

# COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA

## WEDNESDAY 2 MAY 2018

8:30 am, Auditorium, Toitū Museum  
31 Queens Gardens, Dunedin

### **Membership**

Cr Michael Deaker	<i>(Chairperson)</i>
Cr Carmen Hope	<i>(Deputy Chairperson)</i>
Cr Graeme Bell	
Cr Doug Brown	
Cr Trevor Kempton	
Cr Michael Laws	
Cr Ella Lawton	
Cr Sam Neill	
Cr Andrew Noone	
Cr Gretchen Robertson	
Cr Bryan Scott	
Cr Stephen Woodhead	

### **Disclaimer**

Please note that there is an embargo on agenda items until 8:30 am on Monday 30 April 2018. Reports and recommendations contained in this agenda are not to be considered as Council policy until adopted.

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## **1. APOLOGIES**

## **2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cr Graeme Bell

## **3. ATTENDANCE**

## **4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

Note: Any additions must be approved by resolution with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting.

## **5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

## **6. PUBLIC FORUM**

## **7. PRESENTATIONS**

## **8. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **8.1. Minutes**

#### **Recommendation**

*That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2018 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

#### **Attachments**

1. Minutes of the Communications Committee - 21 March 2018 **[8.1.1]**

## **9. ACTIONS**

Status report on the resolutions of the Communications Committee.

No current actions.

## 10. MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

## 11. MATTERS FOR NOTING

### 11.1. Director's Report to 2 May 2018

**Prepared for:** Communications Committee  
**Activity:** Governance Report  
**Prepared by:** Sian Sutton, Director Stakeholder Engagement  
**Date:** 20 April 2018

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#### 1. Précis

This report records stakeholder engagement activity between 7 March 2018 and 20 April 2018.

#### 2. Collaborative Partnerships

##### 2.1 Tomahawk Lagoon Community Vision

The first in a series of workshops to develop a community vision and identify projects for the restoration of Tomahawk Lagoon was held on 28 February. This workshop sought to establish a collective view on a vision and goals for the future of the lagoon. Feedback provided at the first workshop has been summarised and will be sent out to those that attended the workshop. Planning for the second workshop to be held on 1 May is underway. The next workshop will confirm the vision and goals with the community, develop actions and projects, and prioritise them.

##### 2.2 Citizen Science Workshop and Kaikorai Valley College

On Monday 12 March, the New Zealand Landcare Trust held a citizen science workshop at Kaikorai Valley College, Dunedin. The day was run as an opportunity to teach people who are involved with citizen science on how to use water testing equipment. It was also a great opportunity to learn more about the environmental initiatives that are being undertaken at Kaikorai Valley College. The school has a website <http://kaikoraistream.weebly.com/> which is freely accessible to anyone and contains great teaching resources as well as information on the water testing they have carried out in Kaikorai Stream and an adjoining tributary within the school grounds. In the past stream monitoring was done as part of the science programme but was discontinued when role numbers dropped. The school mentioned that when they ran into issues with lack of resources they approached ORC for help but were turned down. However, soon after this ORC asked the school for their latest stream data, which they could no longer provide as they did not have the resources to run the water programme. This bad experience with ORC was vocalised to the group at the workshop.

A strong message that came out of the workshop was the importance of creating a three-step process when raising environmental awareness. The first step is to collect data, e.g. water monitoring, the second step is to convey this data in a meaningful way, or story, which connects with the community, and the final important step is to take this data and story and create action on the ground (which is the end goal of water testing). There is an opportunity here for ORC to get people and groups, like Kaikorai Valley College, to discuss their experience in successfully achieving this three-step process. This could be run as a community workshop and could be great for people interested in developing a community initiative or a catchment group (including in both rural and urban areas).

Kaikorai Valley College have expressed that assistance from ORC in orchestrating a hui for the different stakeholders in the catchment would be greatly beneficial as a catchment integrated approach will result in more successful environmental outcomes.

A final point which was raised is the need for environmental monitoring programmes to be included in school curriculums to ensure their longevity. It was highlighted that for such programmes to become part of the curriculum, water health (including its monitoring) needs to be valued collectively by the community as a future focus, e.g. parents need to want their kids to learn about water quality. This highlights the need for more thought to be had on how to ensure this and support schools in this matter.



Attendees of the Citizen Science Workshop looking at aquatic life in a tributary to the Kaikorai Stream, which runs through Kairorai Valley College.



Alastair Cole, organiser of the Citizen Science Workshop, from the New Zealand Landcare Trust holding a koura found in the tributary running through Kaikorai Valley College.

### **2.3 East Otago Taiapure Committee**

ORC management staff from the Stakeholder Engagement Directorate met with the East Otago Taiapure Committee at their monthly meeting on Tuesday, 13 March. At the meeting we discussed past issues which caused friction between ORC and the Committee and discussed ways to move forward and improve the relationship as well as information flows.

ORC will establish a Liaison person to the East Otago Taiapure Committee, who will attend their meetings, be their ORC contact and be the thoroughfare for all information to and from ORC.

### **2.4 Lake Wanaka Lagarosiphon Management Committee Meeting**

Sian Sutton attended the above meeting in Wanaka on 16 March. An overview of Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) efforts, regarding the control of this aquatic weed, was given and an introduction made to the new Public Relations Officer at LINZ to look at potential collaboration opportunities.

