



NEWSLETTER

MANUHERIKIA CATCHMENT WATER STRATEGY GROUP

March 2015

Update from the project manager:

The Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group has continued to work on the feasibility study since our last update to you in the December newsletter and the community meeting we held in early December.

As you know, in late November we received indicative costings for a 27-metre high dam which were in the vicinity of \$194 million.

Since then, the MCWSG has been working closely with our engineering consultants from Golder Associates and Opus' Ian Walsh, who carried out the pre-feasibility study, to try to identify the reasons why the preliminary costs are significantly higher than the estimates given during the pre-feasibility study.

The aim is to develop an "optimised" solution which enables the reliable irrigation of 25,000 hectares, at a cost which is affordable for irrigators.

This work is still underway but, at this stage, the engineers have found that siting the dam immediately below the existing Falls Dam and raising it by 20 to 22-metres compared to the existing dam is likely to be the most affordable option, at about \$147 million.

However, the MCWSG does not believe this is a viable option to present to irrigators. Therefore, we're continuing to pursue a more affordable solution.

We're also working with the Government's Irrigation Acceleration Fund to form a panel of specialists in dam design to work on ways the costs could be further reduced. This process is expected to take some months.

Meanwhile, other aspects of the feasibility study have been completed with positive results.

These include the contribution being made by AgResearch, the main organisation behind the development and refinement of the Overseer programme. Overseer enables us to model the impact further development in the catchment would have.

The indications to date are that, despite an increase in the area of land to be irrigated and the associated intensified land use, water quality would improve, mainly due to the change from irrigation via surface flooding to spray irrigation which uses significantly less water.

*Kate Scott
Project manager
Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group*

See pages 2 and 3 for profiles of members of the Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group...



CONTACTS
Allan Kane
Chairman
03 443 1543

Gary Kelliher
Deputy Chairman
03 448 7869





NEWSLETTER

MANUHERIKIA CATCHMENT WATER STRATEGY GROUP



CONTACTS
Allan Kane
Chairman
03 443 1543

Gary Kelliher
Deputy Chairman
03 448 7869



Profiles of Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group members:

Ken Gillespie is a member of the Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group's executive team.



Ken has chaired the Hawkdun Idaburn Irrigation Company for more than 20 years.

He is a strong believer in managing water resources on a catchment-wide basis, saying that approach will make the overall scheme more effective and affordable.

"We've had nothing done in our catchment since the depression years when the original dams were built. It's time for an update."

Ken and his wife Helen have four children.

They used to have a sheep and beef farm in Oturehua, but Ken describes himself as a semi-retired farmer these days and he has many other interests.

He is an Otago Central Rail Trail trustee, a member of the New Zealand Curling Association and a board member of Maniototo Curling International in Naseby, and he belongs to the Maniototo Lions.

Ken says he also has "a bike or two" and helps to organise the Brass Monkey and is involved with the Hayes Engineering Works, a Heritage New Zealand attraction in Oturehua.

See page 3 for a profile of another member of the Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group...



NEWSLETTER

MANUHERIKIA CATCHMENT WATER STRATEGY GROUP



CONTACTS
Allan Kane
Chairman
03 443 1543

Gary Kelliher
Deputy Chairman
03 448 7869



Mike Kelly is another member of the Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group.



He is the secretary and treasurer of the Galloway Irrigation Society and owns 10 hectares at Galloway on which he farms deer and grows walnuts.

Mike works for Opus in Alexandra as a resource management planner, specialising in resource consents for water and irrigation development projects.

He appreciates the collaborative approach the MCWSG is taking to water use in the Manuherikia catchment and believes it will result in balance between agricultural and recreational needs and the health of the Manuherikia River.

Mike is a keen whitewater kayaker and a member of the Central Otago Whitewater club.

He and his wife Cushla have four daughters – aged from primary school to teenage – three of whom have followed in his kayaking footsteps.

Mike says, living at Galloway, the Manuherikia River is on their front doorstep and is both vital for production on their small farm unit and wonderful for family recreation.

See page 4 for invitations to upcoming events...



NEWSLETTER

MANUHERIKIA CATCHMENT WATER STRATEGY GROUP



CONTACTS
Allan Kane
Chairman
03 443 1543

Gary Kelliher
Deputy Chairman
03 448 7869



Event invitations:

Irrigation New Zealand, in partnership with KPMG, Tavendale and Partners and the BNZ, invite you to attend the Institute of Directors Governance Essentials Training.

When: Monday March 30, 9am-5pm
Where: Omakau Commercial Hotel

Come and learn about:

- Your role as a board member
- Distinguishing between management, governance and representation
- Understanding your responsibilities
- Making informed decisions
- Your rights and liabilities

Join us for this interactive and informative session, with plenty of practical ideas to increase the effectiveness of your scheme.

Who should register?

This training session is open to operating and developing scheme board members, CO's and aspiring future leaders.

Cost: Irrigation New Zealand members: \$450 (plus GST)
Non-members: \$550(plus GST)

Don't miss this opportunity - there are only 24 places available.

The closing date for registrations is March 16.

For further information and to register, click the following link:
<http://irrigationnz.co.nz/event/iod-governance-essentials-2/>

or contact Kate Mills: kmills@irrigationnz.co.nz, 03 341 2225

The next Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group meeting:

When: Thursday April 2, 2pm
Where: Central Otago District Council offices, Alexandra

You're welcome to attend.