

Community NEWSLETTER

Winter 2018



Helping Kaikōura farmers GET AHEAD OF THE GAME

Returning to Kaikōura is like returning home for newly-appointed cultural land management advisor Makarini Rupene.

"I have a lot of whānau up in Kaikōura who always used to say to me 'This is your home'. I love it up there and I have a lot of friends and family I'm looking forward to catching up with," he said.

Makarini studied marine biology in Kaikōura 23 years ago, and still enjoys diving and fishing there.

He was recently seconded from his role as an Environment Canterbury regional parks ranger to cultural land management advisor working specifically to support Kaikōura farmers as part of the Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project.

“*It's part of who I am and the way I was brought up*”

He will work with local farmers and industry groups to understand the importance of mahinga kai* and how they can incorporate mahinga kai values in managing their farms. Under new rules for farm environment plans, farmers are expected to understand and implement a mahinga kai component.

Educating people about mahinga kai is an exciting opportunity for Makarini who grew up immersed in the knowledge of how important the environment, water and biodiversity species were.

"It's part of who I am and the way I was brought up. I spent a lot of time with our elders, my grandfather, and my great uncles growing up so I took on board a lot of their values and understanding of our world and the world we live in.

"Being a cultural land management advisor is making people aware that if they just change certain things about how they utilise the land, the river, and the water, that can have a beneficial knock-on effect for not only water quality and mahinga kai, but also for different recreational and community groups."

*Mahinga kai relates to the traditional value of food resources and their ecosystems, as well as the practices involved in producing, gathering and protecting these resources.



Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project manager Jodie Hoggard said Makarini's appointment would allow Kaikōura farmers to get ahead of the game with the opportunity to have face-to-face consultation about mahinga kai.

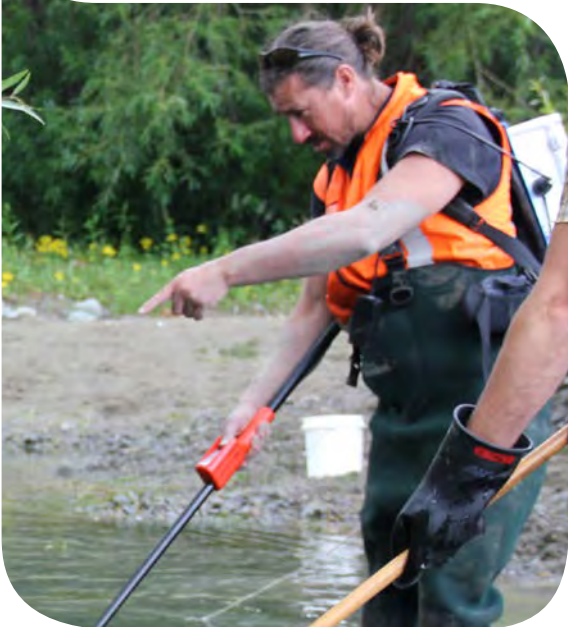
"It's about putting everything they need on a plate and making it as easy as possible for them to get back on their feet," she said.

Kaikōura Water Zone Committee rūnanga representative Gina Solomon said Makarini's appointment to the zone was a "huge cultural step forward".

As an rūnanga representative on the Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee and an active member in other rūnanga meetings regarding the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, Makarini was an ideal person to take on the role and help farmers understand mahinga kai values, Gina said.

"When Makarini speaks you listen because he always has good information to share and learnings to take on board. He is well versed and knowledgeable in cultural values and matters."

Image: Newly appointed cultural land management advisor Makarini Rupene is no stranger to getting his hands dirty to protect native species.



Protecting the Waiau Toa/Clarence River

MOVES FORWARD

Taking on the Waiau Toa/Clarence River Weed and Pest Management project is destined to be a career highlight for Kaikōura biosecurity officer Jan Crooks.

"To have some sort of involvement in a project of this scale is so mind boggling and exciting. There's so much good stuff happening in the Waiau Toa/Clarence River catchment," she said.

In 2012, the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee identified protecting the biodiversity and natural landscape of the Waiau Toa/Clarence River as one of its key priorities.

The Waiau Toa/Clarence River catchment is home to at least 100 threatened or at-risk plant species, some of which, up until recently, were thought to be extinct. There are also records of 13 threatened or "at-risk" bird species, three lizard species, 10 freshwater fish species and an unknown number of invertebrate.

One of the biggest threats to the Waiau Toa/Clarence River is intrusion of weeds.

In 2014, work began on the development of a collaborative Weed and Pest Management Plan for the catchment. Jan was involved in the initial mapping of the catchment with

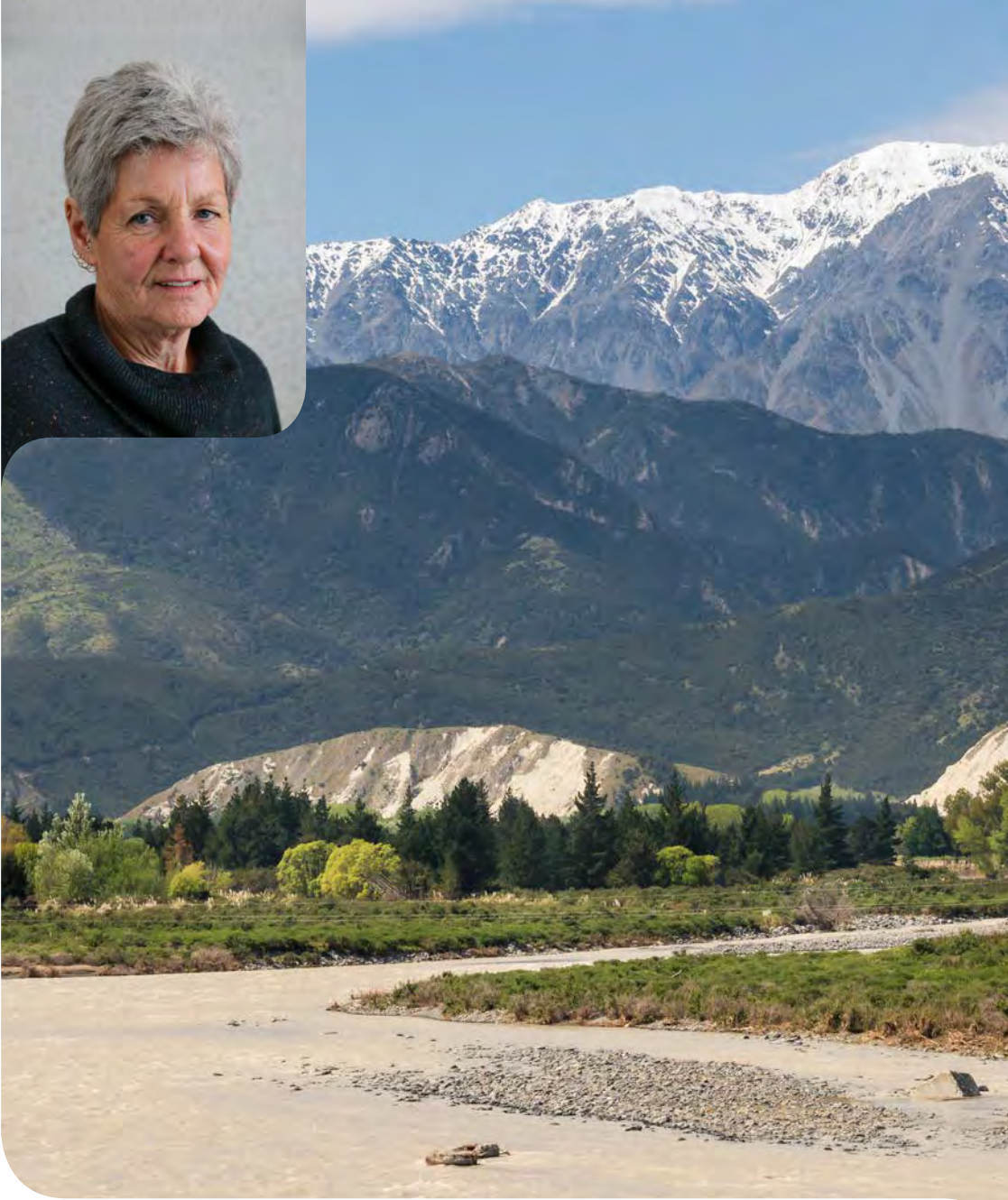
Environment Canterbury biosecurity advisor special projects Steve Palmer, but hasn't been involved since.

"It's so exciting to be involved in this project again. It's such a big deal for Kaikōura and is a really great opportunity in my career," she said.

Jan will initially meet with landowners and see what weed control they are currently doing. Those conversations, along with the results of a weed survey, will help determine what sort of weed management will occur and what should be prioritised in the coming years.

"I'd like to see them eradicate low incident pests up there, reduce the impact of gorse and broom as much as possible, and support some of those special species - whether they be plant or bird life - in the catchment.

"The weed survey is going to be a huge planning tool and we should be able to see what causes the most grief in the Waiau Toa/Clarence River and jump on those fairly smartly," she said.



Part one of the survey, looking at the upper part of the catchment has been completed, while part two focusing on the lower part of the catchment will occur in the coming year.

Image: The Waiau Toa/Clarence River weed management project is gaining momentum with the appointment of Jan Crooks as coordinator.



Kia Ora! FROM KEV

Recently I created my own rain harvesting contraption using recycled materials from Innovative Waste Kaikōura.

It was a good weekend project, and barely cost me anything so I wanted to share with you how to create your own and save water and money in the process. The water you collect can be used for gardening, washing your gumboots, cleaning hands and feet and most importantly, be available in an emergency.

If that doesn't help, there is a great website I highly recommend you check out www.morningchores.com/rainwater-harvesting which provides instructions and pictures on how to do this using everything from containers to rubbish bins.



What you need

-  LARGE 100+ LITRE CONTAINER WITH LID
-  PLASTIC OR GARDEN TAP
-  CLEAN GUTTERING
-  CLEAN DOWN-PIPE
-  DRILL WITH HOLE SAW
-  STURDY STAND (TO SIT THE WATER-FILLED CONTAINER ON)
-  HACKSAW (TO CUT GUTTERING AND DOWN-PIPE TO LENGTH)

Method

1. Assemble your parts
2. Cut the piping and holes in the container to size
3. Slip together (Make sure you have an overflow hole at the top)
4. You're done!

Time spent

- 1 hour** (depending on who you meet!)
Gathering materials from Innovative Waste Kaikōura
- 1 hour** (depending on neighbour)
Cutting holes and assembling tap and lid with hole for spouting
- 1 hour**
Assemble to finish and place
- 1 hour**
Rest and recreation in between
- Total time spent: 4 hours**

Ted Talks

We're half way through the year and it feels like so many things are happening in our zone.

The zone committee has many targets for improving the quality of our water with four priority areas – wetlands, Waiau Toa/Clarence River, nutrient management and Lyell Creek.

The 2016 earthquake is still impacting our lives and our waterways, and we're seeing that particularly with large slips in the headwaters of many rivers making them flow murky. This will likely continue for years to come.

Lyell Creek has a lot of attention on it this year. NIWA scientists have looked at it and are currently writing up a report of recommendations for action to improve water quality.

Most of the big easy wins have been done.

Now we are down to the “death by a thousand tiny cuts”, the seemingly insignificant things: the tiny leak in sewer pipe, the compost on the bank (or by the back fence near the stream), the doggy doo thrown into the long grass on the stream bank, the car wash that goes into the storm-water pipe and straight to the creek.



Ted Howard is Chair of the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee

The state of our waterways, like everything else around us, is very much a function of what we individually choose to do. Noticing what we do is the first and most important step in creating a positive change.

If you notice something that you can't fix, tell someone who can.

If you have an issue that is slightly more than you can manage, talk to one of us in confidence, and we may be able to help with resources to sort it out.

We can, and do, all make a difference to the quality of our environment. Make it a positive one.

Kaikōura Water Zone Committee

Our local waterway needs our love!

Waikōau / Lyell Creek

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

Wed 12th Sept, 10-12pm

LOVE the LYELL
WAIKŌAU / LYELL CREEK
KAIKŌURA

10am – meet at i-site carpark on West End for briefing

Creek & beach clean-up

Sausage sizzle provided for volunteers

Bring gloves & heaps of enthusiasm!

To register your interest, or for more information contact Chloe:
027 678 9772
chloe.armour@ecan.govt.nz

NIWA to recommend actions for IMPROVING LYELL CREEK WATER QUALITY

A comprehensive study of the Lyell Creek has been undertaken to determine issues and solutions to its poor water quality.

The study, commissioned by the Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project, involved Environment Canterbury staff walking the entire length of the Lyell Creek and examining the state of it.

