

# Lower Waiau Farmers Catchment Group

Lower Waiau Catchment Group was formed in 2020 by local farmers wanting to understand more about their environment and carry out improvement work.



## MOBILE CATTLE SHELTER DEVELOPMENT

This project developed and trialed a large prototype mobile shelter during the 2022 winter. The shelter was based on irrigator spans catering for winter crop grazing of 60 to 120 cows with the aim of improving feed efficiency, animal welfare and environmental outcomes. Unfortunately, the structure was damaged by strong winds and has now been redesigned to make it more robust so it can be tested again in the 2023 winter.

## A FEW EVENTS WE ARE PROUD OF:

- » **Environmental DNA tests – May 2021**  
Water samples from the Lilburn and Merton streams revealed pleasing results including the presence of a number of interesting species such as kanakana (lamprey) and gollum galaxids. Members of the Catchment Group collected the water samples, filtering the water to capture the DNA. The samples were then analysed by Wilderlab.
- » **Know Your Numbers evening – October 2021**  
DairyNZ water quality specialist, Justin Kitto, presented on the current conditions of freshwater in the Waiau catchment.
- » **Family Stream Walk & Stream Health Check – January 2023**  
A fun family day out, including a BBQ, was held in the summer holidays. The Environment Southland sustainability team taught members of the community how to carry out stream health assessments. Testing was at two sites in Lilburn Stream, including on the King family farm where lots of critters were found confirming the excellent state of this section of the stream.

