

AGENDA

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting Monday, 2 September 2019

Date Monday, 2 September 2019

Time 2pm

Location Meeting Room 1, Council Building, King George
Place, Timaru

File Reference 1277507

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee will be held in the Meeting Room 1, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru, on Monday 2 September 2019, at 2pm.

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Members

Hamish McFarlane (Chairman), Lucy Millar, Luke Reihana, Lan Pham, Anne Munro, Richard Lyon, David Anderson, Suzanne Eddington, Glen Smith, Phil Driver, John Henry, Herstatt Ulrich and Mark Webb

Quorum – no less than 7 members

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- 1 Opening karakia, Apologies, and Introductions**
- 2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**
- 3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**
- 4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**
- 5 Community Forum**

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 5 August 2019

Author: Joanne Brownie, Council Secretary

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 5 August 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Attachments

- 1. Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 5 August 2019**

MINUTES

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting Monday, 5 August 2019

**Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting
Held in Meeting Room 1, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru
on Monday, 5 August 2019 at 1pm**

Present: Hamish McFarlane (Chairperson), Suzanne Eddington, Clr Richard Lyon, Lucy Millar, Clr Anne Munro, Luke Reihana, Glen Smith

In Attendance: Lesley Woudberg (CWMS Team Leader Facilitator), Clr Peter Scott, Brian Reeves Zone Delivery Lead, Brad Waldon-Gibbons (ECan Tangata Whenua Facilitator), Josh Earnshaw (Timaru Boys High School), Hannah Dunlop (Team Leader Youth Engagement), Debbie Eddington (ECan Youth Engagement Advisor), Irai Weepu (Tangata Whenua Facilitator), Karl Russell (Arowhenua Runanga), Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement Coordinator), Aaron Wilson-Jones, John Benn (Department of Conservation), Lloyd McMillan (Temuka Community Board), Jan Finlayson (Geraldine Community Board), Kate Doran (ECan Communications), Matthew Littlewood (Timaru Herald)

The meeting opened with a Karakia from Irai Weepu.

1 Apologies

Committee Resolution 2019/7

Moved: Suzanne Eddington

Seconded: Lucy Millar

That apologies from Clr Lan Pham, John Henry, Mark Webb, Phil Driver, Clr David Anderson and Herstatt Ulrich be accepted.

Carried

2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

A request was made for updated information on the Pareora Flow Allocation Position being made available for the next meeting.

3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

There were no minor nature items.

4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Community Forum

As there were a number of people in the public gallery, attendees briefly introduced themselves.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 1 July 2019

John Benn advised that DOC has now appointed a new ranger at Geraldine, who will soon take up the Rangitata Restoration Ranger role.

Strategy – Committee members were asked to think about whether meetings are to be held in other locations throughout the zone and also think about what issues the committee may want to focus on.

Temuka stopbank – Clr Scott will check that a response has been provided to Arowhenua Rūnanga on the Temuka stopbank issue.

Terms of Reference – Discussion is taking place on the Terms of Reference across the region as to as to whether they are still fit for purpose and amendments to ensure the correct runanga representation will be part of any subsequent changes. It was agreed to leave the item on the agenda until it is resolved.

Clr Scott advised that the regional committee is looking at the 100-150 CWMS targets and how these are implemented, possibly with the assistance of catchment groups as a possible avenue to progress.

Committee Resolution 2019/8

Moved: Ms Lucy Millar

Seconded: Ms Suzanne Eddington

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 1 July 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting, subject to an amendment in clause 7.1 Immediate Steps Biodiversity Funding Project Proposals noting that the additional \$400 (rounding funding up to \$105,000) was to be allocated to the Rockburn Bat Habitat Fencing project.

Carried

7 Reports

7.1 Otipua/Saltwater Creek Catchment Update

Community Engagement Officer Rhys Taylor presented his report on the Otipua/Saltwater Creek Catchment Group, including a power point on the investigative work associated with the Saltwater Creek weir and the liaison with the rowing club on flow issues with the creek.

