My FGS Legacy Site Restoration Journey

Step-by-Step Process, Technical Insights, and Value Delivered in Reviving a Legacy Website

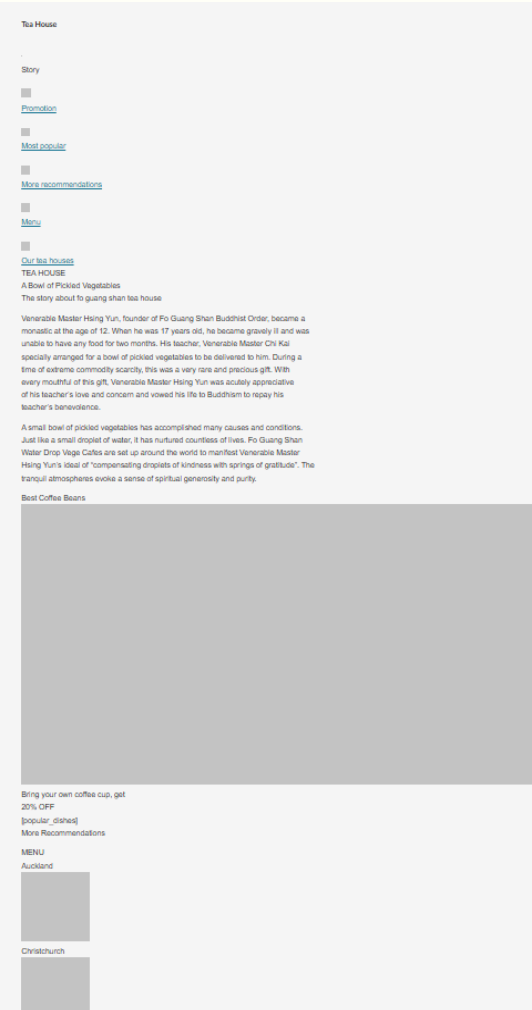# Week 1-2: Discovery& WordPress Setup

Site Review

Figma Mock-up Review

WordPress Courses

Notion Tracking Setups

Tea House

Story

Promotion

Most popular

More recommendations

Menu

Our tea houses
TEA HOUSE
A Bowl of Pickled Vegetables
The story about fo guang shan tea house

Venerable Master Hsing Yun, founder of Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Order, became a monastic at the age of 12. When he was 17 years old, he became gravely ill and was unable to have any food for two months. His teacher, Venerable Master Chi Kai specially arranged for a bowl of pickled vegetables to be delivered to him. During a time of extreme commodity scarcity, this was a very rare and precious gift. With every mouthful of this gift, Venerable Master Hsing Yun was acutely appreciative of his teacher's love and concern and vowed his life to Buddhism to repay his teacher's benevolence.

A small bowl of pickled vegetables has accomplished many causes and conditions. Just like a small droplet of water, it has nurtured countless of lives. Fo Guang Shan Water Drop Vege Cafes are set up around the world to manifest Venerable Master Hsing Yun's ideal of "compensating droplets of kindness with springs of gratitude". The tranquil atmosphere evoke a sense of spiritual generosity and purity.

Best Coffee Beans

Bring your own coffee cup, get
20% OFF
[popular_dishes]
More Recommendations
MENU
Auckland

Christchurch

Beginner WordPress User

Beginner WordPress User

Learn the essentials of creating and managing your site, from mastering the interface to crafting content.

24 of 24 lessons completed (100%)

