

# Central Otago Environmental Society

## Manuherekia Catchment

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Our Manuherekia

# Water has a life force

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*He Mauri anō tō te Wai* Water has a life force

*He Wairua anō tō te Wai* Water has a spirit

*He Tapu anō tō te Wai* Water has a sacredness

*He Whakapapa anō tō te Wai* Water has a Whakapapa

*He Taonga anō hoki tō te Wai* Water is my treasure

*Whakaūta atu, Manaakitia it, Haumi e! Hui e! Taīki e!*

I respect it, I protect it, for it sustains me!

- Don te Maipi

# COES – Background

- 2007 – Incorporated as a Society committed to the protection and preservation of Central Otago’s natural landscape and character of Central Otago.
- Notable successes include:
  - Deterring building development on the Raggedy Range;
  - Overturning Meridian Energy’s Plan for a major windfarm on the Lammermoor Range;
  - Preventing Pioneer Energy from damming the Nevis River;

# COES – Background – Cont.

- As a member of the Manuherika Water Strategy Group, COES reflected environmental and heritage perspectives on behalf of the wider Central Otago community.
- COES remains a constant watchdog, advocate and submitter to the ORC and the CODC regarding their implementation and monitoring of policies and rules.

# COES – Objectives

- Protection and preservation of the natural landscape and character of Central Otago –  
  
including, but not being restricted to, landscape values, amenity values, aesthetic values & Central Otago's endemic flora and fauna
- Raising awareness of issues concerning the natural landscape, heritage and resources of Central Otago with the wider public

# COES – Objectives – Cont.

- Emphasise the fair, transparent and sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. water, land)
- Encourage and support the Government, ORC, CODC, DOC, to establish policies and make decisions to preserve & enhance the special character of Central Otago's landscapes, heritage and life supporting biodiversity for the benefit of future generations.
- Work closely with other organisations and groups in pursuit of similar objectives

# COES – Manuherehia Catchment Water Strategy Group (MCSWG)

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- A Community Proposition was developed collaboratively and was key to retaining environmental stakeholder engagement.
    - A pivotal & guiding community approach to water use and management associated with Falls Dam.
    - Environmental needs first priority.
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# COES - VISION OF A HEALTHY MANUHERIKIA RIVER

- Our vision is of an ecologically healthy Manuherikia river and catchment which will have naturalised flow regimes and water quality that sustains aquatic biodiversity through out its catchment.
- COES recognises the importance of cultural, social and economic values associated with the Manuherikia Catchment.
- COES notes with concern:-
  - the cumulative impact of recent human activity to the detriment of the River's function and health.
  - While perhaps unrealistic to expect that the River and catchment will ever be considered pristine, we must ensure that it's ecological health is restored and maintained.



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- To achieve our vision – we first need understand
    - What would a naturalised Manuherehia catchment look like?
    - What level of community use is a healthy catchment able to sustain
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# COES – Our Manuherehia – a whole of catchment approach

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- For COES it has always been a whole of catchment approach – both water quality and quantity.

Adjoining land use and water abstraction needs to be considered together – a holistic catchment approach.

- The costs of our environmental impacts need to be costed & accounted for to accurately inform our decisions now & for our future generations.
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Thomson Ck confluence - west branch with near year round turbidly





# COES

Thomson Ck – total  
water abstraction 31 01  
2018 – two weeks





# COES

Lauder Creek 30 12  
2018 – heavy  
sedimentation &  
turbidity





# Dairy winter break feeding – Pugging Corrigall Creek

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# Manuherekia — at 0.8 cumecs on 7 03 2019 — dewatered swimming & fish restricting riffle

15



# Manuherekia — at 0.8 cumecs on 7 03 2019

## Galloway take

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- We value the Manuherikia catchment aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity for our future generations –
- Recommend a whole of catchment systems approach
  - Monitor catchment yield and enhance through protecting & restoring native biodiversity for water harvesting & storage
  - Recommend an inventory of catchment native biodiversity so these can be identified, protected and restored.
  - Recommend an inventory of catchment wetlands so these can be identified, protected and restored.
  - Recommend a social impact study with a focus on social and cultural values
  - Protect tributaries and ephemeral tributaries .
  - Research and manage sediment impacts on the catchment
  - Research the function and efficacy of riparian plantings

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*‘Yet, it is a matter of the common good that the world be preserved and aided in its natural desire to flourish. Humanity relies upon the Earth, and now, it relies upon us, to stand as faithful stewards for the future of all species — including ours.’*

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