Investigations have confirmed that the creek is a rainwater dependent catchment, not a springfed catchment and at times experiences very low flows. The catchment group is working with the Timaru Rowing Club to investigate possible solutions to the low flow issues such as altering the summer flow, extracting silt from the key area of the creek (although this would be expensive and would involve gaining resource consent), possible redesign of the weir and ensuring the weir does not leak significant amounts of water. Investigations to date indicate that leakage from the weir is not substantial.

The Committee also noted the non statutory recommendations from the OTO ZIPA as they relate to the catchment. Committee members were encouraged to attend the Wild Day at the Wetland on 14 September.

7.2 Catchment Groups Update and Plan Change 7

Discussion on the Otipua/Saltwater Creek Catchment Group led on to discussion on catchment groups in general.

It has become apparent that there is a need to reconnect with the 7 catchment groups. Following the focus on contributing to the development of the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum, some catchment groups need encouragement to continue their role and activities. It may be beneficial for some groups to meet as a combined unit, especially for tasks such as submitting on Plan Change 7.

The work of the catchment groups, supported by the Community Engagement Officers, is helping towards the achievement of targets but there needs to be more integration between zone committees and non statutory groups.

The Committee discussed the possibility of forming incorporated societies, such as in the Pareora catchment. However it was noted that this brings additional obligations for financial reporting and the like. Having a community based group allows flexibility to follow the issues and champion the cause at a grass roots level tapping into local knowledge and care for the local area. For Otipua/Saltwater Creek, there is no formal membership structure, people interested in an event/activity turn up on the day. This means that the Facilitator plays a key role as there is no committee structure. However if a group is dealing with significant amounts of money, then an incorporated society has a place.

Glen Smith reported on the Combined Waihi/Te Moana catchment group which met recently to discuss Plan Change 7 and the major changes that will affect that catchment. There was a good attendance, proving that these groups need a purpose to get together. The meeting provided an opportunity to voice concerns and be heard and was attended by people with various levels of knowledge and included representatives of companies such as Balance, Barkers and Fonterra as well as land owners, and individuals interested in the issues. The discussion was supported by a Land Management Advisor and Facilitator. Having a Planner in attendance would have been valuable.

Plan Change 7 takes concentrated reading and interpretation as to how it translates to what land users can and cannot do. The Waihi/Te Moana meeting demonstrated that there are some misunderstandings as to what is meant by some of the clauses in the Plan Change. It would be useful at an early stage if ECan did some work on the meaning of some of the clauses to provide clarification. Frequently Asked Questions would be useful.

Some people are only realising now that the Plan Change is happening and its potential impact on their activities. People need to be encouraged to submit to ensure they can be part of any changes to the proposed plan change.

Clr Munro reported on the Te Ngawai catchment group, which is proposing to hold a meeting to update and familiarise members with Plan Change 7, the meeting will be held in time for people to submit on the document. It was suggested that a combined Te Ngawai/Upper Opihi catchment group meeting be held and that a planner be asked to attend.

7.3 Education and Awareness

The Committee received a presentation from Youth Engagement Officers and local high school student Josh Earnshaw on what is happening in the youth engagement space.

The Youth Engagement and Education officers talked about how best to engage with youth, how to get zone topics discussed by young people, and activities designed to keep the topics relevant to the youth sector, nurturing the next generation. Such activities as pizza and discussion nights, which were instigated by the young people themselves and are led by the young attendees, have proved to be successful. ECan operates as the resource and provides the opportunity for the young people to have a voice and feed upwards to decisions makers.

The Committee noted the need to provide continuing opportunities for young people to retain their interest at high school level, and keep it 'cool' to be involved in these environmental issues. Students like Josh are paving the way but resources are needed to make this happen, and the programme needs local champions.

Sue Eddington advised that she could suggest possible contacts that may provide sponsorship for local youth engagement activities.

The Committee supported the programme for involvement with schools and suggested that the Zone Committee could be used as a resource for that programme. Catchment groups could be involved in the information stream and the Zone Committee could be the entity to bring all the information streams together.