### **2.5 Meeting with Des Smith - Te Rauone Beach Project**

Sian Sutton met with Des Smith at ORC on 20 March. An overview of the project to date was given as well as information about current funding levels for the project. The Te Rauone Beach Project will be seeking funding from the Environmental Enhancement Fund once it is re-launched.

### **2.6 Environmental Enhancement Fund**

The revised Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) was presented to a Council Workshop on 21 March, for feedback from Councillors. The finalised EEF including changes from feedback was to be presented to Council for adoption at the April Council meeting but has now been delayed until the Council meeting in June. Once adopted the EEF will be rolled out to the community.

### **2.7 Palmerston Land and Environment Plan Workshop**

Towards the end of March, Beef and Lamb held a Land and Environment Plan (LEP) workshop in Palmerston. Around ten farmers attended the event, with only some of them being local to the area and others coming from further afield, including from Dunedin city. Beef and Lamb invited ORC to present at the workshop to give attendees an overview of Council regulations regarding water quality. A few of the farmers appeared uncertain as to what was classified as a river but found the information in ORC's fact-pact somewhat helpful. Other farmers were unclear as to what their nutrient limits for 2020 were under Schedule 16. In addition, there was concern regarding the generation of OVERSEER reports and how often ORC would require these to be updated. It may be prudent to provide some clarification around this.

The workshop provided a good opportunity to clarify some issues raised and highlight areas which need to be addressed. Attending events like LEPs are also a great opportunity for ORC to touch base with people in the community, in a situation where they feel comfortable to approach ORC about any general issues or queries they may have.

## 2.8 Lake Tuakitoto Community Vision

The first of three community workshops to develop a community vision for the future of Lake Tuakitoto and its surrounding margins was held on the 5 April. The workshop was held at the Kaitangata Hall and had a great community turnout, with over 30 people attending the event. While the attendees represented a wide range of backgrounds the group shared several common interests for the future of the lake. The next step is to compile the feedback from the workshop, including the priorities identified by the community, and then circulate these to the community and interested parties. Tentative dates have been set for the following two workshops, these are:

- 7 June Developing a list of projects and activities and prioritising them
- 4 October Bringing it all together and exploring who could undertake what projects and when they will undertake them.



Attendees of the first Lake Tuakitoto vision workshop share values and opportunities for the future of Lake Tuakitoto

## 2.9 The future of farm-based food production in Otago and Southland

As part of a collaborative partnership with Ag@Otago and the Landcare Trust, we held the first workshop on 9 April, to launch conversations about the future of farm-based food production in Otago and Southland.

The workshop in Gore attracted around 90 farmers and other interested people from Otago and Southland, and speakers covered traditional, alternative and regenerative farming methods, as well as threats/drivers that face agriculture. Sarah Gardner and Environment Southland's Chief Executive talked about their organisation's approach to environmental management.

A meeting in Dunedin in July will follow on from this workshop to investigate how farmers can work to address issues to ensure a sustainable environmental, social, and economic future for farming in Otago and Southland.



Sarah Gardner at the Gore workshop - Future of farm-based food production in Otago and Southland

#### **2.10 Freshwater Improvement Fund: Shaping Our Future Forums – Wanaka & Queenstown**

Sian Sutton and Sarah Gardner attended the Shaping our Future Forum in Wanaka on 10 April. The aim of this workshop was to engage a broad cross-section of the community in local water issues and solutions.

Cllr Ella Lawton attended the forum in Queenstown on 11 April.

#### **2.11 Guardians of Lake Wanaka**

Sian Sutton and Sarah Gardner attended a meeting with Guardians of Lake Wanaka at the Department of Conservation, on 13 April

#### **2.12 Ballance Farm Environment Awards**

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards evening was held in Wanaka on Friday 13 April, with number of ORC Executive and Councillors in attendance. Cr Woodhead presented the award sponsored by ORC. ORC was involved in the judging process.

#### **2.13 LTP - For our Future Roadshows**

Long-Term Plan – For our Future Roadshows are scheduled between 14 April to 28 April. Of the 8 roadshows, 5 will be accompanied by the Lab-in-a-Box (in Queenstown, Alexandra, Balclutha, Oamaru and Dunedin) and 3 will be Community meetings (in Mosgiel, Wanaka and Cromwell). All consultation will be complemented by the ORC have Your Say webpage: <https://yoursay.orc.govt.nz/forourfuture>

#### **2.14 Wild Dunedin**

ORC is a gold sponsor of this event. There are two activities ORC are involved in and are promoting: Workshop on Weeds (co-hosting with DCC) on Saturday 21 April at the Botanic Gardens, and #loveyourleith River Trail.

A powhiri was held, on 20 April, at the Royal Albatross Centre to open the Wild Dunedin Festival of Nature, which was attended by Sian Sutton.



### **3. Implementation of Rural Water Quality**

#### **3.1 Good Water Project Update**

A contract has been awarded to Versus Research Limited to undertake the Ready-check Otago Survey. Pilot surveys have been completed. The survey is the first part of delivering the Good Water Project (originally known as the Environmental Risk Assessments).

