



ACTION ON THE GROUND

ANNUAL REPORT 07/08



NZ Landcare Trust
landcare action on the ground

“SUSTAINABLE
LAND MANAGEMENT
THROUGH COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT”

NZ Landcare Trust encourages sustainable land management, empowering both landowners and community groups to make a positive change, a grass roots approach with an emphasis on 'action on the ground'.





Early morning frost at Taieri River. Gretchen Robertson.

INDEX CONTENTS

CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY	4
OUR TRUSTEES	5
CEO'S REPORT	6
NZ LANDCARE TRUST STAFF	8
LANDCARE ON THE GROUND	11
UPPER NORTH ISLAND	12
CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND	14
UPPER SOUTH ISLAND	16
LOWER SOUTH ISLAND	18
MAORI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	20
SUMMARY OF PROJECTS	23
AWARDS	26
FINANCIAL INFORMATION	28
APPENDIX	31

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY



Richard Thompson – Chairman

From time to time it is essential to pause, think about direction, refresh and renew. In many ways that sums up our year, although for our staff there hasn't been much pausing.

We've put a lot of effort into a comprehensive strategic review. Led by our new Chief Executive, Dr Nick Edgar, this review has looked at all aspects of our operation: what we are doing, how we do it and how we are set up to do it.

The review confirmed a number of key attributes of the Trust, in particular our mission of "sustainable land management through community involvement". This succinctly describes our reason for being and how we operate. The drivers and rationale for this mission haven't changed since we

established ourselves in 1996 and it is heartening to see that everyone involved with the Trust supports the approach. To increase our effectiveness we've also had a good look at what's ahead and have made some organisational changes so that we have the people, systems and resources in place, in the right place, to make a difference over the coming years. Dr Edgar describes some of these changes in more detail in his summary.

The final implementation task, securing sufficient financial resources, is taking somewhat longer to complete. Trustees are concerned that we cannot yet provide national coverage in our support of landcare activities and are working hard to get the funding for this to happen.

In the meantime work goes on and there is plenty for the Trust to be pleased about. This report gives a good snapshot of landcare in action and says a lot about the skills and dedication of our staff – both those in the field and those who provide them with essential support.

As a final comment I'd like to thank our new Chief Executive for what he has achieved in his first year. Nick has had to transition into a complex new job, lead a top-to-bottom strategic and organisational review, implement its outcomes and, while all that was happening, run the business. Trustees believe he has done this remarkably well. We are feeling very positive about the Trust and confident about its future.

OUR TRUSTEES

Richard Thompson (Chairman) – Ecologic Foundation

Margaret Chapman – Rural Women New Zealand

George Matthews (for Mavis Mullins) – Federation of Maori Authorities

Bruce McNab – Federated Farmers of New Zealand

Bryce Johnson – Fish & Game New Zealand

Owen Cox – Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand

Hugh Stewart – Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand



CEO's REPORT

The 2007/08 financial year has been a period of significant change for the NZ Landcare Trust. The Trust's inaugural Chief Executive Don Ross resigned and I was appointed to the role in August 2007. Prior to taking on this role I had been working for the Trust for five years, most recently as the Research Manager.

With the 2008 government budget process drawing close, one of my key priorities was to prepare a business case for increased core funding. The business case highlighted the Trust's static level of funding from the Ministry for the Environment and the increasing reliance on contestable funding to support the Trust's operations. Despite a strong case for increasing the Trust's funding base we were unsuccessful

in securing an increase in funding in the May 2008 budget. This was a disappointing outcome and the Trustees and I have been working closely with the Ministry for the Environment to develop a new proposal for the 2009 budget process.

Another key priority was to undertake a strategic review of the Trust that included reviewing the strategic context and operating environment, strategic direction, mode of operation, measuring the reporting frameworks and organisational structure of the Trust. The strategic review recommended an organisational restructure of the Trust, to focus our financial resources on supporting the Trust's network of regional and project coordinators nationally. This was a challenging period of time for the Trust and



Nicholas Edgar – CEO

the staff weathered the uncertainties and the changes extremely well. I would like to thank them, and the support provided by the Trustees during this time. The strategic review also recommended a shift in the headquarters of the Trust from Christchurch to Hamilton. A new support team covering the financial, information technology and communications functions of the Trust was established at the Trust's new Hamilton headquarters.

The 2007/08 financial year has seen the continuation of a number of Sustainable Management Fund, Sustainable Farming Fund and Department of Conservation Biodiversity Advice and Condition Fund projects across the country. The Trust was also successful in securing new funding



for catchment management and climate change resilience initiatives in Northland, the Waikato and Southland.

The eight year corporate partnership between the Trust and Transpower continues to develop. A decision was made by the Trustees to discontinue the Transpower Landcare Trust Grants Programme on 30 June 2008. Partnership funding from Transpower will now be directed to support the Trust's range of sustainable land management and biodiversity initiatives across New Zealand. The Trust welcomes the invaluable support provided by Transpower and we are working with them on a proposal to continue this key

relationship into the years ahead. Despite the significant changes this year has brought, the Trust's staff have continued to deliver excellent work in collaboration with our agency partners, our local communities and with our landowner networks. The following pages of this report provide a summary of the Trust's national support for landcare groups and our sustainable land management and biodiversity work. In no way can it do justice to the special relationships that Trust staff have developed in our rural communities, nor to the exceptional achievements that these relationships have delivered to rural New Zealand. I am very proud of my staff and they way they are contributing to the

transformation of rural New Zealand on to a more environmentally and economically sustainable footing. With increased funding I know we will be able to make an even bigger difference in our rural communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and the Trustees for their commitment to the Trust and for their support during my transition to Chief Executive this year. I would also like to thank Transpower and the Ministry for the Environment for their continued support of the Trust. I am looking forward to working with you all in the year ahead and to the opportunities this will bring for landcare action on the ground.



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WHO ARE WE?

- 1 Nick Edgar – CEO
- 2 Janet Gregory – Regional Coordinator
- 3 Abby Davidson – Graphic Designer
- 4 James Barnett – Communications Manager
- 5 Helen Moodie – Regional Coordinator
- 6 Barbara Stuart – Regional Coordinator
- 7 Monica Peters – Project Coordinator
- 8 Arni Ore – IT Coordinator
- 9 Pauline Hickey – Finance Manager
- 10 Melinda Dresser – Project Coordinator
- 11 Gretchen Robertson – Project Coordinator
- 12 Ngaire Tyson – Project Coordinator



Angler on Upper Taieri River. John Hollows.

LANDCARE ON THE GROUND

NZ Landcare Trust is involved with a broad range of field based work, both in terms of scale and location. From large projects dealing with a range of complex resource management issues, to the smaller highly motivated landcare groups, with a more specific biodiversity focus. Locations as diverse as the kauri forests of Northland to the waters of the Rotorua Lakes, and from the catchments of the Marlborough Sounds to the rivers of Southland, NZ Landcare Trust is delivering the landcare message and encouraging 'action on the ground'.

The organisation works hard to disseminate the latest science based advice through workshops, field days and community based activities. Close links with the science and research community, combined with informed staff, help ensure NZ Landcare Trust offers the very best available support.

In 2007/08 NZ Landcare Trust worked on thirteen projects, including eight Sustainable Farming Fund projects, two Sustainable Management Fund projects and three Department of Conservation Biodiversity Advice Fund projects. In addition NZ Landcare Trust supported 233 Landcare Groups across New Zealand. Managing this level of support took a considerable amount of work, with numerous meetings, workshops, field activities and events. Therefore this section of the report is designed to provide an overview of the work undertaken across the regions and does not attempt to list every aspect of the work carried out by NZ Landcare Trust.

