## AGENDA

## Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting Monday, 6 November 2023

Date	Monday, 6 November 2023
Time	1pm
Location	Council Chamber, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru
File Reference	

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru, on Monday 6 November 2023, at 1pm.

#### **Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Members**

Suzanne Eddington, John Henry, Glen Smith (Chairperson), Bailey Lissington, Chris Konings (Deputy Chairperson), Michelle Pye, Deon Swiggs, Phillipa Guerin, Sharyn Cain and Rynee de Garnham

Quorum – no less than 5 members

#### **Order Of Business**

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- 1 Opening Karakia
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Public Forum
- 4 Identification of Items of Urgent Business
- 5 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature
- 6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
- 7 Chairperson's Report

#### 8 Confirmation of Minutes

8.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 7 August 2023

Author: Jessica Kavanaugh, Governance Advisor

#### Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 7 August 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

#### Attachments

1. Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 7 August 2023

# MINUTES

## Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting Monday, 7 August 2023

#### Minutes of Timaru District Council Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting Held in the Council Chamber, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru on Monday, 7 August 2023 at 1 pm

- Present:Chris Konings (Deputy Chairperson), John Henry, Michelle Pye, Deon Swiggs,<br/>Suzanne Eddington Sharyn Cain (zoom), Bailey Lissington (zoom),
- In Attendance: Andrew Oliver (Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Water Committee & Upper Waitaki Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury), Paul Cooper (Group Manager Environmental Services), John Benn (Department of Conservation), David Moore (Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury), Jane and Graham Batchelor (Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration), Lex Evans (Arowhenua Native Nursery), Robert Carson-Iles (Department of Conservation), Jessica Halsey (EOS Ecology), Jessica Kavanaugh (Governance Advisor, Timaru District Council)

#### 1 Opening Karakia

The whole committee conducted the opening Karakia

- 2 Apologies
- 2.1 Apologies Received

#### Resolution 2023/35

Moved: Chris Konings Seconded: Clr Michelle Pye

That the apologies of Glen Smith and Phillipa Guerin be received and accepted.

Carried

#### 3 Public Forum

There were no public forum items.

#### 4 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

No items of urgent business were received

#### 5 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

No matters of a minor nature were raised.

#### 6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

#### 7 Chairperson's Report

No chairperson's report was presented.

#### 8 Confirmation of Minutes

8.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 10 July 2023

#### Resolution 2023/36

Moved: Chris Konings Seconded: Sharyn Cain

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 10 July 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Carried

#### 9 Reports

#### 9.1 Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration

Jane and Graham Batchelor (Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration), and Lex Evans (Arowhenua Native Nursery) spoke to the report and provided a presentation for the committee to consider a request from 'Burkes Pass Heritage Trust' (BPHT) to continue to support the Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration by contributing a sum of money for that purpose.

The presentation covered the following topics; Improved Biodiversity, regular water quality testing, community awareness, predator control to protect native wildlife, a public track to join the existing Heritage Walk, a collaboration between Arowhenua Native Nursery, agencies, community, and schools in environmental conservation efforts, removal of weed species from the Upper Opihi River, new plantings, fencing upgrades, photo survey monitoring. It is also covered the progress to date and the plan for the future.

The was no definitive figure that the Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration has advised they require for the project but the plants and fencing are a priority. The fencing includes rabbit fencing and retrofitting existing fencing. Clarified is the project area and who owns the land.

At 1.08 pm, Member Suzanne Eddington arrived at the meeting.

It is requested a field trip at the beginning of October to the site.

#### Resolution 2023/37

Moved: Clr Deon Swiggs Seconded: Clr Michelle Pye That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.

Carried

#### 9.2 Pekapeka / Bat Habitat

Robert Carson-Iles (Department of Conservation) spoke to the report and provided a presentation to inform the committee of the significance of native bat habitat in the OTOP Zone and how the committee could support ongoing conservation and enhancement of their habitat.

The presentation gave an overview of Long-tailed Bats including the population locations, the decline in numbers, roosting trees, birth rates, lifespan, use of acoustic monitoring, information collected by a radio transmitter glued to the bat, and current threats. The importance of advocacy and education is highlighted.

Discussion included that transplanting populations have not been successful in the past, the size of colonies in South Canterbury. The current unsuccessful use of the power pole roost.

There was discussion on how the OTOP committee can help this project, it is identified that the funding from LINZ will end at the end of 2024 and that any funding towards the diversity of this project. The ability to have the geolocations mapped out. The one-off funding from Environment Canterbury for the poles. The ability to use the committee's connections to combine resources for the project.

