

ABOUT Manuherekia Catchment



The Vision of the Group is to:

help create a *thriving community** with a sustainable, healthy and balanced environment. We do this by leading by example, being *action-orientated* and *working closely with our community and partners*.

*economic, people, social, water, soil, biodiversity, GHGs, geographical.

This is supported by our *mission to maintain a healthy river*, by focusing on *water security and water quality* for our future generations and so that we have sustainable food and fibre production in our community. *We work with our community to create amazing outcomes.*



About the catchment:

The Manuherekia catchment is made up of low producing dryland and tall tussock (67%), high producing grasslands (mainly irrigated 21%).

The remaining area is made up of alpine grass (1%), bare gravel /scree slopes (3%), native and weed sub/alpine shrublands (3%).

There are two main valleys, the Ida Valley and Manuherekia valley.

Water is at the heart of all things in the catchment:

It's used for:

- domestic and stock drinking water
- growing pasture and crops for animal feed for sheep, beef, dairy, deer, goats and horses
- horticulture: cherries, apples, apricots, fruit cooling,
- viticulture,
- hospitality: gardens at cafés,
- berries and native trees
- and aesthetics.

Keeping our environment healthy

The Thomsons Creek catchment, through the Thomsons Catchment Project, are actively working to create a wetland site and have already installed fish barriers and done significant native plantings to help protect the native species, including the Central Otago roundhead galaxias, one of New Zealand's most endangered fish species.

The project is funded by the Ministry for the Environment's Jobs for Nature programme and supported by the whole community and a range of passionate stakeholders. The local schools are also involved and Omakau School carries out water testing every month.

Thomsons Project are focusing their efforts in four main areas:

1. Planting native species
2. Fencing off waterways and all farmers – sheep, beef and more – are well underway fencing creeks and streams on their land.
3. Constructed wetland
4. Fish barriers to protect the biodiversity on Thomsons Creek by keeping out invasive fish species, such as trout and perch, so that the native fish species that make the waterway home will be protected and can thrive.



Our River

The northern upper reaches of the Manuherekia flow from the Hawkdun and St Bathans Ranges joining at the forks (above Falls Dam).

The western tributaries (Dunstan, Becks, Lauder, Thomsons, Chatto) flow out of the Dunstan Mountains

While the eastern Tributaries flow out to the Raggedy range with the Poolburn and Ida Burn flowing through the Ida valley that drain north Rough Ridge and join the Manuherekia below Becks.

From the Forks above Falls Dam the River stretches 83km to the Confluence with the Clutha/Mata-au.

The Manuherekia catchment is a hot spot in the summer for swimming, picnicking, and paddling. Especially at Falls Dam and Dunstan Creek, Poolburn and Manorburn dams.

Kayaking (when flows are over 20cumecs) is a grade 5 river and therefore a favourite spot for expert kayakers. Downriver from Galloway is good for family kayaking.

The Manuherekia River is currently a Regionally Significant brown trout fishery in both the main stem and at Pool Burn and Manor Burn dams.

Native instream species include galaxias species: Alpine Galaxias above Falls Dam, Central Otago roundhead galaxias in the lower gradient streams and Clutha Flathead in the Pool Burn and Manor Burn areas. Common and Upland bully (a small native fish species), long fin eels (tuna), Koaro and Lamprey are also present throughout the catchment.

Why we love living here:

The catchment has excellent tramping, hunting and game bird shooting spots and curling is a favoured winter sport throughout the community.

It's a great place to live!

FIND OUT MORE

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