



Otago Catchment Community Newsletter

March 2023

Kia ora

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter for 2023. Grab a cuppa and take some time to read through what has been happening around our region for Catchment and Water Care groups.

Anna and Sam have been making a bit of stuff happen in the background over the summer months. While not wanting to get too ahead of themselves, they are hopeful that some of the connections and work done will result in efficiencies in the agricultural extension sector, and provide clear pathways for collaboration. This in turn should mean high quality activities and events for people to participate in.

Keep an eye out for some workshops coming up in the wetland space. With Thomson's Creek project in full swing there should be some opportunities coming to get a close-up on what their digger driver has been up to! If you happen to be biking the rail-trail, you'll go right past the site just 5 or 10 minutes on the outskirts of Omakau. Stop and have a look - it's pretty impressive the amount of work that has happened in the past wee while.

As always, we are keen to hear from you if you've got an idea that you'd like to share or know of something happening elsewhere that you'd love to see here in Otago.

Anna and Sam's phone numbers and emails are below.

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

Otago Catchment Group News

Biodiversity



Following on from the successful biodiversity roadshow in October and November last year, there are some resources due to come out for people keen to increase their knowledge and capabilities in this space.

Take a look [here](#) at what Dr David Norton and team have been developing together 'Working with farmers, catchment groups, councils and other partners across Aotearoa New Zealand, we are co-creating resources that will bring biodiversity into farm management'.

In addition to this, there will be some short informative videos coming out soon from Beef & Lamb showcasing what Dr Norton covered last year in the roadshow. These snapshots of different components within the biodiversity and farming realm will be a great introduction and reminder to people wanting to get a handle on what to do, how to do it, and what it all means. Beef and Lamb will be releasing these soon, so watch this space.

[Mid Taieri Wai](#) was the fortunate recipient of a grant from Westpac and teamed up with Landcare Trust for Catchment wide projects. They have been busy checking out the health of our waterways, follow the link for [photos and more on this story](#).

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BETTER CONNECTIONS



OCC, ORC, MPI, Hort NZ, Beef & Lamb and Dairy NZ sharing ideas

The OCC team met with numerous rural advisors in the extension space at Invermay recently. The outcomes from the day were a better connected group of providers, working to streamline events, focus and delivery to catchment groups and rural areas together. There's a bit more work to do in this space, but hopefully you'll start seeing more collaboration and effective, efficient work across Otago.

CATCHMENT GROUP FEATURE

Urban Action Groups - Wai Wanaka

The aim of the Urban Action Group project is to transfer the knowledge and experience gained from working with rural catchment groups across to an urban setting. WAI Wānaka's overall goal is to improve the health of freshwater in the Upper Clutha through education and community-led action, and we hope to ultimately develop an Urban Catchment Plan for the Upper Clutha.



ACTION GROUPS

UPPER CLUTHA CATCHMENT AREA - 4,600KM²

- **DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION LAND**
 Including National Parks and Conservation Areas
- **CATCHMENT GROUPS**
 Lake Hāwea | Cardrona | Hāwea Flat | Luggate | Maungawera | Lake Wānaka
- **SMALL LANDOWNER GROUPS**
 Mt Barker | Black Peak | Desert Block | Hāwea Flat | Jolly Road | Poplar Beach | Sundance | Waterfall Creek
- **URBAN ACTION GROUPS**
 yo.ECO (18-30s) | Kirimoko | Lismore

Action groups in the Upper Clutha Area- as of January 2023

The need for this project is simple. The Upper Clutha continues to grow rapidly, with the population predicted to reach upwards of 21,000 by 2031. As the urban communities of Wānaka, Hāwea, Luggate, Cardrona and Makarora continue to grow, so too does the urgency to protect our natural environment, particularly freshwater.

Population of the Upper Clutha in 2021

Expected population by 2031

16,400 → **21,360**

Community-led urban action groups involve residents, community groups, clubs, businesses and anyone with a passion to get involved. The groups are facilitated and supported by WAI Wānaka, setting their own goals, targets and priorities to undertake projects that are important to them.



Some of the yo.eco Crew at their rubbish pick-up event on the Lakefront of Wānaka- December 2022.

One of the pilot groups is the Young Environmental Collective, a passionate group looking to enhance and empower the environmental voice of the 18-35s demographic by taking action to create behavioural change. This group want to make a difference in the Upper Clutha Basin.

To keep up to date with what the group are doing in the Upper Clutha please follow their [Instagram account](#).

Other Catchment News

The Great Otago South Ice Cream Tour!



Mr Whippy came back to our Otago South Catchment areas in January this year! It was an exceptionally cool (no pun intended) excuse to get off farm with the kids and team, to enjoy an ice cream and catch up before school went back.

Rural Riders has kicked off in Otago, for those who don't have ready access to a surf beach. Run in the same format as Surfing for Farmers, this is a dirt track and mountain bike fun event run regularly around some areas. Click [here](#) for more details on these Central events.

Living Manuherekia

A&P shows are all go around the region, with the 125th Central Otago show in Omakau taking place recently. They were stymied by covid restrictions last year (officially the 125th year) so put off celebrations until this year. Catchment Groups and catchment project groups have been making good use of the A&P events to promote their activities, engage with their community and get more knowledge and participation happening. The Manuherekia Engagement Team ran a survey at the C.O. A&P Show and got over 80 responses which was an awesome effort!



Coming Up

Otago Regional Council

4 Intensive winter grazing consents workshops coming up around Otago with ORC.

Follow link for all the details

Palmerston

Waikouaiti

Mid Taieri

Ranfurly

[Intensive Winter Workshops](#)

ECO Fund [now open](#) - read here for more information.

Cyclone Gabrielle

With the devastation that the cyclone has left in its wake, numerous individuals have been in contact with us to find out how they can help.

Here is a handy list of links and organisations who are coordinating volunteers and donations.

Thanks to everyone who is searching for a way to help our northern whānau and friends.

[Cyclone Gabrielle: Where to donate](#)

OCC coordinator contact details:

Anna Robinson, Alexandra

e. anna.robinson@otagocatchments.co.nz

p. 022 6522 779

Sam Dixon, Dunedin

e. 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 2023.



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Otago Catchment Group Inc
3945 Wanaka-Mount Aspiring Road
Cattle Flat, Otago 9382
New Zealand

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