

ASHBURTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE AGENDA

A **Meeting** of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee will be held as follows:

DATE: Tuesday 26 March 2024

TIME: 1.00 pm

VENUE: Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakaterere
2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

MEETING CALLED BY: Hamish Riach, Chief Executive, Ashburton District Council
Stefanie Rixecker, Chief Executive, Environment Canterbury

ATTENDEES: Chris Allen
Adi Avnit
Clare Buchanan
Angela Cushnie
Genevieve de Spa
Bill Thomas
Sidinei Teixeira
TBC (Te Runanga o Arowhenua)
Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga)
Jess Hobbs (Te Taumutu Runanga)
TBC (Tangata Whenua Facilitator)
Councillor Richard Wilson (Ashburton District Council)
Councillor Ian Mackenzie (Environment Canterbury)
Mayor Neil Brown (Ashburton District Council)

Zone Facilitator

Jaimee Grant

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Environment Canterbury

Committee Advisor

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Ashburton District Council

Tangata Whenua Facilitator

TBC

Environment Canterbury

Ashburton Zone Committee Meeting

Tuesday 26 March 2024

Meeting Commences: 1.00pm

Order of Business

- 1 Welcome, Karakia
- 2 Apologies
 - Nil
- 3 Extraordinary Business
- 4 Register of Interest 4
- 5 Confirmation of Minutes 5
- 6 Correspondence
 - Outward
 - o Nil
 - Inward
 - o Nil
- 7 Matters Arising
- 8 Public Forum – Greenstreet Group.....verbal
- 9 Committee Updates..... 9
- 10 Zone Committee Action Plan Budget – Applications Consideration 11
 - Riverbridge Native Species Trust..... 13
 - Wakanui Beach Crew Group..... 15
 - Hakatere Rakau Group 17
 - Methven Lions Club 19
- 11 Other business
- 12 Close Meeting and Karakia

4 Register of Interests

Chris Allen	Farm owner of sheep, beef, lambs, crop Water resource consents to take water from tributary of Ashburton River and shallow wells Member of Ashburton River Liaison Group
Adi Avnit	Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust - Treasurer
Clare Buchanan	Head of Environment & Innovation at Align Farm Align Farms holds an irrigation resource consent to take water from shallow wells hydraulically linked to the Ashburton river Align Farms holds MHV water and Fonterra Shares Align Farms suffered significant flood damage on their support block
Neil Brown	Mayor Acton Irrigation Limited - Director Irrigo Centre Limited - Director Acton Farmers Irrigation Co-operative Limited - Director Browns Farm Limited – Director and Shareholder
Angela Cushnie	Kanuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust - Trustee Hinds Reserve Board Committee member Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective – Coordinator Secretary for Hekeao Hinds Lowlands Catchment Group
Genevieve de Spa	Owner of Kakariki Camps focusing on ‘Head, Hands, Heart’ approach to biodiversity education Contractor and member of Staveley Campsite Committee (Previous recipient of Immediate Steps Funding) Rakaia Environmental Enhancement Trust
Jess Hobbs	
Ian MacKenzie	Environment Canterbury Councillor
Arapata Reuben	Trustee – Tuhono Trust Trustee – Mana Waitaha Charitable Trust Member - National Kiwi Recovery Group Rūnanga Rep – Christchurch – West Melton Water Zone Committee
Bill Thomas	Farm owner of Longbeach Estate Ltd (sheep, beef, lambs, arable, dairy) Member of Eiffelton Irrigation Scheme Hekeao/Hinds Water Enhancement Trust – Settler Director of Longbeach Estate & Longbeach Dairies
Sidinei Teixeira	Masters student at Lincoln University studying a Master’s in Water Resource Management Former Head of Science at Mt Hutt College and Chemistry teacher at Christ’s College Recipient of the Callaghan Innovation fund to conduct research on the impacts of the May/June 2021 rainfall event through MHV Water Passionate about the sustainable use of natural resources
Richard Wilson	Ashburton District Councillor Dairy Farmer at Hinds Shareholder in MHV Irrigation

5 Confirmation of Minutes

Unconfirmed Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 27 February 2024, commencing at 1.30pm in the Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakaterere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Councillor Richard Wilson, Councillor Ian Mackenzie, Chris Allen, Adi Avnit, Clare Buchanan, Angela Cushnie, Genevieve de Spa, Jess Hobbs, Bill Thomas (Chair),

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Jaimee Grant (Facilitator) and Carol McAtamney (minutes)

John Benn – DOC (via MS Teams)

3 members of the public in attendance

1 Welcome

Jaimee Grant opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 Apologies

That apologies for absence be received on behalf of Mayor Neil Brown, Arapata Reuben and Sidinei Teixeira and for lateness on behalf of Councillor Ian MacKenize

Thomas/Wilson

Carried

3 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

4 Register of Interests

Nil.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

Amendments – The meeting was held on Tuesday 28 November, not Tuesday 29 August as stated in the minutes and the next meeting date should have been stated as Tuesday 27 February, not Tuesday 26 March.

