

noslam

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

Activity Report

Period 1/5/19 to 31/7/19

Rob McTague

8/29/2019

Proudly partnering with...



The following document outlines Key NOSLaM Activity for the period 1/5/19 to 31/7/19.

The following report outlines Key NOSLaM Activity for the period
1/5/2019 to 31/7/19

Chairman's Report – Peter Mitchell

The May to July period has been a key time for on-farm change, heightened engagement and activity for NOSLaM. While we have been involved in a number of tangible projects (such as the sizeable Kakanui-Maheno planting project and our highly successful Winter Grazing in North Otago workshop), it is the less tangible farmer engagement and mindset changes that we believe to be the most valuable (yet less visible) runs on the board for our region. These are the changes that will make a difference long term to land management and water quality. The ability for farmers to see the value in entwining practice change into their businesses (just as we have seen in health and safety) rather than view environmental change in a purely regulatory sense is what continues to drive our NOSLaM regime forward.

Our key focus remains our POD group engagement and this has seen farmers in active attendance alongside their sub-catchment peers – dealing upfront with issues that can only be dealt with by putting onus on each farmer within the group to make individual changes. We have one group that has invested considerable time and their own funds into an extended water testing regime and this has resulted in heightened engagement and focus of the group.

The number of projects that NOSLaM is involved in coordinating and facilitating continues to grow – yet at the same time we are focused on ensuring that everything that we are involved in will make a difference to outcomes and engagement. We believe that our relationship with Otago Regional Council is important and it has been valuable to see ORC take up NOSLaM initiatives to role out to the wider Otago region – such as our simple Enviro Folder concept.

Thank you to Rob and our wider committee for the time, dedication and initiative that the team is taking in being involved in a myriad of focused activity. Outside experts that involved in the Waiareka project, Friston project and GIS project continue to add value with science – however it is our role to facilitate and communicate the learnings that evolve from these initiatives out to all farmers, to drive practice change.

In regards to our wider stakeholder work, we are excited to have Bridget McNally working alongside Rob (coupled with her existing voluntary input) in the communications and engagement space. She will commence her part time role in September.

We believe that we have a strong team that have some exciting challenges and opportunities to engage in over the next 6 months. 'The best way to predict the future is to create it' – wise words from Peter Drucker - emphasising the importance of NOSLaM continually looking forward at the next steps for a coordinated North Otago strategy.

Secretary /Treasurers Report – Jane Smith

The strength of the NOSLaM coordinator role continues to grow in value. We need to remember that every hour that Rob puts in, is coupled with at least the equivalent in voluntary time from our committee and wider members.

The specific focus on our "Young Guns" farmer group that has engaged and attracted many of our younger farmer members within the district on specific projects, without being burdened with an office-bearer or administration role. This model is a proven one – 'farmers learning from farmers' and a unique position for NOSLaM to utilise in improving farmer engagement. Both our message and messenger are equally as strong and it is this philosophy that will drive and sustain practice change.

I am often taken aback in my travels to Wellington and beyond with the strong awareness nationwide of NOSLaM's activities. We are punching above our weight yet not resting on our laurels. A thank you to Lyndon Strang for his work in the GIS project, Enviro Folder and for taking up the opportunities that he has been offered over the past two months – sitting on the CEO's key stakeholder panel for Otago Regional Council and speaking on the Water Forum panel recently in Wellington. We are going to witness a high degree of change and uncertainty over the next 12 months with added pressure from the crown and it is crucial that NOSLaM continues to play a pivotal role for all stakeholders in North Otago in being a stable, non-political bastion of practice change and engagement.

Key Summary of Financials for the Year ended 30th June 2019:

- Administrative Expenditure = 76% of Budget
- Stakeholder / Field Day / Riparian Expenditure = 93% of Budget
- POD group farmer expenditure = 35% of Budget

Activity in all areas has ramped up considerably, with new recent initiatives sitting in the new 2019/2020 financial year (such as the Friston Project contracted to consultant Kate Macgregor, the new Stakeholder role and increased POD activity).

Pod group activity in terms of hours has been on track with targets, however this expenditure has been lower than expected due to the 'in kind' / voluntary/ industry good hours that come at no cost. However, if it wasn't for the hours that Rob puts in to coordinate this activity, these initiatives wouldn't happen. I look forward to presenting the financials at our AGM in November.

We are pleased with our investment in the NOSLaM website and thank Amy Francis for her time and expertise in working alongside Rob in this. Social media interest continues to grow and will be a key conduit for communication going forward.

Thank you to our funding partners, North Otago Irrigation Company, Otago Regional Council, Waitaki District Council and administrative partner McKenzie + Co. The strength of our partner support is much wider than their funding – it is the engagement and drive of everyone working together that will drive practice change forward. Given the challenges that our region will face from the regulatory policy over the next 12 – 24 months, this united front is essential for North Otago.