View results

W1–W2: Setup & Discovery

▼ Toggle

- ☑ Set up local dev environment
- ☑ Complete WordPress Beginner Course
- ☐ Explore WordPress theme structure
- ☑ Review legacy site content
- ☑ Analyze Figma design
- ☑ Backup legacy site files + database locally
- ☑ Document plugin conflicts & dashboard errors
- ☑ Map page structure from legacy site
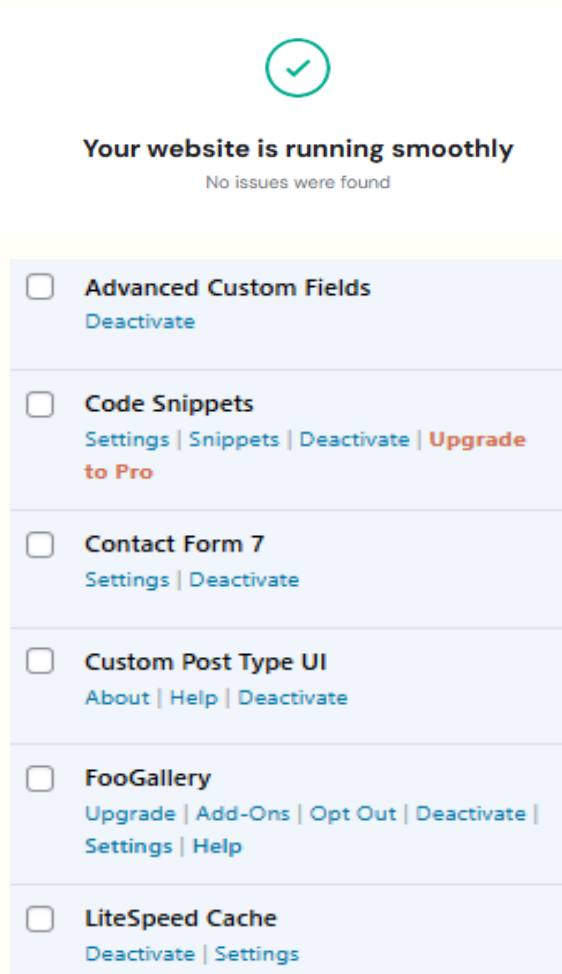- ☑ Note key learning resources

W3–W4: Foundations Build

▼ Toggle

- ☑ Create custom post types (Activities, Events)
- ☑ Install & configure ACF
- ☑ Build reusable card renderer
- ☑ Set up basic routing and templates
- ☑ Define global CSS variables and color palette
- ☑ Create reusable header/footer templates
- ☑ Document database table structure for CPTs
- ☑ Set up staging environment for testing

Nervous and excited diving into the unknown world of restoration, a project built on systems I'd never touched before.

Week 3-4: Architecture & Foundations

Your website is running smoothly
No issues were found

☐ **Advanced Custom Fields**
Deactivate

☐ **Code Snippets**
Settings | Snippets | Deactivate | Upgrade to Pro

☐ **Contact Form 7**
Settings | Deactivate

☐ **Custom Post Type UI**
About | Help | Deactivate

☐ **FooGallery**
Upgrade | Add-Ons | Opt Out | Deactivate | Settings | Help

☐ **LiteSpeed Cache**
Deactivate | Settings

大悲懺法會
Great Compassionate Repentance Dharma Function
25 July *9am - 12 noon*

Great Compassionate Repentance Dharma Function
25 July
9am-12noon

Post Type	Settings	Supports
Edit Activities (activities)	name: activities	title
Get code	label: Activities	editor
View frontend archive	singular_label: Activity	thumbnail
	description: ""	excerpt
	public: true	custom-fields
	publicly_queryable: true	page-attributes
	show_ui: true	
	show_in_nav_menus: true	
	delete_with_user: false	
	show_in_rest: true	
	rest_base: ""	

- **Gutenberg + Figma guidance**

  - **Restored WordPress files and reconnected the database**

  - **Fixed broken links, missing media, and corrupted PHP files**

  - **Cleaned out plugin bloat and applied consistent global styles**

Lots of learning through trial and error. It was messy, technical, and frustrating but also the turning point where I started feeling more confident in myself.
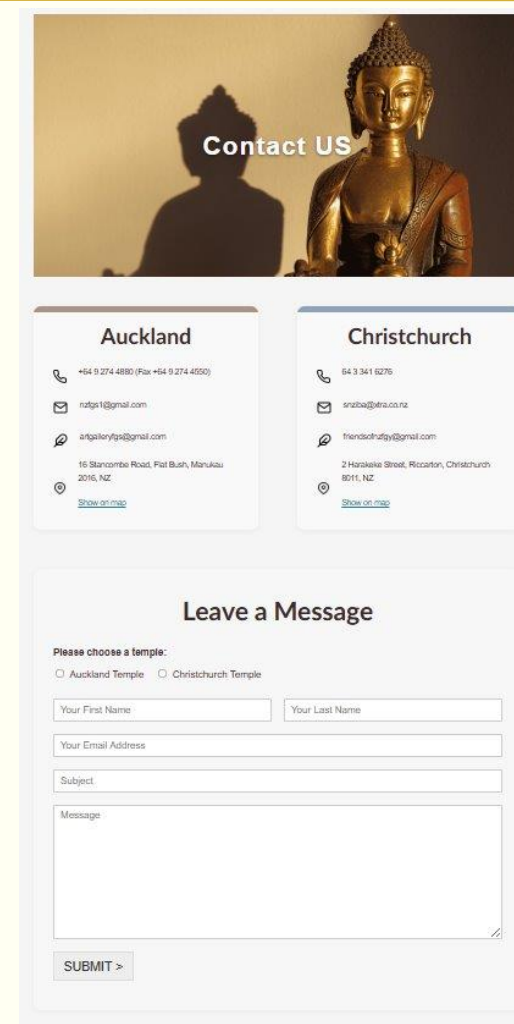
Week 5-6; Restoration & Build

