

WELCOME TO OUR

Newsletter

◆ Quarterly Update



Welcome to the first edition of the Mackenzie Basin Catchment Collective Newsletter!

This quarterly update is packed with exciting news, project highlights, and valuable insights into our ongoing efforts to protect and enhance our local environment. Inside, you'll find success stories from our dedicated members, updates on current and upcoming initiatives, and tips for sustainable land and water management.

Thank you for being a part of our collective journey towards a healthier, more vibrant catchment area.



In this newsletter you will find:

Latest projects, workshops, free resources, and more. Keep Reading!



Words from the Chair

Kia ora,

I'm delighted to share some exciting updates from our farming community in the Mackenzie Basin. Thanks to the unwavering dedication of our team and our commitment to community collaboration. We are driven to implement sustainable practices in our day-to-day operations, ensuring the health of our land and the quality of our products, continuously building a resilient future for our region.

I warmly invite you to join us at events that we organize throughout the year. It's a wonderful opportunity to develop a better understanding and awareness of all aspects of farming in our region.

Ngā mihi nui,

Douglas Lee
Chairman,
Mackenzie Basin Catchment
Collective



What's been happening?

OHAU DOWNS STATION - FARM
OPEN DAY SUCCESS!

On the 23rd of March we held our first farm open day at Ohau Downs Station, and wow what a day! Kees and Kathryn opened their gates to share their operations and some of their Lake Ohau Wagyu (which we can confirm, was very well received). Here are a few words from Kathryn herself.

The Mackenzie Basin Catchment Collective asked if we would host an Open Farm Day here at Ohau Downs Station in conjunction with MBCC and Landcare Trust. To be honest we were a little apprehensive and weren't sure what to expect on the day. Well, it could not have been better. Approximately 100 people of all ages and backgrounds came to visit to see a little of what we do here on farm.

We split the afternoon into blocks hoping this would be interesting.

A chat about our on-farm nursery was followed by Kees talking about our Wagyu operation and how the Lake Ohau Wagyu brand came about. The positive feedback we have had from the public, chefs, butchers and how the demand outstripped our expectation.

Of course, the proof of anything is in sampling the product, so we cooked up a few steaks for everyone to try – it was all eaten.

Then our visitors went along to the Raupo Lagoon QEII Covenant Block. A huge thanks to Haeleigh Turner (Wilding Free Mackenzie) and Cathy and Aalbert (QEII) for sharing their knowledge and expertise. They explained the significance of the area, why we need to protect it and allowed everyone to wander to a few locations to appreciate the size of the lagoon and experience the rawness of this wilderness, which incorporates both drylands and wetlands (tarns, kettle holes).



So many people later expressed how much they appreciated the opportunity to understand more about our QEII and why it is so special. Once everyone returned a Q&A session was held in the woolshed, along with a hot drinks and cake.

We have always appreciated that we farm in a special place and that our farming operation, the environment and guardianship go hand in hand. We work closely with QEII, Environment Canterbury, MPI, DOC, Wilding Free Mackenzie, Runanga, Meridian on many projects, as neighbors and stakeholders within North Otago and the Mackenzie Basin. We respect and like to foster good working relationships with them. So our Open Farm Day and the Q&A panel included representatives from each of these groups.

Wes, spoke of his work with Tuna (eel) in Lake Ohau. We always appreciate his passion and knowledge, and it was fantastic that he could share this with our visitors on the day.

Marianne (DOC) brought along the most brilliant display of pests, information and games. People don't always have the opportunity to see a ferret, possum or other pests in their actual state and size so this was a wonderful and thoughtful addition. Tracey Perkins from Landcare Trust facilitated the whole day – she was a



gem directing the day and keeping us on track.

We finished the day with Lake Ohau Wagyu on the spit along with a BBQ - thanks to Logan from Ohau Lodge and those on the tools.

Kees and I tried to meet and chat to as many people as we could. We thoroughly enjoyed sharing the 'what and why' of what it is we do here at Ohau Downs Station.

Thank you again, to all who gave up their time to help or came along to visit - we hope you enjoyed yourselves too.

Kathryn



Water Quality in the Mackenzie Basin

Prepared for Mackenzie Basin Catchment Collective

by Collaborations

Resource Highlight

We are excited to announce our collaboration with the Ministry for the Environment's Access 2 Experts to develop a cutting-edge water quality story map for the Mackenzie Basin.

This innovative tool is designed to help provide an overview of water quality in the region to manage water quality more effectively, ensuring the health and sustainability of our precious resource.

The full story map can be found on our website.

Coming Up



Mt COOK
alpine salmon

OPEN DAY

Mt Cook Alpine Salmon, renowned for their premium King Salmon, are opening their doors to give insights into their operations.

Join us for a farm tour, presentations, Q&A, and a BBQ lunch.

 11am – 3.30pm
31 MAY 2025

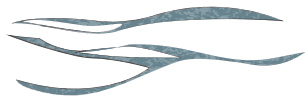
 **CONTACT US**
021 253 1075

 **Tickets are limited**
These must be presented on entry.
Get yours from the MBCC website below:

www.mackenziebasincatchmentcollective.com



MACKENZIE BASIN CATCHMENT COLLECTIVE



WATER QUALITY

Protecting our waters is a priority for us. We want to support farmers and groups to preserve our environment.



PEST CONTROL

Maintaining biodiversity is key to protecting our environment. We work with groups by collaborating with industry experts to create effective management strategies.



RESOURCE SHARING

Our website is constantly being loaded with resources to help you keep up with regulatory and compliance changes. However, if there is something you want to know more about or think would be valuable; let us know so we can get it added!



EDUCATION

We are always looking to connect people to information and experts on a range of environmental matters. Please reach out if there are any initiatives or programs you want to highlight in the community!

Catchment Group Projects

WAIREPO ARM RESTORATION PROJECT

In a stride towards environmental conservation, the Wairepo Arm Catchment Group has successfully secured funding and necessary consents to embark on an ambitious project aimed at restoring the flow of Wairepo Creek.

The project, which received the green light to commence in March and April, involves the removal of willows and other invasive vegetation that have been choking the creek.

The MBCC and Mt Cook Alpine Salmon have supported this project by collecting water quality and velocity samples to monitor any potential changes to the arm as a result of the project.

A final project summary reviewing all the moving parts is still to be completed. Stay tuned!



Visit our new website!

EVENTS | RESOURCES | BLOG | TOOLS

Dedicated to enhancing environmental, social & economic outcomes, ensuring a resilient community for future generations of the Mackenzie Basin



@mackenziebasincollective | mbccinz@gmail.com

WWW.MACKENZIEBASINCATCHMENTCOLLECTIVE.COM