

As the days are starting to get shorter again, here is the Summer edition of Otago South River Care's newsletter where we have some project updates and also a great list of up coming events.

What has been happening

Community catchment events



Christmas Display Competition:

Once again we had some fabulous creations submitted for our Christmas display competition. It is exciting to see that the idea is gaining traction around New Zealand, and our winning entry got great attention on social media far and wide. We have some very talented people in our community!

Mr Whippy Ice Cream Tour:

Despite the cooler weather we had another successful Mr Whippy tour of the Otago South area in late January, with plenty of people turning up to get their ice cream fix and catch up with their neighbours.

Many thanks to Mr Whippy Steve for following us around for another tour!

Catchment Field Days



Glenomaru Catchment: We have been fortunate enough to secure funding from Access to Experts ([funded by MFE](#)) to investigate how to monitor freshwater quality where there is salt water affecting the samples. We will be using the Glenomaru Catchment for this case study and will be able to apply any learnings to other areas in South Otago as well.

Frasers Stream: This catchment received a grant from ORCs ECO fund to plant 3000 native plants in the catchment to improve habitat for biodiversity in the greater Lake Tuakitoto Catchment. We have planted 1000 of these already and the remainder will go in this autumn.

Clutha Lowlands: A small group attended a session with Jack from ORC to learn about the Stream health monitoring requirements for FAP Plus accreditation. We can do more of these if you are looking at this programme and need any assistance. Just let us know if we can help.

Owaka/Tahakopa: As part of the Mr Whippy tour we teamed up with DOC to share some stoat traps with the local community. These traps were decommissioned from DOC and some have deteriorated, but it was a good opportunity to have a look through the traps and take away the ones you thought you could resurrect!

Working with others



Young Farmers :

We have teamed up with the local Young Farmers for a couple of events lately. The first was an outdoor movie night for families to come out and have a catch up and watch the Footrot Flats Movie. We held this in the Equine Centre at Telford which was a great all weather location with lots of room for camping chairs and takeaways for tea in front of the big screen!

We also supported the Young Farmer Regional Finals event held at Wingatui by hosting the riparian planting module with NZ Landcare Trust. It was great to integrate some freshwater management into the content of the day and we enjoyed seeing the competitors doing what they do best!

Corporate Volunteers:

We once again hosted Westpac volunteers for a day in our nursery at Telford. We had lots of jobs to do from trimming the sedges that have done really well in the shade house, to potting on some smaller plants, to generally having a tidy up and organisation of the plants. Many hands make light work and we are so grateful for the assistance as well as sharing stories and ideas along the way.

Food, Farming and Freshwater with Our Land and Water National Science Challenge:

Otago South River Care was privileged to host this event in conjunction with NZ Landcare Trust. It was wonderful to be able to play our part in bringing some practical science to the area with great speakers and conversations on the day. Please check out [Our Land and Water National Science Challenges website](#) for more information and reports from our speakers.

What is coming up:

Water Quality Monitoring Field day



We have teamed up with our local PAMU farm managers and Sustainability team for a field event looking at water quality monitoring and stream health in the Glenomaru Catchment.

We will be covering the how, where and why of water quality sampling, stream health assessments, eDNA sampling and how these fit with Freshwater Farm Plans and FAP Plus for anyone interested.

Date is *19th March*. Let us know if you are keen and we will send more details when we have locked down the final details, or look out for information on our [facebook page](#)

Cultural video Launch with Ruth Baldwin



We are delighted to have supported Ruth Baldwin to help share some of the important cultural history of the Clutha area through the development of three short videos - with a particular focus on the area between Toko Mouth and Kaka Point. Ruth shared stories of some tragic history for local Māori, and some of the stories of her ancestors dealing with European settlers.

These compelling watches are going to be released at our Cultural History video launch on *26th March* at Te Pou ō Mata-au.

The event will begin at 10:30am and finish with a finger food lunch. All are welcome and we'd love any of our local farmers and growers, rural support agencies, councilors and business owners to come along for this special launch!

Propagation Workshops



We are very pleased to offer our Propagation Workshops with Jo Wakelin once again this year. During these workshops Jo will cover seed collection, seed preparation and planting, and potting on seedlings. You will be able to take home a seedling tray with freshly sown native seeds and some small plants you have potted on in the workshop.

18 April- Afternoon workshop in Milton

19 April- A morning and an afternoon workshop in Balclutha.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to book a space as numbers are limited due to the hands on nature of the workshop and these have been really popular in the past.

Riparian and wetland planting and final plant guard offer



Once again this year we do have a final planting season to support planting natives in riparian and wetland areas - if you have site in mind give us a call.

Our final offer of plant guards to support those who are growing their own natives or are undertaking your own native planting this autumn- we can supply plant guards and mulch mats. Please get in touch by the *end of March*.

Results of trial: Native seeds applied by drone



We will be holding a field day to have a look at the site where we used a drone to apply native seeds to a steep gully by drone. These have come up well and we are excited to share the results with you.

Where: Blakie Road, Clifden

When: 10.30am on 16th March



Otago South River Care

Farmers helping farmers to make a cleaner, greener future.

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