The Good Water Project (GWP) has two purposes. The first is to help people understand their risk when it comes to impacting on water quality and breaching rules in the Water Plan. The second is to enable ORC to understand what actions our rural and lifestyle block community are doing to ensure they are minimising negative effects on water quality.

There are three parts to the GWP. The first is a survey to explore the readiness of our community for Water Plan Rules that come into effect in 2020 and those in effect now. It will also explore how many people are involved in catchment groups and what actions they have been taking to improve water quality, in their community and specifically on their land. It will also help us understand what the biggest barriers are that may be preventing people from minimising negative impacts on water quality. Versus Research Limited will be undertaking this survey on our behalf.

The second part of the GWP is a desktop assessment, which will be undertaken on properties that we believe are less likely to have a negative impact on water quality. These properties will generally be less than ten hectares in size. Desktop assessments are underway and an update on these will be in the Regulatory Report.

The third part of the GWP is an on-site assessment for properties that are larger or have a medium or high potential risk. These assessments will be face-to-face to help people fully understand their Water Plan obligations. They will also explore what information and support they personally need. A pilot will take place in the Shag River Catchment in April/May.

New information and materials will be developed to support the project.

#### **3.2 Mooving Day (previously known as Gypsy Day)**

Our annual campaign around this involves a print ad in relevant publications, a media release, and a FaceBook post. We'll also promote it in the May issue of On-Stream (the timing is wrong for it to be in Waterlines).

We will place print advertising in:

ODT	Saturday 19 May
Clutha Leader	Thursday 17 May
Southern Rural Life	Wednesday 23 May
Oamaru Mail	Gypsy Day feature on 27 April

#### **3.3 Winter grazing**

In our winter issue of Waterlines we will share good management practice messages promoted from Landcare Trust/Pathway for the Pomahaka project.

James White touched on winter grazing in the April issue of On-Stream, and we will give more focus on this in the May issue.

We also have information on the ORC website in the Good Water for Otago link on the home page.

Prior to the end of last year, we were advised to leave the promotion of good management practice to industry organisations and are happy this mandate has now changed so we can promote good practice through our channels.

### 3.4 Field Days, Workshops and Presentations

#### 3.4.1 Lee Stream School – 15 March

Liaison Specialists, Nicole Foote and Chantal Whitby, were invited to speak to Lee Stream School students about the role of the Otago Regional Council in measuring water quality. The students have been investigating their enquiry topic of *'Are farmers really responsible for New Zealand's Water Quality'*. The students readily relayed all they knew about water quality, including stream observations indicating water quality status and some good management practices that they know of and are undertaking on the land.

#### 3.4.2 Beef and Lamb LEP1 workshop, Omakau – 27 March

Liaison staff presented on the Water Plan including recommended approaches for meeting water quality standards and rules. Enquiries arising related to minimising the risk of sediment run off greenfeed crops, knowing when to carryout water quality testing, guidance on 'what is a river' and why N leaching limits differ throughout Otago.

At the end of the workshop participants were asked what actions they had identified on the action plan templates. The most common themes related to future proofing their properties to ensure they were meeting permitted rules relating to stock access to rivers and stock crossing.

#### 3.4.3 Blueskin on Show – 8 April

ORC had a site at Blueskin on Show. This was an opportunity to road test the new rabbit campaign materials on the public and we received some valuable feedback. There was some interest in the upcoming long-term planning consultation, glyphosate use and the K5 rabbit virus.



ORC staff member, Nicole Foote, at the Blueskin on Show

#### **3.4.4 Downer/Stantec/NZTA workshop – 25 May**

A workshop with Downer, Stantec and NZTA will be held on 25 May, to outline the Water Plan rules about working in waterways.

### **4. Forestry – National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry**

#### **4.1 Southern Wood Council meeting – 14 March**

Liaison Specialists attended a Southern Wood Council meeting in Balclutha on 14 March. The first part of the meeting consisted of an MPI presentation to foresters focused on the impending implementation of the new National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF), which will be made operative on the 1 May 2018. There was some concern expressed by foresters about how ORC intended on implementing the NES-PF in Otago. Liaison Specialist, James White, replied that ORC values its existing good relationship with Otago Foresters and wishes to work closely with the Forestry Industry to ensure implementation is as seamless and trouble-free as possible. A meeting between key forestry representatives and ORC will be convened on 26 April to iron out some of the implementation questions.

#### **4.2 Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) workshop – 23 March**

ORC staff (including Liaison Specialists) attended a workshop facilitated by MPI focussed on the implementation of the new NES-PF on the 1 May. The workshop was originally supposed to be just for Regional and District Council's from across Otago and Southland, with a generic introduction session in the morning and a technical questions session in the afternoon. However, several forestry representatives were also invited to the morning session and stayed for the afternoon session. This was a valuable relationship-building exercise as it showed the forestry industry that ORC had nothing to hide and was willing to work with the industry to help make the NES-PF work in Otago. A number of questions arose, which will be addressed at a further meeting on 26 April.

### **5. Catchment Groups**

#### **5.1 North Otago Catchment**

Liaison Specialist, James White, attended two North Otago Sustainable Land Management Society (NOSLaM) pod group meetings in this period. These pod group meetings were focussed on presenting water quality testing data to landowners and helping them understand what the issues are; and then encouraging further collaboration between neighbouring landowners (or 'pods'). The first meeting was on 21 March and was held in the Awamoko catchment. While the meeting turnout on the day was a little disappointing (6 landowners), some good discussion was had and a plan to hold a future meeting was made. It was noted that several landowners had intended on coming but were unable to on the day, giving their apologies.