#### Resolution 2023/38

Moved: Clr Michelle Pye Seconded: Suzanne Eddington

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.

Carried

#### 9.3 EOS

Jessica Halsey (EOS Ecology) spoke to the report and provided a presentation to present their project aims, objectives and how they may be able to assist catchment groups in the OTOP Zone.

The presentation covered the following topics; the Essential Freshwater Fund focus areas, the function of the Wai Connection team, regions and providers, national support, Canterbury support, ecology science and engagement, catchment selection, catchment group support and what is not included.

Discussion included how this works from the bottom up to collaborate and support catchment groups. Clarification that the EOS Ecology provides support depending on the needs of the catchment group acting as a facilitator. The funding from the Ministry for the Environment and the impacts on Zone Committees.

#### Resolution 2023/39

Moved: Clr Deon Swiggs Seconded: Suzanne Eddington

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.

Carried

#### 9.4 Zone Priorities

This report was not discussed due to the absenteeism of Environment Canterbury Staff.

#### Resolution 2023/40

Moved: Clr Deon Swiggs Seconded: Clr Michelle Pye

That the OTOP Zone Committee lay this report on the table to be discussed at the next meeting.

Carried

#### 9.5 Facilitator Update

Andrew Oliver (Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Water Committee & Upper Waitaki Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury) spoke to the report to provide an update to the Committee.

It advised there is an action plan funding media pulse ads being produced and distributed in the community which is tabled at this meeting.

Confirmed is the \$75,000 budget remains unspent for this year. The updated photo of the committee still needs to be taken for the website. That the Te Ana Maori Rock Art Centre visits will happen in October/November 2023 and March/April 2024.

An update was provided on the Waitarakao working group it is requested that an update be provided by Environment Canterbury for the next meeting. It is also requested that the committee learn a new Te Reo word at each meeting.

#### Resolution 2023/41

Moved: Chris Konings Seconded: Clr Deon Swiggs

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.

Carried

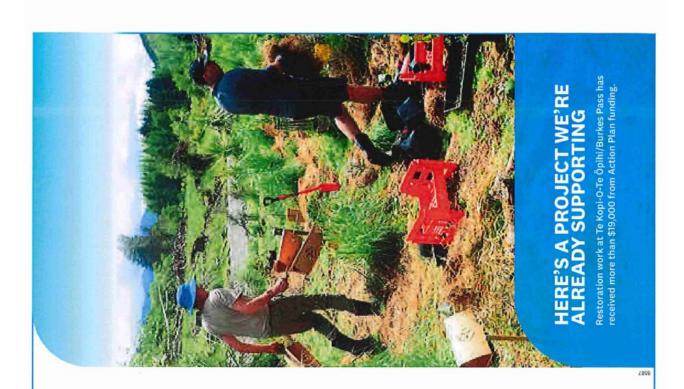
#### Attachments

1 Pulse Communications

# Get your environmental project IN the ground

Apply for support from the Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora (OTOP) CWMS Action Plan Budget. If you've got an idea for a project that will help improve water management, enhance biodiversity, or engage the community on environmental issues – we might be able to help. The OTOP Water Zone Committee makes recommendations to Environment Canterbury about how to allocate \$75,000 each year to help implement the committee's Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Action Plan. Previous projects the zone committee has supported include native planting events at Taniwha Gully rock art site, the Men's Shed Trust Geraldine's predator trapping work, and habitat improvement for the long-tailed bat.

Email Dave Moore to apply - dave.moore@ecan.govt.nz Find out more at **ecan.govt.nz/otopcommittee**  The Öräri Temuka Õpihi Pareora Water Zone Committee is made up of community members, Rünanga and councils



#### 10 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

No items of urgent business were received

#### **11** Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

No matters of a minor nature were raised.

#### 12 Closure Karakia

The whole committee conducted the closing Karakia

#### The Meeting closed at 3.22pm.

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Chris Konings Deputy Chairperson

#### 9 Reports

9.1 Orari Temuka Ophihi Pareora Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration Funding Application

Author: Dave Moore, Zone Facilitator

Authoriser:

#### Recommendation

- 1. That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.
- 2. That the OTOP Zone Committee considers whether to recommend Action Plan funding for Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration and the amount.

#### Background

At the August OTOP Zone Committee meeting Jane and Graham Batchelor, supported by Lex Evans, gave a presentation in support of a funding application for Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration. This is a long-term project that includes native eco-sourced riparian planting along a segment of the Upper Opihi River adjacent to the Burkes Pass township.

