My FGS Legacy Site Restoration Journey

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

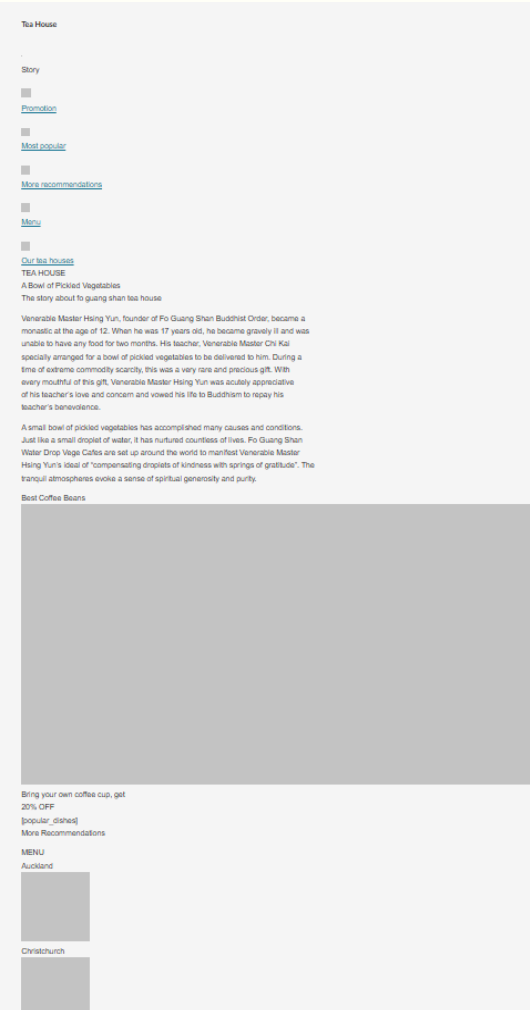# Week 1-2: Discovery& WordPress Setup

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 atmospheres 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

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
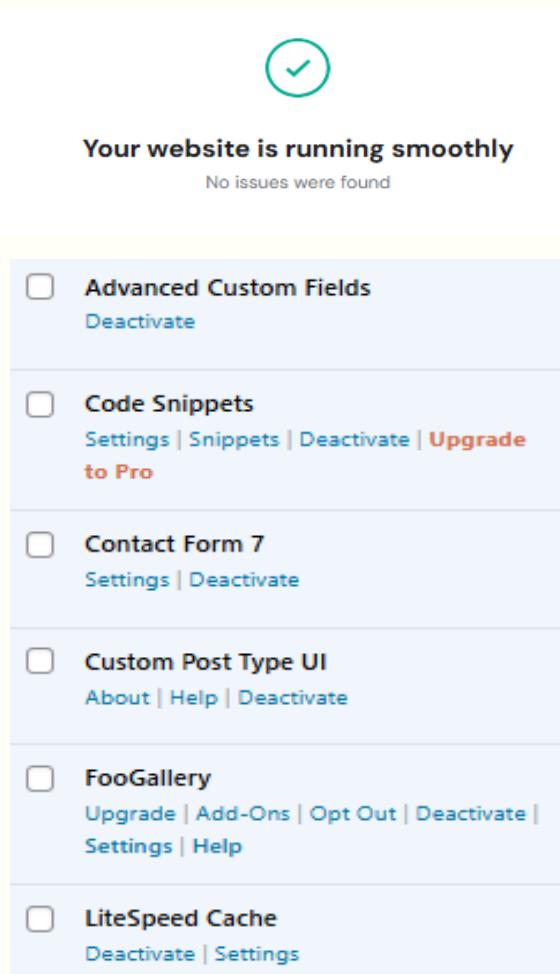- ☑ Note key learning resources

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

This shows my custom post type setup for Activities using CPT UI and ACF. It gave staff control over content without relying on bloated plugins

