

# noslam

North Otago Sustainable Land Management  
*Collectively enhancing North Otago's Land, Water and Community Resources*

## Activity Report

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Period 29/10/17 to 31/1/18

Rob McTague

2/20/2018

*Proudly partnering with...*



**The following report outlines Key NOSLaM Activity for the period**

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## 29/10/2017 to 31/1/2018.

### **Chairman's Report – Peter Mitchell**

2017 has been a year where we have made some considerable progress with Noslam. Securing funding to allow Noslam to employ a coordinator has been one of the best outcomes. With funding from ORC, WDC and NOIC as well as in kind support from McKenzie & Co accountants and WDC, Noslam has employed Rob McTague for 20 hrs a week.

Having Rob on board has made a huge difference with what we can achieve and over the last 6 months Rob has spent his time building relationships with our stakeholders, putting together an administrative system so Noslam has a solid platform build on and getting to understand what is required so we can deliver on our mission to “Promote responsible farming in North Otago for the good of our community, environment and future”.

Rob also has a data base with 420 farmers and stakeholders

Without the help of our funders this would not be possible, and it is fantastic that we have their support- Thank you.

During the year we have had a number of meetings with various stakeholders.

The strength of these relationships is building and proving its worth by understanding each other's concerns and hearing first-hand what environmental management practices are being investigated and implemented on farm.

We have been working with Tourism Waitaki and are involved in the development of a rest area on the A20 Cycle Trial.

As farmers and land occupiers we have responsibilities to be sustainable from an environmental point of view and very much like health and safety, environmental compliance and management needs to part of all farmers day to day lives.

The challenge here is working out what you need to be doing to make a difference.

Getting involved in Pod groups will be the best way to address these challenges.

This year Noslam has had 3 pod group meetings and while there haven't been a lot of answers provided they have shown by the numbers that attended that there is an appetite to learn and increased awareness of environment management.

Pod groups will be a key focus for Noslam during 2018 and discussions will be centred around water quality and the results of what we are learning from the testing programme across the 15 sites in the Waiareka and Kakaniu catchments. Currently the water testing is being paid for by the ORC and NOIC. The value of this testing programme is important. With the long-term goal to identify trends and help quantify the effectiveness of GMP

I encourage farmers to get involved in their local Pod group as this will help you understand the impacts of farming on water quality and help you develop and implement good management practice on your farm to achieve sustainable outcomes.

Noslam will continue work with the various farming sectors, the ORC and other support groups to ensure that good management practice is tailored to North Otago landholders needs.

2020 is not far away and it is important that we keep moving forward to ensure we as farmers all take on our responsibilities where required and that good management practice is developed and implemented.

Finally I would like thank Rob who has done a great job over the last 6 months getting up to speed and developing a solid base for Noslam to build on.

I would also like to thank all the committee members for their voluntary time and passion they inject in to Noslam – thank you!!

### **Co-ordinator Activity**

## Administration

- Developed policy on Event Cost Allocation
- Created a Policy Folder
- Developed an Invoice template
- Finished developing draft Organisation Chart in line with the NOSLaM Constitution
- Created and published a Schedule of Meetings for 2018.
- Developed agenda and meeting format for AGM

## Pod Group Activity

- A workshop was undertaken with DairyNZ and Beef+Lamb on plantain and developments with N reducing pastures with content covering:
  - Cross sector - applications of these pasture systems to reduce N for dairy, sheep and beef as well as irrigated and dry land
  - The science and results of testing. % of diet to obtain results, other benefits CHG etc
  - Followed by practical examples of farmers who have been doing it. Questions on production, persistence, establishment, weed control etc
  - Farmers from all PODs were invited with a good number of consultants/advisors attending as well.
- Beef+Lamb NZ presented a field day at Five Forks Hall followed by a field visit to Jane and Blair Smiths. Attended by approx. 30 farmers with Land Environment Plan Level 2 being the focus.
- Promoted Fonterra's OPEN GATE program being held at James and Bridget McNalley's to local urban and rural schools.
- Met with Max Crowe (WDC) to discuss a Spatial Plan project for the Waiareka and Awamoko catchments.

