



# UPPER TAIERI WAI CATCHMENT GROUP



## UPPER TAIERI WAI

Upper Taieri Wai was called Upper Taieri Water Management Group, it is one of the oldest catchment groups in NZ. The name changed when the group went for Incorporated Status and registering as Upper Taieri Wai Incorporated Society in 2020.

## Membership

Membership had fallen away and UTW were not meeting their obligations to members, they had insufficient membership to meet incorporation and constitutional rules.

Only 12 regular members were engaging in the meetings (often from stakeholder groups). There was little advertising of meetings or push for new members over the last few years. This was due mainly to those involved being time poor with other more pressing commitments. Some members were conscious that UTW was not representing the wider community voice effectively and decisions were being made without mandate from the wider Maniototo community (due to low membership). This is why the need to revamp UTW came about. All of this history is to be parked, and we are to look forward positively and work towards building membership and focusing on how the community can benefit from UTW work.



# Whole Taieri FMU

(Fresh Water Management Unit)  
*as per Otago Regional Council*



# Upper Taieri Wai Incorporated Catchment Group Area

**Note the boundary line in light blue**



# Upper Taieri Wai Incorporated Vision Work

## **Areas of focus:**

- Fresh water Advocacy - water quality & aquatic life
- Weed & Pest Advocacy - Willow, gorse/broom, geese
- Catchment Action Plan - Facilitation Group
- Environmental Advocacy - All other areas
- Education - Workshops connecting the community
- Farming in this environment - scroll plain management plan etc.
- Fund holder for Project work to action above areas (Tiaki etc.)
- Conduit to Stakeholder Groups



# Upper Taieri Wai Incorporated Project Funds



**Tiaki  
Maniototo**

Tiaki Maniototo is a project fund that is held by Upper Taieri Wai Incorporated. The funding was received from the Ministry for the Environment 'Jobs for Nature funding.' This fund was a response to job loss across NZ post covid.

This application was developed with very specific guidelines and is very prescriptive. The funding is allocated to the objectives and defined by the budget that was developed at the time of the application. There is some room to be able to move funds, but the process is cumbersome and involves the MFE analysis teams' permission.

This project requires in-kind contributions through time and skills from stakeholder groups this is recorded as part of the reporting process. These groups include: Otago Regional Council (a specified requirement of receiving the funding), Fish & Game, DoC, Walking Access New Zealand, Maniototo Irrigation Company, ICL Chartered Accountants, Otago University and Landowners.

With the large amount of reporting and accountability of this funding taking up a lot of volunteer hours a governance group was appointed on behalf of Upper Taieri Wai.

## **Governance Group Members:**

- Peter Aitken (Chairman)
- Dawn Sangster (Landowner)
- John Heighton (F&G)
- Amie Pont (Outdoor Access Commission)
- Jeremy Anderson (MIC)
- Chris Kavazos (DoC)
- Renee Weir (Landowner)
- Erin Elworthy (Landowner)
- Janette Matheson (ICL Chartered Accountants)
- Kate Wilson (ex Upper Taieri Wai Chair -hopeful she will be staying on, yet to be determined)

*UTW is the employer of the following staff members (9 positions - mostly part time)  
the funding to pay them is from the Tiaki grant. The management of the staff has been from an appointed sub group of TM Governance Group Members.*

## **Tiaki Maniototo Lead Staff Members:**

- Janine Smith (Project Executive)
- Caitlin Daley & Collin Delahunt (Project Managers)

## **Other Paid Positions:**

- Communications Manager
- Board Administrator
- Field Officers - Fresh water scientists
- Nursery Staff
- Environmental Consultants

# Taiari Wai Project Funds



## Taiari Wai

Healthy Taiari or Taiari Wai is a project fund that is also held by Upper Taiari Wai Incorporated.

This is the extract from the website:

*“Upper Taiari Wai has funding from the Ministry for Primary Industries to support integrated farm planning across the whole of the Taiari / Taiari river catchment.*

*Integrated farm planning supports all parts of a farm business and can give you confidence that you are staying ahead of challenges coming your way and making the most of opportunities – for your business and within your catchment.*

*This project will deliver tools and information that helps you farm with confidence while also achieving broader catchment goals – including through identifying opportunities for shared projects with collective benefits. The project aims to help farmers and catchment groups with the great work they are already doing, and to amplify this.”*

This fund has been managed by chair Kate Wilson from the Strath Taiari along with a governance group from across the whole Taiari from lower, mid and upper Taiari.

## *Upper Taiari Wai Catchment Group Next Steps...*

### **Catchment Action Plan C.A.P**

Otago Regional Council has funding from the government (along with every council in NZ) to help create catchment action plans specific to areas. These plans belong to the community and not ORC.

UTW have the opportunity to create a plan for our area. This is one of the main reasons we are pushing for membership as we want to ensure that we have a wide representation adding to this plan and mandate to be the voice creating this plan. This can not happen in isolation or with only a few voices contributing.

The plan is a chance for the area to identify issues, and how we can all chip away to manage these and improve the outcomes for the future. It also will provide an opportunity for farmers to show case the good work that is already happening on farms and demonstrate what ‘best practice’ can look like.

The main issues that we envisage this plan will cover are:

- Willow, Gorse & Broom Control
- Scroll Plain Management
- Animal Pest Control
- Aquatic Life & Water Quality

A photograph of seven light-colored wooden blocks arranged on a wooden surface. The first four blocks spell out 'JOIN' and the next three spell out 'NOW'. The blocks are slightly shadowed, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

## **Become a Member**

By signing up to become a member of UTW you can choose how little or how much you want to be involved, you get a voice when it comes to appointing committee members and a vote when or if the need arises, you will receive regular updates and be invited to attend any workshops or field days that we hold.

Involvement can include:

- Member only - option to support the work of UTW but without too much time
- Committee member - 6 meetings/year (approx.)
- Catchment Action Plan contributor - 6 workshops over the year (approx)
- Paid Administrator - 3hr/week on average (advertised now)

**Membership is only \$20 for the year.**

We have a membership form that will be required to be filled out to proceed, and your membership will be confirmed after payment is received (a requirement of the incorporated society status).

email for any further questions or to receive a membership form:

[uppertaieriwai@gmail.com](mailto:uppertaieriwai@gmail.com)

## **Paid Administration Position Available Now**

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a paid administration position for Upper Taieri Wai Catchment Group. You will find advert on the Tiaki Maniototo Facebook Page.

The position will be an average of 3hrs per week across the year with a pay rate of \$40/hour.

For more information or any questions please contact Renee Weir on 027 699 3422

**Applications close on Friday 7th of February 2025 at 5pm.**

Please send CV and cover letter to [uppertaieriwai@gmail.com](mailto:uppertaieriwai@gmail.com)