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

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

Figma

Afters

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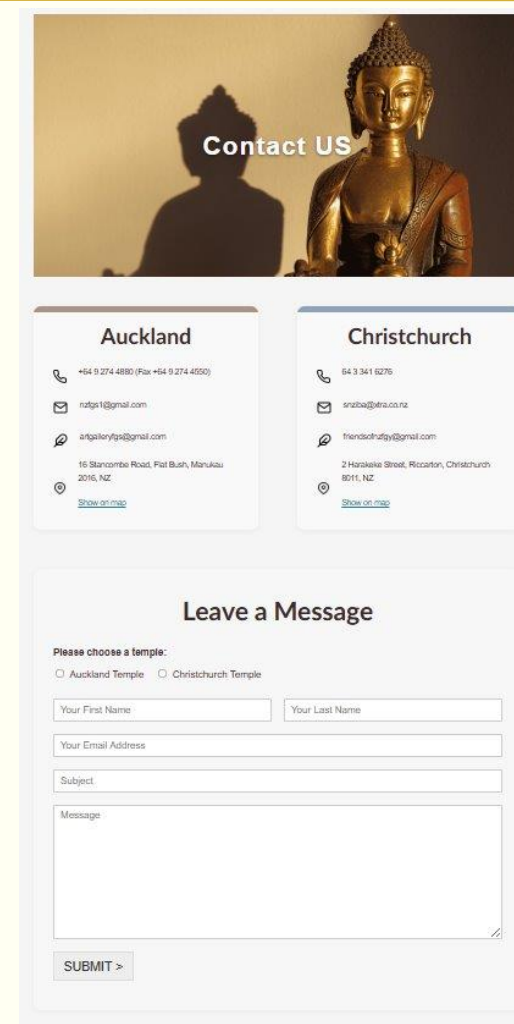
The challenging part for me these weeks has been that progress isn't always visible