Each section deals initially with general support for the various Landcare Groups before identifying progress on the larger projects.

UPPER NORTH ISLAND

Whangarei is the base for Helen Moodie, NZ Landcare Trust's Regional Coordinator for the Upper North Island. The region extends from the Far North down to Auckland.

The region has a number of vibrant landcare groups and Helen played an ongoing role offering advice and maintaining their momentum. Helen attended the 2008 Annual General Meeting for the Whangarei Heads Landcare Forum, which represented nine of the Landcare Groups in the area. The groups achieved great results with their possum, rat and mustelid control. The kiwi recovery, nursery and revegetation projects and weed control programmes also progressed well.

NZ Landcare Trust was involved in the Northland Agricultural Field Days held in Dargaville in February 2008. The NZ Landcare Trust displays attracted considerable interest and sparked a number of new project enquiries. One display featured the work of the Northland Kikuyu Action Group, which launched a very well received summary booklet of information about kikuyu and management of kikuyu dominant pasture. The display from the Northland Totara Working Group profiled their work, looking at the growth, response to thinning and estimated potential size of the totara resource in Northland. Finally a joint display involving NZ Landcare

Trust, Northland Regional Council, Whangarei District Council, Department of Conservation, Fish & Game, Farm Forestry and NZ Kiwi Foundation highlighted the work of 'The Northland Biodiversity Enhancement Group'.

The Tutukaka Landcare Coalition group carried out intensive animal pest control over 1000 hectares of farmland and scrub which is home to endangered species such as kiwi and pateke/brown teal. Their pest control work continued to be of a very high standard and has been recognised by the Department of Conservation who released a further 40 pateke into a 'core' area in early 2008. Surrounding communities continued to request the Tutukaka Landcare Coalition to expand their operation into adjacent areas and the NZ Landcare Trust's ongoing work will assist the group in taking the project's operations to a higher level.

The Wekaweka Landcare Group has carried out pest control and kiwi monitoring work in the Waipoua and Waima forests of Northland, which is home to endangered species such as kauri snail, kiwi and threatened plants only found in the locality; including *Coprosma waima*.

NZ Landcare Trust assisted the group to plan an inspirational education evening for the community, liaising with specialist staff at the Northland Regional Council on the group's

behalf to assist with the establishment of permanent vegetation monitoring.

The Kohumaru Landcare Group undertook a programme of intensive animal pest control. NZ Landcare Trust assisted with mapping and liaising with the BNZ 'Save the Kiwi Trust' to obtain signs and resources. The Herekino Landcare Group continued to battle with 200 hectares of wild ginger and made great progress, expanding their efforts. Weed control also restored the habitat of endangered species such as kiwi and kauri snail. NZ Landcare Trust assisted with funding applications and the group is considering establishing a Community Pest Control Area with the Northland Regional Council.

The work of other groups including The Mahinepua Radar Hill Landcare Group continued successfully and the addition of new groups such as The Whareora Landcare Group is testament to the thriving nature of 'grass roots landcare' in this region. The introduction of a new staff member, Ngaire Tyson (NZ Landcare Trust Biodiversity Coordinator) has further reinforced the support for these thriving Landcare Groups.

In addition to supporting Landcare Groups Helen was appointed to the role of Recovery Facilitator for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). Helen, along with Barbara McLeod and Phil Keene, helped to coordinate Enhanced Task Force Green crews to assist

with the flood clean up following the dramatic floods in March and July 2007. Around 180 farmers benefited from this excellent work. As a result of this success, Helen has become MAFs Rural Support Trust member for the Northland area. The trust sets out to provide support and services to the farming community, including coordinating the initial response to adverse weather events. The issues of climate change and adverse weather events have prompted a broader national debate about the future of farm planning and the importance of sustainable land management.

A major focus for Helen has been the Biodiversity Northland Forum, a large DoC funded project that draws together much of the work carried out by the varied landcare groups. Increasingly the emphasis has moved towards running workshops, field days and seminars to provide support, encouragement and information for the varied groups. Some of these have been

referenced above. A 'Whole of Northland' report has been completed. This report presents an overall picture of biodiversity protection and enhancement initiatives throughout Northland. It brings together information and data from a wide range of sources including Landcare Groups, private landowners, councils, Department of Conservation, covenanters and organisations such as the New Zealand Kiwi Foundation. The report also contains a series of maps that enable the information to be easily understood.

Helen has been working on the Totara Project, which aims to support and promote research and technology transfer in the productive management of totara from both naturally regenerating stands and plantations. This is a Sustainable Farming Fund Project that was established in September 2005. Dr. David Bergin has been running a series of farm based trials investigating planting densities and thinning

programmes. Analysis of initial samples at the Wood Quality Laboratory at Scion in Rotorua suggest the wood in young, naturally regenerating totara on farms has many of the inherent quality properties that have been found in trees logged from old-growth stands. The success of a Whangarei Heads field day, despite heavy rain, confirms the level of interest in this project.

The Clover Root Weevil Project was funded by the Sustainable Farming Fund and set out to gather and present a wide range of information on the impact of this pest. This included collating information about the weevil, likely impacts on farm based systems and identifying strategies that farmers might use to minimise its impact on their farm production. The work was primarily carried out by the Clover Root Weevil Action Group and facilitated by Helen. The project was completed in June 2008 and details of its findings will be made available on the NZ Landcare Trust website.



CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND

On September 1st 2008 this region became the new home of the NZ Landcare Trust Head Office. Now located in Hamilton, it is the base for all management and support staff, plus Project Coordinators who tackle field based operations. Three field staff have played an active role: Monica Peters is the Project Coordinator for two Rotorua based Sustainable Farming Fund projects; Melinda Dresser is Project coordinator for a Sustainable Management Fund project; before her departure in the second half of 2007, Robyn Skelton was the Central North Island Regional Coordinator.

The region plays host to a range of Landcare Groups. Robyn Skelton was involved in supporting the newly-formed Waitao-Kaiate Environmental Group in the Western Bay of Plenty. Robyn helped the group organise a day with National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Wildland Consultants and Environment Bay of Plenty Land Management staff to identify specific actions and measures to start the riparian action on the ground.

Robyn also helped facilitate the Bay Of Plenty Biodiversity Forum's Communication / Education Strategy Subcommittee. In addition Robyn attended the Mangrove Steering Group meeting in Auckland (a forum made up of local government

agencies, science providers and other statutory bodies involved in coastal management) and assisted in bringing together the various mangrove-interested community groups from Northland, Auckland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty to discuss the possible effects of coastal management changes on community group action.

Monica Peters worked extensively with two landcare groups, enhancing natural biodiversity on precious Waikato peat lakes and wetlands. The Waterways Ecology Team is a volunteer group that focused on planting and maintaining native flora around Lake Serpentine East. The 'MfE Green Ribbon Award' winning Lake Kaituna/Komakaru Care Group, led by Andrew Hayes, has also improved native biodiversity with the introduction of threatened plant species.

Continuing the work associated with the peat lakes, Monica helped Environment Waikato, Waipa District Council and Waikato District Council to develop guidelines for landowners in peat-lake catchments. The information was designed to provide an overview of the historical and ecological significance of the peat lakes and summarise best management practice for dairy farmers.