Previous funding recommended from the OTOP Zone Committee:

- 2021/22 financial year \$13,844 which was spent on tree removal.
- 2022/23 financial year \$5,728.60 which was spent on weed control.

The project has had significant beneficial environmental outcomes and media coverage as a result of the funding.

In October 2023 the Zone Committee visited the site to see firsthand the work undertaken and discuss the projects in detail.

#### Discussion

The is no definitive figure that the Burkes Pass Heritage trust have requested for the project, however, the plants and fencing are a priority.

The total projected expenses for 2023 are shown below.

37,220
\$7,720
\$4,620
\$6 <i>,</i> 560

Pest control extended to stage 0 and 1	\$3 <i>,</i> 840
Mulch 2 slash piles in stage 2 ready for 2024	\$16,000
Establish photo points to survey growth	\$1,175
Rabbit fencing stage 1 and 2 Airies Boundary fencing	\$8,000
Total 2023	85,135

#### Attachments

### 1. Application for funding Opihi Project $\underline{J}$

#### Application for funding - Zone Committee Action Plan Budget 2023/24

#### **Applicant details**

Organisation (if applicable):	Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Ripar- ian Restoration
Contact names:	Jane Batchelor
Contact email:	
Contact phone numbers:	

#### About your project

The amount of information and detail we would like you to provide is in proportion to the amount of funding you are requesting. If it is smaller amount, then a simple description of your project, who's involved and what you will be doing, along with a simple budget is sufficient.

Project name:	Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration	
CWMS zone where the activity will occur:	ОТОР	
Provide a brief project summary:		
The group comprises a partnership of the owners of Headley Greene Farm, the Burkes Pass Heritage Trust (registered charitable trust CC21800) and Arowhenua Native Nursery/ Te Kete Tipuranga o Huira- pa Ltd. This is a long-term demonstration conservation project to be completed in stages to restore a segment of the upper Opihi River close to the source of the river at Burkes Pass township in conjunction with a public walking track so that the results can be seen, used for educational purposes for training volunteers, stu- dents in the Arowhenua Nursery program, local schools and property owners. The plan is to extend eco-sourced plantings 1 km along the Opihi riverbanks up to the northern bound- ary of Headley Greene Farm to connect the existing plantings from 35 years and continue		

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the removal of the crack willow infestation along the Opihi River, rabbit proof fence the boundary with Aires Station and stock proofing with Headley Greene Farm.

#### Describe the outcomes or impacts of this project:

Outcomes or impacts are what will change or who will benefit from this work, including enduring benefits. For example, fencing off springheads will improve biodiversity and improve stream health.

1). To restore the natural ecosystem of the riparian zones, create habitat for birds and other native species, remedy degradation caused by stock, and increase the natural character of the area and integrate this into the pastoral farm environment.

2). To commence water quality testing to establish a baseline, increase knowledge of local water quality indicators and then retest on a regular basis to determine if and how restoration can improve that water quality.

3). To enhance public awareness of the environment of Te Kopi-o-Te Opihi, Burkes Pass and to work alongside Arowhenua to understand its history, use as a major travel route and food gathering areas on multiple similar wetland and riparian areas on farms and small holdings. This has huge potential to create green corridors for wildlife and also improve water quality in our catchment area.

4). To extend predator control along the river to ensure the biodiversity of wildlife is not compromised.

5). To create a public walking track to enable the local and wider community and visitors including children to experience local maturing native bush and listen to native birds and wildlife in their natural habitat and extend this experience along the banks of the main Opihi River.

6). To collaborate with different segments of the community and Arowhenua in this project with open days and working bees.

7). To remove weed species particularly crack willow along the river.

8). To create new plantings every year.

9). To upgrade the fences as the budget allows, for stock proofing and rabbit incursion.

10). To create photo survey points and also trial regular drone footage.

#### List the key outputs of the project:

An output describes what your group is proposing to do and is measurable. For example, install 250 m of fencing, or train 25 volunteers. Outputs are important and may be used as milestones in a funding agreement.