- **Rebuilt Contact, About Us, and Temple Info pages**

- **Used shortcodes to pull dynamic content from ACF**

- **Scoped CSS for layout consistency**

- **Started thinking like a developer: systems, not just fixes**

Figma

Afters

The challenging part for me these weeks has been that progress isn't always visible

Week 7-8: QA & Ongoing Refinement

From tangled legacy to something clear, stable, and ready to grow

Temple Info	Desktop	Gallery images misaligned	Updated grid layout & margins	✅ Fixed
Contact	Mobile	Form labels overlapping inputs	Increased spacing and font size	✅ Fixed
Events Archive	Mobile, Desktop	Event card titles cut off	Added text wrapping & padding	✅ Fixed
Contact	All	Anchor links causing page jump	Planned: add smooth scroll + header offset	🔧 In Progress
Home	Mobile, Desktop	Page jumping when clicking hero anchors	Planned: add CSS scroll-padding-top	🔧 In Progress

- **Began full QA across devices and browsers to check responsiveness and layout flow**

- **Identified ongoing issues like page jumping and plugin behaviour still needing attention**

Week 9-10: Final Polish and Presentation Prep

After

Figma

- **Cleaned up redundant CSS and fixed short code logic**

- **Organized documentation for clarity and maintainability**
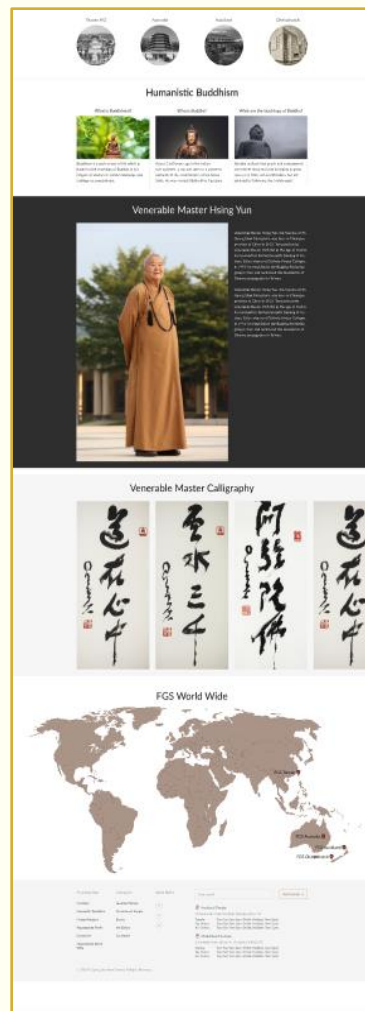
- **Realized: project is "done" when it's maintainable, not just visually complete**

- **Noted all plugin lists, backups, and work flow steps**

I wasn't just fixing a website — I was rebuilding my own understanding of how systems connect, break, and come back stronger

Value Delivered

Technical:
- **WordPress restored with working backend & database**
- **3 major pages rebuilt using modular CSS & ACF**
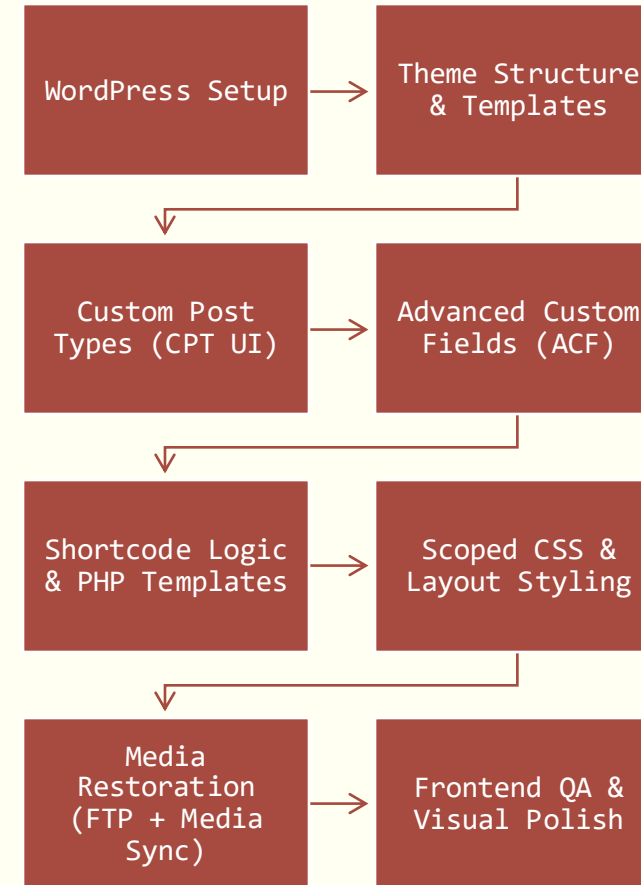- **Legacy media recovered via FTP**