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

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

- **Organized documentation for clarity and maintainability**

Figma
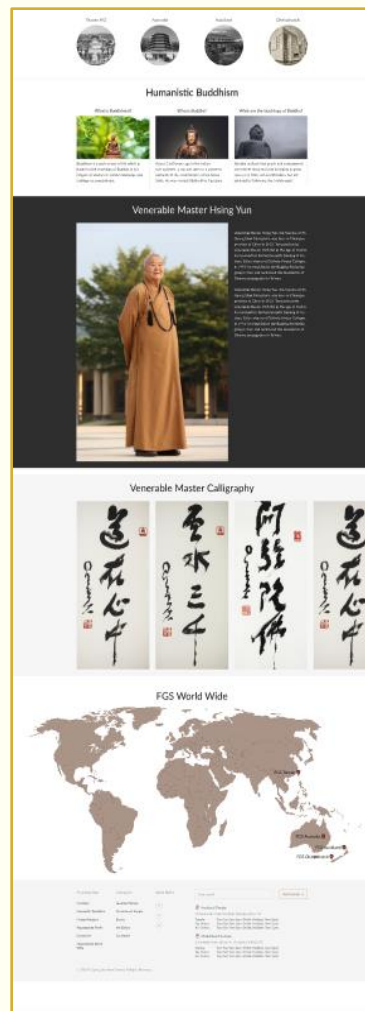
After

- **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)
```
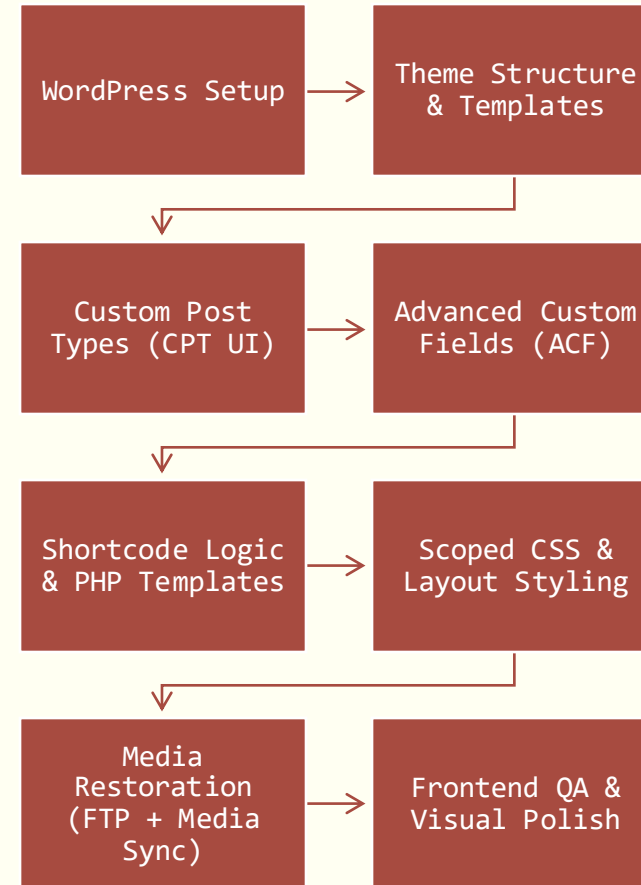
What started broken now stands rebuilt — and so do I.

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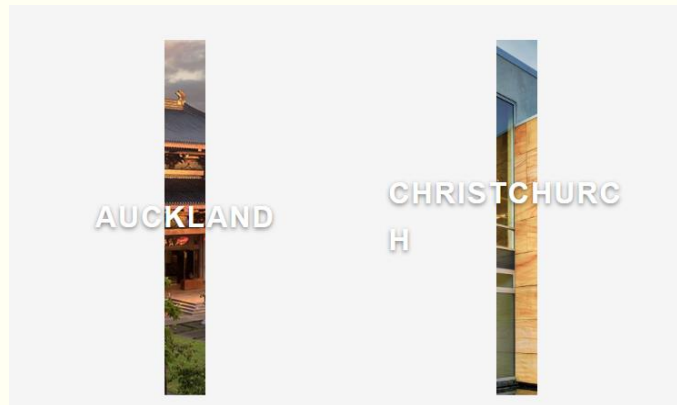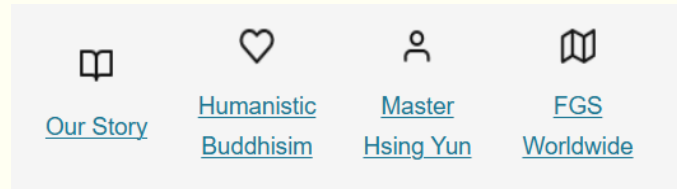
Continuous improvement matters. A good website evolves — just like the developer behind it.

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.

- Kia Ora, please find all screenshots regarding my **L6 C.Taplin – Written Report.pdf** on these next pages over (:

- These screenshots aren't just visuals they're a window into my project journey. Each one ties back to the written report and the slides, highlighting key moments: stakeholder mapping, architectural decisions, accessibility fixes, QA tracking, and even personal reflections.

- I've chosen a variety of evidence, from FTP recovery and modular CSS updates to Notion workflows and presentation drafts, to show not just what I did, but how I approached it. They reflect both the technical work and the way I stayed grounded, solution-focused, and open to feedback throughout the process.

- Together, the report, slides, and screenshots tell a story: a solo developer restoring a legacy WordPress site with care, clarity, and long-term vision. They show how each decision, each piece of feedback, and each iterative improvement shaped the final outcome and how communication, collaboration, and resilience were woven into every step.
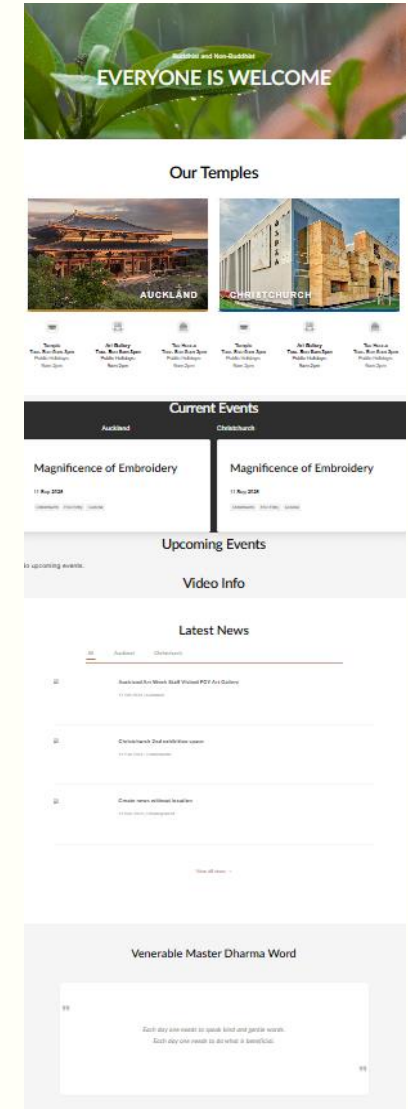
Q1. Project Requirements
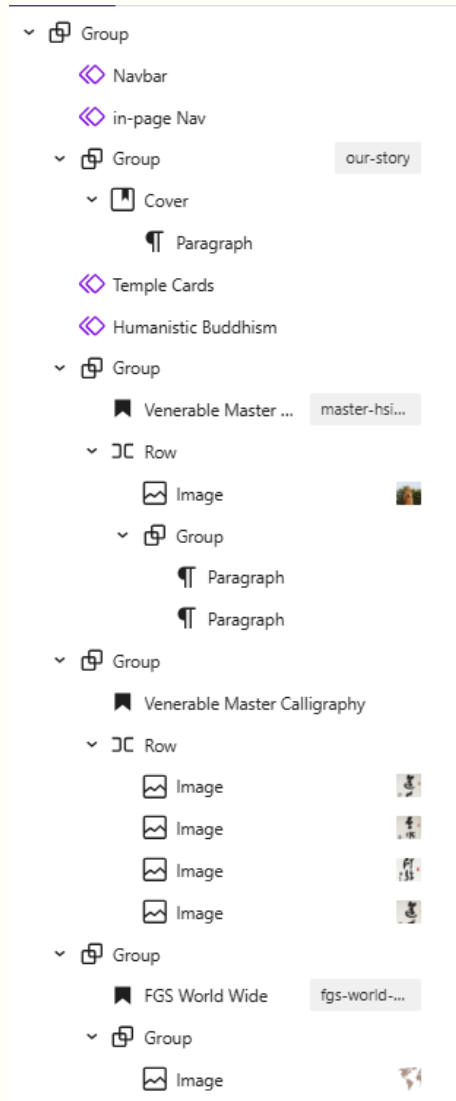