It was agreed that contact for the local programme be through Debbie Eddington – debbie.eddington@ecan.govt.nz 027 687 5344.

Clr Peter Scott and Luke Reihana (with the help of Debbie Eddington and Hannah Dunlop) volunteered to help Josh Earnshaw organise and support a Friday night pizza and discussion group for South Canterbury youth. Other members offered their time and support for future events.

7.4 Chairpersons/Deputy Chairperson Report on July Meeting

The Chairperson reported on the Zone Committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons meeting held on 10 July. The meeting was an open forum for the sharing of ideas. The last meeting was 2 years ago with last year being the Watershed conference. The challenges raised by the chairs had common themes – such as finding their place in the world, where to next for zone committees after the subregional process?

Issues and concerns raised at the forum included

- concern that the work will be Christchurch-centric,
- not enough work will be achieved on the ground, especially after the level of community engagement that took place,
- concern at lack of funds and perceived lack of control to achieve outcomes.
- Ngai Tahu has very legitimate grievances that need to be addressed.
- Concern in some areas about the balance of zone committees – sometimes reflective of the issues.
- Concern at the pressure from central government – freshwater drinking standards, national policy on freshwater nitrates, new regional policy statement for all councils, change in the

national planning standards, national policy statement for biodiversity - the pace and rate of change over the next year will be a challenge and may cause stress in the community.

- How do Zone Committees stay relevant, workplans going forward.

Terms of Reference for zone committees are being reviewed, with a view to enabling zone committees to drive on the ground actions. There was discussion on whether to have another Watershed forum early next year, which was supported. Any ideas on themes or outcomes from the OTOP zone members would be welcome.

7.5 Facilitator's Report

The Facilitator's report was considered. Further discussion took place on youth engagement and it was agreed that it would be good to create a forum for young people in South Canterbury to engage their interest and keep them interested.

7.6 Zone Strategy

Clr Lan Pham and the Senior Planner and Community Lead Lyn Carmichael were to provide a follow up on the Committee's Strategy for the work plan going forward. However due to them not being able to attend today's meeting it was agreed to defer the strategy discussion until the next meeting.

The Committee had a general discussion on the strategy going forward agreeing that catchment groups need to be supported, youth engagement could have a greater focus, biodiversity and rock art could also be a focus.

The appointment of the cultural land management advisor will be valuable. Also there is a need for continuity in community engagement advisors, as there is concern that currently facilitators and community engagement advisors having a finite life, yet their role is an effective way of reaching a lot of people.

The Zone Committee could facilitate groups helping to connect with potential sponsors eg Trustpower – assisting in where to go for financial resources, or helping to write applications, and facilitating in a variety of ways.

7.7 Possible Media Stories

The meeting noted that a media story on the Saltwater Creek issue had already been produced by the Timaru Herald, during the course of the meeting.

Plan change 7 is currently being advertised, and a suitable media story from the Chairman is being prepared, encouraging people to submit on the Plan Change.

The Meeting closed at 4.20pm with a karakia from Clr Scott.

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Chairperson

7 Reports

7.1 Recognition for Members Standing in Local Body Elections

Author: Chairperson Hamish McFarlane

<p>Recommendation</p> <p>To be noted</p>

Purpose of Report

The Chairman to raise the issue of recognition for members standing at the local authority elections in October.

Attachments

Nil

7.2 Roundtable Updates

Recommendation

That the verbal reports from Committee members be noted.

Purpose of Report

Committee members to provide updates on relevant issues since the last meeting.

Attachments

Nil

7.3 Regional Committee Update

Author: Phil Driver, Regional Committee Representative

Recommendation

That the report be received.

Purpose of Report

To present an update on the Regional Committee meeting held on 13 August 2019.

CWMS REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Summary of Committee 13 August Meeting 2019

1. Climate change emergencies

The committee heard from council representatives from Christchurch City and Environment Canterbury about their council's decisions to declare climate change (and in CCC's case ecological) emergencies. The committee were challenged to think about climate change through the lenses of the CWMS and achieving the targets.

