



An Introduction to NOSLaM

We have a vision: To have an environment that we are proud of, a vibrant community and strong agriculture in North Otago.

How are we going to do it? By changing what we do on the land to reduce our environmental impact. By working together with other groups and ensuring that everyone is kept informed on what is happening. To ensure that the necessary science and monitoring is being conducted in our region so we can monitor trends and make informed changes.

Who's involved: Many North Otago farmers, NOIC, Fish and Game New Zealand, Te Runanga o Moeraki, Waitaki District Council, Otago Regional Council, Forest and Bird, to name but a few. We also have the support of several agricultural organisations and industry partners on special projects. Everyone has equal say and their input is always valued.

Where do we operate: We are active from the Awamoko Stream in the North West through to Kakanui estuary in the East. The Waiareka Catchment has a very active group of landowners taking positive action. 2019 will see additional groups being established across our North Otago catchments.



Why are we doing it? We believe that farming is an important part of North Otago. To farm successfully in the future it is vital that our natural environment is maintained in good health and that we farm in a sustainable manner. We need to change the way we do some things on farm and ensure that new technology and practices are being taken up as quickly as possible. We also need other community groups to be kept informed on what is happening on farm and for us to work together in community projects like river plantings.

We are about taking positive action and working together to address environmental issues in North Otago.

Strategic Objectives

With our vision as our point of reference, 3 key elements form the structure of our objectives. They are:

On Farm Change where 5 Pod Groups have been established to date. The latest 2 pods are the Friston and the Battersby pods.

The **Friston pod**, a catchment where 63% of land use is dairy farming, is an example of farmers getting together to address an issue identified at a specific water sampling site. At a cost estimated to be in excess of \$18,000, 15 landowners have identified waterways running through their properties that could become areas of concern depending on a variety of on-farm and weather events. Fortnightly water sampling is being undertaken from 13 discharge points to identify seasonal trends with a view to addressing them through changed management practices.

For further details contact Pod Leader Jeff Thompson, phone: 027 432 4005 or email colliedowns@xtra.co.nz



North Otago catchment area of NOSLaM activities.

The second, a catchment with land use reflecting 60% sheep, beef, cropping and 40% dairy activity, the **Battersby Pod**



**Battersby pod leader
Nick Webster**

consists of 12 landowners in the process of identifying potential areas of concern that could affect the waterways running through their properties. The diversity of farming operations in the catchment is resulting in individual operational plans being developed with the help of industry specialists.

For further details contact Pod Leader Nick Webster, phone: 027 431 7525 or email: totarafields@gmail.com

Connectivity is a priority for us and is all about effective engagement between farmers, industry stakeholders and community groups. A community activity which occurred in 2018 involved local farmers Duncan and Evelyn Taylor making land available to develop a turning space at the junction of Cant Road and the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail in a spot where riders can be at risk from passing vehicles.

With the help of Tourism Waitaki, the turning space has been developed and a shelter installed. DairyNZ has sponsored the installation of a Pride on the Kakanui map and planting of the area is planned for March 2019 as a community project with Duntroon School.

Clifton Falls, an iconic swimming spot at the top of the Kakanui Valley, had a significant area planted in natives in the spring of 2015. The growth of these natives has been spectacular and NOSLaM collaborated with the Oamaru Rowing Club in the clearing and mulching around the natives as a fundraising activity for the club.

Science and Monitoring is foremost if we are to make a change to our water quality. First we must know what it is we have to change. **Water testing** is being undertaken from 22 SOE and NOIC sampling sites on a fortnightly basis with the results being published on the ORC's GIS Data website.

A project is being undertaken with Catchments Otago, University of Otago to determine the **Phosphate levels and leaching process in the Waiareka Creek catchment** is due to start in February 2019.

The collection of data for **ORC's Kakanui Aquifer study** to determine the nitrogen leaching threshold of both



Natives planted in spring 2015 have flourished at Clifton Falls swimming hole to become a community asset.

groundwater and surface water (which commenced in 2016) is completed and the model has been calibrated with the results expected soon.

With the assistance of NZ Landcare Trust and ORC, we are developing an **EnviroFolder** to provide farmers with a single collection point of farm environmental information. This will enable farmers to collate all their on farm environmental data together in one place for easy management and quick reference. The launch of this is planned for March 2019.

Thank you

NOSLaM is grateful for its ongoing support from industry specialist organisations, environmental organisations and community groups. This collaboration clearly demonstrates the power of a collective approach.

Get Yourself Involved

Join the many farmers and residents already making a difference NOW by contacting our NOSLaM co-ordinator Rob McTague on 021 194 9597 or email noslamoffice@gmail.com. And if you would like to receive an electronic copy of future newsletters go to our website www.noslam.nz and register. And there's lots more information on the website too – take a look.



Cant Road Shelter on the Alps to Ocean Cycle Trail.



Friston pod members at Sample Site Selection Meeting.

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