This left panel outlines the modular structure I used to keep fgs content maintainable and scalable.

About and Home Pages fully restored and functioning again.

Q2. Best Practises

This shows my Notion task board, where I tracked weekly goals, blockers, and technical focus.

It helped me stay organized and apply Agile-style planning even while working solo.

Documentation & Reference ◆

📁 Page Handover Summary

📘 Weekly Learning Log

📝 WordPress + PHP Learning Notes

🔍 FGS Events - Dev Cheat Sheet

🖥️ Event Cards & Page

🖌️ Notion QA Tracker. Weeks 7–8

⚠️ Errors, Issues, Blockers

🔌 Plugins

🔗 Resources & Links

Errors, Issues, Blockers

Date	Issue	Description	Status / Fix
Week 1 – Onboarding & Setup (July 22)	No onboarding / solo setup	Inherited a project with no team, limited context, and no clear starting point.	Began mapping the project in Notion and created a Week 1 action plan.
Week 2 – Access & Restoration (July 29)	Delayed access to correct FGS folder and SQL database	No access to actual project environment until late Week 2. Studied WordPress and PHP basics while waiting	Restoration tasks began immediately after but slightly behind schedule.
Week 2 – Access & Restoration (July 29)	SQL file too large to import	Database .sql file exceeded phpMyAdmin's size limit on Hostinger.	Planned to use BigDump or contact support for import options.
Week 2 – Access & Restoration (July 29)	Unclear restore order	Unsure if FGS files or SQL DB should go first.	Clarified correct order: import DB → upload FGS folder → config check.
Week 2 – Access & Restoration (July 30)	Live site showing default WordPress	fgs.alankan.net loaded basic install instead of full project.	Confirmed missing SQL and theme files were the cause.
Week 2 – Access & Restoration (July 30)	Couldn't find import DB option	Struggled to locate SQL import in Hostinger dashboard.	Found it under phpMyAdmin in Databases.