The committee has requested further information on climate change impacts on Canterbury water from CRIs involved in the *"Deep South National Science Challenge"* (<https://www.deepsouthchallenge.co.nz/>)

2. CWMS Timeline

The committee took the opportunity to pause and reflect on the history of the CWMS from its beginnings in the late 1990's during a period of drought through to today and the initiatives central government is expected to announce next month.

3. Targets Report

Progress toward the CWMS Targets is reported every second year. The draft 2019 Targets Report was presented. The committee requested a report on what actions the Regional Council is intending to take in response to the report.

4. Infrastructure Update

An update of the infrastructure programme was well received.

5. Collective leadership

One of the strategic issues highlighted during the Fit for Future project was the need to grow collective leadership to deliver and support the CWMS. Chairs and deputy chairs also highlighted the need to make the contribution of district and city councils more transparent.

Zone committee representatives provided examples of projects that demonstrated collective leadership in their zones.

Attachments

Nil

7.4 Plan Change 7

Author: Lyn Carmichael, Facilitator

Recommendation

That the OTOP zone committee notes the information below on Plan Change 7 and the dates for Community Engagement on Plan Change 7 in OTOP.

Purpose of Report

To provide the OTOP zone committee with information on the submission period and engagement for Proposed Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan.

Proposed Plan Changes

Proposed Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan has been developed to respond to emerging resource management issues, to give effect to relevant national direction, to implement recommendations from the Hinds Drains' Working Party, and to implement recommendations in the Waimakariri and Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora (OTOP) Zone Implementation Programme Addendums.

Proposed Plan Change 2 proposes to remove from the Waimakariri River Regional Plan provisions that relate to the area covered by Section 8 (Waimakariri sub-region) of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan. The WRRP continues to apply to the main stem of the Waimakariri River, the upper catchment including its headwaters, and an area of land south of the Waimakariri River. Proposed Plan Change 2 is a consequence of Proposed Plan Change 7 to Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan.

Both plan changes were notified on 20th July 2019. Submissions close 5pm on 13th September 2019.

Environment Canterbury has the following resources available on the plan changes:

- PC7 webpage - <https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-land-and-water-regional-plan/change-7/>
- PC2 webpage - <https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/waimakariri-river-regional-plan/change-2/>

These websites include links to:

- the proposed plan change provisions and Planning Maps (EPlan and PDF)
- the Section 32 Evaluation Report
- all of the technical documents listed in the Section 32 Evaluation Report
- frequently asked questions <https://ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2019/plan-change-7-and-plan-change-2-what-you-need-to-know/>

The frequently asked questions on Plan Change 7 and Plan Change 2 continue to be updated during the submission process in response to plan change questions from the public.

Upcoming Engagement on Plan Change 7

Four community sessions are coming up in South Canterbury for people who'd like to find out more about making a submission to Environment Canterbury on its latest proposed plan change relating to freshwater management.

Plan Change 7 presentation and drop-in sessions



Temuka: Tuesday 3 September 2-4 pm, Alpine Energy Community Centre

Geraldine: Tuesday 3 September 7-9 pm, Waihi Lodge

Fairlie: Friday 6 September 10.30am -12.30pm, Mackenzie Community Centre

Timaru: Friday 6 September 2-4 pm, Caroline Bay Community Lounge

Attachments

1. **Plan Change 7 advertisement**  



Everybody wants to protect and enhance our local rivers, streams and lakes.

We've worked with the community to develop some new proposed rules that relate to how we use and protect our land and water to ensure our precious resource can benefit future generations.

These new rules may affect people who live anywhere in the Canterbury region, but there are specific provisions that apply to the Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora sub-region.

To find out what the proposed rules (Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan) mean and make a submission visit ecan.govt.nz/lwrppc7.