Riverbridge Native Species Trust – further information was to be sought prior to a decision on funding being made.

That the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 28 November 2023, incorporating the above amendments, be taken as read and confirmed.

Thomas/Cushnie

Carried

1. Matters Arising

Nil.

6 Correspondence

Inward:

Nil

Outward:

Nil.

7 Public Contributions

Nil.

Cr Ian MacKenzie joined the meeting at 1.35pm

8 Zone Committee Action Plan Review

That the Ashburton Water Zone committee confirms the changes to the Action plan as noted in agenda item 3.1 including the following additional amendments:

1a - Defining our level of involvement with the Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes work programme.

1b - Mid-Canterbury plans for the stockwater network and the use of infrastructure that supports the biodiversity and community good.

Thomas/Allen

Carried

9 Kanuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust update

Angela Cushnie (1.41pm to 2.00pm)

Four pillars are:

- Exploring our footprint
To educate children, youth and the wider community to increase understanding of the environment and their ability to influence it
- Balancing biodiversity
To promote and facilitate the conservation and regeneration of the district's biodiversity
- Predator control
To make Mid Canterbury predator free by 2050
- Planting for purpose
To enhance biodiversity , improve water quality and the environment through planting

Currently working with seven schools throughout the district and are about to undertake water quality based projects in the Hinds area alongside the Hinds school

It was agreed that the Zone Facilitator would investigate how Kānuka Trust could work in with Enviroschools in respect of funding and ensuring no duplication of efforts.

10 Carters Creek Update and Funding Change Proposal

Janine Holland and Willy Leferink (2.02pm to 2.23pm)

Provided an update to the Committee and request a variation to the Carters Creek grant agreement with Environment Canterbury

That the Ashburton Water Zone committee

- i) Receives the report on Carters Creek; and

- ii) Recommend a variation to grant agreement 1197-118 between Environment Canterbury and Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective for Carters Creek as follows:
 - a. Repurpose the balance of the unspent funds (\$5k) to enable the establishment of a landscape management concept plan
Allen/MacKenzie Carried

11 Committee Updates

Jaimee Grant (2.24pm to 2.34pm)

Environment Canterbury have commenced planning the 2024 review of the Zone Committee. The findings of the review will be reported back to the Mayoral Forum.

A workshop is to be held as part of the 26 March meeting to seek feedback from the Zone Committee which will be considered as part of the review led by Environment Canterbury.

That the Ashburton Water Zone committee receives the committee updates
Cushnie/Allen Carried

12 Testing in the Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes District

Kerry Harmer and Phil Everest (2.35pm to 3.12pm)

Provided an update on testing undertaken in Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes District

Lessons learnt so far

- 60% of transects show nitrate levels hold or decrease
- 40% that increase have springs entering the waterway
- The bird life has a large impact on E.coli levels in lakes
- EDNZ indicates life in waterways is still vibrant
- Natural events have a significant impact – Cameron river shifting course

What else do we need to know?

- How is the nitrate getting to the springs?
- What is the age of the water in the springs?
- How could we reduce the nutrient load in our streams?

Next steps

- Continue with water monitoring to complete a full year of testing
- Trial the impact of mitigations tools – riparian planting, wetland trial, fencing lowland streams
- Obtain/renew our land use consents and ensure our families continue sustainable and profitable farming
- Work cooperatively with other stakeholders to ensure this is a great part of the planet to visit and live

13 Hakatere/Ashburton Consent Holders Presentation

Matt Bubb, Darryl Butterick and Craig Galloway

Zone Committee members Chris Allen and Richard Wilson declared an interest in this topic. Environment Canterbury reviewed 87 resource consents that take surface water or stream depleting groundwater in the Hakatere/Ashburton River catchment. The review was designed

to implement the minimum flows which were developed with the community to protect the waterways values and to ensure there is a reliable source of water for the environment, community and consent holders.