In addition Monica worked with Hamilton City Council to produce a survey aimed at gaining a better understanding of the attitudes of residents to urban streams.

NZ Landcare Trust is managing two Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF) projects in the Rotorua Lakes catchment, both coordinated by Monica Peters. The aim of these projects is to seek practical on farm solutions to mitigate Phosphorus (P) and Nitrogen (N) losses, protect natural capital and ensure longer-term viability for farming operations. Within the projects a range of nutrient reduction mitigation options are being rigorously evaluated and their use demonstrated on farm to farmers. The projects are collaborative, linking scientists with farmers and the regional council (EBoP). In addition to NZ Landcare Trust, the key partners in both projects are The Rotorua Lakes and Land Trust (Taupo/Rotorua Federated Farmers, Te Arawa FOMA – Federation of Maori Authorities), Ngati Whakaue Tribal Lands and Environment Bay of Plenty.

Another project in the Rotorua area has been undertaken with funding from the Sustainable Management Fund. Project Coordinator for this two year project is Melinda Dresser. The primary focus for the first year of the project has been providing



support for Environment Bay of Plenty to establish and maintain the 'Land Use Futures Board'. The board provides leadership and advice on implementation of sustainable land management practice within the Rotorua Lakes catchments emphasising actions required to achieve nutrient reduction targets. Activities including a field day held at Wharenui Farm, adjacent to Lake Rotorua, have helped support the project and provide the rural community with excellent scientific information, in the form of presentations from AgResearch and NIWA.

NZ Landcare Trust makes use of external contractors in locations where the organisation does not have a Regional Coordinator and therefore requires more flexibility in delivery. The Pauatahanui – Waikanae Rural Catchments Project based in Pauatahanui is just such an example and is delivered by PA Handford and Associates. This SMF funded project utilises the skills, energy and desire of the community to move towards sustainable management of the Pauatahanui Inlet catchment and the Upper Waikanae River catchment. It

provides an independent, local Catchment Co-ordinator to work with the community to support the implementation of a community developed catchment vegetation framework. The project supports community actions on the ground to revegetate key areas of the catchments, including riparian areas, wetlands and erosion prone slopes. A great deal of work has been completed with initial visits and planning meetings completed, fencing underway on four properties, spraying to remove invasive weeds and extensive new planting of trees and shrubs.

This region covers Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough at the top of the South Island. The Upper South Island Regional Coordinator, Barbara Stuart, has developed strong links with local farmers and landowners, enabling her to broaden the landcare message and embrace entire catchments.

A number of Landcare Groups are very active in the region. In August 2007 Barbara facilitated a networking day for thirty people representing eight Landcare groups in the Golden Bay area, sharing ideas and information with a focus mainly on water quality in local streams and control of invasive weeds. Reports were presented on behalf of The Motupipi Catchment Group, The Tasman Environmental Trust, The Aorere Catchment Group, The Aorere Streamcare Group, Friends of Mangarakau Swamp and Friends of the Oxbow Group.

Barbara has been assisting a keen group of landowners who are working together to improve water quality within Mill Stream, in the lower Wairau Valley near Blenheim. Irrigation has lowered the water table and Barbara helped the group to submit their concerns to the Marlborough District Council. The NZ Landcare Trust also helped the group to successfully apply for a \$5000 'Transpower Landcare Trust Grant' to purchase plants for each of

the group's landowner members to plant throughout the catchment.

Two successful lizard workshops were delivered by Barbara in conjunction with DoC and Nelson City Council. Attendees benefited from a talk given by lizard expert Ivan Rogers, creator of the DoC Lizard Garden in Motueka. Workshops included visits to typical lizard habitat and a review of a trapping programme designed to reduce lizard predators such as hedgehogs, rats and mustelids.

The Rai-Pelorus Rivercare Group has seen their efforts to improve bridges and culverts produce good results thanks to input from Barbara. Monitoring by Marlborough District Council shows water quality is better but there needs to be ongoing care. NZ Landcare Trust has been involved in helping the group and the local school to source funding and produce a community-driven document on the Rai River, which aims to foster understanding and pride in the river amongst the local community.

Barbara worked closely with Landcare Research in relation to the Motueka Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) Project, a six-year whole catchment 'mountain top to the coast' study of the Motueka River and its tributaries, which is now in its final two years. The project team works closely with the NZ Landcare Trust on

matters concerning the Aorere, Motupipi and Sherry rivers. This partnership reinforces a vital link with the community and makes a huge contribution to the ongoing success of the project. Barbara and the team work together to assist farmers and landowners with practical knowledge, including advising dairy farmers about 'on farm' environmental issues and offering practical support for anything from effluent management to system assessments and integration of best management practices.

The Sherry River Project was coordinated by Barbara Stuart with financial support from the Sustainable Farming Fund. The project was established to tackle poor water quality in the Sherry River, after research showed problems arising from specific farm practices, such as direct river access for dairy herds. Events such as a highly successful 'Environmental Field Day' attracted more than 50 farmers along with rural bankers and agency staff from across the region. Relevant debate involving scientists and farmers provided a highly effective means of sharing land management knowledge and increased awareness of a catchment based approach to improving water quality. Progress included the construction of four bridges across the river to reduce the need for stock to enter the waterway. This action greatly improved water quality, however



monitoring indicated that further change to farm management will be needed to routinely meet water quality standards for recreational swimming in the Sherry River.

Barbara also worked on the Starborough/Flaxbourne Sustainable Farming Fund Project. This project aimed to change farmer attitudes and land management practices for farming dry land in the Awatere/Seddon area of southern Marlborough in the Upper South Island. Barbara worked with the 'Starborough Flaxbourne Soil Conservation Group' to engage with local farmers, encouraging shared knowledge and expertise in an effort to identify alternative land management practices. A number of successful events have taken place during the life of the project and May 2008

saw the project's 'finale event', 'Beyond Reasonable Drought'. The event took place at Bonavaree, attracted 420 people from all around the country and included facilitated workshops on climate change and alternative farming systems, plus a rigorous question and answer session between Professor Derrick Moot of Lincoln University and Bonavaree Operations Manager, Fraser Avery. Significant media attention underlined the interest in this project, with coverage including a feature on the television programme 'Rural Delivery' plus extensive coverage on local radio, international farming magazines and a number of related newspaper articles.

Another project supported by the Sustainable Farming fund is the Aorere

River Project. On this project Barbara works alongside another member of the NZ Landcare Trust team, Project Coordinator Gretchen Robertson. The project, based in the Golden Bay area of Nelson, focuses on understanding water quality issues and the associated impact on the wider catchment, including farming and aquaculture. The project has progressed well with approximately 50% of dairy farms in the catchment completing detailed 'environmental plans' to reduce *E. coli* contamination of local waterways. In addition the local shellfish industry saw huge benefits, where harvesting opportunities increased due to improvements in water quality. This has made a positive impact on employment and profitability.

The Lower South Island's Regional Coordinator for the NZ Landcare Trust is Janet Gregory. Based near Gore, Janet works with the Southland Biodiversity Forum and supports the many Landcare Groups in the region.

Janet assisted the Waituna Landcare Group to carry out a range of activities. A very successful 'Soils Field Day' was held for the catchment, with excellent attendance from fertiliser representatives, rural professionals and local farmers. The group worked with DoC on the Kakariki programme which included the programme to manage the RAMSAR wetland areas. This involves Landcare Group members working with farmers to focus on riparian fencing and planting.

