

# Introduction: Manuherikia Catchment Group Incorporated Society

*1 June 2020*

Dear Irrigators,

The Manuherikia Catchment Group (formerly the OWRUG Manuherikia sub-committee) have come to a point where we need slightly more formality, clear membership and to strengthen our processes. To achieve this the Manuherikia Catchment Group(MCG) will become an Incorporated Society. Draft rules will be circulated shortly.

The inaugural meeting will be held at **3.30pm 30 June 2020**, at Lauder Hotel (Originally we planned for the 1<sup>st</sup> July but that wasn't suitable). At this meeting we will elect the committee. You will find both society membership forms and committee nomination forms attached. We need as many individual irrigators as possible to become members so that we really are the collective voice for irrigators and so you are able to contribute to the future of the irrigation in the catchment. We anticipate the schemes will join as corporate members, but individuals with their own consents also need to become members.

The MCG has been working over the past three years as a united irrigators voice. Our real focus is a collective front on the water permit applications and plan change processes. This has included utilising a team of consultants with farmer backing to engage on Minimum flow, allocation setting and recently Plan Change 7. The group has also been developing a River Management Strategy which will help establish the irrigators stance during permit replacement.

Funding has up until now come from the irrigation companies, however moving forward we would like to include all private right holders as well as other interested entities as Associate members. Membership costs for an individual is \$100 and Associate member \$20. An invoice will be sent after the inaugural meeting as a bank account will need to be set up first. A method of determining the costs for the schemes will be discussed with the schemes before the 30 June.

The progress to date includes but isn't limited to completing all the in field work for the minimum flow and applications, drafting the River Management Plan, representation for irrigators on numerous groups and liaising with effected parties.

Over the next 12 months we aim to: have an MCG approved River Management Plan in the next couple of months, complete the science reports to support the plan change and applications, represent the irrigators on PC7 and co-ordinate the lodging of applications by Spring. It is likely MCG will be in an Environment Court hearing for PC7 by the end of the year however at this stage that work is being co-ordinated by OWRUG not MCG as more than the Manuherikia irrigators are in the team.

Team members(consultants and farmers) are also working with the ORC led Manuherikia Reference Group and the Technical advisory group and working with ORC on the farm financial modelling project required for any assessments of proposed minimum flow regimes.

Action:

1. Please fill in the membership form and return it to our secretary at [manuherikiacatchmentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:manuherikiacatchmentgroup@gmail.com) by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June or bring to the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> June.
2. Please communicate with others and consider nominating or seconding committee members (we need 7 to 11) and return those forms to the secretary by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June.
3. Please RSVP for the 30<sup>th</sup> June to our secretary, Helena on the email above or myself. There will be a light afternoon tea provided.

The current committee is comprised of:

Anna Gillespie, Lauder (Chair)  
Jan Manson, Omakau (Treasurer)  
Ken Gillespie, Oturehua  
Phil Smith, Becks  
Don Malcolm, St Bathans  
Hamish Stratford, Omakau  
Andrew Paterson, Matakanui  
Allison Sutton, Alexandra  
Stewart Craig, Alexandra  
Mike Kelly, Galloway area  
Mary Flannery, Poolburn  
Graeme Martin, Alexandra

Thanks,

Anna Gillespie