Come along to a presentation and drop-in session (light refreshments provided):

- **Temuka:** Tuesday 3 September 2-4 pm, Alpine Energy Community Centre
- **Geraldine:** Tuesday 3 September 7-9 pm, Waihi Lodge
- **Fairlie:** Friday 6 September 10.30am -12.30pm, Mackenzie Community Centre
- **Timaru:** Friday 6 September 2-4 pm, Caroline Bay Community Lounge

For more information contact customer services on 0800 324 636.

Environment Canterbury Regional Council
Kaumimera Tekeo Ki Waitaha

7.5 Zone Committee Priorities and Actions

Author: Lyn Carmichael, Facilitator

Recommendation

That the committee reviews the draft priorities table below and confirms priorities for the coming year.

Purpose of Report

To provide an opportunity for the Zone Committee to clarify priorities for the ZC work programme through to June 2020.

Next Steps

Once confirmed the priorities will be included in a monthly work plan to be provided to the committee in November

Attachments

1. OTOP draft work programme [↓](#) 

OTOP ZC – Draft priorities 2019/20

Initial thoughts of the OTOZ ZC		Suggested ZC Priority Work Streams– June 2020
<p><i>"Weaving biodiversity through the working environment"</i></p> <p><i>"Building resilience – Urban and Rural"</i></p>	<p>Resourcing/Funding How: Explore Opportunities for forming an Incorporated society to support Catchment Groups Partnerships with possible sponsors eg. Fonterra</p> <p>Collective Leadership How: Be proactive with NGOs – what are they doing? Workshop with industry (B&L, FAR/Dairy NZ, Hort NZ, Deer Industry) What is needed to promote change?</p> <p>Identify and Nurture Next Generation Leaders How: Enviroschools – sponsorship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Groups Catchment Groups ZC Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show support for the work of the catchment groups, attend meetings and provide linkages • Support and facilitation for forming an incorporated society for coordination and funding applications Temuka Catchment Allocation ZC Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with stakeholders, irrigators, and zone delivery team to promote the formation of water user groups to address over allocation • Biodiversity/Mahinga Kai Waipuna (Springs) and Mātaitai Protection Zone ZC Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect Papatipu Rūnanga with willing landowners, advisors and funders – identify, protect/enhance 2x sites • Focus on education – committee and community promotion through visits and fieldtrips <p>Mahinga Kai ZC Role:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect Papatipu Rūnanga with willing landowners, advisors and funders – identify, protect/enhance 2x sites • Focus on education – committee and community promotion through visits and fieldtrips • Focus on Temuka River and Mataitai Protection Zone as priority <p>Biodiversity ZC Role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with willing landowners, advisors and funders – identify, protect/enhance 2x sites • Priorities for Immediate Steps • Gain an understanding of further opportunities and threats • Develop recommendations for removing barriers and providing incentives for biodiversity projects • Fonterra approached for enhancement of lower Orari lagoons <p>• Nitrate Hotspots Reducing nitrate leaching to GW ZC Role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the willing • Engage with Farmers reference group to create a toolbox of mitigations • Work with DairyNZ to promote mitigations and education and support for landowners <p>• Rock Art</p>
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		<p>What do the changes to FEPs in OTOP mean for landowners ZC Role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with Rock Art Trust to work with landowners on opportunities to protect sites <p>• Stormwater What can urban communities do to improve urban streams ZC Role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of good practices for urban stormwater • Focus on education • Work with Waitarakao Taskforce and Optipua Catchment group to promote and enhance these sites <p>• Communication and Engagement Communication ZC Role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly media stories generated from each ZC meeting • Connect with past recipients of immediate steps funding • Collect info for short media stories about the project and the people <p>Identify and Nurture Young Leaders ZC Role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Aquavan events around the zone • Connect landowners, enviroschool, community group for an outdoor youth event/planting/
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7.6 Zone Facilitator's Report

Author: Lyn Carmichael, Facilitator

Recommendation

That the Facilitator's report be noted.

Purpose of Report

To provide the OTOP zone committee with information on;

- Consultation for Proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land
- Flow and Allocation for Pareora River
- Upcoming events
- Progress on issues raised in previous meetings
- Media
 - 16 August - Waihi River locals protect native biodiversity
 - 27 August - South Canterbury projects NZ River Awards finalists.