The consent holders expressed extreme disappointment with this review process, the results of which are causing adverse effects to creeks and streams.

It was recommended that a delegation, including Lake Hood representatives attend an Environment Canterbury meeting to present on the issues/concerns raised by the Hakatere/Ashburton consent holders. Support to link them to process was to be provided by the Zone Facilitator.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held in the Ashburton District Council Chamber Hine Paaka at 1:00pm on Tuesday 26 March 2024.

The meeting closed at 3.55pm with a Karakia by Jaimee Grant

Dated this 26th day of March 2024 _____ (Chair)

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 9	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Committee Updates
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 26 March 2024

Purpose

To update the Committee on actions from the previous meeting, relevant information, and upcoming engagement opportunities.

Recommendation

The Zone Committee receives the updates and provides feedback.

Report

1. Greenstreet Creek decision – Dr Stefanie Rixecker, Environment Canterbury Chief Executive (21 March 2024)

The following update was provided to the Ashburton Zone Committee in light of recent events

- The bigger picture is that we are amidst the impacts of the El Niño weather pattern and climate change, here and now, and we're seeing very dry riverbeds across Canterbury.
- Added to this, we're the largest region in the country, with the greatest number of rivers and freshwater sources (78,000km of rivers and streams; 70% of the country's groundwater) - we're water central of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- This means challenges and the need to make trade-offs – tough calls that weren't made by previous generations are here and now.
- The Ashburton River/Hakatere is an over-allocated catchment with significant challenges, including natural changes in modified environments. We recently undertook water take consent reviews on this part of the Ashburton River/Hakatere, precisely because of these challenges.
- The decisions that came from the water take consent reviews are what our team at Environment Canterbury has been working through and grappling with in this particular case. These changes are tough on communities – communities who deserve better conversations about the changes.
- We need a better approach to “just transitions” – supporting our region to adapt to the effects of climate change in as fair a manner as possible.
- As Chief Executive, I'm making the call to allow water to be diverted into Greenstreet Creek.
- I'm making this decision in the face of climate change and in recognition that we didn't get the “just transition” conversation right; we own that.
- This is not the only place in Canterbury that we will face a challenge like this, but we must work better with our communities and landowners, our rūnanga partners, and the wider public.
- The diversion is the immediate action in this current situation. However, future conversations need to happen about how we recognise the needs and interests of the community, our rūnanga partners and the environment itself, to make the hard calls together.

2. Actions from previous meetings/workshops

#	Received	Who	What
1.	25/02	Jaimee	Follow up on Enviroschools funding and how Kanuka Trust could fit in with this funding. <i>Underway.</i>
2.	25/02	Jaimee	Request information - Information and data on water in the Wakanui Hāpua. <i>Completed.</i>
3.	07/03 via email	Jaimee	Request for information clarified by Mayor Brown. <i>Underway.</i>

3. Zone Committee Calendar

23 April	<p>Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zone Committee Action Plan Budget project recommendations <p>Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes with Judith Earl-Goulet
28 May	<p>Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hekeao/Hinds report back • TBC
Apr-May	Rakaia Field Trip with Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee – TBC

HUI/MEETING: Ashburton Zone Committee	
AGENDA ITEM NO: 10	KAUPAPA/SUBJECT: Zone Committee Action Plan Budget – Funding considerations
KAITUHI/AUTHOR: Jaimee Grant	WĀ/MEETING DATE: 26 March 2024

Purpose

For the Zone Committee to consider applications received for funding using their Zone Committee Action Plan Budget for FY2023/24.

Recommendation

That the Zone Committee:

1. **Receives** the applications; and
2. For each application, confirms whether it:
 - a. **Supports** the project being recommended for x amount of funding using the Ashburton Zone Committee Action Plan Budget for FY2023/34, or
 - b. **Does not support** the project being recommended for funding using the Ashburton Zone Committee Action Plan Budget for FY2023/34, or
 - c. **Requests further information** on the project before making a decision.

Introduction

As part of their Long-Term Plan 2021-2031, Environment Canterbury established the Zone Committee Action Plan (ZCAP) Budget. The purpose of the budget is to allow Zone Committees to focus on implementing their Action Plan and leverage other funding opportunities to achieve the CWMS priorities. This financial year, an allocation of **\$75,000** for ZCAP Budgets for each CWMS water zone was confirmed.