Janet was a key speaker at the Otatara Landcare Group's official opening of the Bushy Point Restoration project in April 2008. The opening highlighted the excellent work undertaken by the group including significant restoration planting, weed control and pest animal control. Signage, information panels and a walking network in the area were completed with support from a large number of funders and good community support from schools, businesses and volunteers. Significant numbers of trees have been established in wetland margins to protect the estuary, along with an intensive animal pest control

programme. Grazing leases continue to be managed by the group which maintains grass cover and provides a small revenue source for the group.

A new Landcare Group formed following a highly successful Waihola-Waipori community meeting held at Waihola. The new group is a combination of two smaller groups and will focus on improving the health of the local wetlands, promotion of the wetland values and managing weeds and pests. Janet worked with the new group to develop an action plan and advised on funding and extending community engagement. The group includes the Waipori Management team, Waihola Looking Forward (the Waihola Community), agency staff, landowners and other community members. Janet encouraged networking with the Waituna and Waihora-Lake Ellesmere groups, to enable exchange of information between the groups on management of these important wetland systems; these three systems are the most significant wetlands on the east coast of New Zealand and have many issues in common.

The Southland Women in Farming Group based in Southland's Gore and Dipton districts, benefited from Janet's input, coordinating and assisting with calendar events throughout the year. This involved organising field days looking at water quality, stream studies, riparian management and a range of rural based activities.

Janet's work this year has also involved attending a number of public meetings, conference attendance, field days and other landcare events, such as the Landcare Networking Day hosted by Environment Southland in March 2008 at Dipton, where thirty representatives of different landcare groups and community groups were present. Also participation in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, NZ Deer Industry Environment Awards and the Monitor Farms provided important opportunities for networking with a variety of rural people. Janet was invited to judge in the Deer Industry NZ Environment Awards held towards the middle of 2008.

The Southland Rural Support Trust has been set up over the last year with support from MAF with the principal aim of supporting rural communities with human and animal welfare issues during and after adverse events. Janet is secretary and coordinator for this group and has helped with the establishment of the Trust and coordination of drought response activities. Janet was able to share information related to NZ Landcare Trust's experience in Northland where Helen Moodie was heavily involved in recovery work from adverse weather events. This work has developed and strengthened networks with Federated Farmers, landowners and rural communities, agricultural and rural professionals and identified the need for further discussions to take place on sustainable land use.

A large proportion of Janet's work related to her role with the Southland Biodiversity Forum, which is supported by the Department of Conservation Biodiversity Advice Fund. The forum developed a Biodiversity Strategy for Southland. A key priority is the completion of an inventory identifying biodiversity throughout Southland. This will take approximately five years to complete and require additional support from other funders. The broad nature of this project allows it to overlap with a number of other projects and landcare groups, drawing on the information and experience already gained.

Nine farmers gained funding from the Biodiversity Condition Fund with assistance from the Biodiversity Southland Forum

and NZ Landcare Trust, taking the total of assisted landowners in the area to 32. Funds were used to fence off areas of forest, shrubland, wetlands, tussock and riparian areas. Farmers also worked to control pests and restore native areas through restoration planting. Janet played a prominent role working with the farmers to identify biodiversity needs on their land and will continue to work in this advisory role.

Gretchen Robertson is the Project Coordinator for the Upper Taieri River Project, a Sustainable Farming Fund project dealing with the increasingly intense demand for water in the Taieri River catchment. The project has progressed well and has benefited from well organised events such as Otago's Water Forum, where large

numbers of irrigators from throughout Otago attended a two day session looking at the Otago Regional Council's proposed changes to its operative Water Plan. The Upper Taieri River Project was showcased at the event, where the project philosophy regarding community self-management was heralded as a potential model for the future of water resource management. The Upper Taieri Group's Chairman Geoff Crutchley spoke about the group's goals and current achievements. The group's philosophies differ from most other irrigation groups in that they openly encourage the participation of stakeholder organisations such as Fish and Game, DoC and Iwi, encouraging shared responsibility within a multi-stakeholder catchment group.



Activities this year for NZ Landcare Trust's Maori Development Coordinator Don Morrison included carrying out a range of general facilitation work between government agencies, funding agencies and building and strengthening relationships with Crown Research Institutes (CRIs). Meetings and facilitation work was also undertaken with both Tuwharetoa and Te Arawa Federation of Maori Authorities (FOMA). This has opened up new avenues to work closely with individual land trusts that affiliate with their respective FOMA branches. It has also allowed an opportunity to look at some of the innovative initiatives undertaken by trustees/landowners where climate change policies are an issue affecting sustainable economic growth. Both Tuwharetoa and Te Arawa FOMA have been approached to discuss collaboration on a NZ Landcare Trust -initiated project on Maori innovation in sustainable land management.

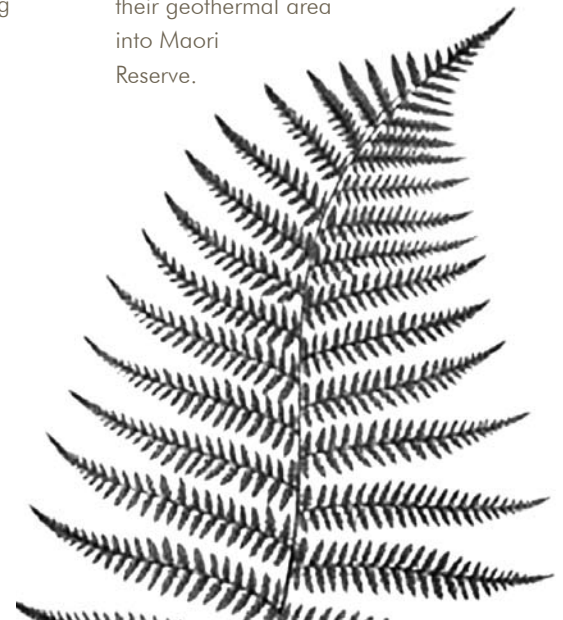
TE ARAWA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Don Morrison was involved in this initiative throughout 2007-2008, facilitating meetings between Te Arawa Federation of Maori Authorities (FOMA), the New Zealand Forest Research Institute Limited (SCION) and Ensis (an Australian and New Zealand Forestry Research collaborative network which is an unincorporated joint venture between Australia's CSIRO and New Zealand's Scion). The first stage was to create a memorandum of understanding to establish a research and development strategy for Te Arawa. NZ Landcare Trust also facilitated meetings between Te Arawa iwi, SCION/Ensis and regional government agencies aimed at identifying relevant current government policies and their impact on Te Arawa economic, environmental and social growth.

TE ARAWA IWI LANDOWNERS AND ACTION ON THE GROUND

NZ Landcare Trust continued its work to facilitate action plans for Maori land trusts to protect, enhance and restore areas of importance. For example:

- GIS-based biodiversity mapping with SCION/Ensis and Maori landowners.
- Te Arawa Iwi Landowners facilitate action plans for Maori land trusts to protect, enhance and restore areas of importance. These include the Owhatiura 1B2C land trustees designating a portion of their land in Maori Reserve and Te Papa Ruamoa designating a portion of their geothermal area into Maori Reserve.





ACTION ON THE GROUND: MATAKANA ISLAND, TAURANGA

Practical work continued with Matakana Island Marine Inc. (MIMI) to seek indigenous solutions balancing environmental and economic returns. With Don Morrison's assistance, the Matakana Island Community Trust had their biodiversity fund application approved. The project highlighted the potential of MIMI to offer the skills, knowledge and capacity to undertake many of the outcomes developed from the biodiversity project.