```
/* ===================== */
/* 🏛 OUR TEMPLES SECTION - FRONT PAGE */
/* ===================== */

/* Section Wrapper */
.temples-section {
  background: #fff;
  padding: 80px 20px;
  text-align: center;
  max-width: 1200px;
  margin: 0 auto;
}

.temples-section h2 {
  font-size: 2.2rem;
  font-weight: 600;
  color: #222;
  margin-bottom: 50px;
}
```

```
/* ===================== */
/* ☸ DHARMA WORD SECTION */
/* ===================== */

/* Outer full-width container */
.dharma-section {
  background-color: #f5f5f5;
  display: flex;
  flex-direction: column;
  align-items: center; /* centers child grou
  justify-content: center;
  padding: 5rem 0; /* remove side padding */
  width: 100%;
```

```
/* ===================== */
/* ✍ LATEST NEWS SECTION */
/* ===================== */

/* Section wrapper */
.news-section {
  background: #fff;
  padding: 80px 20px;
  display: flex;
  justify-content: center;
}

/* Inner wrapper */
.news-wrapper {
  max-width: 1000px;
  width: 100%;
  display: flex;
  flex-direction: column;
  align-items: center;
  gap: 32px;
}
```
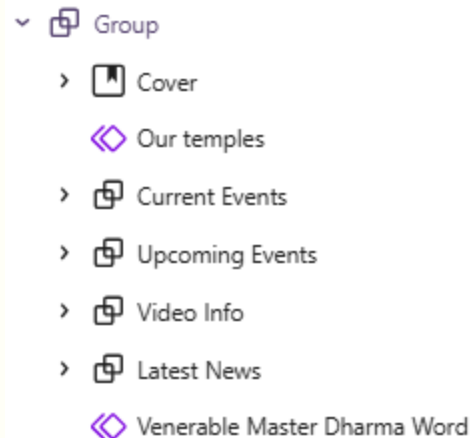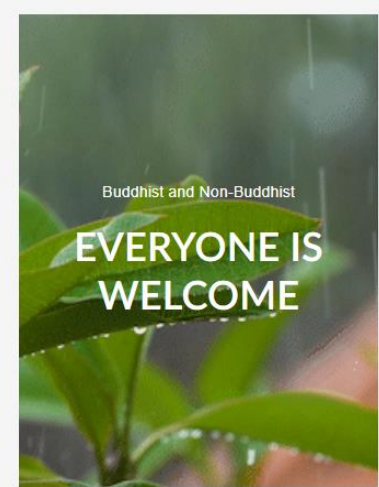
These show my modular CSS setup, where each page or component had its own scoped file. It made debugging easier and kept styles maintainable

Please also refer to slide #3 for additional SS

Q3. Design Thinking

I tested accessibility using mobile previews to ensure the site was inclusive and easy to navigate for all users. Heres a mobile view of the front-page.

- Backend block editor
- Clear groupings and labels to make content easy to manage for non-developers
- List View reflects modular thinking and empathy for non dev staff who will maintain the site this

Q4 & 5. Agile Mindsets

Daily Routine ◆

☐ Quick end-of-day log: blockers, wins, questions
☐ Morning review of Notion board for priority tasks
☐ Track weekly learning points in WordPress/PHP log

Staying consistent, staying focused!!

Time Slot	Focus Area
🕐 9:30am–2:00pm	Build & test
🌙 9:00pm–11:00pm	Polish & review

Having a solid work routine helped me focused, and also prioritise my time wisely

Trello board showing tasks tracked and iteratively completed, reflecting Agile workflow