To date, the Committee have recommended, and Environment Canterbury have approved, the following projects for funding (excl. GST):

- Nitrate sensor for Ōtūwharekai Ashburton Lakes Catchment Group - \$10,000
- Staveley Camp Forest Community Possum Trap Library - \$15,000

This leaves **\$50,000 (excl. GST)** of the ZCAP Budget to be allocated this financial year.

At their 30 January 2024 workshop, the Committee considered an application from Riverbridge Native Species Trust – Project Mudfish. The Committee confirmed their position to support a recommendation for the application with the amount to be recommended yet to be determined.

Applications

Applications have been received from the following parties and summaries of the projects have been provided. Copies of the applications were sent to the Zone Committee prior to this meeting.

Appn:	Project name	Applicant	Funding requested
1	Project Mudfish	Riverbridge Native Species Trust	\$14,384.97
2	Feasibility Study on Restoring Wakanui Creek Flow	Wakanui Beach Crew Group	\$15,000.00
3	Ashburton River Native Plantings Chalmers Ave - Trevors Rd	Hakatere Rakau Group (Ross Hawthorne)	\$5,000.00
4	Methven Birdsong Initiative - Garden of Harmony extension	Methven Lions Club	\$30,000
TOTAL			\$64,384.97

Image 1 - Map showing location of four projects



Application 1: Project Mudfish

Applicant	Riverbridge Native Species Trust
Funds requested	\$14,384.97
Project summary	<p>The aim of Project Mudfish is to expand and develop the Riverbridge wetland located on Sheates Road, Ashburton. The project is seeking to increase the size of the wetland, developing habitat suitable for the critically endangered Canterbury Mudfish. The project requires earthworks, an expansion of the predator resistant fencing, planting of eco-sourced native plants and predator management.</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expand the QEII covenanted wetland, developing habitat and increasing biodiversity. • enduring impact of this project reaches beyond biodiversity and out to the community. Riverbridge has the capacity to host local community groups, school visits and ornithologists.
Action Plan alignment	<p>We will focus on several waterbodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hakatere/Ashburton River and its tributaries (including Carters Creek and Wakanui hāpua) <p>We will work towards improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating for the protection of native fish species including uninterrupted access to the sea and the reduction of fish barriers where appropriate.
How funding will be used	Will cover contractor costs, equipment hire, materials, plants, predator management, supplementary food for native species, project management and administration and education centre maintenance.
In-kind contributions and project partners	<p>Trust members will voluntarily provide any other assistance as required.</p> <p><i>Landowner has contributed a significant time and investment to this project to date.</i></p>
Community engagement	Several Hampstead School visits have been hosted. Riverbridge welcomes visits from community groups by prior arrangement. The community will be engaged by continuing to build our relationship with local school groups, catchment collectives, forest and bird, the Department of Conservation and Environment Canterbury. Local media will be approached to promote the work being undertaken at Riverbridge.
Mahinga kai considerations <i>(Action Plan notes to ensure mahinga kai is considered in all projects and decisions)</i>	The wetland is home to a number of native and indigenous wildlife including the Canterbury Mudfish, Long Fin eel, Freshwater Crayfish (Koura), Brown Teal, Marsh Crake, Banded Dotterel, Australasian Bittern, Royal Spoon bills and a number of waterfowl species. Although Riverbridge has been created from pastoral land, many species which exist within the reserve are valued Mahinga Kai.