Don Morrison facilitated meetings between the Matakana Island Community Trust and MIMI. A mandate was reached for the latter group to proceed with developing strategies based on the biodiversity project's sustainability outcomes. As part of the strategic approach, a meeting was called between the MIMI and Nga Whenua Rahui to establish the first land agreement (kawanata) on the island.

Restoration and rehabilitation work on an estuarine wetland continues. The wetland is an area of significance identified in a

comprehensive environmental plan for the entire island.

With their nursery operating now, MIMI are retailing and supplying propagated native plants. With support from Naturally Native Tauranga and Nga Whenua Rahui an Environmental Management Plan was put in place for the entire island, identifying areas of significance both ecologically and in terms of cultural value to Ngaiterangi. Aspects of the physical work include restoration areas, wetland enhancement and the re-introduction of indigenous plants.



Styx Basin and Upper Taiari Scroll Plain Wetlands. Gretchen Robertson.

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS

NZ Landcare Trust manages a range of projects across the country. Funding for these projects comes from three main sources; Department of Conservation (DoC), Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). Both DoC and the MfE jointly allocate Biodiversity Advice Funds and Biodiversity Condition Funds, with DoC administering the distribution of the funding. MfE provide funding for Sustainable Management Fund projects, aimed at supporting community groups, iwi/hapū, businesses and local government involved in work that will produce long-

term environmental benefits and promote community action. MAF administer and finance the 'Sustainable Farming Fund', available to projects that support the financial, environmental and social performance of New Zealand's farm and forestry sectors.

Each project has a specific NZ Landcare Trust Coordinator, who facilitates and manages the project. The work includes encouraging information transfer between scientists and project groups, developing links with various authorities and advocating the benefits of "action on the ground".



Ruataniwha Estuary. Gretchen Robertson.

Arranged from North to South.

UPPER NORTH ISLAND

- 1 Department of Conservation Biodiversity Advice Project – ADV257a:
'Biodiversity Restoration Northland'.
Helen Moodie. July 2007 – June 2010.
- 2 Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 06/082:
'Northland Totara Working Group; sustainable management options for wood production, regenerating totara for wood'.
Helen Moodie. July 2006 – June 2009.
- 3 Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 05/085:
'Clover Root Weevil Project; on farm management of the economic and environmental impact of clover root weevil'.
Helen Moodie. July 2005 – June 2008.

CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND

- 4 Sustainable Management Fund – SMF2238:
'Addressing Land and Water Issues through Partnerships in Rotorua'.
Melinda Dresser. July 2007 – June 2009.
- 5 Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 07/085:
'Practical mitigation options to reduce P and N loss from farms into Rotorua Lakes'.
Monica Peters. July 2007 – June 2010.
- 6 Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 06/117:
'On farm biological mitigation options for nutrient management'.
Monica Peters. July 2006 – June 2009.
- 7 Sustainable Management Fund – SMF2240:
'Pauatahanui – Waikanae Rural Catchments Project'.
Peter Handford. July 2007 – June 2009.

UPPER SOUTH ISLAND

- 8 Department of Conservation Biodiversity Advice Project – ADV155c:
'Banks Peninsula Biodiversity Coordination, Conservation and Enhancement'.
Rachel Barker. July 2007 – June 2010.
- 9 Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 07/113:
'Sherry River Project; improving water quality through farm environment planning across the Sherry catchment'.
Barbara Stuart. July 2007 – June 2010.
- 10 Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 06/005:
'Aorere Catchment Project; a community approach to improving catchment wellbeing'.
Barbara Stuart and Gretchen Robertson. July 2007 – June 2010.
- 11 Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 05/132:
'Starborough Flaxbourne Soil Conservation Group; changing attitudes and practice for farming dryland Marlborough'.
Barbara Stuart. July 2005 – June 2008.

LOWER SOUTH ISLAND

- 12 Department of Conservation Biodiversity Advice Project – ADV257b:
'Biodiversity Southland Partnership'.
Janet Gregory. July 2007 – June 2010.
- 13 Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 07/134:
'Upper Taieri Water Resource Management Group; effective community water resource management'.
Gretchen Robertson. July 2007 – June 2009.

Further project details can be found in the Appendix.

AWARDS

2008 MfE Green Ribbon Awards

Starborough / Flaxbourne Soil Conservation Group won the Sustainable Landuse Award for their work in drought prone Marlborough. The award reflected the group's success in identifying adaptations to farming systems, designed to tackle problems associated with reduced rainfall and soil erosion. In addition, the leadership demonstrated by the group has helped ensure other farmers adapt their approach to land management and therefore benefit from increased farm returns.

Also Gretchen Robertson and Monica Peters were 'Highly Commended' in the category 'Innovative Solutions for the Environment', for the creation of an estuary monitoring kit entitled 'Turning the Tide'. The kit is designed to be of value across New Zealand, providing community groups with a comprehensive toolkit aimed to help them learn more about caring for estuaries.

Cawthron Science Leader Award

Chief Executive of the NZ Landcare Trust, Dr Nicholas Edgar, successfully applied for this award in June 2008. The Award will allow Nick to attend the Hillary Leadership Programme (hosted by the New Zealand Leadership Institute, Auckland University Business School). The Hillary Leadership Programme is targeted at people in senior levels of leadership within New Zealand organisations and aims to develop their leadership abilities.





STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE for the Year ended 30 June 2008

2007 Actual \$ '000		2008 Actual \$ '000	2008 Budget \$ '000
Revenue			
1,782	Principal Funders	1,307	1,691
359	Project Partners	139	467
27	Consultancy	159	36
27	Contracts	26	-
164	Funds managed for Groups	177	-
-	Donations	20	1
335	Other revenue	94	9
2,694	Total Revenue	1,922	2,204
Expenditure			
161	Administration	166	146
66	Communication	64	88
21	Depreciation (see note)	-	34
209	Travel	163	302
83	Grants Programme	73	103
1,961	Personnel	1,305	1,413
4	Other	-	-
2,505	Total Expenditure	1,771	2,086
189	Net Surplus	151	118

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY for the Year ended 30 June 2008

2007 Actual \$ '000		2008 Actual \$ '000	2008 Budget \$ '000
88	Funds brought forward as at 1 July	277	277
189	Net Surplus for the year	151	118
189	Total recognised revenues and expenses for the year	151	118
277	Trust Funds as at 30 June 2008	428	395

These are not audited financial statements. They are a summary of the financial position for the year.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 30 June 2008

2007 Actual \$ '000		2008 Actual \$ '000
	Capital	
277	Trust Reserves	428
277	Total Capital	428
	Represented by:	
	Current Assets	
143	Cash and Bank	379
812	Accounts Receivable	248
2	Other	17
957	Total Current Assets	644
	Less Current Liabilities	
456	Accounts Payable	207
55	GST Payable	38
175	Revenue in Advance	
39	Other	21
725	Total Current Liabilities	266
232	Working Capital	378
	Non Current Assets	
35	Fixed Assets (see note)	40
10	Term Deposit	10
45	Total Non Current Assets	50
277	Net Assets	428

These are not audited financial statements. They are a summary of the financial position for the year.



Coastal edge, Waituna. Janet Gregory.

PROJECT NAME:

Biodiversity Restoration Northland.