## Stakeholder Activity

- A meeting was held 20/10/17 with Jason Gaskill (GM of Tourism Waitaki) to follow on from the meeting Pete and Rob had with him and Mike McElhinney (Tourism Board Chair) on 5 October. Outcome is as follows.
  - Tourism Waitaki are very happy to partner with NOSLaM for projects involving the A2O Trail.
  - NOSLaM and Tourism Waitaki signed a "Memo of Understanding" document as an understanding of the relationship.
  - If NOSLaM presents Tourism Waitaki with costed projects NOSLaM would like to undertake where the A2O trail is a part of the project, Tourism Waitaki will seek the funding for the project.
  - The key funding sources Tourism Waitaki access are MBIE and MGR (Maintaining the Great Rides). MGR funding applications need to be a minimum of \$25,000 which can be spread across several projects or a single project. They do expect a 50:50 contribution but that can be in cash or kind (plants, donated labour etc). The next round of MBIE funding opportunity is around April / May 2018.
  - Tourism Waitaki will assist with introductions to people and funding applications to Transpower and Meridian where they get funding from.
  - Tourism Waitaki have requested NOSLaM assistance if appropriate to do so if a relationship with a farmer is breaking down.
- Tourism Waitaki agreed to fund the Cants Road Project (8860 plus GST) to develop the land donated by Duncan Taylor for a turning/collection point where the A2O Cycle Trail meets Cants Road. The work includes re-fencing the area, shifting a small cattle stop, creating a coarse base and some planting.

- A Stakeholder meeting was held 21/11/18 with 21 attending. The meeting was addressed by Peter Mitchell, Chair of NOSLaM, Lyndon Strang Chair of Kakanui River Irrigation Allocation Committee, also representing Kakanui Irrigators, Federated Farmers, Callum Kingan, NOSLaM Pod Leader Waiareka Catchment, James White, Liason Specialist ORC, Robyn Wells, CEO of NOIC, Mayor Gary Kircher, Rob McTague, NOSLaM Co-ordinator, Jayde Couper, Fish & Game, Chloe Searle, Forrest & Bird. There was also open discussion around stakeholder involvement going forward and a future funding model for NOSLaM.
- Invited Duntroon School to become involved with the planting of the Cants Road project.
- Approached DairyNZ, Beef+Lamb NZ and FAR to ascertain what workshops they have that could of use educationally going forward.

### Water Quality Monitoring

- Water Quality Committee met with ORC (James White and Rachel Ozanne) to discuss the GISdata now available. Rachel is formatting the data to remove highs and lows to give a more accurate trend. Indications are that funding for Water Testing by ORC could dry up within 12 months which is a great concern given that the value of water testing is through long term trends over time and the momentum and interest in this extended testing regime by farmers and the wider community.

A plan is now in place to roll out Water Quality Meetings at Pod level in March / April 2018.

### Projects

- Currently planning the installation of the last "Pride of the Kakanui" sign which is to be installed where the A2O Cycle track meets Cants Road in the Awamoko Catchment.
- Planning of Water Quality meetings at Pod level.
- Developing a process through which farmers can request assistance on how to approach the activity they want to implement individually on their own farms or as a collective to improve the results from a specific test point.

### Breakdown of Coordinator Hours To ate

Period	Admin	Stakeholder	Pod	Total	Hrs Allocated	Hrs Accrued
1	153.9	33.3	24.4	211.6	280	68.40
2	46.0	27.5	26.0	99.5	280	180.50
				0		0.00
				0		0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>199.9</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>311.1</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>248.90</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE</b>	<b>64.26%</b>	<b>19.54%</b>	<b>16.20%</b>	<b>55.55%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>44.45%</b>

With the forward planed activity focusing on getting water quality data out to the farmers, expect to see the time allocation shift from Admin to Pod and Stakeholder as our processes develop and time is spent in the field.

### Forward Planned Activity

Planned activity between 1 February to 30 April 2018 includes but is not limited to:

- **13/2/18:** NOSLaM AGM being held at 7.30pm at Weston Hall.
- **21/2/18:** NOSLaM Steering Committee meeting to discuss next steps and finalise plans for the upcoming round of Pod focussed Water Quality Meetings.
- **March / April:** Full Pod meetings discussing GIS Water Quality Data followed by smaller test site specific meetings.
- **February:** Completion of Cants Road project ground work.
- **March:** Install the last Pride of the Kakanui sign where Cants Road meets with the A2O Cycle Trail. Plant the space with the help of urban and rural community and Duntroon School.
- **Next Quarter:** Preparing and reporting Actual vs Budget for spending.