Professional:
- **Clear documentation & version tracking**
- **Improved accessibility & responsive design**

Personal:
- **Gained confidence with PHP, WordPress & databases**
- **Strengthened resilience through problem-solving**

My Restoration Workflow

```
WordPress Setup  →  Theme Structure
                    & Templates
        ↓
Custom Post       →  Advanced Custom
Types (CPT UI)       Fields (ACF)
        ↓
Shortcode Logic   →  Scoped CSS &
& PHP Templates      Layout Styling
        ↓
Media             →  Frontend QA &
Restoration          Visual Polish
(FTP + Media
Sync)
```

What started broken now stands rebuilt — and so do I.

What's next?

| Restore | Refine | Ready for Growth |

- **Replace placeholder images with final media**

- **Refine responsiveness with mobile-first testing**

- **Explore simplifying theme & plugin structure**

- **Audit accessibility: contrast, alt text, keyboard flow**

- **Finalise QA tracker and handover documentation**

- **Review CPT + ACF setup for long-term scalability**

Our Story | Humanistic Buddhisim | Master Hsing Yun | FGS Worldwide

AUCKLAND   CHRISTCHURCH
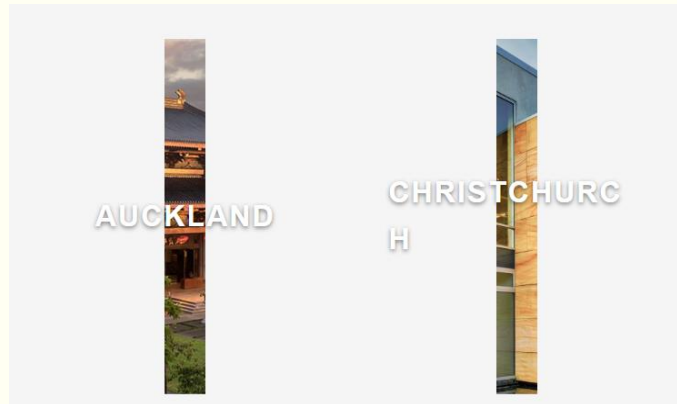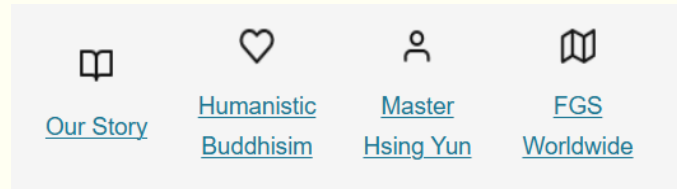
Continuous improvement matters. A good website evolves — just like the developer behind it.

Key Learnings & Reflections

- **Soft skills & Reflections**

- **At times I didn't know how to ask for help or fully understand what I was doing. This pushed me to experiment, learn by doing, and develop problem-solving confidence.**

- **Much of my time was spent learning rather than building, but that learning made the final product possible.**

- **I now feel much more confident in handling legacy WordPress projects and troubleshooting unknown systems.**

Technical growth:
- **Scoped CSS for modularity easier to maintain and debug.**
- **Custom post types + ACF shortcodes dynamic content management for events and activities.**

- **FTP and Media Sync restoration learned how to recover legacy media reliably.**

- **Debugging PHP and plugin conflicts understanding WordPress's backend architecture.**

Workflow improvements:

- **Agile planning and Notion tracking breaking down tasks helped manage blockers.**

- **QA process learned how much testing and refinement really takes.**

Planned Deliverables

🔗 **GitHub Repo: https://github.com/Cess-stack/fgs-nz-site-restoration.git**

Deliverables included in GitHub repo
/docs folder:

- 10 Week Plan Updated.pdf – final roadmap

- 10 Week Summary.pdf – project overview

- Blockers.pdf – key challenges and resolutions

- Events Setup.pdf – custom CPT + shortcode logic

- Learning Log.pdf – technical growth and reflections

- Notion QA Tracker.pdf – device testing and layout fixes

- Final Presentation Slides.pdf – board-ready with speaker notes

Persistence, structure, and reflection make lasting impact—in code and in life.