

Catchment Group Story

Canterbury/Waitaha | MARCH 2025



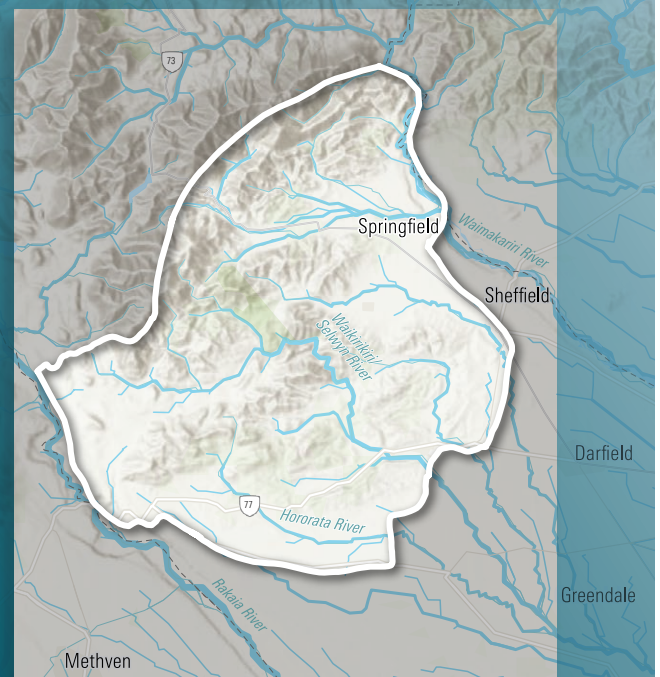
Upper Waikirikiri Catchment Collective

Waikirikiri/Selwyn River, Selwyn, Canterbury

Nestled in the foothills of Upper Waikirikiri/Selwyn, a passionate group of farmers, landowners, and community members are coming together to build a sustainable future for our waterways. The Upper Waikirikiri Catchment Collective (UWCC) is a dedicated team focused on education, collaboration, and environmental stewardship, all aimed at safeguarding our catchments for generations to come.

By sharing knowledge and implementing practical solutions, the UWCC is empowering local landowners to navigate regulations, boost biodiversity, and improve water quality. Their vision – *Future Focused Foothills* – drives the group to champion sustainable farming practices, foster a richer natural environment, and strengthen the bonds within our community.

Acknowledging the challenges of compliance and water degradation, UWCC strives to equip landowners with the tools, networks, and scientific expertise needed to protect their land while ensuring a thriving rural economy. Through our collective efforts, we're not just preserving the beauty of the foothills today – we're creating a resilient landscape for tomorrow.





The Whitecliffs Restoration Project

By combining community effort with expert guidance, we are hoping this project will make a visible difference.

LYDIA GLIDDON
UWCC

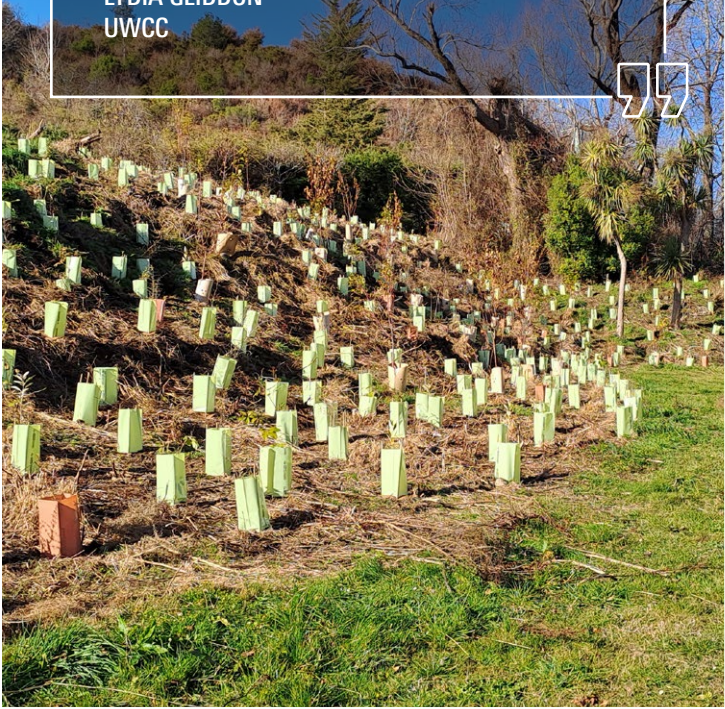


PHOTO CAPTIONS – Front cover: Sheffield Farm Environmental Plan workshop. **This page & opposite:** 1,300 plants were planted by the community as part of a 3-stage restoration project of the Selwyn River. Stage 2 will take place in April 2025. **Back cover:** Russell's Flat, west of Sheffield

Bringing the Community Together



UWCC's Events in Action

The **UWCC** is committed to supporting local farmers and landowners in building a more sustainable future. Through hands-on workshops, community gatherings, and restoration projects, UWCC provides practical tools and knowledge to protect both the environment, and local livelihoods.



Launching a Shared Vision

UWCC's official journey began with two launch events in Glenroy and Sheffield, where farmers, landowners, and community members gathered to hear about UWCC, and its vision for the future of the foothills. These events laid the foundation for collaboration, and provided the steering group members greater clarity on emerging issues and priorities. Attendees had the chance to connect, share challenges, and offer feedback – marking the start of a community-driven effort to care for the land and water.



Farm Environment Plan (FEP) Workshops

Understanding environmental regulations can be challenging, which is why the groups hosts FEP workshops. These sessions provide hands-on guidance to help landowners create, and implement FEPs to meet regulations, without becoming overwhelmed. Farmers leave these workshops with practical strategies to complete their FEP, while ensuring their farms remain productive and resilient.



Mapping the Future with EOS Ecology

EOS Ecology delivered an FCMS presentation, showcasing detailed maps and data on water quality, landuse, and biodiversity in the catchment. This session helped landowners see how their farms connect to the wider landscape, identifying areas for improvement, and opportunities for restoration. This information will play an important role in shaping UWCC's water testing project.



Restoring Whitecliffs: a Hands-on Approach

The Whitecliffs Restoration Project is a key UWCC initiative, bringing together farmers, volunteers, and environmental groups to restore native habitats along the Waikiri Kiri/Selwyn River. The project focuses on stabilising riverbanks, planting indigenous vegetation, and creating healthier waterways for local wildlife. By combining community efforts with expert guidance, the aim of this project is to make a visible difference – reducing erosion, improving water quality, and enhancing biodiversity.



Next Steps

UWCC's next steps include continuing its FEP workshops, and launching the water monitoring project. This initiative will focus on establishing baseline data, identifying key monitoring sites, and engaging landowners in the process.

Water testing will be set up at strategic locations, with training provided to ensure accurate data collection. Regular water sampling will help assess clarity, nutrient levels, and contaminants. Findings will be shared with landowners and the wider community.

Based on the results, UWCC may implement targeted actions (such as riparian planting and erosion control) to improve water quality, and support a healthier catchment.



To learn more about the UWCC, or how 'Wai Connection – Tatai Ki Te Wai' is contributing, please contact:

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