TYPE OF PROJECT:

DOC Biodiversity Advice Project – ADV257a

LOCATION:

Northland

NZ LANDCARE TRUST COORDINATOR:

Helen Moodie

PROJECT DURATION:

July 2007 – June 2010



PROJECT AIMS

This project provides coordinated support to other specific projects seeking to enhance the biodiversity values across Northland. As the number of individual groups continues to rise, increasing emphasis is placed on running workshops, field days and seminars to provide unified support, encouragement and information.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The 'Whole of Northland' report has been completed. This report presents an overall picture of biodiversity protection and enhancement initiatives throughout Northland. It brings together information and data from a wide range of sources including Landcare Groups, private landowners, councils, Department of Conservation, covenanters and organisations such as the NZ Kiwi Foundation.
- An Integrated Pest Control Workshop attracted more than 60 people. Key speakers from Lincoln University described current methods, new advances and refinements of existing tools for integrated control of mammalian pest species, particularly possums, rats and mustelids.
- NZ Landcare Trust was involved in the Northland Agricultural Field Days held in Dargaville. The NZ Landcare Trust display featured three groups, attracting considerable interest and sparking a number of enquiries about starting new projects.

PROJECT NAME:

Northland Totara Working Group; sustainable management options for wood production, regenerating totara for wood.

TYPE OF PROJECT:

Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 06/082

LOCATION:

Northland

NZ LANDCARE TRUST COORDINATOR:

Helen Moodie

PROJECT DURATION:

July 2006 – June 2009



PROJECT AIMS

The Northland Totara Working Group was established in September 2005 to support and promote research and technology transfer in the productive management of totara from both naturally regenerating stands and plantations. The group is coordinated by NZ Landcare Trust. Current members include landowners, Farm Forestry, FNDC, NRC, wood millers and processors, Tane's Tree Trust, NZ Forest Owners Association, and Scion (formally Forest Research Institute). The Northland Totara Working Group has five broad objectives:

- To quantify the resource of naturally regenerating totara.
- To establish demonstration trials, evaluating a range of thinning and pruning options.
- To determine wood qualities and uses of farm grown trees.
- To investigate the feasibility of developing a supply chain.
- To identify and overcome hindrances to sustainable management of naturally regenerating totara.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr David Bergin from Scion is running a three year trial for the group on sustainable management options for wood production from naturally regenerating stands of totara on farmland. The aim is to provide landowners with a greater understanding of management options for totara, including optimum times and levels of intervention.
- Field day held at Whangarei Heads. Despite heavy rain nearly 50 people attended. The good turnout reinforced the level of interest in this project. This pastoral hill country lifestyle block has naturally regenerating totara at several stages of development typical of many parts of Northland. Three pairs of trial plots have been established for the project.

PROJECT NAME:

Clover Root Weevil Project; on farm management of the economic and environmental impact of Clover Root Weevil.

TYPE OF PROJECT:

Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 05/085

LOCATION:

New Zealand

NZ LANDCARE TRUST COORDINATOR:

Helen Moodie

PROJECT DURATION:

July 2005 – June 2008

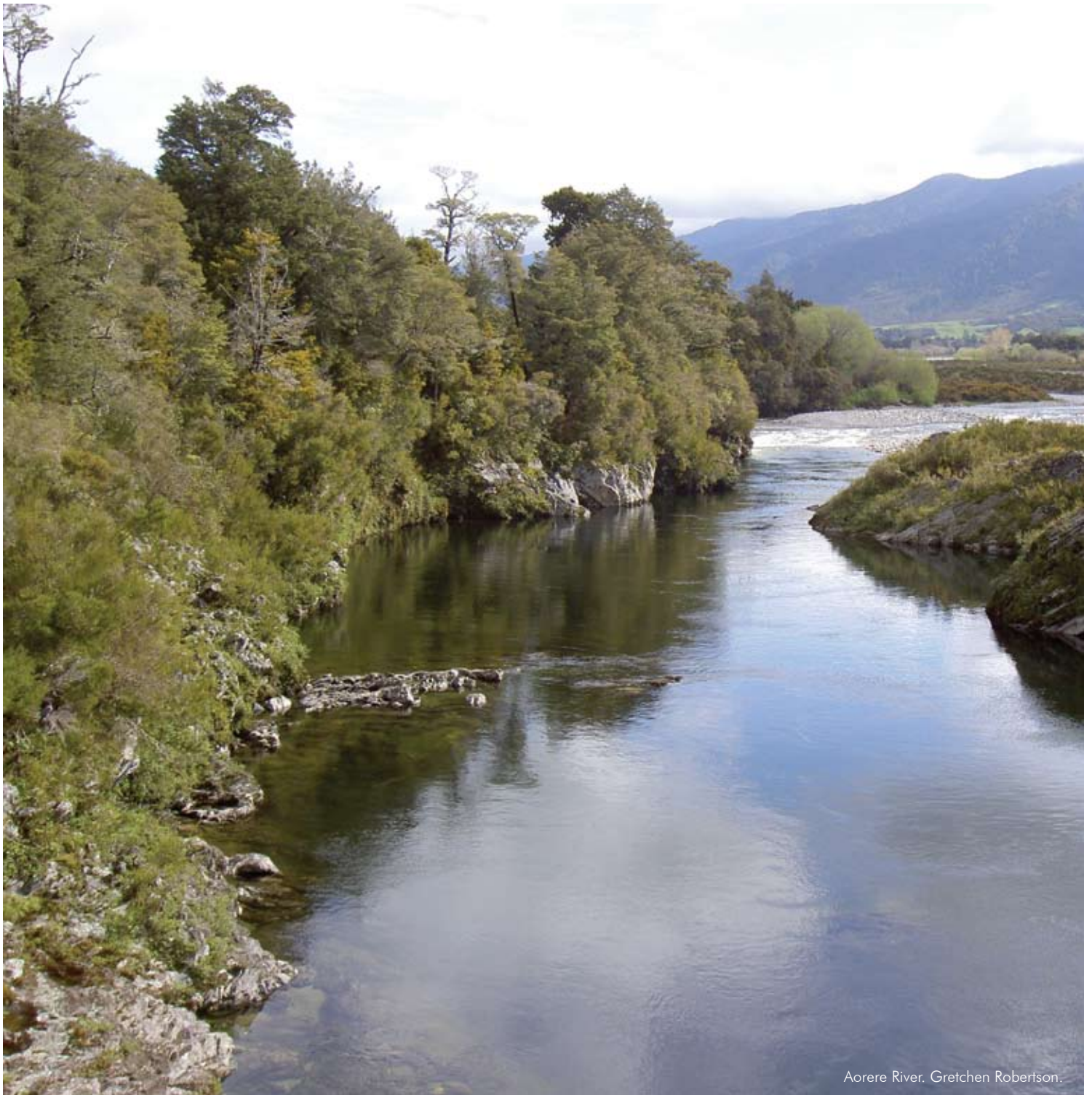


PROJECT AIMS

The Clover Root Weevil Project sets out to identify the economic and environmental risks associated with this pest. Maintenance of a strong clover based pasture is still a crucial pillar of NZ sustainable agriculture. However threatening this is the continued spread of Clover Root Weevil throughout the country. It has been estimated that unchecked, infestations of this pest will reduce farm gross margins by 10–15%. There is an ongoing need for access to information about the pest, the likely impact on the farm system, and on farm strategies the farmer may use to minimise the impact on farm production levels.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The knowledge gathered in this project has been collated into a format that is readily accessible to both farmers and rural professionals. Topics covered include:
 - background information on clover root weevil identification
 - damage and impacts and mitigation options including pasture renovation
 - clover friendly management practices and fertiliser regimes
 - biological control methods
- Planned production of a pamphlet for distribution through industry networks and field days. The pamphlet will be printed on durable, waterproof paper so that it can be used as an on farm tool to identify clover root weevil and other pasture pests in the field.
- Planned development of a professional website presenting project conclusions.



