

# Sustainable land management through community involvement.

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# ACTION ON THE GROUND

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## What is landcare?

Landcare is about people taking control of their local environment. Anyone can get involved, because landcare puts ownership of land management issues in the hands of local people, helping to build community capacity and encouraging shared solutions. From a more formal perspective landcare can be described as communities managing land in a sustainable manner to ensure ecological, economic and social benefits for present and future generations.

In practice, hundreds of farmers, landowners and community groups have adopted a landcare approach. Farm systems have been modified, trees have been planted, waterways protected, pests controlled and native species encouraged, all in an effort to increase long term sustainability.

## NZ Landcare Trust

NZ Landcare Trust is an independent charitable organisation first established in 1996. It is the only national, non-government organisation working with the land user community to encourage and support sustainable land management.

The organisation has flourished thanks to its practical, community based approach to sustainable land management. Head Office is based in Hamilton but the landcare message extends from Northland to Southland, thanks to a dedicated team of experienced Regional and Project Coordinators.

A key feature of NZ Landcare Trust is the way it unifies diverse interest groups, such as production, environment and recreation. This is achieved by including representatives from these groups on our Board of Trustees: Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Federated Mountain Clubs, Federation of Maori Authorities, Fish and Game New Zealand, Ecologic Foundation, Royal Forest and Bird Society and Rural Women New Zealand.

## What do we do?

At a practical level NZ Landcare Trust supports landowners, farmers and community groups to carry out sustainable land management projects. Regional and Project Coordinators understand the needs of rural communities and work closely with them. Strong networks form a key component, with relationships based on trust and mutual respect.

The Trust works closely with the scientific community. The dissemination of accurate, relevant information is important and this is achieved through events such as field days and workshops. Scientists, farmers, landowners and community groups have the opportunity to share knowledge and improve skills.

NZ Landcare Trust has extensive project management experience. From initial planning through to maintaining project momentum, NZ Landcare Trust can help support sustainable land management projects in a number of practical ways.