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#### Project Outputs:

- 1. Increased community awareness and understanding of the importance of riparian zones and the benefits of native vegetation.
- 2. Water quality testing will be commenced.
- 3. A loop track extension and continuous planting of the Heritage walk is also planned to allow walkers to go through the existing bush and follow along the western bank of the Opihi. It would rejoin the existing Heritage Walk along the legal road access to the western side of the road verge.
- 4. Improved riparian zones in the project area will positively impact local ecosystems and biodiversity.
- 5. Increased collaboration between Arowhenua Native Nursery, agencies, the community, and schools in environmental conservation efforts.
- 6. Removal of slash from the berm of the Upper Opihi river, by shredding existing piles of downed willow.
- 7. Predator control will be extended from the existing trap line in Batchelor's Bush that is registered with the New Zealand Predator free website.
- 8. Fencing will be installed or upgraded in stages to be stock and rabbit proof along either side of the project for 2 km.

## Please state how the project aligns with the relevant Zone Committee's 2021-24 Action Plan:

All action plans can be found as a link at the bottom of the "<u>What's happening in my zone</u>" page on the Environment Canterbury website. (https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/whats-happening-in-my-water-zone/)

The proposed funding request aligns with the identified Actions in the OTOP 2021-2024 Action Plan

To achieve a commitment to enhance Nohoanga, and to improve the health of key waterways for customary use, and enhance mahinga kai opportunities, it is important to gain insight into cultural values and areas of significance relating to mahinga kai. This can be achieved by engaging with local iwi, hapū, and other cultural practitioners to understand their knowledge and practices pertaining to mahinga kai. This understanding can inform the development of restoration and management plans that are culturally responsive and respect the values and practices of the local community.

In addition to engaging with local iwi and hapū, engaging with schools and youth is important to illustrate the importance of mahinga kai and the local history. This can be achieved through educational programs and workshops that provide opportunities for students to learn about the area's history, the importance of mahinga kai to local communities, and the ecological and cultural significance of waterways and other natural resources.

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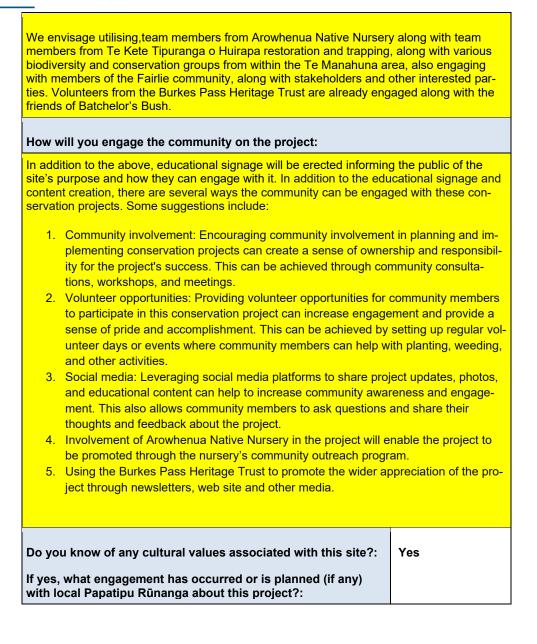
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The engagement with local Papatipu Rūnanga (Māori ancestral groups) in relation to the mentioned project seems to be extensive and collaborative. Te Runanga o Arowhenua, through its subsidiary company Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa, is actively involved in various initiatives aimed at enhancing the Opihi River and its surroundings.

Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa operates the Arowhenua Native Nursery, which plays a crucial role in growing plants for the Opihi lagoon restoration project, Te ana Rock Art site, a Peka peka roosting site at Pleasant point. This involvement demonstrates a commitment to environmental stewardship and restoration efforts in the area. By growing plants specific to the Opihi River ecosystem, they are actively contributing to the preservation and improvement of the river's health.

Additionally, Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa's Restoration and Trapping division is likely engaged in activities related to habitat restoration and pest control, ensuring the protection and conservation of native flora and fauna along the Opihi River.

The partnership between Burkes Pass Heritage and Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa further strengthens the collaborative efforts in enhancing the Te Opihi awa (river). Both parties share a common vision to develop and conserve the area, recognizing the cultural significance of the headwaters as a gateway to Te Manahuna and traditional Mahinga Kai sites. This shared vision likely includes the preservation of cultural heritage, ecological restoration, and sustainable land management practices.

The concept of local Papatipu Rūnanga is essential in New Zealand's governance framework. Papatipu Rūnanga are Māori tribal councils or organizations that represent the interests and aspirations of their respective iwi (tribes) or hapū (sub-tribes). They have a unique relationship with their ancestral lands and waters, embodying traditional knowledge, cultural values, and customary practices.