Co-ordinator Activity

Administration

- General admin tasks
- Arranging and prepare Pod Water Quality meetings
- Arrange and Prepare Strategy Meeting
- Feed Website updates to administrator
- Investigate membership model and present to NOSLaM committee
- Admin work in the preparation of and off the back of the activity listed below

Connecting

- Develop planting group for Kakanui Maheno Road Waianakarua Road junction planting project.
- Meet with Max Crowe to plan Kakanui planting project
- Facilitate Kakanui planting project including 38 pupils from both Maheno and Kakanui Schools alongside their parents, supported by members of the Kakanui Garden Club, Kakanui Ratepayers and Improvement Society, Kakanui Volunteer Rural Fire Force, Waianakarua Lions Club, Stanger Fencing, Specialised Services Group, Fieldlab and Fonterra Farm Source. 1000+ plants put in the ground.
- Hosted an evening with North Otago "Young Guns" farmers – leaders within North Otago whom NOSLaM have identified to have the skill sets, passion and drive to heighten

engagement throughout the district and drive forward specific projects.

- Newspaper article on Kakanui Maheno Road Waianakarua Road junction planting
- Meet with Tom Orchison – new Beef&LambNZ Environment Capability Manager
- Meet with Jason Evered – new Rural Liaison and Support Advisor North Otago ORC
- Meet with Andrew Rodwell – new CEO for NOIC
- Meet with Waitaki Community Gardens to discuss supporting their tree propagation program
- Meet with Kate Macgregor to discuss Envirofolder
- Respond to request from Thompson Creek Catchment re their enquiry about co-coordinator support.
- Newspaper article about Winter Grazing workshop
- Continued work via Lyndon Strang on the AgResearch proposal for further specific North Otago focused science projects
- Meet with Waitaki Water to discuss collaborating with planting projects
- Establish NOSLaM Development Group of young catchment farmers to take on and expand our reach in the NOSLaM Catchments.

On Farm Change

- Visit Wayne Brensell to discuss an on farm planting project
- Facilitate a Farm Walk for Dougal and Jess Turnbull with Beef&LambNZ as experts. Looked at waterway re-direction, stream clearing, soil quality, changing paddock layout.
- Develop Good Management Practice document to put in the Envirofolder.
- Coordinated and facilitated North Otago Winter Grazing Workshop. 4 x presenters on Compliance (ORC), Animal Health (Vet Centre), Strategic Grazing (DairyNZ) and Soil Management (Kate Macgregor Consulting). 64 farmers and staff in attendance, including 12 new attendees.
- Put Envirofolders together for distribution
- Produce Battersby Catchment Map to discuss water quality testing program at site being discontinued by ORC.
- Held Battersby Pod Meeting to discuss water testing program for 12 months starting 1/10/19. Launch Envirofolder with members in attendance.
- Held Friston Pod Meeting to discuss next steps from individual water test site information. Launch Envirofolder with members in attendance

Science and Monitoring

- Battersby road water quality meeting.
- Graph Friston Pod individual sample site information
- Add Flow Readings and Rainfall information to graphed Friston results for reference.
- Ongoing communication of water test results from Rachel Ozanne (ORC) as they come available.
- WIC Water Quality Monitoring Workshop
- Follow up on Waiareka Phosphorus Study update.

Projects

- Meet with WDC to finalise progression of GIS Project.
- Develop a Catchment Data Information Questionnaire for GIS project
- Initiate Waiareka planting project/s research
- Initiate coordination with consultant Kate Macgregor on scoping a Friston Stream project – to commence in late August

Up Coming

- Deliver Envirofolders to farmers in Friston and Battersby Catchments who do not have one yet.
- Gather Catchment Data Information on Questionnaire from farmers taking part in the Phosphorus Project to expand on the information already gathered and to get all information from the rest of the Waiareka Catchment members.
- Input Questionnaire information into a GIS Spreadsheet and import to database

- Get results of Phosphorous Study distributed.
- Develop catchment maps by landowner showing what each is taking part in e.g. Envirofolder, water quality monitoring etc.
- Coordinate meetings with Secondary schools to integrate on farm change, monitoring and the primary industries into their career/ agriculture/ science faculties.
- Further work on GIS project alongside Waitaki District Council IT team.
- NOSLaM's new engagement coordinator, Bridget McNally will commence her role in September –define role scope and KPIs alongside the committee and Bridget.
- Lyndon Strang invited by AgResearch to represent NOSLaM at the Water Forum in Wellington – panel discussion.
- Committee to meet with ORC Chair Stephen Woodhead in late August to discuss ORC strategy going forward and how to ensure continued momentum for change during the electioneering period and continued uncertainty around crown water plan policy.
- Continue to work with the NOSLaM education sub-committee to engage with local schools with a specific focus on a water testing module in Secondary schools.
- Increase engagement with Urban dwellers through wider stakeholder engagement.
- Speak to U3A Group.

Breakdown of Coordinator Hours To Date

Period	Admin	Stakeholder	Pod
1	153.9	33.3	24.4
2	46.0	27.5	26.0
3	74.6	23.8	74.3
4	69.5	26.6	85.9
5	58.9	18.2	50.4
6	97.8	7.4	38.7
7	46.4	66.2	93.1
8	54.2	79.6	68.1
TOTAL	601.3	282.6	460.9
PERCENTAGE	44.71%	21.01%	34.27%