Central Otago Environmental Society Manuherekia Catchment





Our Manuherekia

Water has a life force

He Mauri anō tō te Wai Water has a life force

He Wairua anō tō te Wai Water has a spirit

He Tapu anō tō te Wai Water has a sacredness

He Whakapapa anō tō te Wai Water has a Whakapapa

He Taonga anō hoki tō te Wai Water is my treasure

Whakaūta atu, Manaakitia it, Haumi e! Hui e! Taīki e! I respect it, I protect it, for it sustains me!

- Don te Maipi

COES – Background

- 2007 Incorporated as a Society committed to the protection and preservation of Central Otago's natural landscape and character of Central Otago.
- Notable successes include:
 - Deterring building development on the Raggedy Range;
 - Overturning Meridian Energy's Plan for a major windfarm on the Lammermoor Range;
 - Preventing Pioneer Energy from damming the Nevis River;

COES - Background - cont.

- As a member of the Manuherika Water Strategy Group,
 COES reflected environmental and heritage perspectives on behalf of the wider Central Otago community.
- COES remains a constant watchdog, advocate and submitter to the ORC and the CODC regarding their implementation and monitoring of policies and rules.

COES – Objectives

 Protection and preservation of the natural landscape and character of Central Otago –

including, but not being restricted to, landscape values, amenity values, aesthetic values & Central Otago's endemic flora and fauna

 Raising awareness of issues concerning the natural landscape, heritage and resources of Central Otago with the wider public

COES - Objectives - cont.

- Emphasise the fair, transparent and sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. water, land)
- Encourage and support the Government, ORC, CODC, DOC, to establish policies and make decisions to preserve & enhance the special character of Central Otago's landscapes, heritage and life supporting biodiversity for the benefit of future generations.
- Work closely with other organisations and groups in pursuit of similar objectives

COES – Manuherekia Catchment Water Strategy Group (MCSWG)

- A Community Proposition was developed collaboratively and was key to retaining environmental stakeholder engagement.
 - A pivotal & guiding community approach to water use and management associated with Falls Dam.
 - Environmental needs first priority.

COES - VISION OF A HEALTHY MANUHERIKIA RIVER

- Our vision is of an ecologically healthy Manuherikia river and catchment which will have naturalised flow regimes and water quality that sustains aquatic biodiversity through out its catchment.
- COES recognises the importance of cultural, social and economic values associated with the Manuherikia Catchment.
- COES notes with concern:-
 - the cumulative impact of recent human activity to the detriment of the River's function and health.
 - While perhaps unrealistic to expect that the River and catchment will ever be considered pristine, we must ensure that it's ecological health is restored and maintained.

COES - Our Manuherekia

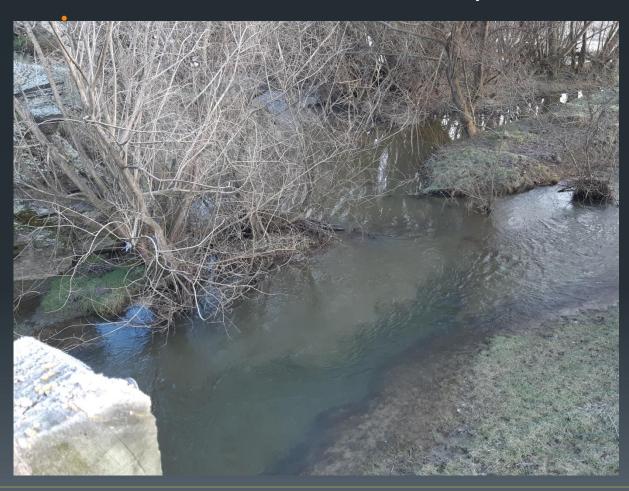
- To achieve our vision we first need understand
 - What would a naturalised Manuherekia catchment look like?
 - What level of community use is a healthy catchment able to sustain

COES – Our Manuherekia – a whole of catchment approach

 For COES it has always been a whole of catchment approach – both water quality and quantity.

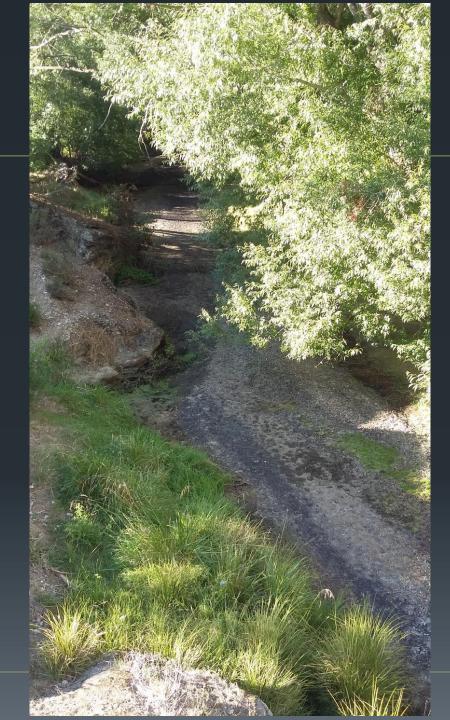
Adjoining land use and water abstraction needs to be considered together – a holistic catchment approach.

