

WAIHI & TE MOANA

Catchment Group input to OTOP
Zone Committee – August 2017

Ad Hendriks & Rhys Taylor



WAIHI (AT GERALDINE)

The group has participants from town (Geraldine & Temuka) and country, from farming, from conservation/recreation interests and TDC, in lively dialogue.

It encourages on-farm GMP, promotes care of river habitat (biodiversity) and helps link water users with those who can influence rivers.

Today's speaker Ad, and also his wife Anita, are active members (dairy farm at Raukapuka, East of Geraldine)





THE GROUP

Hannah was our first facilitator (2014-2015) & Rhys then a member, now facilitator



FIELD VISITS MADE BY GROUP

To dairy & deer farms, conservation projects, river engineering works, drinking water protection zone.

- Protect river quality for swimming and also nearby drinking supply.
- Encourage TDC to mitigate storm-water impacts from towns, and resist streamside septic tanks in new development (connect sewer instead).
- Train volunteers as water samplers, loan equipment for higher accuracy results.



**I CHOOSE
CLEAN
WATER**

**NATIONAL
TOUR**

STAND BY YOUR RIVER

January 21st, 2016.
5.30PM

Waihi River footbridge, Geraldine

Followed by a showing of previous footage
taken on the tour, at 6.30, at the Geraldine
Academy of Performance & Arts.

62% of New Zealand
Rivers are currently
unsafe to swim in.

The Choose Clean Water Group
are travelling the Country to docu-
ment the impact the current state
of the rivers is having on communi-
ties. In each town they film stories
of success or failure, surrounding
the health of rivers. They will be film-
ing in Geraldine on **JANUARY 21st**

Everyone who would like to see Kiwis
restored for our children and grandchil-
dren is invited to come along and quite
literally stand by the river. A peaceful
gathering of citizens showing they care.

The Waihi River is currently affected by both E. Coli and Cryptosporidia, and has been
so since summer after summer, making the Waihi unsafe to swim and, at places, even to
walk. In Geraldine, Cryptosporidia can be found in dogs and potentially to young chil-
dren and anyone who've had kids (singhops), nappies and gastrointestinal disorders in
adults. While EColi is an indicator of faecal matter, Cryptosporidia is present in an
algal bloom called Pheumidium. Favourable conditions for Pheumidium growth are low
river flow, Nitrate rich water and warm temperatures.

WARNING
No swimming

NO SWIMMING
NO DRINKING
NO BATHING
NO WADING
NO FISHING
NO BOATING
NO CAMPING
NO FIRES
NO ALCOHOL
NO DRUGS
NO WEAPONS
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Before & After on
a Barkers Creek
deer farm, 2017



A FUTURE FOCUS

We seek sustainable waterways fit for the next generation of land users.

Change to current practices takes time but advice, grants and intelligent Regional Council rules can help that progress.

Here are our group's suggestions.



- ▶ Encourage native forest plantings for carbon store and biodiversity,
- ▶ Protect now-rare existing forest remnants near rivers, such as Waihi above Woodbury.
- ▶ Better weed control on Te Moana, as seen on Waihi. Need a Rating District there?

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

- ▶ Show how Good Management Practice works (educate, illustrate, give evidence).
- ▶ Better soil maps as base for rules for N emissions.
- ▶ Promote GMP on small blocks too.
- ▶ If N 'caps' used, must be equitable to current low emitters. We don't support N emission trading as it threatens small farms.

Fence to lift water quality

AL WILLIAMS
@timarucourier.co.nz

A 1km strip along a stream has been fenced in an effort to lift water quality in the Waihi Gorge near Geraldine.

The stretch of fencing has been erected inland of a Department of Conservation campsite where E.coli warnings are issued on a regular basis during the summer months.

The \$10,000 project has been funded by the neighbouring landowner to ensure stock will not get in the waterway.

The project was completed this year after the Waihi Catchment Group raised concerns and discussions got under way with local authorities.

Environment Canterbury zone manager Michael Hide said there had been health warnings at the Doc campsite at Waihi Gorge, after testing identified traces of E.coli in the water.

"When the neighbouring landowner was approached about it, they were keen to do something about it. They



Combined effort . . . Surveying the Waihi Gorge area are (from left) Waihi Station farm worker Mark Mallinson, ECan senior land management adviser Ian Lyttle and Waihi Station farm manager Tim Sowden.

PHOTO: ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY

would like to get the warning signs removed," Mr Hide said.

Upstream land use, specifically sheep and beef farming use, had contributed to the issue, he said.

"From discussions between Ian Lyttle, senior land management adviser for ECan and the landowner, the landowner agreed to do the

fencing," Mr Hide said.

Last week, ECan staff again met Waihi Station farmers to discuss ways to further improve water quality in the area.

Mr Hide said the main objective of the project was to reduce E.coli inflow into the Waihi area and monitoring would be ongoing.

BETTER EXPLANATION OF G.M.P.



- Riparian planting encouraged but owners must have access over fences to manage silt and weeds.
- Relative size of contribution of waterfowl and livestock E-coli not yet clear, in planted areas. Any research available?
- Scope for more small wetlands and protected springs, on farmland's wet spots.

RIPARIAN PROJECTS, COMMUNICATION



- ▶ Maintain minimum river flows in summer for invertebrate & fish health (and to allow swimming).
- ▶ Use insect indicators of health: as found in upper Waihi.
- ▶ New water could be useful to substitute for unreliable current summer supplies?
- ▶ Look at metered farm water use and negotiate a % reduction in the consented volumes, towards actual.

RIVER FLOWS AND SUMMER QUALITY



The Waihi and Te Moana (and Kakahu) feed into the Temuka and the Opihi.
We are all connected.

YOUR QUESTIONS?