Aorere River. Gretchen Robertson.

PROJECT NAME:

Addressing Land and Water issues through Partnerships in Rotorua.

TYPE OF PROJECT:

Sustainable Management Fund – SMF2238

LOCATION:

Rotorua

NZ LANDCARE TRUST COORDINATOR:

Melinda Dresser

PROJECT DURATION:

July 2007 – June 2009



PROJECT AIMS

This project aims is to improve sustainable land use in the Rotorua Lakes catchments with a particular focus on nutrient reduction targets. This sustainable land management information will be shared with landowners and the wider community to encourage shared responsibility for identifying and implementing solutions.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Establishment of three focus groups: Research; Communication; and Extension and Planning.
- Completion of an inventory identifying key research into sustainable land use, using data gathered in the Rotorua Lakes catchment and other relevant national research.
- Delivery of a workshop at the Wharenui farm in Rotorua, that included a site visit to the NIWA watercress harvesting trials and two informative presentations:
 - presentation from AgResearch and NIWA scientists on their trials investigating Nitrogen and Phosphorous loss mitigation methods in the Lake Rotorua catchment
 - presentation from Environment Bay of Plenty, summarising work carried out by the regional council and focusing on the 'Herd Home' research they are undertaking

PROJECT NAME:

Practical Mitigation Options to Reduce P and N Loss from Farms into Rotorua Lakes.

TYPE OF PROJECT:

Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 07/085

LOCATION:

Rotorua

NZ LANDCARE TRUST COORDINATOR:

Monica Peters

PROJECT DURATION:

July 2007 – June 2010



PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the project is to seek practical on-farm solutions to mitigate P and N losses, protect natural capital and ensure long-term viability for farming operations. A range of nutrient reduction mitigation options are being rigorously evaluated and their use demonstrated on farm to farmers.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Previous P mitigation trials carried out on Wharenui Farm led AgResearch to focus efforts on enhancing the effectiveness of pasture as a filter strip. A trial to investigate this was set up using a system of shallow weirs.
- Trials to minimise N leaching are in place, comprised of three replicated treatments:
 - control (normal grazing and fertiliser regime)
 - normal grazing and fertiliser regime with nitrification inhibitor (DCD) applied twice, following the May grazing and the subsequent winter grazing
 - no grazing from May to the end of September
- Preliminary economic analysis has been carried out to determine the feasibility of the mitigation options. This analysis forms a critical component of the project.
- Regular ‘Woolshed Workshops’ take place. These are integral to the project and are designed to share research with farmers, stimulate discussion and refine project direction.

PROJECT NAME:

**On farm Biological Mitigation
Options for Nutrient Management.**

TYPE OF PROJECT:

Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 06/117

LOCATION:

Rotorua

NZ LANDCARE TRUST COORDINATOR:

Monica Peters

PROJECT DURATION:

July 2006 – June 2009



PROJECT AIMS

Concerns about the poor quality of Lake Rotorua and four other lakes in the region have resulted in Environment Bay of Plenty (EBOP) developing legislation to decrease inputs of P and N from rural land and the urban population. The economic impacts of landuse restrictions on landholders around the lakes will be significant. This highlights the need to balance the long-term profitability of farming operations in the lakes catchments and protect and restore lake water quality. The challenge is to develop farming systems that do not undermine the natural capital of soils and water (and their associated ecological services) whilst still remaining economically viable.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Research has focused primarily on trapping excess N and P through using grass filter strips and harvesting aquatic plants from farm streams. Grass filter strips can take many forms and the design for this project will be grass hedges placed where concentrated flows and high sediment loads occur such as in shallow gully systems.
- Regular 'Woolshed Workshops' are used to disseminate information to project stakeholders and the wider farming community.

PROJECT NAME:

**Pauatahanui – Waikanae Rural
Catchments Project.**

TYPE OF PROJECT:

Sustainable Management Fund – SMF2240

LOCATION:

Pauatahanui Inlet and Waikanae Rural
River Catchments, Wellington Region

NZ LANDCARE TRUST COORDINATOR:

Peter Handford, P A Handford & Associates
Ltd

PROJECT DURATION:

July 2007 – June 2009



PROJECT AIMS

This project utilises the skills, energy and desire of the community to move towards sustainable management of the Pauatahanui Inlet catchment and the Upper Waikanae River catchment. It provides an independent on-the-ground Catchment Co-ordinator to work with the community to support the implementation of a community developed catchment vegetation framework. Specific aims include:

- Improvement in water quality and reduction in discharge of sediment and contaminants to the estuary / harbour.
- Supportive community catchment landowner attitudes to revegetation of key areas of the catchment.
- Reduced flood damage issues:
 - More resilient catchment that is less impacted by major storm events and recovers more quickly.
 - Reduced soil erosion from steep slopes.
- Improvement in the health and functioning of natural ecosystems including improved freshwater and terrestrial biodiversity.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Establishment of a steering group that meets regularly to provide feedback and direction on project work.
- Information, advice and site visits to help landowners identify best practice for fencing, planting, weed control and animal control.
- Fence construction has begun and fence planning in place on four additional properties.
- Planting has taken place on seven properties with approximately 10,000 plants established in predominantly riparian areas.

PROJECT NAME:

Sherry River Project; improving water quality through farm environment planning across the Sherry catchment.

TYPE OF PROJECT:

Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 07/113

LOCATION:

Sherry River, Upper South Island

NZ LANDCARE TRUST COORDINATOR:

Barbara Stuart

PROJECT DURATION:

July 2007 – June 2010



PROJECT AIMS

The project aims to improve water quality within the Sherry River catchment, a 7800 hectare sub-catchment in the upper reaches of the Motueka River near Nelson. Research had showed the problems caused by farm practices, specifically dairy herd crossings. The area is made up of forestry in the upper end of the valley with a mix of dairy, sheep, beef and lifestyle landowners in the lower catchment. The valley is a micro example of the larger Motueka Catchment land use and a major contributor of *E. coli* and nutrients to the Motueka River. The project feeds into the broader Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) Project which is a six-year whole catchment ‘mountain top to the coast’ study of the Motueka River and its tributaries.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Formation of the Sherry River Catchment group, who focus on tackling poor water quality in the Sherry River.
- Four stock crossing bridges have been constructed by farmers resulting in improved water quality.
- An environmental field day held on the Anglesey farm attracted between 55-60 farmers, rural bankers and agency staff from across the top of the South Island.
- 5 ‘farm environmental plans’ prepared for landowners, with 3 further plans under development.

PROJECT NAME:

**Banks Peninsula Biodiversity
Coordination, Conservation and
Enhancement.**

TYPE OF PROJECT:

DoC Biodiversity Advice Project – ADV257c

LOCATION:

Banks Peninsula

NZ LANDCARE TRUST COORDINATOR:

Rachel Barker

PROJECT DURATION:

July 2007 – June 2010



PROJECT AIMS

This project aims to support biodiversity and sustainable land management initiatives on Banks Peninsula through the following:

- Community information-sharing and relationship building.
- Project coordination.
- Partnership building with key agencies.
- Support and encouragement of community initiatives.
- Development of incentives to encourage conservation and biodiversity.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Biodiversity management and monitoring plans were completed by the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust coordinator and ecologist and signed by landowners.
- A 'Bush Bird Network' has been established following a workshop and meetings with representatives of Forest and Bird, Landcare Research, DOC, CCC, ECan, landowners and tangata whenua.
- An important outcome has been the creation of a specific 'Banks Peninsula Five Minute Bird Count' field sheet and methods (sourced with permission from the DOC national standard) and printing of a user-friendly bush bird booklet for Banks Peninsula.
- Tui restoration programme underway, with a target to release first tui in April 2009. Recent focus has been on attracting funds through the distribution of a sponsorship package.

