WAIHI & TE MOANA

Catchment Group input to OTOP Zone Committee – August 2017

Ad Hendriks & Rhys Taylor
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.
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?
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.
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.
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.
The Waihi and Te Moana (and Kakahu) feed into the Temuka and the Opihi. We are all connected.