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Sep	30	1 Oct	2	3	4
	11:30 AM Daily Start	1 PM Weekly checking		10:30 AM Sprint	
6	7	8	9	10	11
	11:30 AM Daily Start	2 PM Weekly catch up	12:30 PM FGS - Final F	10:30 AM Sprint	
13	14	15	16	17	18
	11:30 AM Daily Start			10:30 AM Sprint	

Regular stand-up/check-in notes showing communication, progress updates, and blockers discussed
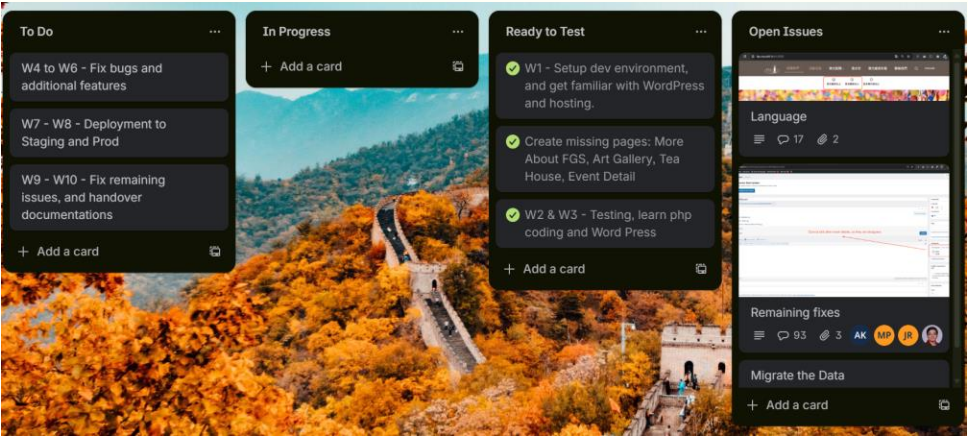
Q6. Stakeholder Overview (My Perspective): This table outlines the key stakeholder groups I considered throughout the FGS restoration. It reflects my own thinking about their roles, needs, and level of involvement, and helped guide my decisions around usability, architecture, and communication

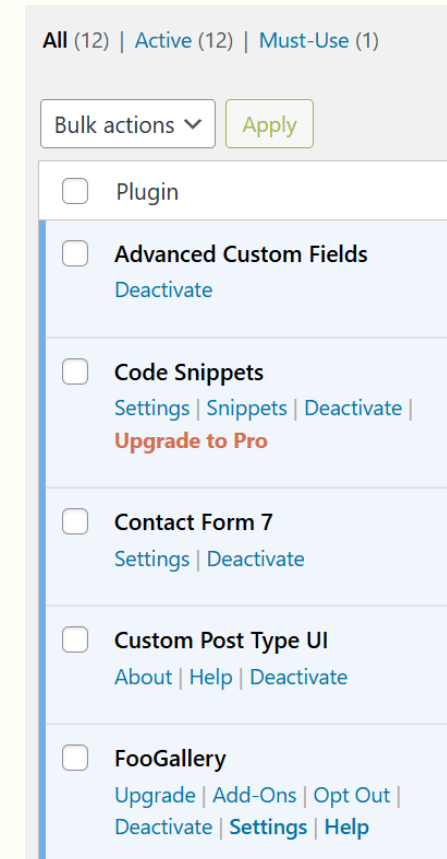| Stakeholder Group	Role/Interest	Level of Involvement
FGS Leadership	Public-facing brand and stability	High
Staff/Admins	Backend usability and content updates	High
Temple Visitors	Clear navigation and accessible content	Medium
Mentor (Jai)	Technical guidance and feedback	High
Sponsor (Alan)	Oversight and support	High
Future Developers	Maintainability and documentation	Low

Q7. Ethical considerations

Privacy-conscious decisions including plugin cleanup and removal of unnecessary data collection

Venerable Master Dharma Word

Each day one needs to speak kind and gentle words.
Each day one needs to do what is beneficial.
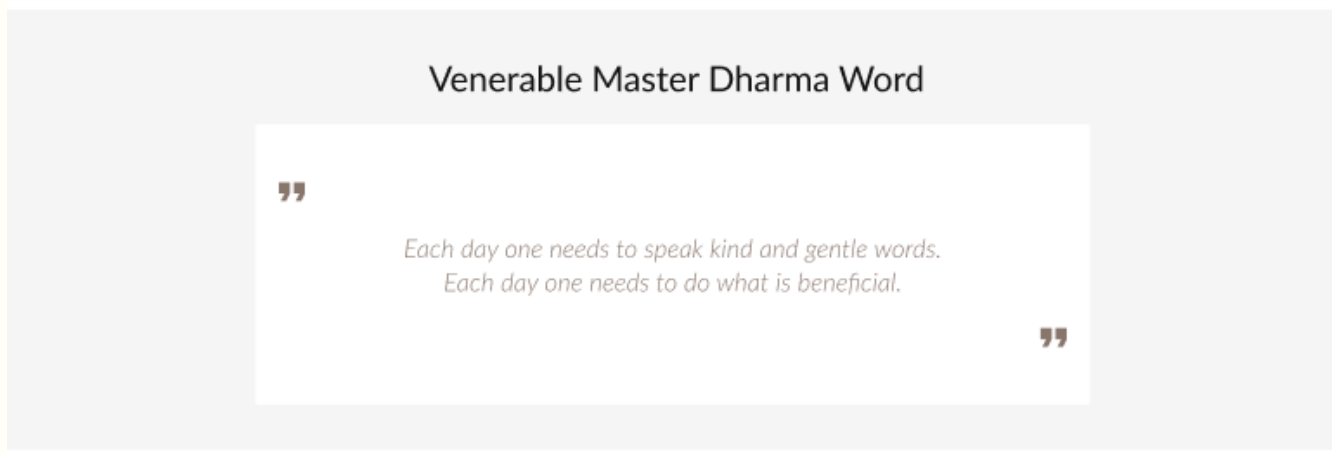
Design choices reflecting cultural sensitivity and alignment with FGS's values

All (12) | Active (12) | Must-Use (1)

Bulk actions ∨   Apply

☐ Plugin

☐ **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

Q8. Communication & Q9.Collaboration

Actively listening and reflecting on stakeholder feedback helped me refine solutions and respond effectively

Sprint review & Planning

Friday, 1 August 2025 10:30 am - 11:00 am

Hi Alan, I Just wanted to be open an let you know I have not been 100 percent present on my project since Friday after meeting. My son was stood down for physical harm towards another child aswell as being being bullied himself. We had meeting at the kura today about Fridays incident and it went awesome. He asked to stay so I left, but not long after I got called back because he had left the school grounds onto a