

# TE HOIERE/PELORUS PROJECT

## March 2021 Newsletter

Photo: Melissa Banks

### Farmers join forces to tackle freshwater challenges

Farmers in the Linkwater area are opening their gates to a free survey looking at the condition of catchments on their properties, offered under the [Te Hoiere Project](#).

“We decided to be proactive and work as a group to understand what’s happening in our streams and drains,” says the Project’s Linkwater facilitator Karen Morrison who manages her parents’ dairy farm in Linkwater. “We want to know where our waterways are well managed and where they need fixing.”



*Karen Morrison and the White Pine Stream*

Karen joined surveyors on a walk up a side-stream on her family farm. They noted that it was fully fenced with grass and weeds growing on the banks and gums planted further up the catchment. A culvert beneath an overpass was checked, to make sure fish could swim through.

By working collectively, the Linkwater farmers are ensuring everyone has a voice, can brainstorm with others and access expert information, Karen says.

“This avoids individuals carrying the load and stress of complying with new freshwater rules.”

Every dairy farm in Te Hoiere/Pelorus catchments has a Farm Environment Plan, required on all farms by 2025, says Karen. Each farmer

participating in the catchment condition survey will receive a set of maps giving an in-depth view of waterways on their property, helpful for upgrading Farm Plans and practices towards complying with new freshwater standards.

Marlborough District Council environmental scientist, Matt Oliver, anticipates some quick wins from the catchment condition survey such as simple fencing or stock-crossing improvements. More complex issues could be worked through by catchment groups with expert support, towards long-term solutions.

Matt says, “helping our farmers meet national freshwater standards is a key driver of this work. Not only farms are being surveyed. Urban waterways too will be walked from top to bottom including streams running through Rai Valley and Havelock”.

He is delighted with landowners’ response to the surveys which he expects to be completed by late June. The next stage will be getting data analysed and recorded on maps to be given to landowners along with individual advice.

Limited funding will be available towards fixing the worst problems in catchments where water quality is poor, says Matt. Once catchment condition and quality survey results are combined in the Te Hoiere Integrated Catchment Enhancement Plan, further support is likely.

“The aim is to get a complete picture of what’s going on in waterways so money can later be spent where benefits will be greatest.”

To find out more about the catchment condition survey or arrange a visit, contact Matt Oliver at the Marlborough District Council 03 520 7400 [matt.oliver@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:matt.oliver@marlborough.govt.nz)

Are you thinking about forming a group similar to the Linkwater farmers? To chat to someone and to help you get started contact Heather Collins 021 264 9640 03 572 8876 [heather@heathercollins.co.nz](mailto:heather@heathercollins.co.nz)

## Survey reveals happy visitors

“Don’t change a thing,” was the clear message from many people who answered a Te Hoire/Pelorus visitor survey this summer.

Heather Collins, community engagement leader for the Te Hoiere Project, chatted to 100 people aged from 10 to 80 about their experiences on and around Te Hoire/Pelorus waterways and tracks. They loved jumping off rocks into the Pelorus River, scenery, clear water and the good-old-times feel of Havelock. All lived in New Zealand, from Invercargill to Auckland.

The survey captured a snapshot of how people felt about the place where they were interviewed and rating of its environmental health, said Heather. Results will be fed into the Project action plan due in June this year.



*Trampers at the tranquil Wakamarina this summer*

### What’s happened?

- Visitor survey, completed over Christmas holidays
- Government announces \$1 million of Ministry for the Environment funding for the Te Hoiere Project, from its Freshwater Improvement Fund. This joins \$100,000 from the Marlborough District Council and community support
- First Sub-Catchment Group formed in Linkwater
- Ngāti Kuia Festival at Te Hora attended by Project Partners, to engage whanau input

### What’s happening?

- Catchment condition surveys – Linkwater Feb 8-12, Opouri/Ronga/Tunakino Feb 15 onwards, then Rai/Pelorus/Kaituna. Due for completion, June 30 2021.

### What’s next?

- Dung beetle workshop, March 10, contact Karen Morrison [kaz.morrison@yahoo.com](mailto:kaz.morrison@yahoo.com)
- Te Hoiere stand at Havelock Mussel and Seafood Festival, March 13
- Morrison family planting day at Linkwater, March 15, starts 9.30am, everyone welcome. Contact Karen Morrison [kaz.morrison@yahoo.com](mailto:kaz.morrison@yahoo.com)
- More workshops on the horizon, keep an eye on Project Facebook page
- Collate feedback and finalise ICEP action plan

Like the Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project on [Facebook](#) and [follow on Instagram](#)

*The Te Hoiere Project brings together the community and the supporting partner agencies to look after Pelorus-Te Hoiere catchments from bush-clad tops to the sea – ki uta ki tai.*

