

2019 Annual Report

Moving Forward: A celebration of 2019



Ted Howard, Kaikōura Water Zone
Committee Chair

In last year's report I talked about 2018 representing a turning point for us after the North Canterbury earthquakes. Fast forward a year and it's been a time of re-establishing our priorities, with a continuing strong focus on community wellbeing.

Having a sense of value, as contributing members of a community, is a big part of feeling good about ourselves. That is part of why we keep getting great turnouts at our clean-up days and our planting days. When our personal interests, and the interests of the wider community and the interests of the environment all align, then we make a real difference. That is a set of choices available to all of us.

Lyell Creek / Waikōau is an obvious place of pride for our community – because it is

so obvious and because it suffered quake damage. It's heartening to see how people are rallying around to help out.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank two of our departing zone committee members, Celeste Harnett and Steve Lowndes, representing Kaikōura District Council and Environment Canterbury respectively.

Celeste and Steve brought strong environmental credentials and experience to the table and they will be missed.

We look forward to continuing to address the water management challenges faced in this zone in collaboration with our community, and to help take the many opportunities we see to make improvements.

Key achievements 2019

- Implementation of the Lyell / Waikōau Catchment Recovery Plan is underway, highlighted by a successful community clean-up day
- The role of Pou Mātai Kō – Cultivating and Understanding of Mahinga Kai was established in Kaikōura, the second zone to do so, with some well-attended "shed talks" with farmers leading to enhanced awareness and understanding
- Farmers made good progress with their farm environment plans and achieved some encouraging audit grades
- Ongoing zone committee funding support for weed and predator control programmes in the Waiau Toa / Clarence catchment
- The Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project made significant gains in its third year
- The zone committee committed \$104,500 of Immediate Steps biodiversity funding across 5 projects during the year.

More than a decade of conservation work has resulted in a Kaikōura farmer working towards establishing one of the most significant restored wetlands in the Canterbury region. Through collaboration between the Kaikōura community, Environment Canterbury and the zone committee, Nagari wetland is becoming a model for wetland restoration on private land. With a desire to create a space where residents and visitors can access a place showcasing the diverse range of biodiversity in wetlands, Barb Wood-Mackle is transforming an area of unproductive, boggy land into an ecological haven, at the same time creating a space that contributes to improving water quality for the catchment.



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 deliver 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

Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project: Year Three

The Kaikōura Plains Recovery project (KPRP) is in its third year. The project, which is helping farmers recover from the impact of the 2016 earthquake, is supported by the zone committee.

The project has been working with Aqualinc Research on drainage, with particular success in sediment control.

The “Farming in wet conditions and irrigation efficiency” workstream has been beneficial to dairy farmers who irrigate and/or spread effluent in often much wetter conditions than before 2016.

The project is supporting changes in on-farm practice which are likely to lead to more efficient water use, adoption of good management practice, and ultimately lowering of unnecessary soil-moisture.

The project introduced training on water testing and monitoring to keep track of how the KPRP “overland flow path” demonstration site is looking now that stock have been excluded. A monitoring programme will show which contaminants are contributing to water quality.

Lyell Creek / Waikōau and beach clean-up

Around 60 school students, teachers, officials, and members of the public took part in the creek and beach foreshore purge, with some 675 kilograms of rubbish picked up.

Students from St Joseph’s and Kaikōura Suburban schools and Creation Care Study Programme teamed up to visit sites along the creek and beach, between the New World and South Bay, collecting rubbish and learning about the local endangered banded dotterel.

Kaikōura Youth Council members Jade, 12, and Maia, 14, were on hand to describe what the council does and how the day affected the environment.

“I’ve been on the council since the start of the year - we put on projects for the youth of Kaikōura,” Jade said.

“[Kaikōura is] special because it’s unique; we have special things like clear water and you can’t always get the mountains and the sea in the same place,” Maia said.

Zone committee chair Ted Howard has been involved with clean-up days for around 20 years “It was great to see so many young people come along to help,” he said.



Monitoring the overland flow path demonstration site after stock were excluded. Rachel Bjornson finds out how to use a clarity tube under the watchful eye of in-house trainer Fay Farrant and KPR Project Manager Jodie Hoggard. Photo: Heath Melville.



Every woman and her dog contributed to the health of local waterways during Kaikōura’s Love the Lyell Creek and beach clean-up in September.

Lyell Creek / Waikōau native tree planting

Thirty-five students from Kaikōura High School planted 150 native trees, shrubs and sedges on the confluence of Warrens Creek and Lyell Creek / Waikōau in September.