rural road which was really unsafe. After picking my son up w been super emotional, the rest of my day was spent ringing around for help and support, booking a doctors appointmer counselling referrals, and settling him down again. So I just wanted to apologise again for not being present on my proj am back on my mahi tomorrow and I'm keeping my son home so he can rest and I know he is safe. Arohamai & Ngā Mini, Cess.

Alan Kan 18/08 4:20 pm

I'm sorry to hear about what happened to your son Celesse. I hope things will turn out ok. Please take the time you need to attend to family first.
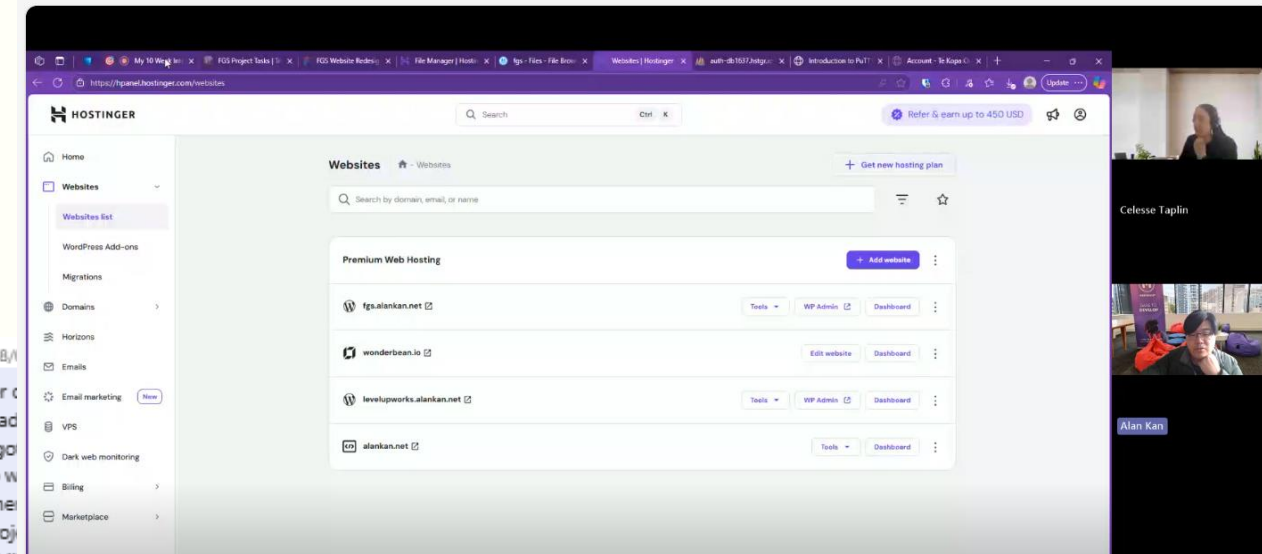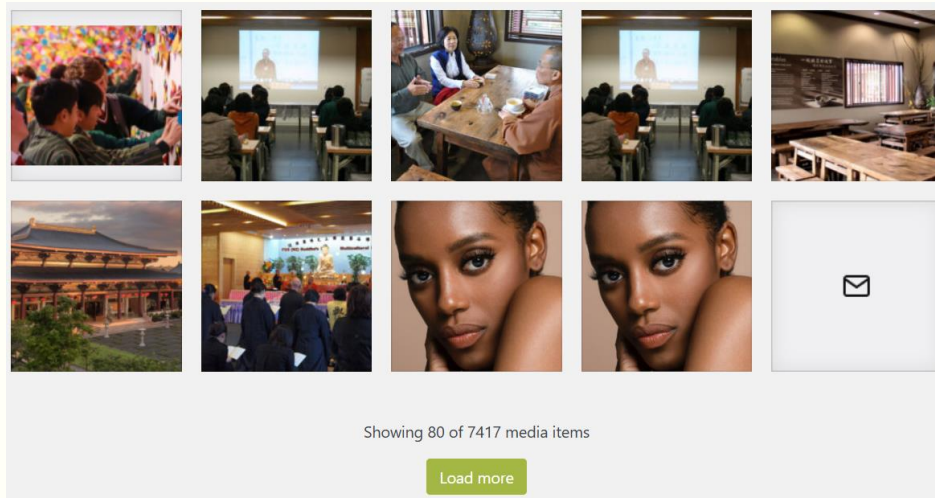
Let's skip the stand up tomorrow and catch up on Friday.

30/07 2:05 pm

Hey Jai, im having trouble uploading my sql database file to phpMyAdmin ive tried troubleshooting myself and am currently going in circles lols and i dont want to waste any more time so i thought id reach out for some guidance when your free prettiest please and thank you 🙏

Jai Ivarsson (External) 30/07 3:04 pm

Want to jump on a quick call?

30/07 3:15 pm

Yes please Jai I'm home around 3.40 of that works otherwise I'm happy to wait until your free 😊

Weekly calls with my mentor and sponsor helped me share blockers, discuss progress, and stay aligned with project requirements

Q10. My Contribution

Custom event system built with CPT UI, ACF, and shortcode rendering. This was one of my proudest contributions – designed from scratch to give staff full control over event content without relying on bloated plugins. It reflects architectural thinking, modular design, and a future-proof approach to WordPress development.

Showing 80 of 7417 media items

Load more

Manual media recovery using FTP and Media Sync to restore legacy assets

How to Use This Map
- **Need to add a new event?** → Add in activities CPT, assign featured-events category, set event_priority.
- **Need to change order?** → Edit event_priority in ACF.
- **Need to change layout?** → Edit PostX block settings or theme template.
- **Need to fix missing images?** → Use Media Sync.
- **Not seeing changes?** → Clear LiteSpeed cache.

FGS Events - Visual Map

This helps me to show visually how all these parts connect. T