Engaging with local Papatipu Rūnanga is crucial when undertaking projects that impact or involve Māori ancestral lands and waters. Such engagement ensures that the voices, perspectives, and aspirations of the indigenous communities are acknowledged and incorporated into decision-making processes. It also helps foster a collaborative and respectful approach to land and resource management, recognizing the cultural, spiritual, and environmental values held by Papatipu Rūnanga.

It is evident that Te Runanga o Arowhenua, through Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa, is actively involved in initiatives aligned with the values and aspirations of the Papatipu Rūnanga. This suggests an ongoing and meaningful engagement ensures the project's success while respecting the cultural significance and knowledge associated with the Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi restoration

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Environment Canterbury Regional Council Kaunihera Taiao ki Waltaha

Please provide an accurate location with grid reference and/or map (if relevant to your project):

E1412742 N5116101

Who owns the land?:

Attach evidence of permission from the landowner, or their representative.

The project area in the riparian zone of the Opihi River and walking track is largely unformed legal road and administered by the Mackenzie District Council who after consulting with neighbouring land owners have given permission for this project to occur. See letter attached from the Mayor in 2021. The access route through Batchelors Bush has permission from the owners of Headley Greene farm(see attached letter) who are planning an easement with Herenga 0 Nuku for the long term.

#### **Funding details**

Please attach a budget to your application if one has been prepared. Your budget should include estimates of income and expenditure, including other funding and in-kind contributions. You should show clearly what you are planning to spend the Action Plan funds on if successful. We would like more detail if your application is for a larger amount e.g. <u>example?</u> We have some example budgets for different types and sizes of projects in our resource pack. These will show you what we are expecting you to provide.

How much funding are you requesting?	\$85,135 projected expense for 2023.
If you are successful with this application, what components of you spend the money on? If you have a project budget, please attach it to your application.	ur project will you
Please refer to 9 spreadsheets attached	
Have you applied to or received funding from other organisations for this project?: If yes, please provide details below or note if it is included in your	No
attached budget.	

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Is the project receiving any other monetary or "in-kind" contribu- tions from your organisation or others e.g. manpower, use of re- sources, facilities and equipment?	Yes
If yes, please provide details below:	
In-kind contributions are detailed in the financial statement attached.	

#### Working with us and Environment Canterbury

In the last three years have you received funding or other support from Environment Canterbury for this, or any other project?*:	Yes
If yes, what was the funding/support for, and when did you receive it?:	
\$13,844.00; Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi restoration; Contract number 1039 \$5728.60; Te Kopi-o Te Opihi restoration; Contract number 1191-112	
Are you intending on applying to another Environment Canterbury fund this financial year for this, or any other project?	NO
If yes, what fund are you applying to?	

#### **Additional information**

Do you have supporting information you would like to provide (optional)?:

Please attach any supporting information with your application.

Once completed, please send this application form to dave.moore@ecan.govt.nz

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Author: Dave Moore, Zone Facilitator

#### Authoriser:

#### Recommendation

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.

#### Purpose of Report

1 To update the Committee on actions from the previous meeting, relevant information and upcoming engagement opportunities.

#### Discussion

#### 1. 2024 Meeting dates

Tentative dates for meetings/workshops/field trips for 2024 are listed below for feedback from the committee (generally 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month). Note, a minimum of four formal meetings are required per year.

- 11 February (avoiding Waitangi Day weekend)
- 4 March (the first Monday is unable to be accommodated due to a clash with other meetings)
- 8 April
- 6 May
- 10 June
- 1 July
- 5 August
- 2 September
- 7 October
- 4 November

Please provide any feedback on these dates to the Facilitator.

#### 2. Action Plan Budget

Two inquiries have been received regarding funding but no new applications at the time of writing this report.

#### 3. Water quality for contact recreation: Annual summary report 2022-23 season

The Water quality for contact recreation: Annual summary report for the 2022-23 season has been published and can be found at <u>https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2023/the-best-spots-for-recreation-this-summer/</u>

Environment Canterbury monitors popular recreation locations for freshwater rivers and lakes and the coastal environment. This includes:

- Faecal indicator bacteria rivers and lakes
- Potentially toxic cyanobacteria
- Rivers mats associated with the riverbed
- Lakes scum forming

Monitoring begins in November every year and continues into March/April depending on conditions.

Weekly results are uploaded to LAWA <u>https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/swimming</u>

#### 4. Committee Photo

An updated photo of the committee is required. It would be great if we could do that after the meeting.

#### Attachments

Nil

- **10** Consideration of Urgent Business Items
- **11 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters**
- 12 Closing Karakia