Image 2: General project area for Project Mudfish


Application 2: Feasibility Study on Restoring Wakanui Creek Flow

Applicant	Wakanui Beach Crew Group
Funds requested	\$15,000.00
Project summary	<p>Funding is being sought to undertake a feasibility study on refilling Wakanui Creek for a more permanent and periodic flow of water to improve the biodiversity of the creek channel and the hāpua. The project will inform the future management of Wakanui hāpua and improve the biodiversity thereof as observed after previous heavy rainfall events.</p> <p>The coastal lagoon/hāpua has been completely dry for several years. It formerly supported an aquatic ecosystem with eels, fingerling trout, koura and whitebait species. It has filled periodically and is noted that the biodiversity of the hāpua increases after heavy rainfall as observed in previous years. These values disappear when the hāpua dries up.</p> <p>Restoring permanent flow in Wakanui Creek would be very worthwhile as it seems likely that the diverted water is no longer used for stockwater so the low-flow diversion could be returned to Wakanui Creek.</p> <p>The project is supported by Ngāi Tūāhuriri as confirmed by its AWZC rūnanga representative on the Committee, A Reuben.</p>
Action Plan alignment	<p>We will focus on several waterbodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hakatere/Ashburton River and its tributaries (including Carters Creek and Wakanui hāpua); and <p>We will work to enhance mahinga kai values by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring mahinga kai is considered in all projects and decisions. - (Wakanui Beach hāpua is a historical mahinga kai site for the iwi that needs to be restored.) <p>We will work towards improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with councils, rūnanga, catchment groups and schools to support further restoration activities which positively impact the biodiversity and mahinga kai values of the Wakanui hāpua area. • It is noted that the Wakanui hāpua is a priority for the Committee set by ADC. • ECan has also set objectives for kaitiakitanga and mahinga kai projects, as well as Ecosystem Health and biodiversity, and promote working with parties to achieve the objectives.
How funding will be used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility report on refilling the Wakanui Creek through the water race network using an ecological consulting firm. • Advice on mean annual low flow that will sustain biodiversity • Investigation on flood protection following water flow in the creek • Biodiversity improvement to be done along the creek to improve the environment. <p><i>Facilitator notes this project may help the AWZC determine the level of future support the Committee provides going forward.</i></p>

<p>In-kind contribution and project partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will be managed by Ashburton District Council Ecologist and Biodiversity Advisor (Dr Christian Chukwuka), Ashburton Water Zone Committee representative (Gen de Spa) and Wakanui Beach Crew Restoration Group member (Val Clemens). Council staff time will cover the project management cost. Voluntary hours from Gen de Spa and Val Clemens. • ADC - funds planting and planting materials annually and a team of volunteers help to do the planting (cost varies). ADC funds biannual weed control for the planted sites (cost varies). Put \$4towards pine removal. • AWZC - put \$4K towards pine removal last financial year. • Wakanui School led by Val Clemens undertake seed collection and seed bombing annually to increase native plant growth within the gorse.
<p>Community engagement</p>	<p>Discussion with the Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua has been initiated and farmers within the Wakanui hāpua catchment will be contacted for input for access to the creek channel if needed during the feasibility study.</p> <p><i>Facilitator notes previous school involvement with the hāpua.</i></p>
<p>Mahinga kai considerations <i>(Action Plan notes to ensure mahinga kai is considered in all projects and decisions)</i></p>	<p>This is a specialist investigation and reporting that will inform the future management of the Wakanui hāpua. There is a cultural heritage report done for the lower part of the hāpua which will not be affected during this investigation.</p> <p>Cultural report notes this as a place of significance for mahinga kai.</p> <p><i>Note Ngāi Tūāhuriri support for the project.</i></p>
<p>Project area</p>	<p>Wakanui hāpua is located at the end of Wakanui Rd next to the huts.</p> <p><i>Feasibility study area involves the Wakanui Creek Channel.</i></p>

Application 3: Ashburton River Native Plantings Chalmers Ave - Trevors Rd

Applicant	Hakatere Rakau Group
Funds requested	\$5,000
Project summary	<p>This project is focussed on clearing Old Man’s Beard and Blackberry alongside the river and planting the area with natives. Thousands of native seedlings have been planted to establish a flourishing native forest, enhancing the area alongside the Ashburton/Hakatere river. Seedlings include broadleaf, totara, coprosma, cabbage tree, flaxes, pittosporum, kōwhai, hebes, lancewoods and ribbonwoods. Most of the weeds have been cleared and regrowth mostly stopped. We have planted 2,800 natives so far. There is heaps of room still to fill. I would like to have that figure to at least 4,000 by spring.</p> <p>The goal is to increase biodiversity alongside the river and see the seedlings and surrounding trees thriving, attracting native species such as kereru, tui and bellbirds, alongside the many fantails already in the area. It will add recreational value and will be something that future generations will also be able to enjoy.</p> <p>I started everything off and was by myself for 1 year. Now there are seven volunteers. The group are quite happy to let me organise and get the resources we need. I received a grant from the council last year for \$1,543 I have put \$1,400 of my own money into this project.</p> <p>We had one lady who joined our group and got inspired and went off to do her own area. I hope that others may follow her example.</p>
Action Plan alignment	<p>We will focus on several waterbodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hakatere/Ashburton River and its tributaries (including Carters Creek and Wakanui hāpua).
How funding will be used	<p>Buying eco sourced seedlings bamboo sticks and fertilizer tablets.</p> <p>Funding will buy 1,500 plants, the plant guards, bamboo sticks and fertiliser tabs.</p>
In-kind contribution and project partners	<p>Received \$1,543 from the Ashburton District Council for the previous year and am in the process of reapplying again this year.</p> <p>Project lead has put in \$1,400 of his own money as well as a significant amount of his own time.</p> <p>Installed three picnic tables and two bench seats, enhancing the trail for its many walkers and cyclists. ANZCO donated one of the picnic tables, and plant guards.</p> <p>Seven volunteers including Project Lead support the project. Over the past 2 years I have been putting in on average 10 hours a week. The other 6 are averaging 9 hrs a week.</p> <p>Donations of plants for his project had come from individuals and organisations, including the district council and Trees for Canterbury.</p>
Community engagement	<p>Seven volunteers supporting the project and there has been interest from one school to support the project.</p>

