

# Otago Catchment Community Newsletter

## November 2022

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Kia ora,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Our last one came out just a few days before our annual catchment leaders forum. This year it was held in Alexandra. We attempt to give all groups an opportunity to get along to these annual events, and try and share the bigger drives around the district year to year by changing the location annually. We had over 40 attendees, which was remarkable given the weather we'd had leading up to the event... floods across much of East and North Otago as well as further up the island meant a few stayed away to deal with the clean-up at home.

Our new chair was elected after this forum and our AGM - we welcome Hanna Stalker on as chair. Hanna has been on the committee for the past 12 months and offers OCC good skills through experience working in the rural sector. Hanna farms near Hampden with her partner and two young children.

This month our second round of Direct Group Funding is open for applications and available to any catchment or water care group who have a plan which funding from OCC can help them achieve. All the details are on our website under '[funding](#)'. We encourage any group interested to get in touch with either Sam or Anna, as they are here to help groups achieve success, including group planning and how to approach funding applications.

The focus for this newsletter is on groups and their work with their schools and communities. This newsletter takes a look at the ways schools are getting involved with catchment groups. It is encouraging

to see the connections being made between schools and the wider community - whether that's planting a tree, or monitoring a stream for health.

There are a couple of new groups working with OCC so see the story profiling them below.

One of our own - Lloyd McCall - Congratulations on becoming the new ORC Deputy Chair!

As always, we are keen to hear what you like about this newsletter, and what we can do to improve it or make it more interesting for you, so get in touch and let us know your thoughts!

Thanks for joining us as we work together to support Otago's Catchment Groups.

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## Otago Catchment Group News

### Schools and Catchment Groups - A Winning Combination



**Teviot Valley Water Care Group** and the Millers Flat school students came together to unveil their new signs for the valley and added to the planting of the 'adopted' creek by the school. (The logo was part of a schools competition run

by Teviot group last year).

[Story on webpage](#)

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Check out the Cool Video and story from **Waitahuna School**

[https://fb.watch/gyv\\_whHM6s/](https://fb.watch/gyv_whHM6s/)

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## WAIWERA SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



Stream Study at Waiwera Corner. Looking at the health of the Waiwera River. They were pleased to find out that it appears to be in very good health, and had a lot of sensitive aquatic life. They spent the afternoon planting out some of the natives that they have grown at school, a lot of Makura, Kōwhai, Tī Kōuka, Toetoe and Manatu. Planting over 100 plants! They finished the day finding an eel in the trap Craig had set over night. A big thank you to Craig Simpson - Otago South River Care and Scott Martin - CDC - Enviroschools.

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## CATCHMENT GROUP FEATURE

**Thomsons Catchment Project** is made up of farmers and community members who are passionate about the water quality of Thomsons Creek – a large tributary in the Manuherekia River. You might know this area as the Otago Rail Trail passes through them, and Omakau township sits at the edge of the catchment. They have one of NZ's rarest fish in their catchment, the Central Otago Roundhead Galaxiid. They've joined forces across their community to find simple ways to make big differences to the Creek's water quality and

protect this special fish.

Follow them on their Facebook

Page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087104194979>

The photo below show the Gillespie family in Thomsons Creek with the amazing Matt Hickey, who many of you knew, and who passed this year. Matt was the visionary behind their upcoming wetland project.



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## **DIRECT GROUP FUNDING ROUND IS OPEN NOW**

The [Direct Group Funding](#) round is open for November to support catchment and water care groups with time for personnel.

Whether your group has a project that needs people, or having an administrator dealing with communications and office work is going to help your group achieve your vision, OCC's direct group funding may be just the ticket.

Get in touch with [Anna](#) or [Sam](#) to discuss this and find out what you need to know.

This application is open twice per year - May and November. The fund, if your group is successful is for a 12 month period.



We encourage you to have a plan of what you wish to achieve - OCC can also help you with this.

This fund is aimed to help groups find success and to take some of the burden off volunteer roles.

For all information please head over to the [website](#) where application forms and criteria can be found under the Funding Tab. Previous recipient information can be seen [here](#).

OCC also have a seed and small project fund, which both are open year round. The seed fund is for groups which have an idea or need a little bit of funding to leverage some activity, often in their early stages. This fund is for up to \$2000. The small project fund is for up to \$5000 and is to help groups work towards something collectively. Often this small amount will be a catalyst to help other potential funders come on board with an idea, so it is very much a starting point for many groups to gain larger amounts of funding.

All information can be found [here](#)



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## Other Catchment News

**Welcome to our two New Water Catchment Groups in Otago**  
Lowburn & Owhiro



The Lowburn catchment is a relatively short one, starting in the hills above Lake Dunstan, near Crowmell.

It's a catchment with a mixture of farm and lifestyle properties with a vineyard or 2 tucked amongst the people living there.

A small group of residents gathered together with OCC to find out what a catchment group is, and whether it's something that would benefit those who live there.

A brainstorm of ideas were jotted down over tea and cake, with common interests, values and concerns shared. Always interesting to see this occur with a group who have different work-streams.

The group are keen to pick up and continue when they get some time again, and see what they might be able to co-create in their catchment.

Meanwhile, they're keeping in touch with OCC, and learning more about what other groups are doing.

Watch this space.

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The **Owhiro Catchment Project** was launched in September with a community planting day. Members of the community have been reaching out regarding taking action within the catchment but are seeking support with the initial steps to raise awareness and build momentum. Utilising Craig Simpsons connections a day was made for the community. Involving NZ Landcare trust to deliver stream studies for children and adults attending.

This opening day allowed the community to come together, connect in person with a coffee cart on site, plant some natives for erosion protection and riparian habitat enhancement as part of a bigger holistic catchment project to enhance the water quality and biodiversity within the catchment.



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### Otago Catchments News/Update (University of Otago)

- CO operational funding secured until March 2024 - coordination and some seed funding for developing a pilot Freshwater Winter School next year.
- Research grant 'Safeguarding mahinga kai in a hotter freshwater climate' was unfortunately declined
- Development grant 'Immersion science for on farm action' (edutainment 'Man vs Wild' style decision videos) unfortunately declined



**Otago Attendees at the NZ Landcare Trust National Catchments Forum in Wellington in October!**

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## Coming Up

### New Zealand Landcare Trust

Currently delivering 6 workshops around Otago introducing Biodiversity with David Norton with OCC and Beef & Lamb. Link for more info [here](#)

### Otago Regional Council

To view ORC's Land & Water Plan consultation dates head [here](#)

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#### OCC coordinator contact details:

Anna Robinson, Alexandra

e. [anna.robinson@otagocatchments.co.nz](mailto:anna.robinson@otagocatchments.co.nz)

p. 022 6522 779

Sam Dixon, Dunedin

e. [sam.dixon@otagocatchments.co.nz](mailto:sam.dixon@otagocatchments.co.nz)

p. 027 777 0940

Get in touch with OCC for any catchment group related enquiry and get the support you need to find success in 2022.