

2020 Progress Report

Community kōrero continues



*Benita Wakefield, Zone Committee
Chair, Te Rūnanga o Wairere*

Kia ora koutou katoa,

The COVID-19 pandemic caused major disruption and required us all to adapt to a new normal. Our whānau, community and the wider region pulled together to support those more vulnerable; a testimony to the strength, resilience and courage of our community.

The zone committee continued to meet virtually and we are proud of what we achieved during the year. We were especially pleased to be the first committee to co-opt a youth member to a zone committee. Erana Riddell's appointment set a precedent and we are pleased that other zone committees are also now empowering rangatahi/youth to take action to understand and address water challenges.

Another highlight for the year was seeing the diverse range of Immediate Steps Biodiversity projects that were funded to help protect and enhance the biodiversity values on Banks Peninsula.

Our monthly committee meetings continue to move around the zone and they have been well attended by community members who have had open and frank discussions on issues that are important to them. We have heard the concerns of the community about the pressure farmers are under to adhere to new rules. We have also listened to people concerned with fish passage barriers, road maintenance, and stormwater management, among other things.

In the coming months and years, the committee will continue to work on improving the mauri, life capacity, and health of our waterways, Wairere ki roto, and our springs and streams which are home to mahinga kai, indigenous species, fauna, flora, and important habitats.

Na,
Benita Wakefield

Key achievements 2020

- Wainui Stream Water Quality Analysis Survey of onsite water management systems final report completed June 2020; presented to the committee September 2020
- First water zone committee to co-opt youth representative.
- More than \$100,000 of IMS funding was allocated to four projects across Banks Peninsula.
- Soil mapping of Banks Peninsula using a MBIE grant plus Environment Canterbury science funding. This work will be carried out by Environment Canterbury and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, with information being freely available online.
- University of Canterbury Geography 309 student project on Water Quality completed. The project provides useful information to add to the information the working group is gathering, so they can understand whether there is an issue before deciding on next steps.

More than 30 community members helped plant 400 trees along Okuti River, thanks to \$10,000 of IMS funding, each year from 2018-2022.



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 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

Extraordinary year provides a chance to pause and reflect

2020 has been an extraordinary year in more ways than one.

This time last year we had not heard of Covid-19 or the exceptional lengths governments from around the world would take to slow its spread. Keeping any group working productively together in such circumstances can be a challenge but each committee has embraced new technology to communicate, adapted their work programmes and continued their commitment to improve water management in their zone. The committee's year in review report highlights their achievements in what has been a challenging year.

2020 has provided an opportunity to pause and reflect on the achievements of the last ten years of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and in particular the progress that had been made to put a Resource Management Act planning framework in place (Land and Water Regional Plan). A plan, however, is only as good as the actions that follow. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum asked councils to work in partnership with Rūnanga and committees to refocus their work more on facilitating action on the ground with their local communities. This review of the zone committees has taken longer than expected,

because of Covid disruptions, but we expect to have a new Terms of Reference completed by the end of the year. Councils have also taken the opportunity to clarify their three year priorities, and where they would like support from committees, in a Letter of Shared Priorities.

The next few years is going to continue to be challenging for many local communities as they grapple with the implementation of the new National Policy Statement for Freshwater and National Environmental Standards. Furthermore, the government has announced its intention to repeal the Resource Management Act and Ngai Tahu has sought a declaration in the High Court seeking Rangatiratanga over freshwater in its rohe. These changes will be unsettling and uncomfortable for many local communities.

The new Terms of Reference and Letter of Shared Priorities will give committees a clear focus for future action and an ability to support their local communities to navigate this next wave of change designed to further improve the mauri and health of our freshwater and the way it is managed.

Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour is a partnership of five organisations providing leadership and support in the protection of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour, for us and our children after us. All waterways including harbours in the Banks Peninsula Zone have kaitiakitanga as an overarching value and are priorities for the committee.





Abundant biodiversity gets boost in Banks Peninsula

Four community projects across Banks Peninsula were recommended for Immediate Steps Biodiversity (IMS) funding, to help local people and groups protect and restore biodiversity in the zone – a priority for the committee.

Three of the four projects will be covenanted through the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust or QEII National Trust, requiring all current and future landowners of the sites to manage the land for conservation purposes. Christchurch City Council's Biodiversity Fund has also contributed to some of the projects.

Together, Mt Herbert Station, Stencliffe protection project, Thelning protection project and Gough's Bay Hayley Fence project will protect native bush, streams, gullies; and enhance native species and their habitat while improving water quality in the zone.

The committee is proud to be supporting local landowners to protect and enhance biodiversity and water quality throughout the zone, with the projects recommended highlighting the vision of ki uta ki tai (mountains to the sea).



Mt Herbert Station was recommended for \$40,000 of IMS funding over the next two years to protect two regenerating native bush stream gullies.