 The costs of our environmental impacts need to be costed & accounted for to accurately inform our decisions now & for our future generations. Thomson Ck confluence - west branch with near year round turbidly



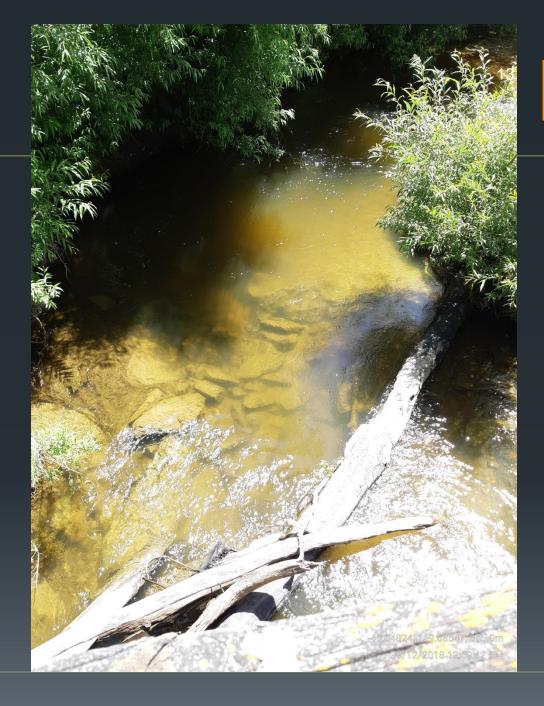
COES

Thomson Ck – total water abstraction 31 01 2018 – two weeks

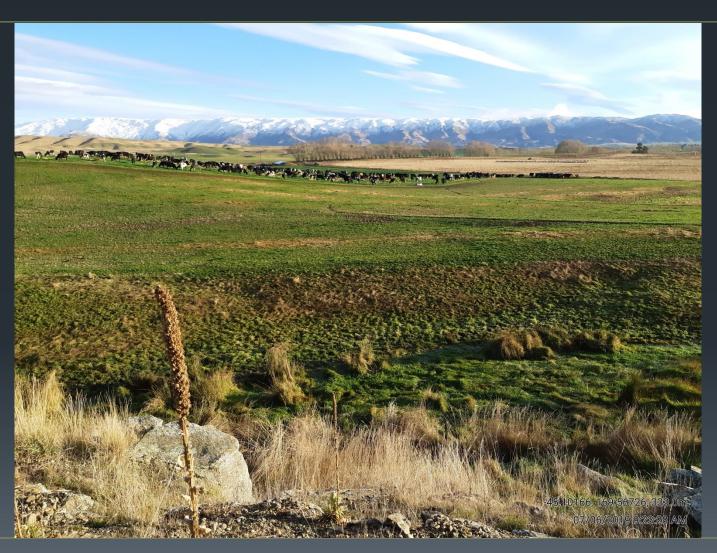


COES

Lauder Creek 30 12 2018 – heavy sedimentation & turbidity



Dairy winter break feeding – Pugging Corrigall Creek



Manuherekia — at 0.8 cumecs on 7 03 2019 — dewatered swimming & fish restricting riffle



Manuherekia — at 0.8 cumecs on 7 03 2019 Galloway take



COES – Recommendations

- We value the Manuherikia catchment aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity for our future generations –
- Recommend a whole of catchment systems approach
 - Monitor catchment yield and enhance through protecting & restoring native biodiversity for water harvesting & storage
 - Recommend an inventory of catchment native biodiversity so these can be identified, protected and restored.
 - Recommend an inventory of catchment wetlands so these can be identified, protected and restored.
 - Recommend a social impact study with a focus on social and cultural values
 - Protect tributaries and ephemeral tributaries.
 - Research and manage sediment impacts on the catchment
 - Research the function and efficacy of riparian plantings

Quoting Wendell Berry,

'Yet, it is a matter of the common good that the world be preserved and aided in its natural desire to flourish. Humanity relies upon the Earth, and now, it relies upon us, to stand as faithful stewards for the future of all species — including ours."