The plantings contribute to the health of the stream, forming a buffer between nearby farmland and the waterway, limiting sediment and nutrients from entering while shade from plants will eventually decrease macrophyte (plants growing out of the water) and algal growth in the waterway. They also provide food sources for native birds and overhanging vegetation will provide habitat for tuna/eels and inānga/whitebait.

Environment Canterbury Project Delivery Officer Heath Melville said the students children “were engaged and seemed to really enjoy searching the beach with their friends, while spotting some of the local birdlife”.

Kaikōura District Council’s biodiversity officer Kate Hunt said they were pleased to have such a good turnout. “It was great to see kids out there and excited to help out the environment and we hope to see similar projects flourish in the future,” she said.



Students during Kaikōura’s Love the Lyell Creek and beach clean-up

Volunteers connect with wetland restoration

Nagari is the most significant wetland in the Lyell / Waikōau catchment, so deserves community attention and council funding.

A community planting day was held first, involving 25 adults and 15 students from Kaikōura High School. The second planting day used North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery (NCTIR) as a labour force, around 40 people attending.

With some 1600 trees, shrubs and sedges (grasses) planted, this effort saved money while also engaging the public on the importance of wetlands.

Environment Canterbury Project Delivery Officer Heath Melville said planting aims to increase biodiversity values. “We want to create food sources and habitat for native bush birds while cooling wetland and stream waterbodies with shade to reduce algal blooms,” he said.

Kaikōura zone has lost over 95% of its wetlands, particularly to drainage for pasture, over the last 120 years. Nature, via the 2016 earthquake, is bringing some of these back.



NCTIR workers enjoyed a day at the wetland

Future challenges and opportunities

The Kaikōura community still faces many challenges in its recovery, but some great things have been achieved. Just a few of these are covered in this annual report and we look forward to reflecting on many more next year.

A key opportunity for the zone committee and the community is to continue to implement and support on-the-ground actions as part of the Lyell Catchment Recovery Plan.

Effective engagement will be crucial for success. The zone committee is very keen to re-engage with young people on their approaches to and priorities for freshwater.

In an increasingly challenging environment for farmers, we will be looking to support farmers to maintain and advance improvements in land and water management through their farm environment plans and other means.

As well as regional plan changes in train, we also have some strong direction coming from central government on freshwater to which we need to respond to effectively.

The zone committee will play an important part in all of these initiatives. The future will be challenging – but the opportunities are exciting.



Zone Committee: Ted, Rob, Ari, Gina, Celeste, Steve, Nicky, Tony, John (Absent: Teri)

Zone description

The Kaikōura Water Zone Committee was formed in 2011 and an initial milestone was the development of a Zone Implementation Programme (ZIP), which sets out what needs to be done to deliver improved water management outcomes in Kaikōura.

The ZIP has several areas of focus including the Waiau Toa/Clarence River and the Kaikōura Plains. Kaikōura's distinctive coastline is in close proximity to high mountains and gives rise to many short, steep, swift-flowing rivers and diverse landscapes, biodiversity, and land uses over short distances.

The Kaikōura Water Zone includes all of the Kaikōura District and part of the Hurunui District that includes the upper Waiau Toa/Clarence River catchment above the Acheron River confluence.

The zone is entirely within the takiwā (area) of the tangata whenua Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura who represent the hapū Ngāti Kuri, from the iwi Ngāi Tahu.

Zone committee membership

Ted Howard, Chair
Community member

Gina Solomon, Deputy Chair
Community Member

John Murray,
Community member

Tony Blunt,
Community member

Rob Roche,
Community member

Nicky McArthur,
Community member

Teri Sonal,
Community member

Ari Boyd,
Kaikōura Rūnanga representative

Clint McConchie*,
Kaikōura Rūnanga representative

Celeste Harnett,
Kaikōura District Council

Steve Lowndes,
Environment Canterbury

*The zone committee welcomed Clint McConchie on to the committee this year as a Rūnanga representative. Clint has extensive farm management experience having worked in a variety of farm operations across New Zealand. Having returned home to Kaikōura with his family after the earthquakes, Clint has recently taken up the role of Natural Resources Manager for Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura.

The Kaikōura Water Zone Committee is a community led committee supported by councils.

ecan.govt.nz/water

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Key Zone contacts

Kevin Heays - Kaikōura Water Zone Committee Manager
Kevin.Heays@ecan.govt.nz | 027 646 2230

Murray Griffin - Kaikōura Water Zone Committee Facilitator
Murray.Griffin@ecan.govt.nz | 027 705 4798

