports the wider plan to reduce environmental pollution and keep some specified products out of landfill, while increasing economic and social benefits through a more circular use of resources. These 'named and shamed products' include tyres, electrical and electronic products (e-waste), refrigerants and other synthetic greenhouse gases, agrichemicals and containers, farm plastics and packaging.

However, another year has ticked by and we are in the throes of a climate crisis. Can we just get on with it a little faster please?

The Beverage Container Return Scheme working group has also delivered its report to government during the past year. Zero Waste Network had a seat at the table and represented community interests in a container return scheme. Not surprisingly, vested interests in the beverage sector have stepped up their fight to dismantle a refund scheme in this country. Certain sectors of the beverage industry — mainly glass producers - have been battling regulation for decades.

My hope is that the Minister for the Environment is getting good advice from his officials and is able to see through the 'smoke and mirrors' campaign being waged against a very sensible solution.

We have also seen publication of a sobering report called The Truth about Plastic Recycling in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2020. The report shows many plastic bottles and containers are not making it from kerbsides to the recycler. Our network has been promoting real recycling for decades, in an attempt to get better quality, better sorting and higher recovery rates.

Sadly, it looks as though the huge Dome Valley landfill development is going ahead despite fierce opposition from many in the Kaipara community. Is it possible that this could be the last landfill developed in the Auckland area, given Auckland Council has a goal of zero waste by 2040? One thing is certain, if we keep digging holes to bury stuff, zero waste and a circular economy do not stand a chance. And burning it is certainly not the solution, though threats to build an incineration plant continue to pop up periodically. Sincere thanks to those of you who have been vocal and persistent in your opposition to incineration. It makes no sense in relation to climate change, and hopefully that is where it ends.

My last question though is how could we ever do everything we do without our wonderful board and our staff? Thank you everyone for your ongoing care, brainpower, passion and hard work.

I look forward to our annual combined hui with Environment Hubs Aotearoa and Community Energy Network, 15-17 September at Lake Karāpiro. Like many others, our previous gathering was a victim of Covid-19 but we adapted and went on-line and it was great. I admit I had misgivings - these things are always better kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) — but the format meant we were able to connect with some great international zero waste experts. See you on screen or in person at our Strengthening Communities Hui.

Ngā Mihi Nui

Marty Hoffart
Chairman
Zero Waste Network



ZERO WASTE NETWORK

2020/2021

27 SORT & PROCESS RECYCLING

19 SCRAP METAL YARDS

19 CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION PROJECTS

10 RECYCLING & WASTE COLLECTIONS

23 REPAIR, UPCYCLING & REFURBISHMENT

30 OPERATING REUSE SHOPS

30 EWASTE RECYCLERS

16 ECO-PRODUCTS MANUFACTURE & OR SALE

19 OPERATING DROP-OFF SITES

61 NETWORK FULL MEMBERS

 **1200** EMPLOYEES

 **1813** VOLUNTEERS

 **32,000** TONNES RESOURCES DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL

 **\$73** MILLION COLLECTIVE ANNUAL TURNOVER

47 WASTE EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

29 COMPOSTING & FOOD WASTE PROJECTS



Executive Officer's Report

An important realisation I had over the course of the last year was that we are no longer a tiny organisation. This occurred when I was attending one of our Zero Waste Managers trainings, organised by the ever-capable and multi-talented Isy, when we were asked to describe the size of the organisation. We now number 25 employees and contractors. This led me to reflect on how much has changed, and what has remained the same since I started working for the organisation - then called the Community Recycling Network - in 2012. Back then it was just Gary and I in (very part-time) paid positions. Some of our current governance team were as involved then as they are now: Cliff, Rick, Karen, Sue, and Marty. For me, having access to the deeply authentic insights and shared values of these amazing people has provided supportive and stable ground from which all the good things ZWN does now, have grown.

There are some people who have been here for almost as long as me - Des Ng Shiu, our patient and approachable manager of our Auckland Inorganic Project, which this year diverted 266 tonnes of reusable materials despite the major interruption of several lockdowns; and, Matthew Luxon, our visionary and highly effective director of Localised, who is meeting the challenge of expanding the scale that community enterprises do business at.

In 2012 we had two main projects, one was an annual hui and the other was an ewaste recycling project. I am very proud of the way our annual gathering has developed over the years, into a collaborative event the Strengthening Communities Hui - that is the cornerstone of a valuable partnership with the Community Energy Network and Environment Hubs Aotearoa. This year, we tried something different again, connecting to a diverse international community as part of 'Our Zero Waste World Digital Summit'. We made use of online forums and video content, with great effect: we had presentations from 11 countries, 25 panelists and over 300 people attending the session or watching them online during the week of the summit. A particular mention needs to go to the Zero Waste International Alliance for their support across multiple time zones!

In respect to e-waste recycling, our progress as a nation is less impressive, but I do want to thank Karen Driver for her incredible perseverance in this space,

including as our representative on the Circular E-Stewards Network, a working group supporting the development of a product stewardship scheme for e-waste.