Discussion

1. Consultation for Proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land

The Ministry for Primary Industries and the Ministry for the Environment are now seeking submissions on a proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL), developed on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister for the Environment.

A discussion document on the proposed NPS-HPL '*Valuing Highly Productive Land*' and information about how to make a submission is available at www.mpi.govt.nz/HighlyProductiveLand.

The closing date for submissions is 5pm Thursday 10 October 2019.

If you have any questions regarding this proposal please contact the Ministry for Primary Industries on this email: soils@mpi.govt.nz

NB: Consultation for Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater is expected to open 5 September 2019

2. Flow and Allocation for Pareora River

The flow and allocation for the Pareora River was developed through an extensive community consultation process and implemented through the Pareora Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan in 2012. Proposed Plan Change 7 incorporates this flow and allocation regime unchanged in to the Land and Water Regional Plan. Consents were subsequently reviewed to comply with the plan. Further detail on the current allocation can be found in the

Resource Consent Inventory produced to support the PC7 process:
<https://api.ecan.govt.nz/TrimPublicAPI/documents/download/3599883>

3. Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
3-6 September	<p>Plan Change 7 Community Meetings</p> <p>Presentations and drop ins to support submissions:</p> <p>3 September – Temuka 2-4pm Alpine Energy Community Centre</p> <p>3 September – Geraldine 7-9pm Wahi Lodge</p> <p>6 September – Fairlie 10.30am -12.30pm Mackenzie Community Centre</p> <p>6 September – Timaru 2-4pm Caroline Bay Community Centre</p>
4-5 September	<p>Beef and Lamb Engagement on Plan Change 7</p> <p>4 September - 3:30pm - 6:30pm at MacKenzie Rugby Clubrooms, Fairlie</p> <p>5 September - Online Workshops 10am, 12pm, 2pm and 4pm</p>
11 September	<p>Waihi and Te Moana Catchment Group Meeting</p> <p>Focus on Stormwater with guest Uki Dele from TDC. 7pm at Wahi Lodge, Geraldine</p>
10-14 September	<p>University of Otago</p> <p>Aquavan – Discovering our Coastal Connections</p> <p><i>The Aquavan is heading inland and upstream, bringing live marine critters and touch pools to schools and communities. The aim of the project is to create awareness and understanding of the connectivity between river health and the coastal environment in a dynamic and hands on way.</i></p> <p>10 September – Fairlie, Mackenzie College Hall</p> <p>11 September – Geraldine, Woodbury Hall</p> <p>12 September – Temuka, St Joseph Parish Hall</p> <p>13 September – Saltwater Creek, Fairview Hall</p> <p>14 September – Conservation Week launch Otipua Wetland</p> <p>Contact: Debbie Eddington, ECan Youth Engagement Adviser</p>
14 September	<p>Wild Day at the Wetland</p> <p>Otipua Wetland (Saltwater Creek)</p>

7 October	<p>Option – Field Trip</p> <p>Catch up with the Orari Catchment Group and Orari River Protection Group</p> <p><i>“On behalf of the Orari River Protection Group, I would like to invite the OTOP zone committee for a field trip to the Orari gorge in Oct or Nov this year, to see the native vegetation in bloom and show them what we've been able to achieve with our weed control & predator trapping in the gorge”.</i></p> <p>Adele Coombs Orari River Protection Group 0210 236 9674</p>
Election closes midday 12 October	Local Government Elections
4 November	OTOP ZC meeting (TBC)
2 December	OTOP ZC meeting (TBC)

4. Progress on Issues raised in previous meetings

DATE	ISSUE	STATUS
6 May	Update on stormwater consents	No action yet
	District Plan Review	No action yet
1 July	Write a letter to Upper Waitaki ZC advising them of the issue of water efficiency in the Waitaki system needed to be reviewed	Letter done
	Department of Conservation Offered to host a meeting of the cmtt in the Geraldine office followed by a field trip	No action yet
5 Aug	Plan Change 7 and catchment groups	Combined meeting with Te Ana Wai and Upper Opihi catchment groups held 20 August
	Youth Friday night pizza	Planning underway

5. Media

Waihi River locals protect native biodiversity

Date: 16 Aug 2019

The Waihi River is flourishing thanks to local men Steve Dakin, Robbie Stewart, Jimmy Wallace and David Waddington.

