

Hedgehope Makarewa Catchment Group

VISION: Thriving communities making informed, meaningful changes for a resilient future.

MISSION: Engaging and empowering the community to care about its social, economic, cultural and environmental future.

Hedgehope Makarewa Catchment Group has been caring for the local environment and community since 2014. There are 12 core members that form the steering group. Involved are dairy, sheep and beef, deer and crop farmers, rural professionals, contractors, local school representatives and others in the community. Looking after the environment and the wellbeing of each other is central to everything Hedgehope Makarewa Catchment Group undertakes.

UNDERSTANDING OUR LAND TO DRIVE CHANGE

Working with the environmental consultancy, Land & Water Science, this project used science and local knowledge to help people better understand the catchment and how variations in landscape characteristics can impact water quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

Using airborne radiometric data to improve existing soil maps, and data from a drone survey, high resolution hydrological layers were created, and then ground-truthed – i.e. verified in situ.

A free user-friendly online platform was created to share the information and enable landowners to make the best environmental decisions.

Field Days were held on three case study farms to show how the information on landscape susceptibility and resilience could be practically used to help choose future mitigations and where to target them.

A FEW EVENTS WE ARE PROUD OF:

- » **Community Hangi, Native Seed Collecting and Planting**
Hedgehope Makarewa Catchment Group staged a community hangi and native planting session with Hedgehope School and Hokonui Runanga, and is continuing to support the school's stream health studies.
- » **Southland Catchment Groups' Christmas Competition**
With the support of Thriving Southland and other Catchment Groups, the Christmas competition dreamt up by Hedgehope Makarewa has become a Southland-wide annual event involving many families, neighbours, communities, businesses and farms.
- » **Sharing Learnings – Two Major Projects**
The Group's two major projects – Understanding Our Land to Drive Change and the Winter Crop Establishment Trial – have involved many people in the community over the past few years. The Group continues to share learnings with many farmers and farm teams in Southland and across New Zealand.



Hedgehope Makarewa Catchment Group connects, inspires and supports its community to be well informed and make the best decisions.

GOALS:

- » Every property has a Property Environmental Management Plan
- » Using science to understand the catchment and develop practical solutions
- » The community understands the four main contaminants that impact water quality in the catchment
- » Collaborating with stakeholders and other Catchment Groups
- » Ensuring the community is fully informed of any new regulations that will or may affect the area
- » Including wellbeing in all projects.

VALUES:

- » Friendly and approachable
- » Working together as a community
- » Integrity and respect
- » Celebrating success as a community.



**THRIVING
SOUTHLAND**

*Tōnui ana te whenua. Tōnui ana te takata.
A thriving, prosperous land. A thriving, prosperous people.*