Staff looked at a number of things including what the stream bed is made of, how steep the banks are,

what's growing on the banks and how much in-stream weed growth there is.

NIWA researchers also met with local farmers, landowners and stakeholders to discuss the wide-ranging issues facing the stream.

The findings will be used by NIWA to provide joint recommendations for improving water quality in Lyell Creek and help inform actions taken through the Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project.

The full NIWA report and recommendations is expected to be released in the coming months.

Image top right: Pugging caused by stock beside Lyell Creek has resulted in sediment and E-coli entering the water.

Bottom right: An Immediate steps planting project on Lyell Creek is providing shade over the water, stabilising banks and improving habitat.

Bottom: Birds eye view of the Lyell Creek meeting the sea.

Family project

CREATES ENVIRONMENTAL HAVEN

It's been two years since Jodie and Matt Hoggard first began their riparian planting project around Swan Creek. What once appeared to be a dried-up stream through their property, grazed to the hill and bare on both sides, is now a flourishing haven of native vegetation.

"It's been Matt's vision ever since we bought the block, Jodie said.

"He's a good visionary. I couldn't really see it to be honest."

When they first bought the 4.2ha property almost five years ago it was basically a blank restoration canvas - the ultimate family project.

"We wanted to give our kids space to grow up, grow some of our own food and have a good family project to get our teeth into. It was a really attractive block with a bit of challenge," Jodie said.

The couple changed the line of the fence to provide a good width on either side of the stream and keep stock out completely. They worked closely with Environment Canterbury biodiversity officer Jess Hill and nurseryman Dave Hockey on how to best protect the stream using native plants.

“

It's actually surprisingly easy to apply for Immediate Steps funding — Jodie

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They applied to the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee's Immediate Steps Fund for \$2700 to purchase 300 native plants to help get them started on the riparian planting around the stream.

"Thankfully the Immediate Steps funding was there. It was probably something we would have done anyway, but having that assistance

meant we could get in and get on with it quicker than if we had just ticked along doing it on our own," Jodie said.

The result - a beautiful stream area where their children can explore and "fish".

Despite the North Canterbury earthquake and Cyclone Gita, the plants have continued to thrive.

"When Cyclone Gita happened, we had a massive amount of water coming through that creek; the carex would flop over with the current and then when the water subsided, they all just popped up again.

"Every planting site is a bit of a learning curve for everybody. You work it out along the way and see what works best," Jodie said.

Wondering what you could do with your "wet" land?

With many new springs and wet areas popping up as a result of the North Canterbury earthquake making some areas of farmland now unusable, Jodie says now is the time to make use of the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee's Immediate Steps Fund.

Image top left: Swan Creek on Matt and Jodie Hoggard's property was bare when they arrived in 2015.

Image bottom left: The same section in March 2018 is now a thriving ecosystem of native plants and fish are returning to the creek.

"I think if people have given it a thought that it might be a good thing to do, then they should do it. Certainly, there's the advice there, the assistance there, and there's tonnes of support to do it. You're definitely not on your own"

After two or three years of general maintenance such as weeding, the plants should be able to manage themselves and require little thought.

"It doesn't have to be an onerous thing and you've got yourself a brilliant little nutrient filter, sediment trap, amazing aesthetics on the farm, good learning opportunity for local schools. There's heaps of ways to look at it."

Image top right: Jodie and daughter Rosie after some planting in 2016.

Applying for Immediate Steps Funding

The Kaikōura Water Zone Committee has \$100,000 a year to allocate to biodiversity projects in the zone.

To find out more contact the Kaikōura Environment Canterbury team on 03 319 5781 or check out www.ecan.govt.nz/biodiversityfunding

Kaikōura

Water Zone Committee

Ted Howard

Chair, Community member

Gina Solomon

Deputy Chair,
Rūnanga representative – Kaikōura

Ari Boyd

Rūnanga representative – Kaikōura

John Murray

Community member

Tony Blunt

Community member

Teri Sonal

Community member

Nicky McArthur

Community member

Rob Roche

Community member

Celeste Harnett

Kaikōura District Council

Steve Lowndes

Environment Canterbury Councillor



The Kaikōura Water Zone Committee is a community-led committee supported by local councils, rūnanga and Environment Canterbury.

fb.com/canterburywater