Other work over the past year include several projects and events relating to building capability for regional zero waste activities. A huge thank you to Ian Stupple who continues to support the Auckland CRC network, and Sue Coutts for her work supporting a Waste Free Wellington. Sue has been in her role as the Director of External Affairs for a full year now, and her achievements in this space are significant enough to need their own report, but one important aspect I'd like to acknowledge is her support of our Wellington members and her generosity in sharing her experience and thinking on zero waste.

Valerie Morse, our communications officer, has continued to produce high quality content across a range of platforms, telling the stories of real change happening in communities across Aotearoa. We now reach over 500 subscribers for both the [Members Newsletter](#) and the Auckland focussed [Getting to Zero](#). If you have not subscribed to these yet, you can do so by clicking on the links above.

An important activity of our wider comms team has been developing responses to Government consultation processes. A key feature of this process has been working with ZWN members and other groups with similar concerns and values to produce comprehensive responses. In October 2020 we launched a campaign encouraging people to make submissions on plastic waste. Thousands of people engaged with this campaign, and 426 people used our pro-forma response template to ask for strong action away from single-use and hard to recycle plastics.

Most importantly, our network has grown! In 2012, we had around 30 members. This now numbers over 100. Each of these groups contributes to achieving our vision of a vibrant and regenerative economy, and it is a pleasure to see the huge diversity in ways you are all doing this, and the energy you all bring to it. It's a challenging task, but I am very proud of what this network achieves both individually and collectively, and feel massively optimistic about our ability to keep creating positive change.

2021 AT A GLANCE



102
NETWORK
MEMBERS



156
COMMUNITY
AIR GROUPS



62*
TRAINING
PARTICIPANTS



266.5*
TONNES
DIVERTED FROM
LANDFILL



607
ZWN NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS



65*
CLOSING THE
LOOP EVENT
ATTENDEES



141
OZWW SUMMIT
LIVE ATTENDEES

*Numbers were impacted by COVID 19

Advocacy Report



Kia ora koutou katoa he tau nui tenei!

Hello everyone, what a big year it has been!

I feel like I have one of the best jobs on the planet. Every day I get to talk with people from all walks of life who are trying to make a difference. It is a humbling experience. There is so much interesting work happening in the composting, reduce, reuse, repair and recycling worlds. Especially at the local scale. Everyone in our world has been working really hard to realise our zero waste vision.

We are doers.

We care about big global problems like waste, climate change, resource consumption, inequality and biodiversity loss. And we use whatever we have available at our local scale to provide practical solutions.

We learn by doing.

We take action then use what we learn to shape our next steps. Our enterprises and our network are a laboratory for testing and refining solutions in the real world. We try things, we share what works, we copy the good work we see happening around the world.

This is a great model for innovation in uncertain times. Zero Waste gives us a philosophy, a destination and a toolkit. It is a torch for looking into the shadows of our future. But there is no blueprint or SOP to spell out the plan. We are all building the bridge as we walk across it.

Being driven by values and purpose gives us strength and courage. We can keep going in uncertain times because we have an internal compass. The little things we do every day are building the capacity of Aotearoa to become zero waste and zero carbon so we can make the jump to a regenerative, circular economy that works for all of us.

What do I do to help?

It is a real luxury for me to be able to focus on the big picture. There are so many big changes happening across Government that will set the operating context for our work over the next 10 years. Emissions Reduction plans, Infrastructure Strategy, Waste Strategy and Legislation review, the future of work.....

The Zero Waste Network Board decided it was important for us to have a voice at the national level. So we found a way to fund this for the next few years. Our sector is ahead of the change curve. We already live in the world of prevention, composting, reduction, reuse and repair. That means we have a lot of useful insights and ideas to share with government, business, Iwi and all of our friends and relations in like minded organisations across Aotearoa.

In my role I share these insights and ideas about how we can make the shift to a zero waste world. I lend courage and support, so others can believe that our zero waste world is not only possible, but that she is already here.

I also try very hard to understand the perspectives and work being done by others so we can see where the energy is and what is holding us back. I try to keep my eye on the horizon so that the work we are doing in the present delivers the long term outcomes we seek - resilience and regeneration.

In my role I focus on 5 key areas: Government, Councils, Business, Friends and Relations and Zero Waste Network Development. In my conversations and research I find a lot to be encouraged by.

Ko te tau e haere ake nei he mea pai mō tātou mē a tātou whatunga. The coming year is going to be a good one for us and our networks.

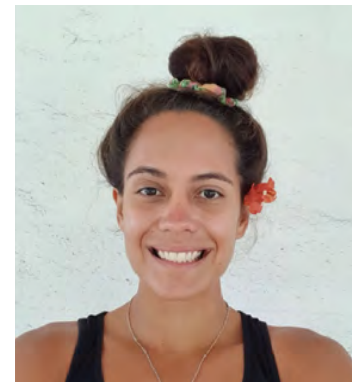
Ngā mihi ki a koutou, tenā koutou katoa

Sue Coutts





Our Zero Waste World Digital Summit 2020



Localised - Activity Report



Introduction

Localised is a social enterprise accredited by Ākina committed to supporting the development of community enterprises across Aotearoa. The company has become a key part of the Zero Waste Network Group and is 100% owned by the Community Enterprise Network Trust (CENT).