PROJECT NAME:

Aorere Catchment Project; a community approach to improving catchment wellbeing.

TYPE OF PROJECT:

Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 06/005

LOCATION:

Nelson, Upper South Island

NZ LANDCARE TRUST COORDINATOR:

Barbara Stuart & Gretchen Robertson

PROJECT DURATION:

July 2006 – June 2009



PROJECT AIMS

This project, based in the Golden Bay area of the Tasman District, has a key focus of understanding water quality issues (sparked by aquaculture industry concerns) and their impact for wider catchment/farming sustainability.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Formation of the Aorere Catchment Management Group which is primarily made up of members from the dairy farming community.
- Major improvements in practical on farm outputs and evidence of significant water quality enhancement.
- Aorere Management Team presented the results of the Wriggle Coastal Management Report and coastal water quality model to the Tasman District Council and local marine farmers. This was a voluntary gesture from the local dairying community to promote open communication about water quality issues faced in the area. The model

depicted the impact their dairy farms could have on the coast.

- Results of the Aorere Dairy Farmers' Survey were released and distributed to all dairy farmers in the catchment.
- Aorere Catchment Management Group initiated a 'Handling the Wet' field day which attracted over 30 attendees, with landowners from 15 properties volunteering to complete environmental farm plans.
- The group's work to raise awareness of water quality and land use impacts has seen many farms within the catchment upgrading their effluent systems and improving on farm management.
- By the end of June 2008, 4,000 trees had been planted and volunteer support continues to be strong.
- The aquaculture industry has informed the group that due to local water quality improvements, they have gone from being able to harvest shellfish 50% of the time to 78% of the time.

PROJECT NAME:

Starborough Flaxbourne Soil Conservation Group; changing attitudes and practice for farming dryland in Marlborough.

TYPE OF PROJECT:

Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 05/132

LOCATION:

Southern Marlborough

NZ LANDCARE TRUST COORDINATOR:

Barbara Stuart

PROJECT DURATION:

July 2005 – June 2008



PROJECT AIMS

This project's aims were to change farmer attitudes and land management practices for farming dry land in the Awatere/ Seddon area of Southern Marlborough in the Upper South Island. The Starborough Flaxbourne Soil Conservation Group developed working relationships with farmers, sharing knowledge and expertise in an effort to identify options for improved land management, with erosion issues being a key focus in this area. The project was designed to be driven by the community, regularly bringing science providers, farmers and agencies together to achieve practical outcomes.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Formation of the Starborough Flaxbourne Soil Conservation Group.
- A key outcome demonstrated by the project to farmers in the area was that it is possible to farm sustainably through sequential droughts and still make a profit, by farming to the property's strengths not the weaknesses.
- Six contributing specialists focused on different parts of the farm system, with a major part of the project involving conducting trials on two 'focus farms'. Potential farm management options were modelled and tested using real

farm environments and combining farmers' experiences with input from the specialists. Research was undertaken in six key areas: soils, climate, farming systems, dryland plants, human impact and landscape options with an overarching extension strategy.

- Regular project newsletters were sent to farmers in the Starborough Flaxbourne community and various fieldays and workshops were held.
- In May 2008 the project's 'finale event', 'Beyond Reasonable Drought' was held at Bonavaree, attracting 420 people to the district. The event included facilitated workshops on climate change and farming systems. A highlight for many was a rigorous question and answer session between Professor Derrick Moot of Lincoln University and Bonavaree operations manager, Fraser Avery.
- 'Beyond Reasonable Drought' field day handouts were also produced and an end-of-project booklet is now available on the SFF and Marlborough District Council websites.
- In June 2008, the Starborough Flaxbourne Soil Conservation Group was awarded a 2008 Ministry for the Environment (MfE) Green Ribbon award for their efforts and leadership to improve farmland affected by drought.

PROJECT NAME:

Biodiversity Southland Partnership.

TYPE OF PROJECT:

DoC Biodiversity Advice Project – ADV257b

LOCATION:

Southland Region

NZ LANDCARE TRUST COORDINATOR:

Janet Gregory

PROJECT DURATION:

July 2007 – June 2010



PROJECT AIMS

Funding from the DoC Biodiversity Advice Fund supports a position that coordinates the Biodiversity Southland Forum in partnership with NZ Landcare Trust. Aims for the project include:

- Take a leadership role in biodiversity management in Southland providing advice and assistance to individuals, groups and other agencies
- Assist landowners and community groups in preparing funding applications to protect biodiversity on private land
- Motivate and encourage sustainable community action on the ground
- Continue to raise awareness of protection of biodiversity through newsletters, media articles, field days, displays and promote biodiversity protection on farms as a means of environmentally sustainable farming.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Development of a Biodiversity Strategy for Southland. This has already identified a number of priority actions to be undertaken including the completion of an inventory of biodiversity in Southland. This will take approximately five years to complete and require funding from additional sponsors.
- Nine farmers were helped to gain funding from the Biodiversity Condition Fund. Work has included fencing and controlling animal and plant pests.
- Significant media coverage has been achieved including a feature on the Rural Delivery programme.

PROJECT NAME:

Upper Taieri Water Resource Management Group; effective community water resource management.

TYPE OF PROJECT:

Sustainable Farming Fund – SFF 07/134

LOCATION:

Otago, Lower South Island.

NZ LANDCARE TRUST COORDINATOR:

Gretchen Robertson

PROJECT DURATION:

July 2007 – June 2009



PROJECT AIMS

This project tackles very significant water management issues within a large and diverse catchment/community. The project aims to produce a model for community self-management of water resources in a high demand area. Over 150 water users are involved, many of whom face the expiry of their current water access permits (deemed permits/mining rights) in 2021. The group's Chair, Geoff Crutchley, has extensive experience in community water management (having chaired the Maniototo Irrigation Company for many years) and the group has a multistakeholder (community) approach to water resource management. Other members include farming representatives from throughout the catchment, Department of Conservation, Fish & Game Otago, Otago Regional Council and Central Otago District Council representatives. The project hopes to attract Iwi and other stakeholder representation as the project progresses.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Work with the University of Otago to develop a website for the project so it could act as a model for wider learning.
- A PhD student from the Otago university's School of Surveying developed a 'MapChat' tool for the Upper Taieri where online mapping and chatting are combined to facilitate catchment-wide discussion.
- A brochure on the project was distributed locally and nationally to water quantity management groups and agencies.
- A survey of water users conducted – 50% response. A student was contracted to assist with written and verbal interviews and data analysis. An up to date, comprehensive database of Upper Taieri irrigators has been established for the first time as part of the survey.
- Several sub-catchment field days held throughout the Taieri area, with each hosted by the sub-catchment community and involving wide stakeholder involvement, such as Fish & Game, Doc, Iwi, Otago Regional Council, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the University of Otago.
- Good media coverage, several articles appeared in the Otago Daily Times and the 'Rural Delivery' television programme.



Core Funders



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