```
[CPT UI] — registers → [activities CPT ("Events")]
|
|—— Taxonomies: Categories + Tags (WP Core)
|         |
|         └—— "featured-events" category → used for homepage/current events grid
|
|—— [ACF] — adds custom fields:
|         |—— event_priority (Number) → controls sort order
|         |—— location (Text/Select)
|         └—— date/time fields (if present)
|
|—— [PostX] — displays Events in grids:
|         |—— Query Settings → Post Type = activities
|         |—— Filter by category = featured-events
|         |—— Order by = event_priority (ASC)
|         └—— Styling → matches Figma card specs
|
|—— [Theme Templates] — render archives/singles:
|         |—— archive-activities.php → archive.php → index.php
|         └—— single-activities.php → single.php → singular.php → index.php
|
|—— [LiteSpeed Cache] — must clear after changes
|
|—— [Media Sync] — restores missing event images
|
└—— [FooGallery / WPForms] — optional:
|—— FooGallery → event photo galleries
└—— WPForms → event registration/contact forms
```

Q11. My Learnings and Future Employment Impact

Everything shown in my slides from task tracking and Notion boards to presentation drafts and QA updates — reflects these key learnings and demonstrates how they guided my decisions throughout the project

Communication is key
Sharing blockers, wins, and asking for guidance keeps projects on track.

Collaboration strengthens outcomes
Working with stakeholders and mentors improves decisions and provides support.

Agile practices keep projects manageable
Iterative updates and task tracking make complex projects achievable.

Ethical and inclusive design matters
Accessibility fixes, privacy considerations, and clarity make solutions more sustainable.

Resilience and reflection
Balancing solo work and personal challenges builds problem-solving and adaptability.