	<p>Had two articles published with plans for another which has helped the group grow. When it comes to planting time I will advertise it and there may be more volunteers come forward. The people are told they are welcome to join us.</p>
<p>Mahinga kai considerations <i>(Action Plan notes to ensure mahinga kai is considered in all projects and decisions)</i></p>	<p><i>Project increases biodiversity with the end goals of increasing habitat allowing the return of native birds including kererū, tūī, etc.</i></p>
<p>Project area</p>	
<p>Other:</p>	<p>Article on Ross's work, 'Ross transforming river trail'. https://www.ashburtoncourier.co.nz/news/ross-transforming-river-trail/</p>

Application 4: Methven Birdsong Initiative - Garden of Harmony extension

Applicant	Methven Birdsong Initiative
Funds requested	\$30,000
Project summary	<p>The aim is to bring birdsong back to the Methven town and foothills between Mt Somers and Rakaia Gorge. This is a community-led project, aiming to create a long-term community asset for our town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We aim to increase the amount of native birdlife and birdsong in Methven. • We want to plant a 3ha native sanctuary in the centre of town and protect it from predators. • We will establish a Trap Library for community use. • We will encourage the community to plant gardens with native flora and to trap predators on their own property. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a space where native flora and fauna can flourish by improving Biodiversity. • Enthuse the community to create and run it. • Create an asset for the town. <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a trap in every other garden (500). Reduce the number of predators that prey on native birdlife. Possums, hedgehogs, rats, feral cats, mustelids. • Plant 3ha in native flora. • We may elect to protect the area with a predator-proof fence (TBC) <p>We have surveyed Methven with a survey carrying +/- 5% statistical validity. Over 90% of respondents wants us to do this and over half of them have indicated a desire to get involved and help. We have the community behind us.</p>
Action Plan alignment	<p><i>Overarching priority of: We will work towards improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets.</i></p> <p>It will increase native biodiversity, creating a natural space and sanctuary in town. It will encourage native fauna. It will increase and encourage native flora planting. We think it this will result in a positive contribution to the general quality of life in the town. It will provide an area for educational purposes, carrying the environmental message to young people.</p>
How funding will be used	<p>Trap Library \$20,000 Initial planting \$10,000</p>
In-kind contributions and project partners	<p>We have been granted \$10,000 from Methven Community Board.</p> <p>Methven Lions for management and financial rigour. Also, for initial labour around pest identification and trapping. The community will be charged with providing the man hours to get this project over the line, and to ensure that it continues successfully long-term. We imagine that the “in kind” value of these inputs will greatly exceed the financial input we hope to be granted.</p>
Community engagement	<p>90% of Methven community who were surveyed were in support of the project.</p> <p>They are engaged right from the start. We know from research that we have that support. We know that many people have indicated their willingness to bring this to fruition. They are already engaged and the driving strategy is to continue to build</p>

that engagement in the firm belief that ultimate success can only be achieved with comprehensive community support and assistance. Having the electronic communications capability through social media is critical to our ability to deliver the dream.

Media: [Birdsong Initiative aims to bring chorus back to Methven - ADC](#)

Mahinga kai considerations

(Action Plan notes to ensure mahinga kai is considered in all projects and decisions)

No mahinga kai considerations noted in application.

Facilitator notes that trapping may result in protection of taonga species depending on where trap uptake occurs.

Project area



Image 3: Garden of Harmony area, the proposed site for planting TBC