



# WAIMATUKU CATCHMENT GROUP

Waimatuku Catchment Group came to life at a farm kitchen table, with four of the founding members from 2016 still active on the 14-member committee.

With 76 members, the Group meets regularly to improve water quality and biodiversity, as well as enhance recreational opportunities and economic sustainability for current and future generations. The community is at the heart of all they do.

## BIODIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS

While Waimatuku Catchment has been modified from its natural state, the area is rich in biodiversity gems. To raise awareness about the area's biodiversity and how to enhance and protect it, the Catchment Group organises field days exploring and learning about their unique landscapes.

Catchment Group members took a first hand look at the Big Lagoon ecological restoration work. This used to be the second largest freshwater Lagoon on the Southern Coastal Plain. Matai and Totara Trees are now re-emerging in the restored forested areas.

Other field days included visiting the catchment's nationally rare coastal lagoons.

## A FEW EVENTS WE ARE PROUD OF:

### » Group Christmas Do at Thornbury

Waimatuku Catchment Group's Christmas get-together was held at Thornbury Rural Heritage Centre, where all catchment members had an opportunity to learn more about the history of farming in the area.

### » Beach Clean-up

The Group organised a fun-filled beach clean-up at the river mouth with the beachcombers finding all sorts of interesting items. There are plans to make the clean-up an annual event.

### » Planting Day

More than 30 people, including kids and folks from Invercargill, came together on a local farm to plant around 500 native species in a new sediment trap network. Plant experts shared valuable skills to inspire others to start planting projects of their own.



## PURPOSE:

- » Bring people together with a shared interest in the health of Waimatuku Catchment.
- » Collaborate with regulators and stakeholders.
- » Explore initiatives to improve the health of the catchment's streams, wetlands and estuaries.
- » Educate the Waimatuku community.
- » Celebrate water quality improvements.

## GOALS:

- » Increase community involvement in the water quality discussion.
- » Learn more about local biodiversity.
- » Explore new technologies to improve the environmental performance of Waimatuku catchment farms.
- » Build relationships with other Catchment Groups.



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A thriving, prosperous land. A thriving, prosperous people.*