

2018 Annual Report

Moving Forward: A celebration of 2018



Ted Howard, Kaikōura Water Zone
Committee Chair

2018 marked a turning point for us moving forward after the 2016 North Canterbury earthquakes.

The Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project is now into its second year and thanks to MPI funding, we were able to get some recommendations on how to improve the water quality and community interaction out on our flats.

The focus of the zone committee right now is the Waikōau/Lyell Creek. We have funding to be able to make a difference, and we are pushing ahead.

We want everyone to be involved. Wetland developments, planting and fencing of the

margins, overland flow paths into drains and creeks are important aspects to focus on and together make a big difference.

It was great to see more than 180 local people turn out to Waikōau/Lyell Creek clean-up days this year. This is building on the work of many in the community and is something we want to continue.

There are a lot of people in this community who, despite being busy and having multiple interests, make the effort to improve the quality of our waterways.

Thank you to all those who made an effort and thank you also to all those who appreciate the difference in some way.

Key achievements 2018

- The Waikōau/Lyell Creek Catchment Recovery Plan was completed with funding support from the Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project. Undertaken by a team from NIWA, this plan provides recommendations to advance catchment recovery for the Waikōau/Lyell Creek.
- A great community turnout for the Waikōau/Lyell Creek clean-up day in September.
- The first of the Catchment Recovery Plan projects was completed, with riffles constructed in the lower Lyell providing better instream habitat and water aeration.
- Two Immediate Steps biodiversity projects in the Waiau Toa/Clarence River were completed this year - A weed survey (stage one), and a black-billed gull survey.
- This black-billed gull survey confirmed two significant breeding colonies have been established in the upper Waiau Toa/Clarence River catchment, with up to 250 birds observed.
- More than \$85,000 Immediate Steps funding approved in 2018. Visit ecan.govt.nz/biodiversity for information on how to apply for funding.
- A Cultural Land Management Advisor was appointed to the zone. The zone committee were delighted to welcome Makarini Rupene into this role.
- The zone committee introduced Te Reo lessons to the start of meetings this year, with a particular focus on the pronunciation and meaning of local waterways and place names.

Waiau Toa/Clarence River – In January 2018 the New Zealand Geographic Board confirmed the official name of the Clarence River is the Waiau Toa/Clarence River. This coincided with the Waiau River being officially renamed the Waiau Uwha. In Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura tradition the Waiau Uwha (the female river) coupled with Waiau Toa (the male river) but they drifted away from each other. Waiau Uwha laments this separation and her tears swell the waters when melted snow enters the river



Delivering the community's vision for freshwater

The Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) puts finding solutions for freshwater management in the hands of the community, with support from councils, Ngāi Tahu, and others. The strategy sets out freshwater goals and targets to deliver the community's vision for freshwater.











“To gain the greatest cultural, economic, environmental, recreational and social benefits from our water resources within a sustainable framework both now and for future generations.”

Each of the ten community-led water zone committees work collaboratively to develop freshwater recommendations to ensure council plans give effect to these goals and targets.

Within each target area there are several specific time-bound targets to be achieved and these are monitored and reported on to ensure progress is being made.

The target areas are shown below – read some of the stories about what is being done in the zone to deliver on these on the next page.

CWMS Targets

	Ecosystem health and biodiversity		Kaitiakitanga		Recreational and amenity opportunities		Irrigated land area		Regional and national economies
	Natural character of braided rivers		Drinking water		Water use efficiency		Energy security and efficiency		Environmental limits

Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project: Year Two

The Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project (KPRP) has moved full steam ahead in its second year.

The project, which seeks to assist farmers recovering from the impact of the 2016 earthquake, is supported by the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee.

In 2018, two drainage sites were set up at two farms to demonstrate new drainage techniques to farmers whose properties have been affected by new springs or bogs created by the earthquake. Another two sites will be utilised in 2019.

The KPRP governance group and Fonterra rolled out a soil moisture project giving farmers the technical capability to understand their soils better. This will help remove the guess work around when to irrigate or spread effluent.