The second meeting was held on 22 March in the Waiareka catchment and the turnout was much better, with 45+ landowners/managers packing out the Enfield Hall. Some good discussions were had, and some valuable information was shared between members of each group. A number of attendees had not participated in any water quality meetings before, so it was good to see them getting involved.

## 5.2 Shag/Waihemo Catchment

At the request of the Shag River Catchment Group, Liaison staff ran a whitebait spawning workshop at the Shag River on 10 March. This workshop involved ORC's Freshwater Scientist, Pete Ravenscroft, presenting information about whitebait, the importance of protecting riparian habitat and laying straw bales to help increase spawning habitat. The day was a success and has created ongoing engagement opportunities. In addition, whitebait have begun laying eggs on the straw bales!



ORC staff member, Pete Ravenscroft at the Shag River Whitebait Spawning Workshop

## 5.3 Lower Waitaki Irrigation Company - 15 March

Liaison Specialist, James White, attended a meeting between ORC Policy, Science and Liaison teams and Lower Waitaki Irrigation Company (LWIC) and Waitaki Irrigators Collective (WIC). The meeting was focussed on the ORC's Science work on the Waitaki Plains, investigating the nitrogen and E. coli concentrations in the aquifer, and ORC's potential Policy response. The next step will be for ORC to produce a draft proposed Plan Change and circulate it around interested parties.

## 5.4 Pomahaka Catchment

Liaison Specialists, Nicole Foote and Chantal Whitby, attended the Pomahaka Water Care Group's stakeholder meeting in Tapanui on 20 March. The meeting was an opportunity to hear about the group's successful application to the Sustainable Farming Fund. It also included discussion around key findings from a recent farmer survey in the catchment and event planning for the next three years.

## 6. Media and promotion for rural water programmes

### 6.1. Waterlines

The autumn issue of Waterlines was distributed in March. We are currently working on the winter issue, which will go out in June.

## 6.2. On-Stream

The March issue of On-Stream was sent to over 450 subscribers. It thanked the community for helping each other during the drought over summer, outlined the K5 rabbit virus, and gave updates from ORC's Liaison Specialists. The April issue is being planned and will promote the Good Water Project Survey, encouraging people to take part.

## 7. Water Management Groups

### 7.1 Water and deemed permit renewal project

#### 7.1.1 Water user group meetings

Meetings with groups are scheduled below, with venues still being determined:

Meetings held	Date
Hawea (Lagoon Creek)	2 April
Teviot Valley	9 April
Teviot Valley	10 April
Lowburn & Districts	11 April
<b>Scheduled meetings</b>	
Arrow tribs	16 April
Styx	23 April
Mid Taieri tribs	24 April
Amisfield/Parkburn	26 April
Lower Manuherikia	30 April
Upper Clutha	1 May
Conroys/Fraser	3 May
Teviot (Coal Creek)	4 May
Upper Manorburn	5 May
Keough Creek	TBC
Strath Taieri	TBC
Northburn tribs	TBC
Gibbston	TBC
Strath Taieri	TBC

#### 7.1.2 Fish data

Fish survey work to complete gaps in fish data on tributaries with deemed permits commenced in March and is scheduled to be completed in June. Approximately 180 sites will be surveyed and will comprise both fish data and associated habitat characteristics of the waterways.

The location of the fish survey sites are shown on a series of district maps on the ORC website. A condition of the contract is that the data is to be entered into the NZ Freshwater Fish database which will allow immediate transfer to ORC's Fish and Flow portal. It is expected that the additional data will lead to a quicker and informed determination of an agreed residual and lessen holdups in the deemed permit replacement process.

### **7.1.3 Communication with groups regarding the fish survey**

ORC facilitated access to properties and the work being done for the survey in a number of ways: Articles in ORC communications, contacting catchment groups leaders and notifying consultants involved with deemed permit replacements. In addition, group emails were sent to all landholders with deemed permits. The combined communications were carried to prevent any anxiety or concerns when the contractor subsequently made contact.

The present round of presentations to groups includes a section that highlights the worth of the outstanding data and how it ought to be immediately used for consultations with affected parties. The expectation is that the data will be sufficient for discussion leading to agreed residuals. There may be some situations where some degree of follow up surveys is required but this should only occur in a minority of situations. It has been clearly pointed out that should such surveys be sought by affected parties as part of the negotiations then the onus will be on the permit holder to meet these costs.

Deemed permit holders are being reminded that flow data is also needed as part of the discussions with affected parties for determining residual flows. ORC will continue to assist with providing flow information through the 'request for flow data' facility on ORC's fish and flow portal.

## **8. Policy**

### **8.1 Manuherikia flow and water allocation consultation**

A re-connection letter to stakeholders is in draft form, looking to send this out in the next month, with re-vamped online content published on EngagementHQ.

### **8.2 Irrigation Conference**

ORC had a stall at the Irrigation Conference 17-19 April in Alexandra. This provided an opportunity to connect with stakeholders on the Environmental Flow programme. In the conference itself, presentations on the morning of the first day covered topics such as the history of water races in Otago, the Manuherikia plan change, establishing water groups and replacing deemed permits as well as presentation from Marian Weaver (ORC) was highly profiled. As such, it was important and worthwhile that we had a physical presence at the Expo through our exhibition stall, so attendees with follow-up questions or comments based on what they heard could easily identify us and engage. In general ORC was referred to positively. With regard to our work on environmental flow plan changes, it was noted in presentations and anecdotally that we were making a genuine effort to engage and be collaborative with the community wherever possible.

Activity on the stall included:

- Promotion to sign more people up to our On Stream e-newsletter, where much of our minimum flow updates will begin to be published
- Gathering feedback on our EngagementHQ platform, specifically our Manuherikia plan change draft site, which was on display on iPads
- Handouts:
  - Water users' handbooks
  - Water quality fact packs
  - LTP
  - Retaining legal access to water race brochure (417 certificate)

Overall there was a great level of interest in our stall with lengthy and engaging conversations with interested and enthusiastic stakeholders.

## **9. Enviroschools**

As set out in the Annual Plan 2017-18, ORC provides the regional coordination of the Enviroschools Programme in Otago.

### **9.1 Enviroschools in Waitaki District**

We have appointed Bron Claridge to the Facilitator's role in the Waitaki District. Bron is a very experienced teacher, has worked in a number of Oamaru schools and has a wealth of sustainability knowledge and skills. We have also selected 12 schools. There was more interest in the programme than we currently have capacity for. Selection criteria included having Early Childhood Centres, Primary, Intermediate and Secondary Schools represented as well as schools from across the district. Bron will start working with six schools immediately and then the second group of six schools toward the end of term 3. This will ensure the schools receive high quality of support as they start with Enviroschools.

### **9.2 Designing for Sustainable Futures – Teacher workshop**

Central Otago and Queenstown District Enviroschools teachers participated in a day long workshop focused on reducing, reusing, recycling and designing for more sustainable futures. Teachers shared their success stories for managing waste in their schools. It was also a chance to delve into the new Zero Waste teaching resources produced by Enviroschools. Teachers left with lots of ideas to improve the waste systems in their schools, to engage and motivate students to reduce waste and for integrating designing for a waste free future into the curriculum.



Teachers trying out one of the activities in the Zero Waste resource

### **9.3 Enviroschools Census Results**

At the end of 2017 Toimata Foundation, the national support organisation for the Enviroschools Programme, undertook a nationwide census of the Enviroschools network. 88% of Otago Enviroschools returned the questionnaires, which suggests a high degree of commitment to the programme from schools. Schools are taking a wide

range of sustainability actions across waste, water, biodiversity, energy and sustainable buildings. The key aspects of the programme valued by participants and contributing to the programme effectiveness are:

- The focus on student-led action
- Support from an Enviroschools facilitator
- The long-term nature of an Enviroschools journey
- The integration of Māori perspectives
- Focus on community involvement
- The Enviroschools visioning process.

Information from the census will help us shape the Enviroschools Programme in Otago to meet the needs and aspirations of the schools and their communities.

#### **9.4 Community Engagement**

Enviroschools joined in at CreekFest in North East Valley, Dunedin, which over 2,000 people attended. We ran an activity exploring what impacts water quality in a catchment. The Enviroscape activity models a catchment and invites children (and adults) to identify the activities that occur in a catchment and the impact these activities can have on water. Coloured additives represent various forms of pollution and participants can see how these additives impact on waterways when they make it rain by spraying water over the model. This leads into discussion on ways to stop pollutants getting into waterways.



Janet Young, one of the Dunedin Enviroschools Facilitators talking about water quality in catchments



## 9.5 Wai Restoration Hui

Robyn Zink and Anna Robinson, the CODC Enviroschools Facilitator, attended a three day Wai Restoration hui in Kerikeri. Wai Restoration is a multi-agency collaboration developed and coordinated by Northland Enviroschools and the Northland Regional Council, engaging young people and local communities in the restoration of waterways and biodiversity. This experiential hui showcased many of the activities that occur under the Wai Restoration framework including water monitoring, fencing, pest control, plant propagation and planting. Schools and other organisations described the impact this project is having on learning, community development and on water quality improvements. We also heard many examples of what happens when schools, councils and communities work together collaboratively from other regions. There are opportunities in Otago for Enviroschools and the ORC to support similar initiatives.



Students at Bay of Islands International Academy show us their nursery, explain how they propagate plants, and who they sell these plants to for Riparian Planting.

## 10. Environmental Operations

### 10.1 Pest plan and biodiversity strategy

The draft Pest Plan is being written, and involvement from communications staff will take place when public consultation on the plan is being sought. Planning for this will be undertaken soon.

### 10.2 Biodiversity strategy and air quality strategy

Feedback on both documents is being sought as part of the LTP consultation process. This will be in the form of online feedback, which will be promoted at the LTP roadshow and also via direct communications with key stakeholders.

### 10.3 Pollution guidebook

A new draft of this has been completed and internal feedback is currently being sought before getting external feedback from TAs.

### 10.4 Wallabies

This campaign is ongoing, with staff continuing to promote the need to report wallaby sightings to ORC within two days. We will include an article in the winter issue of Waterlines to promote wallaby control.

## **10.5 Rabbits**

The K5 virus has been confirmed in Otago and we have kept the community informed about the virus approval and release through media releases and enquiries, and social media.

An educational campaign, including a brochure and animated video, is being rolled out so land owners are aware rabbit management needs to be long-term, and is the responsibility of the land owner. The campaign is in a similar format to the wallaby campaign and will outline different methods people can choose from.

## **10.6 Pest Plants**

The promotion of pest plants will be reviewed when the new Pest Plan has been adopted. The 'Protect our Patch' theme will run through all pest communications for both plants and animals, and we will develop new resources that will help the community understand how to identify and control pest plants on their property.

We are co-hosting a workshop on backyard weeds with DCC as part of the Wild Dunedin festival, and are planning additional workshops during the science festival.

## **10.7 Seaweed**

ORC supported and hosted a number of Seaweed activities. Seaweed ran from 3-11 March.

## **10.8 SeaSpeak – Harbourmaster talk**

A thoroughly interested and engaged audience of 20 enjoyed a presentation and Q&A session with ORC Harbourmaster, Steve Rushbrook. This was an introductory session for Steve and an opportunity for the public to hear about his priorities for his new role. Topics covered included: safety, navigation and economic benefits, and environmental impacts of harbour activity. This was supported by the NZ Marine Studies Centre, with Masters Student, Aless Smith, giving a presentation on sediments and seashores.

## **10.9 Beach Clean-up**

This event was supported with 1,000 reusable rubbish bags and gloves donated to Our Seas Our Future (OSOF). This is to use for further beach clean-up events and for OSOF to distribute bags to schools and community groups. Participants met at St Kilda Beach, collected bags and gloves and they could then choose where they wanted to clean-up. Around 60 participants collected 2,500 Litres of rubbish, of which, 800 Litres could be recycled. Rubbish items ranged from cigarette butts, bottles and cans to car parts, old furniture, tyres and computer monitors. A success in the amount of rubbish collected, but at the same time bittersweet, that this level of rubbish is present on our beaches. Overall a great community-in-action event!

## **10.10 Seaweed 'Sea-reads' series of social media posts**

During Seaweed we published a series of 'Sea-reads,' - one article every day. Contributors included ORC staff, coastal stakeholders, and researchers for NZ Marine Studies Centre. The daily articles covered endangered native sea lions, surf breaks and sea temperatures. The articles and promotion of Seaweed events saw a high level of social media engagement:

Reach:	15,911
Clicks:	500
Comments/reaction:	63

### 10.11 Southern Wood Council Forestry Awards

ORC sponsors an environmental award at the Southern Wood Council Forestry Awards event, which will be held on Friday, 25 May, at Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin. We are involved in the judging and a Councillor will present the award.

## 11. Science, Hazards, Engineering

### 11.1 Leith Amenity Project

All feedback from the online engagement platform has been collated. A total of 130 submissions were gathered (16 from 'stories' tool, 29 from 'mapping' tool, and 85 from the survey). There were approximately 1,400 visitors to the online platform. In addition, feedback from the working group, workshops and focus groups has been collated. An engagement report is currently in draft and will be circulated.

### 11.2 Roxburgh Post flood community engagement

Staff conducted a site visit to the Roxburgh flood location alongside Roxburgh Community Board and Acting Central Otago District Council (CODC) CE. The purpose of the visit was to discuss next steps regarding mitigation strategies in relation to key flood areas and sharing of research findings commissioned by ORC. It was agreed to hold a public session in partnership with CODC, NZTA and ORC to share findings and experiences with the community as well as to discuss next steps. This meeting is scheduled for 8 May.

### 11.3 Taieri post-flood community engagement

Further to meetings held late last year, at which we received requests from the affected community for additional reports and information, we expect to go back to the community for follow-up meetings in May.

## 12. General public awareness activity

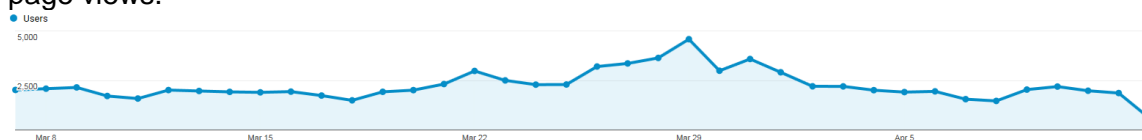
### 12.1. General media

Eleven media releases were distributed during the reporting period. These covered a range of issues such as: dry weather conditions, flooding, Queenstown bus services, algal blooms, E. coli detected, and the release of the rabbit virus in Otago.

### 12.2. Websites

#### 12.2.1. www.orc.govt.nz

There have been 55,018 visits to the ORC website this reporting period and 281,561 page views.



- **Location**

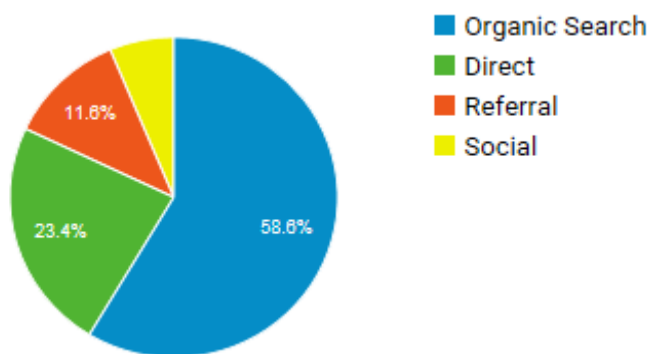
90% of sessions are from within New Zealand, and within those 30% of visitors are from Dunedin and 11% from Queenstown.

1.  New Zealand	50,306 (90.29%)	1. Dunedin	17,908 (30.78%)
2.  Australia	1,757 (3.15%)	2. Christchurch	14,291 (24.57%)
3.  United States	1,030 (1.85%)	3. Auckland	8,902 (15.30%)
4.  United Kingdom	377 (0.68%)	4. Queenstown	6,913 (11.88%)
5.  Hong Kong	285 (0.51%)	5. Wellington	3,529 (6.07%)
6.  Japan	254 (0.46%)	6. (not set)	1,579 (2.71%)
7.  Singapore	236 (0.42%)	7. Invercargill	1,020 (1.75%)
8.  China	207 (0.37%)	8. Tauranga	743 (1.28%)
9.  Canada	134 (0.24%)	9. Hamilton	573 (0.99%)
10.  India	100 (0.18%)	10. Timaru	460 (0.79%)

- **Top Channels**

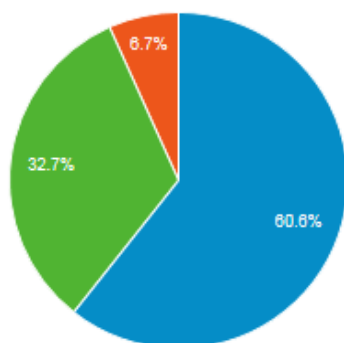
How are people getting to and finding our website – this split into five channels.

- o Organic Search (people searching on google, bing and so on) – 58.6%
- o Direct (typing in www.orc.govt.nz directly into their browsers) – 23.4%
- o Social (clicking through to our site from posts on social media sites, e.g. Facebook) – 6.3%
- o Referral (referrals from other websites, e.g. ODT online) – 11.6%



- **Devices**

Viewing on a mobile device is still proving to be the most popular way to view the website. Mobile (blue), Desktop (green), Tablet (orange).



- **Top pages viewed**

The top pages viewed this reporting period are listed below.

- o Queenstown bus page – 25,331 views
- o Dunedin bus page – 21,527 views
- o Rabbits page – 2480 views

- o Contact page – 2144 views
- o Job vacancies – 2006 views
- o Rates – 2,183 views
- o Water – 832 views

### 12.2.2. www.lawa.org.nz

There have been 871 visits to the Otago section of the LAWA website, up 78% from the same time last year.



The large peak of visitors at the start of January is due to the Otokia Creek (Brighton Beach) E. coli warning.

### 12.2.3. www.otagocdem.govt.nz

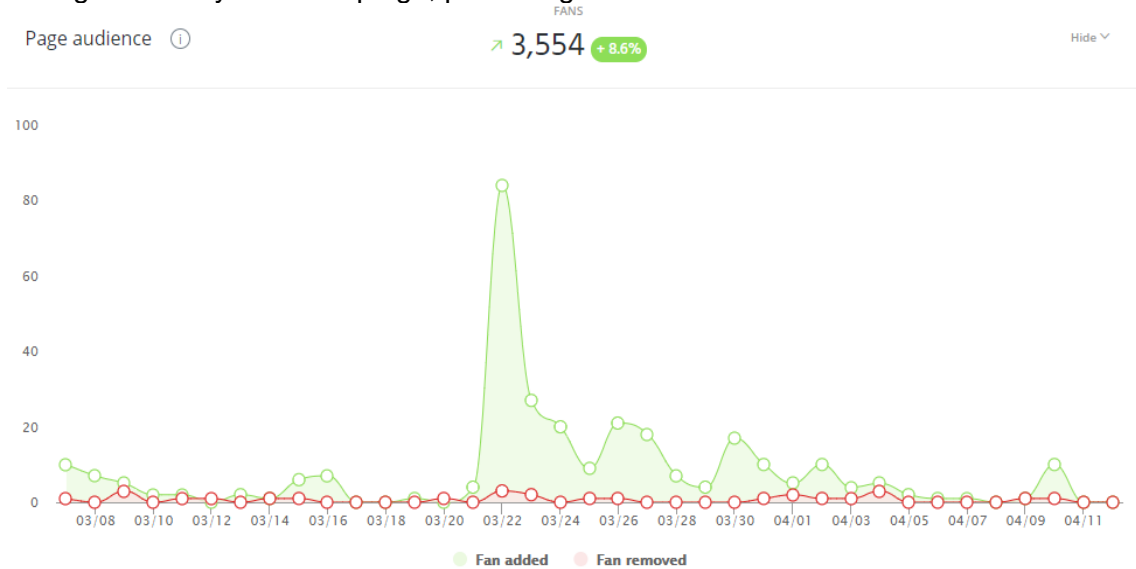
There have been 1709 visits to the Otago CDEM website, the peak in the graph below on is when we had the heavy rain throughout Otago on the 1 February.



The peak above on 7 March, from visitors who have clicked through from a News Hub article online about Megathrust quakes and Tsunamis.

### 12.3. Social media

We have 3,554 followers on our ORC Facebook account at the end of this reporting period. The large peak below shows we gained 84 new followers to our Facebook page during our 'Ed by Bus' campaign, promoting buses to and from the Ed Sheeran concert.



Statistics for our various other Facebook pages over the past month are shown on the chart below:

	Fans	Talking about this	Fan posts	Page posts	Interactions	Engagement
Otago Regional Council	3,554 8.4/day	97 2.7 % of fans	2 0.1 /day	34 1.1/day	3,094 91/post	87.1 2.6 % post
Otago Civil Defence and Emergency Ma...	4,069 19/day	461 11.3 % of fans	0 0 /day	17 0.5/day	962 56.6/post	23.6 1.4 % post
Orbus Queenstown	1,731 12/day	13 0.8 % of fans	5 0.2 /day	1 0 /day	174 17.4/post	10.1 10.1 % post
Otago Regional Council Bus Services - D...	651 1.9/day	64 9.8 % of fans	6 0.2 /day	24 0.8/day	334 13.9/post	51.3 21 % post
LAWA	555 0.3/day	1 0.2 % of fans	0 0 /day	1 0 /day	114 11.4/post	20.5 20.5 % post

### 13. Customer Service Activity

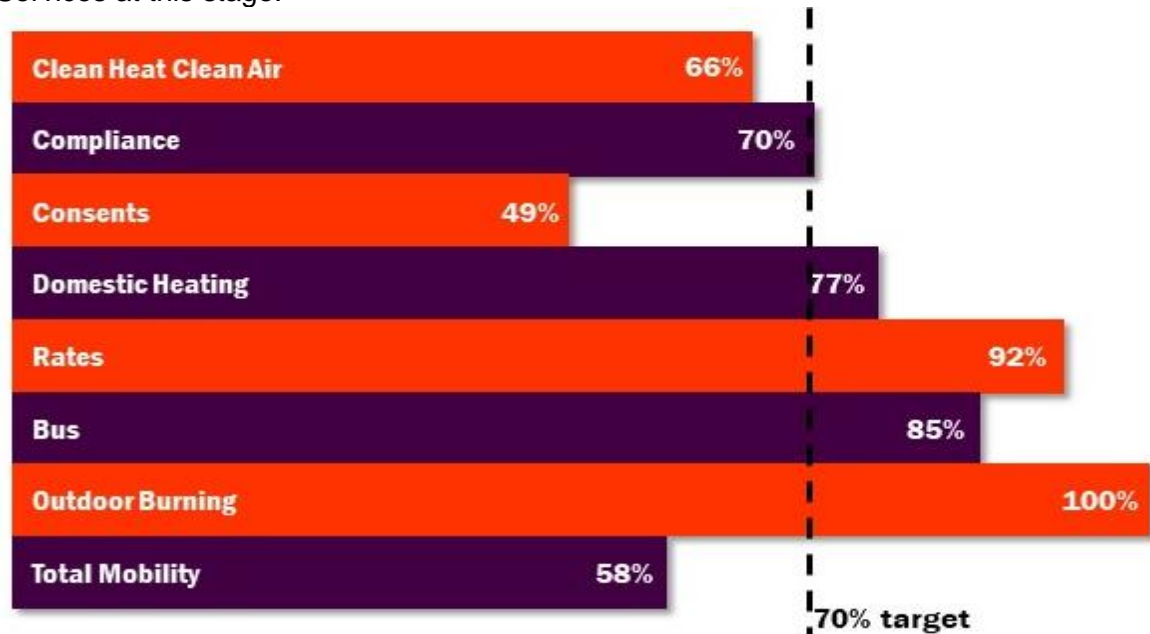
#### 13.1 CS Total Interactions for March 2018



From 14 March we started counting Face and Face visitors to our Dunedin office, so from April we will be showing the full count of visitors to our Dunedin office.

#### 13.2 CS Resolved Calls for March 2018

This table below shows the calls, per subject, that are resolved by Customer Services. Compliance, Consents and Total Mobility are only partially answered by Customer Services at this stage.



#### **14. Hot topics/issues in the field**

These are hot topics or issues in the ORC Liaison Specialist areas:

##### **14.1 North Otago**

- The Kakanui Nitrogen Sensitive Aquifer Science work and Plan Change
- Mycoplasma bovis
- Potential for E. coli risk in ground water bores on Waitaki Plains
- Rabbits
- Wallaby

##### **14.2 Upper Clutha/ Central Otago/Maniototo**

- High visitor numbers and congestion
- Rabbit numbers and anxiety around effectiveness of recently released K5
- Wilding pine spread and present systematic removal via the joint programme (Hot topic in a positive light!)
- Manuherikia minimum flow setting process and impact on the feasibility study for Falls Dam and additional command area.
- Removal by Central government of feasibility funding for the extension of the irrigated area within the Manuherikia catchment

##### **14.3 Strath Taieri and Central Coast**

- Deemed Permit meetings
- Fish Surveys underway
- Implementation of Forestry NPS (NPS-PF)
- Rabbits

#### **15. Recommendation**

- a) *That this report is noted.*

**Endorsed by:** Sian Sutton  
**Director Stakeholder Engagement**

#### **Attachments**

1. ORC Event Calendar [11.1.1]

**12. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**13. CLOSURE**