

March 23, 2024

Catchment Group Reports

To whom it may concern,

My name is Georgie Galloway, the lead representative for the Lower Oreti Catchment Group. Apologies, I could not attend today, am away on holiday. This report is requested by the Oreti Catchment Liaison Committee's David Rose, on what the Lower Oreti Catchment Group has been doing in the last year.

Winter grazing field day afternoon at Graham Marshall's – discussing Good Management Practices, Multi Species and Kale Crops, Block Grazing and just farming in general. It had good attendance of approximately 40 local people and farmers.

Hosted MPI, OSPRI and Tru-Test for an educational evening discussing farmers NAIT, stock transport requirements and anything else that was asked from the crowd. Attended by 20 local people, farmers, and transport companies. Was held at the Waianiwa Hall in the Community Club room.

Stream health and MCI monitoring, chat with Justin Kitto, Environment Southland and MPI near the Wrights Bush Rugby Club on the Waianiwa Steam on Otahuti Wrights Bush Road South. 10 people in attendance to start our goals of doing more water quality monitoring as a benchmark for the future. The group is in the process of setting up 6 water monitoring sites in the Lower Oreti Catchment Group area. Three sites above the Waianiwa Township/train tracks and three below the township with the idea of bi-annual monitoring of three sites for MCI and stream health. In the process of sourcing EDNA kits from Environment Southland. Timing of when to do water sampling is posing a challenge as want group attendance but in spring farmers are busy and in autumn, water flows and water temperature varies. Have been trying to lock in a date for the last two years.

The group also tries to be active in attending other catchment groups events and meetings to keep up with other local projects such as Riparian Planting, Silt Trap/Wetland development and general farmer engagement events. The group is small but have good relationships with local government agencies such as Environment Southland, MPI/OSPRI and can tap into those resources available.

Yours sincerely,

Georgie Galloway

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