Farmers have also been given the opportunity to get ahead of the game with regards to mahinga kai. A cultural land management advisor has been seconded to the project to help farmers understand mahinga kai on their farms.

NIWA was commissioned to provide recommendations on how to restore the Waikōau/Lyell Creek as a healthy waterway.

Those recommendations have been developed to form the Love the Lyell programme which seeks to reduce contaminants, enhance habitats, increase plantings and restore the community's connection with the creek.

Stream protection long-term focus for farmers

A project to protect and restore a small tributary of the Kahutara River to riparian forest was awarded \$12,000 of Immediate Steps funding by the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee.

The project on Rod and Catherine Lamb's Inland Route dairy farm will see about 26ha of land restored to create a riparian canopy to share the stream and provide a corridor to the Kahutara River.

The couple hopes the planting will help filter out the nitrates, and they intend on doing regular water quality sampling to monitor progress.

"We're hoping that by the time we've finished, it has improved the water quality going through our farm so that it's the same as when it came in as it is going out," they said.

The couple utilised the Ministry for Primary Industries Earthquake Recovery Fund to get the initial planning done. The plan has created six area's for work, and the couple expects it will take at least 10-12 years to be completed.

They hope the project could be used as part of environmental education for students in the area. The cultural importance of the Kahutara, as one of the areas large braided rivers, further adds to the project's educational potential and value.



Drainage sites were set up at two farms to demonstrate new drainage techniques for farmers whose properties have been affected by new springs or bogs created by the earthquake.



The committee provided funding to help protect and restore a small tributary of the Kahutara River.

Ko au ko Waikoau



Record turn-out for creek clean-up

Kaikōura locals showed their love for Waikōau/Lyell Creek with a record number of people offering their hand for the annual Love the Lyell clean up.

More than 150 people, including schools and staff from NCTIR, Kaikōura District Council and Environment Canterbury, attended the event in September hosted by the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee's Love the Lyell group.

Some of the unusual things pulled out of the creek included a bike, wooden garden seat, truck, tyre and a laptop.

Environment Canterbury's Kaikōura zone manager Kevin Heays said the clean-up days were about bringing the community together to deliver their vision of a swimmable Waikōau/Lyell Creek.

"The creek is a major attraction and is important to the town so that is one of the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee's long-term goals- to take away the no swimming signs," he said.

"These community-led clean-up and planting days will help to improve the water quality in the creek over time, and we're going to be working hard over the next few years to achieve this."

Thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success.



More than 180 people attended a creek clean-up event in September hosted by the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee.



Delivering the community's vision for Waikōau/Lyell Creek

When the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee was formed in 2011, they identified the Waikoau/Lyell Creek as a priority for improving water quality. Since then, the committee has supported numerous community projects to help restore it.

However, there is still much to be done. New funding was secured to develop a programme to continue to work towards restoring Waikōau/Lyell Creek as a healthy waterway that can be enjoyed by future generations.

The 'Love the Lyell' programme, based on recommendations by NIWA as part of the Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project, seeks to deliver on the priority actions and vision for the creek. It will do so by:

- Reducing contaminants
- Enhancing habitats
- Increasing plantings
- Restoring the community's connection with the creek



NIWA research team site visit with Plains Recovery project staff.

Future challenges and opportunities

- Our target is to have the water quality safe to swim and to gather mahinga kai; a beautiful place to be; a safe place for our native species including whitebait and lamprey; while maintaining flood protection and drainage values.
- Supporting local farmers with advice on the Land and Water Regional Plan including Plan Change 5, irrigation efficiency, and cultural land management advice.
- A key feature of the Cultural Land Management Advisory role is working with local farmers and industry groups, to understand how to incorporate mahinga kai values into managing their farms.
- Completion of Immediate Steps biodiversity funding and projects with a particular focus on the Biodiversity Action Plan for the Waiau Toa/Clarence

catchment, and continue to promote this funding across the zone.