Wainui well engaged

The committee's September meeting was held in the Wainui Community Hall, with agenda items focusing on the work that is happening in the area.

Topics covered included a presentation on the University of Canterbury's research on E. coli levels at Wainui Stream. The sources of E. coli were presented, and participants discussed possible management options for addressing the issue.

Around 15 community members attended the meeting and the committee enjoyed seeing how passionate participants were about their local waterways.

Empowering the community to get involved in local water management is a key priority for the committee and can help guide future initiatives, plans, and events.



Zone committee member Garrick Thorn was pleased to have great community engagement at their Wainui meeting. Advocating for freshwater outcomes is important to him, to ensure wai is protected for his children and future generations.

Banks Peninsula first zone to co-opt youth member

This year, the Banks Peninsula Water Zone Committee was the first to co-opt a youth member to a zone committee.

Erana Riddell enjoyed attending one of the committee's meetings in 2018 so much, that she returned the following month. Then, before she knew it, she was asked by the members to be co-opted as their youth representative.

Erana's interest in the environment was sparked through the Selwyn Youth Council, before attending an Environment Canterbury Youth Rōpū (youth group). She was co-opted to the committee in February this year, just a month before COVID-19 Alert Level 4 lockdown.

On her Dad's side, Erana is Ngāi Tahu, and whakapapa to Wairewa and Kaikōura. She is Ngāti Porou on her mother's side. The committee is pleased that Erana's appointment will help empower young people in the community.



Erana Riddell, left, is the first youth member co-opted to a water zone committee.



Left to right: (back) Aurora Smith, Benita Wakefield (Chair), Ben Manson, Garrick Thorn, Cr Andrew Turner (CCC), Paula Smith, Rima Herber, Rik Tainui
(front) Erana Riddell, Cr Lan Pham (Environment Canterbury), Gina Waibl (Deputy chair)

Zone description

Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū/Banks Peninsula has a unique landscape with a combination of natural physical and cultural elements of both Māori and European. The water zone is made up of eroded volcanic domes that have been breached by the sea. Its catchments are short, steep and prone to flash flooding.

The committee has broken up the zone into five sub-areas/catchments and while Banks Peninsula falls under Christchurch City Council boundary, it crosses over both Selwyn Waihora Water Zone and Christchurch West Melton Water Zone.

It has always been an important place and food basket for Ngāi Tahu. Four rūnanga are present on Banks Peninsula – Te Hapu ō Ngāti Wheke/Rāpaki, Te Rūnanga o Koukourārata, Te Rūnanga o Ōnuku and Te Rūnanga o Wairewa.

Zone committee membership 2020

Rūnanga representatives

Benita Wakefield (Chair) –
 Te Rūnanga o Wairewa
 Rik Tainui – Ōnuku Rūnanga
 Aurora Smith –
 Te Hapu ō Ngāti Wheke
 Vacant –
 Te Rūnanga o Koukourārata

Community members

Gina Waibl (Deputy Chair)
 Paula Smith

Ben Manson
 Garrick Thorn
 Elizabeth Macpherson
 Rima Herber
 Erana Riddell
 (youth representative)

Council representatives

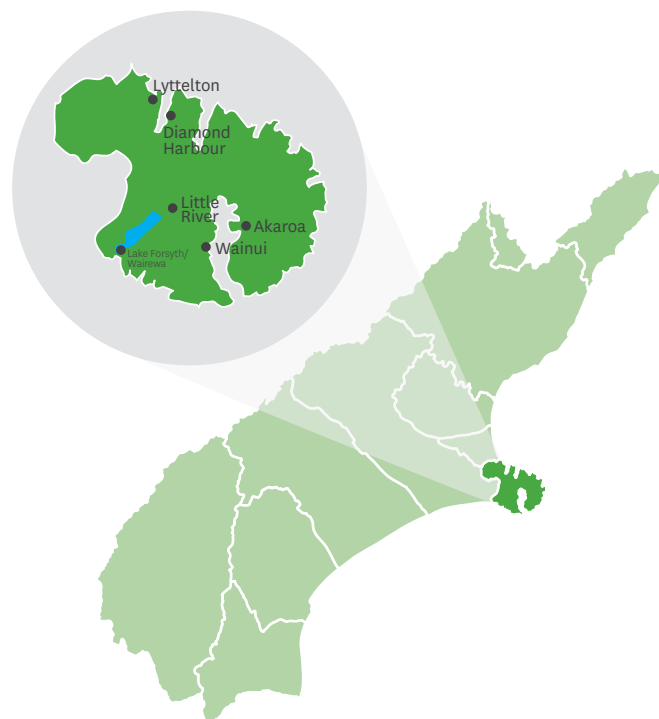
Andrew Turner
 (Christchurch City Council)
 Lan Pham
 (Environment Canterbury)

Key Zone contacts

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

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 City Council

Environment
 Canterbury
 Regional Council
 Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha