

2018 Annual Report

Sharing our goals with the community a key highlight for the year



Arapata Reuben,
Zone Committee Chair,
Papatipu Rūnanga Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri

The Christchurch West Melton Water Zone Committee has had another busy year and I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members for their commitment. All zone committee members are participants because we care about our local waterways.

We know that results won't be instantaneous, but we hope that future generations benefit from the work our local communities undertake now. As we have continued towards making progress on achieving the CWMS targets there have been several highlights.

These include participating in the Mother of all Clean ups in May, where over 700 people got together to help clean up some of our local rivers, and the Meet in the Middle which provided us with an opportunity to engage with local communities about our goals and work.

Much of the community engagement this year has focused our Stormwater Superhero campaign, which encourages the community to do their bit to help clean up our rivers.

The zone committee also had a win this year with their stand on advocating copper free brake pads. You can read more about this later on in our annual report and be assured we will continue to put pressure on in this space in

the coming year.

We've also been taking a close interest in the on-going investigations around potential groundwater movements under the Waimakariri River following the discovery of low levels of "nitrate-nitrogen" in aquifers and wells in Kaiapoi and northern Christchurch. We have provided feedback to the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee on nitrate limits to ensure our city's drinking water and springfed stream are protected.

Finally, I want to thank three of our zone committee members whose membership concluded at the end of 2018. Your time and energy were much appreciated during the term of your membership.

Please remember that the community are welcome to attend our monthly meetings. These are available on the Environment Canterbury Christchurch West Melton Water Zone Committee webpage.

Key achievements 2018

- Allocated more than \$70,000 of Immediate Steps biodiversity funding to five projects including the Cashmere Stream Care Group, Wairarapa Stream, Albert Stream, and Ōtukaikino, which was voted New Zealand's Most Improved River for 2018.
- Provided feedback on the draft Waimakariri Zone Implementation Programme Addendum which includes recommendations to manage the impact of nitrates in Christchurch's groundwater supply.
- Celebrated the success of a remit to Local Government New Zealand calling for central government to introduce legislation to reduce the use of copper brake pads.
- Supported an Erosion and Sediment Best Practice Field Day which was held as part of the International Erosion Control Association conference in Christchurch.
- Hosted a series of Stormwater Superhero events including Meet in the Middle, Canterbury University innovation event, and a community workshop to get feedback on a mobile Stormwater Superhero resource.
- Supported the development of a catchment management plan for Addington Brook and an action plan for Haytons Stream.

The Ōtukaikino River won the Supreme Award for Most Improved River at the 2018 New Zealand River Awards thanks to a community restoration programme. Phosphorus was the indicator used to determine the most improved river this year, in the past ten years phosphorus levels have decreased by 17.5 percent per annum. The zone committee has allocated more than \$200,000 to the project.



Delivering the community's vision for freshwater

The Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) puts finding solutions for freshwater management in the hands of the community, with support from councils, Ngāi Tahu, and others. The strategy sets out freshwater goals and targets to deliver the community’s vision for freshwater.











“To gain the greatest cultural, economic, environmental, recreational and social benefits from our water resources within a sustainable framework both now and for future generations.”

Each of the ten community-led water zone committees work collaboratively to develop freshwater recommendations to ensure council plans give effect to these goals and targets.

Within each target area there are several specific time-bound targets to be achieved and these are monitored and reported on to ensure progress is being made.

The target areas are shown below – read some of the stories about what is being done in the zone to achieve delivery on these on the next page.

CWMS Targets

	Ecosystem health and biodiversity		Kaitiakitanga		Recreational and amenity opportunities		Irrigated land area		Regional and national economies
	Natural character of braided rivers		Drinking water		Water use efficiency		Energy security and efficiency		Environmental limits

Creating a dryland biodiversity hub

The zone committee has a vision of creating an outstanding dryland biodiversity hub with recreation opportunities on the south side of the Waimakariri River. This substantive area, is a unique dryland ecosystem which provides habitat for several threatened lizards, insects and vulnerable dryland plant species.

Without support, many of these dryland remnants will simply become pieces of history. Much of the land in this area is owned by Environment Canterbury and the Christchurch City Council and the zone committee is keen to see a long-term management plan developed for this unique area.

To kick-start this project, the zone committee has allocated \$62,000 of Immediate Steps biodiversity funding for the next three years to undertake weed control, fencing and native planting.



Rauparaha's Copper- A rare and threatened butterfly found on the Canterbury Plains.

Students helping Urban Eels

As part of the Te Tuna Tāone (Urban Eel Project) students at Burnside Primary School and Cobham Intermediate have been learning about urban stormwater issues and what is living in their local stream.

This year the zone committee allocated Immediate Steps funding for native plants which students planted along Wairarapa Stream to improve the home of their giant friends – the longfin eel.

Wairarapa Stream is right on the school’s doorstep and students were surprised to learn there is so much life in the stream. The project was also supported by the Working Waters Trust, Christchurch City Council, Innovation and Sustainability Fund and the Rātā Foundation.



This year the zone committee allocated funding to protect tuna populations.



Committee Launch Stormwater Superhero campaign

The Christchurch West Melton Water Zone Committee is on a mission to turn Christchurch residents into Stormwater Superheros.

Christchurch's stormwater has a significant impact on the water quality of our urban waterways. Stormwater is often contaminated with sediment, paint, detergents, metals, rubber, fuels and oils, and flows untreated into waterways. Addressing this issue is complex and challenging and improving infrastructure is only part of the solution.

Reducing contaminants at their source is also important, so the committee has launched a campaign to inform residents about the simple things they can do to improve the quality of stormwater.

In addition to attending the 'Meet in the Middle' event in October, the zone committee will have a Stormwater Superhero stand at Westfield Mall in January 2019 and attend Estuary Fest the following month.



City Councillor Pauline Cotter and Kevin Brown at the Meet in the Middle event.



Waterway weapons – the STORMINATOR™

The zone committee hosted a 'Stormwater Innovation' event at Canterbury University in October to share the latest research on stormwater treatment innovations with the community.

Participants got to learn about the world-first STORMINATOR™ gadget which has been developed by the University of Canterbury to remove more than 80% of heavy metals from roof run-off as it drains through downpipes.

Stormwater runoff from roofs often contains heavy metals, mainly zinc and copper, which are toxic to aquatic life in urban rivers. In Christchurch, roofs contribute about 65% of the zinc found in stormwater. The STORMINATOR™ provides an easy solution to this difficult problem. It can be easily retrofitted to existing downpipes, is quick to install and cost effective.

Environment Canterbury and Canterbury University are working together with business owners to establish a series of trials on buildings in Christchurch City.



Community members joined zone committee members at the Stormwater Innovation event at the University of Canterbury.



Committee puts brakes on copper pads

Vehicle brake pads contribute a significant amount of copper to urban waterways, particularly in areas with high density road use. Copper enters our waterways through the stormwater network and can be toxic to aquatic life. Copper levels in many Christchurch streams exceed guideline values for protection of aquatic life.

Last year the zone committee recommended that councils approach central government for a national response to address the use of copper brake pads. In July a remit went to the Local Government New Zealand Conference calling for central government to introduce legislation to limit or eliminate the copper content of vehicle brake pads. The remit was passed with 87% sector support.

The zone committee look forward to hearing progress on a national response. In the meantime, they will continue to raise awareness about copper free brake pads as part of their stormwater superhero campaign.



Zone Committee Chair, Arapata Rueben, celebrates the launch of stormwater superhero campaign with Cr Tom Lambie and Cr Iaeen Cranwell.

Christchurch West Melton Water Zone

The zone is bordered by the Waimakariri River to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the east. It follows the Summit Road along the crest of the Port Hills to above Governors Bay before cutting back towards the Waimakariri River. It falls within the Christchurch City and Selwyn District Council boundaries.

The expansive wetlands that once covered large areas of the zone have always been an important place to live and gather food for Ngāi Tahu. Three rūnanga consider the zone part of their takiwā – Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Te Hapū ō Ngāti Wheke/Rāpaki and Te Taumutu Rūnanga.



Future challenges and opportunities

STORMWATER

In 2019 the committee will continue to host events and share messages to help create a city of stormwater superheroes.

The committee will continue to call for national action to address heavy metals in urban areas and are keen to start a conversation about how to tackle zinc. A series of STORMINATOR™ trials will get underway with Christchurch businesses this year.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The committee will continue to support and celebrate the work of community groups who are doing amazing work to help deliver CWMS in the Christchurch. In 2019, the zone committee are motivated to host events to help educate Christchurch residents about the City's drinking water supply.

ADDINGTON BROOK

Implement the catchment management plan for Addington Brook with support of Christchurch City Council and landowners in the Addington catchment.

EROSION AND SEDIMENT

Erosion and sediment loss is a significant issue in the Heathcote/Ōpāwaho catchment and is a key driver of poor water quality. In 2019, two trials will begin to test the effectiveness of erosion/sediment control methods. The zone committee will work with Councils to explore further opportunities to address erosion hotspots in the catchment.

BIODIVERSITY

In 2019, the zone committee are motivated to explore opportunities with the new Billion Trees fund for the Port Hills and continue support for the development of a dryland park.

Zone committee membership 2018

Robert Wynn-Williams, Lance Kenyon and Suzanne Furkert finished at the end of 2018. Kevin Brown was reappointed to the committee and Abbie Wilson and Annabelle Hasselman will join in 2019.

Arapata Reuben (Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga) – Chair

Lance Kenyon (Community member) – Deputy Chair

Les Wanhalla (Te Taumutu Rūnanga) – Regional representative

Herewini Banks (Te Hapū ō Ngāti Wheke/Rāpaki rūnanga)

Kevin Brown (Community member)

Robert Wynn-Williams (Community member)

Helen Caley (Community member)

Suzanne Furkert (Community member)

Gareth Oddy (Community member)

Carly Sluys (Community member)

Pauline Cotter (Christchurch City Council Councillor)

Debra Hasson (Selwyn District Council Councillor)

Tom Lambie (Environment Canterbury Councillor)

Key Zone contacts

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The Christchurch West Melton Water Zone Committee is a community led committee supported by councils.

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