Localised was established in 2019 by the Zero Waste Network Board to scale-up the benefits of experienced Community Recycling Centre operators working with local community groups in joint ventures. This was in recognition that community enterprise is a great way to solve local problems

and create local benefits, but a lack of experience, confidence and finance can make getting going difficult. That is where Localised has helped by building on national experience and providing tailored support.

Localised's impact model

Localised identifies and invests in early-stage community-focused enterprises by either becoming a joint venture partner or undertaking services directly. The initial investment from Localised to support enterprises and projects is recovered, with additional returns, over the course of the joint venture partnership or enterprise. Returns on investment are then re-invested in new enterprises or returned to the Zero Waste Network to advance the overall mission of the organisation and membership.

Localised in practice 2020/21

Mahurangi Wastebusters

In 2019, Localised and its first joint venture partner Mahurangi Wastebusters were awarded the contracts to operate Warkworth and Wellsford Community

Recycling Centres on behalf of Auckland Council. The company successfully won the competitive tender on price and community benefit against two large waste companies. The two sites used to be landfills and transfer stations but have now been transitioned into thriving Community hubs focused on reuse and diversion of waste from landfill.

In 2020/21 the key highlights were:

- A turn-over in excess of \$800k in revenue
- Diversion of over 1,000 tonnes of material from landfill through accepting 24 resource streams
- Employment of 18 paid, part and full-time jobs with training opportunities. The minimum wage paid is equivalent to the Living Wage
- All profits have been reinvested into providing waste diversion services, or distributed to shareholders to further their waste minimisation aims



Picture: Warkworth Community Recycling Centre

Auckland's Inorganics service

Between September 2020 to March 2021 the Localised team submitted a proposal and then negotiated with Auckland Council for the provision of warehousing and distribution services for the Auckland inorganic collection service.

The Council's tender required a regional solution and so the Zero Waste Network Board agreed that a collective membership response led by Localised would have the best chance of succeeding. The tender response was supported by all seven of the Auckland community recycling centre operators and many well-respected Auckland-based community enterprises.

The Zero Waste Network Group have subsequently been awarded the contract which will commence from July 2022 and be for a minimum of 5 years. The contract will deliver two large Zero Waste hubs in the northern and eastern areas of Auckland which will manage the recoverable material from the Council's kerbside inorganic collections. Services will include material handling, distribution, repair, dismantling, upcycling and a whole range of new resource recovery initiatives.

Annual dividends will be paid to the Zero Waste Network which will be used to enhance membership services and national projects. The contract will also offer significant benefits to Zero Waste Network members, both through the distribution of material to community groups, and also opportunities from working with (and potentially from) the Zero Waste hubs.

Future work plan and opportunities

The Zero Waste Network Board have appointed Matthew Luxon and Ian Stupple as the directors of Localised. Both have significant experience in the resource recovery sector working across the community, government and business sectors.

Localised also has the support of experienced practitioners across New Zealand eager to work through Localised to support new, community-led, resource

recovery operations. Having validated the model, Localised is now seeking growth opportunities and partnerships that will benefit community enterprise across Aotearoa.

Localised primarily seeks to be a joint-venture partner on community focused initiatives seeking service contracts from local or central government. While currently focused on waste initiatives Localised is not limited to that sector and as such is free to support any community enterprise activity.

For further information please contact:



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Business Development Director
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027 222 0660



Ian Stupple
Managing Director
Ian@Localised.nz
022 099 1759

Resource Recovery Training



Financial Report

Statement of Financial Performance For the year ended 31 March 2021

	\$ Actual 2021	\$ Actual 2020
Revenue		
Donations, fundraising & similar revenue	2,200	323,200
Membership Contributions	22,879	20,300
Revenue from providing goods & services	511,879	520,190
Interest, dividends & other investment	5,183	2,951
Gross Revenue	542,051	866,640
Less Expenses		
Volunteer and employee related costs	329,208	232,585
Costs related to providing goods	337,910	261,058
Grants and donations	0	3,150
Other expenses	12,069	24,054
Total Expenses	679,187	520,848
Surplus or (Loss)	(137,136)	345,792

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Current Assets		
Cash & Bank Balances	435,410	534,654
Trade Receivables	110,708	75,922
Total Current Assets	546,118	610,576
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant & Equipment	12,368	13,922
Total Assets	558,486	624,498
Current Liabilities		
Payables & Accruals	135,577	65,780
GST Payable	9,007	11,619
Related Parties		7,436
Total Liabilities	144,584	84,835
Net Assets	414,002	539,663
Accumulated Funds		
Retained Profits	409,960	539,663
Total Accumulated Funds	410,060	539,663



Closing the Loop Events 2020-2021

Supporters

Thanks to our OZWW summit 2020 partners & supporters:



Thanks to our project funders:



Thanks to our project partners:





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