



POURAKINO CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST

Founded in 2014, Pourakino Catchment Conservation Trust (PCCT) is one of the longest standing Catchment Groups in Southland.

It was formed by a group of farmers who connected to have a meaningful voice and address sediment issues in the Riverton Estuary. Motivated by a shared vision they have hosted a number of projects and events to preserve native bush, rivers and streams surrounding their farms and improve the wider catchment and estuary environments while protecting their farming businesses.

ON-GRASS WINTER TRIAL

PCCT members are acutely aware of wintering pressures and the need to revisit existing practices. While current grasses are bred for high productivity, the on-grass winter pilot trial is exploring alternative pasture and forages that are designed to be highly resistant to treading.

The trial aims to answer the questions of whether the trade-off in production is worth planting selected pasture paddocks with grasses more resilient to pugging, and could a system be designed to cope with particularly adverse weather events?

The Catchment Group completed the first year of the trial in the winter of 2022.

A FEW EVENTS WE ARE PROUD OF:

» Crack Willows in the Pourakino

Crack willows invading Pourakino River are blocking and shading the river. The Catchment Group is taking action to restore the river's glory, collaborating with locals, businesses, recreational users, the Department of Conservation and Environment Southland, to scope and remove the willows.

» Aparima Community Environment (ACE)

Pourakino Catchment Group is proud to be a founding member of ACE - Aparima Community Environment.

Recently, ACE explored a stream that feeds both farmland and bush in Pourakino. Investigating and understanding the catchment's history, rainfall data, contamination pathways, and kanakana (lamprey) inhabiting the stream.

PCCT field days have covered the release of soil mapping programmes LUCI (Ravensdown) and MitAgator (Ballance) as well as an event at Oraka Aparima Runaka.



The Group's immediate focus is on four key areas:

- » Minimising sediment runoff
- » Improving waterway management
- » Improving nutrient management
- » Improving the public perception of agriculture.

A longer-term goal is to ensure that local farmers are well informed and able to make the best management decisions based on good data.

Nearly all farmers in Pourakino Catchment are involved in PCCT and 85% of landholders in the area have a Farm Environment Management Plan.

PCCT is the proud winner of the 2016 Environment Southland Councillors Special Award and the 2022 Ballance Farm Environment Catchment Group Award.