- More than 95% of our wetlands have been drained and turned into pasture. Much of that was necessary and as a result many of the native birds, fish, insects, plants, and multitudes of tiny plants, animals and bacteria that once inhabited those areas are now threatened with extinction. The balance between our human needs for food and prosperity, and the ability of natural ecosystems to survive, is strained to breaking point. Saving what few wetlands remain is important.
- Continuing to support the Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project.
- Explore the opportunities the hill-country erosion fund may present for Kaikōura in looking for practical ways to make the best of the many impacts of the earthquake.



Zone Committee, as listed below, Ted, Rob, Ari, Gina, Celeste, Steve, Nicky, Tony and John.

Zone description

The Kaikōura Water Zone Committee was formed in 2011 and an initial milestone was the development of a Zone Implementation Programme (ZIP), which sets out what needs to be done to deliver improved water management outcomes in Kaikōura.

The ZIP has several areas of focus including the Waiau Toa/Clarence River and the Kaikōura Plains. Kaikōura's distinctive coastline is in close proximity to high mountains and gives rise to many short, steep, swift-flowing rivers and diverse landscapes, biodiversity, and land uses over short distances.

The Kaikōura Water Zone includes all of the Kaikōura District and part of the Hurunui District that includes the upper Waiau Toa/Clarence River catchment above the Acheron River confluence.

The zone is entirely within the takiwā (area) of the tangata whenua Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura who represent the hapū Ngāti Kuri, from the iwi Ngāi Tahu.

Zone committee membership

Ted Howard, Chair,
Community member

John Murray,
Community member

Tony Blunt,
Community member

Teri Sonal,
Community member

Nicky McArthur,
Community member

Rob Roche,
Community member

Gina Solomon, Deputy Chair,
Kaikōura Rūnanga representative

Ari Boyd,
Kaikōura Rūnanga representative

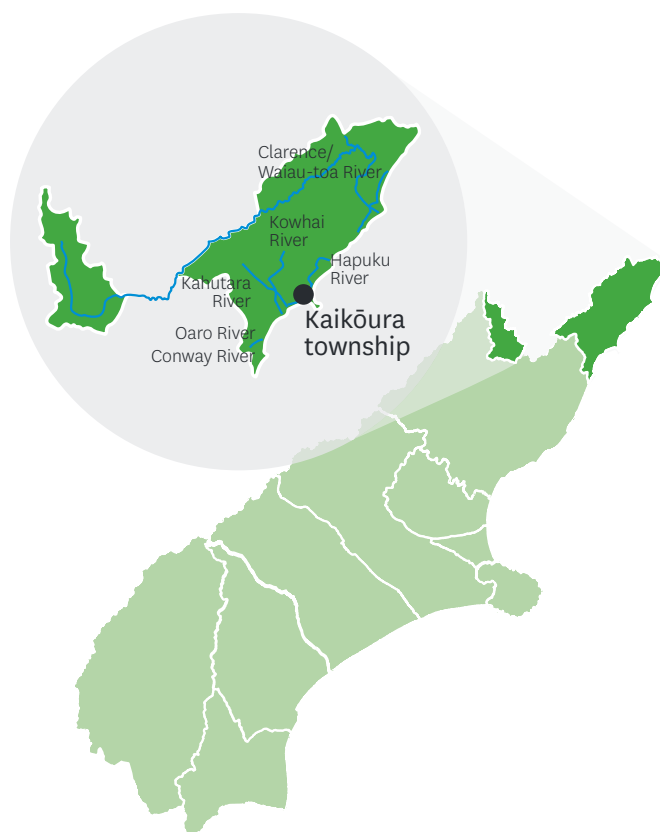
Celeste Harnett,
Kaikōura District Council

Steve Lowndes,
Environment Canterbury

Key Zone contacts

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Murray Griffin - Kaikōura Water Zone Committee Facilitator
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The Kaikōura Water Zone Committee is a community led committee supported by councils.

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