The four friends have adopted a hands-on approach to defending a [significant natural area](#) right on their doorstep.

The merry men meet each week with shovels and secateurs in hand and head in the direction of the river down homemade paths, to 'gardens' full of natives. In the gardens they spend hours volunteering in the wintry conditions of South Canterbury knocking out [invasive weeds](#) like sycamores, re-planting natives and laying traps for pests. The gardens weren't always full of natives though. Just two years ago the whole corridor was full of invasive and fast-growing weeds and pests.

Funding from Environment Canterbury a few years ago meant their pipe dream of paying a contractor to remove a good portion of the sycamores became a reality. In one fell swoop, the space leftover meant there was finally room for native flora and fauna to flourish.

Saving native biodiversity

Some of the team do it to get out of the house for a few hours, and some for the exercise.

But they all agree on one thing – without their intervention, invasive weeds would take over the area completely, leaving precious tōtara, ferns and cabbage trees to be overwhelmed and die. In all, around 1600 natives have been planted by contractors and Dakin's team in the past two years, with many more seeding themselves with the help of kererū in the rejuvenated gardens along the river.

"What we're trying to do now is create a biodiversity corridor on the banks of the Waihi that will connect up some of the significant natural areas that we've got locally," Mr Dakin said. "It's a fantastic piece of the world. The birdlife is just wonderful. Last season I counted a flock of 30 kererū through here, and we've now got tui coming back as well. We're very blessed.

"We've just got a core group of three or four of us, which we're hoping to expand, and we just get together on a Tuesday morning for a few hours and maintain the tracks we've put in. "We also do a bit of what we call gardening, which is basically if we find a native, we try and make the conditions around it suitable to grow. So, making sure it has light, and not crowded out by other nasties," he said.

Next steps for the corridor

Their job isn't done yet, Dakin said. Once the sycamore problem is contained the group will move on to what they see as a "major" cotoneaster infestation. "As we get all of those under control it will make it easier for the natives to grow through," Mr Dakin said.

"This is a biodiversity hotspot in South Canterbury and if we don't look after them, they will go, to invasive plants and other things. "We'll be, as a group, trying to get other people around the region involved. Because there's no shortage of work to be done and no shortage of fun to be had," he said.

But with a \$12,200 backing from Environment Canterbury's [Immediate Steps funding](#), the crew will look to extend the weed control area further downstream, set more predator traps, and fencing for stock exclusion.

That work is scheduled to begin in the new year.

South Canterbury projects NZ River Awards finalists**Date:** 27 Aug 2019

By Greta Yeoman

Two South Canterbury environmental projects are finalists in the New Zealand River Awards.

The awards, which are organised by Cawthron Institute, aim to highlight projects that have made positive impacts on waterways around the country.

An ongoing project to restore the Tasman River – which feeds into Lake Pukaki – has been selected as a finalist in the awards.

Now in its 15th year, Project River Recovery has been working on controlling pest plants and predators through a joint scheme involving the Department of Conservation, power companies Meridian and Genesis, and local landowners and volunteers.

One major improvement has been the growth of black-fronted tern numbers, from fewer than 100 a decade ago to more than 600 birds in 2017.

Another local connection on the shortlist is ex-Timaru entrepreneur Logan Williams, who is focusing his efforts on the invasive algae didymo, which has affected many South Canterbury rivers.

The 23-year-old Ngai Tahu innovator has been working to lessen the impact of “rock snot” on the region’s rivers by transforming the algae into a 100% recyclable, eco-friendly plastic alternative.

The New Zealand River Awards will be announced in Wellington on November 7.

Attachments**Nil**

8 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

9 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters