

1. My name is Janet Gregory
2. I am the Canterbury Regional Coordinator and South Island Team Leader for the NZ Landcare Trust. I have worked for the NZ Landcare Trust for the last 16 years with 14 years in Southland and the last 2 years in Canterbury. My role has a focus on working with farmers, sector groups and regional councils on good management practices and sustainable land management; establish and support catchment groups; and support landcare groups.
3. I am also Chairperson of the Canterbury committee for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and have been since October 2017 and have been a judge since 2004.
4. I have worked with the Deer Industry since 2006 as a judge in the bi-annual Deer Farm Environment Awards and am now the lead judge, compile the feedback reports and provide the awards presentation at the deer industry conference.
5. In 2011-12 I lead a group of deer farmers and industry representatives to re-write and update the Deer Farmers Landcare Manual which outlined a range of management practices for deer farmers and case studies of 6 properties across the country.
6. In 2013 I applied for and got Sustainable Farming Funds for a 3 year project to work with deer farmers in Waikato, Hawkes Bay, Canterbury and Southland to promote the adoption of environmental best management practices on deer farms. This included running workshops with a range of speakers on nutrient management, farm mapping, soil moisture monitoring, farm safety, farm software to improve record keeping, animal health plans, and precision irrigation. We also started running Land Environment Plan workshops using the B+LNZ template, which was later developed in to Farm Environment Plans (FEPs) for some regions. This was the start of getting deer farmers to do FEPs as we saw it as a good way of identifying farm based risks and mitigating for them, and monitoring and recording progress in adopting good management practices.
7. In 2015 I wrote the narrative for the deer sector for the Industry agreed Matrix of Good Management Practices relating to water quality that was developed by farming industries for Canterbury.
8. In 2017-18 I was then lead author of the Deer Environmental Management Code of Practice (EMCOP) which was launched in May 2018. This brought together the Deer Farmers Landcare Manual and the Matrix of Good Management Practice with a range of GMPs and mitigation options farmers could choose to adopt, and provides information for farmers to complete their FEP. It also included an introduction to carbon.

Farm Environment Plans

9. I have helped a number of deer farmers complete FEPs both individually and by facilitating workshops.
10. In 2018 I worked with a Canterbury deer farmer to prepare his FEP and together with ECan staff we hosted a field day for 30 auditors to introduce the EMCOP and outline what the industry considered was good management practice on deer farms. We had excellent feedback including the suggestion from them to come back and do a mock audit so we could make sure auditors were consistent in their interpretation. We did this in April 2019 and also made sure the FEP was

also compliant to Plan Change 5 which included an additional series of maps and information on Mahinga kai. This was attended by 10 auditors who provided very good feedback. They also stated it was the best FEP they had seen so we have decided to compile a series of FEP templates for different regions and areas which will be made available to farmers so they can see how to prepare them and the standard that is expected. This FEP was used in the DINZ submission.

11. **Key Feedback** from day

- a. **Record keeping and documentation of what is happening on farm is vital**
- b. **Conversation between auditor and farmer provides confidence that the farmer understands their system and what is proposed will be done**
- c. **Plan going forward to achieve the proposed work with realistic timeframes**

Catchment Groups

12. From 2012 my work has also focused on establishing and supporting catchment groups, mainly in Southland, Otago and Canterbury.
13. In 2013 I received SFF funding to work in the Pomahaka catchment in Otago and scope a plan that would identify best management practices to improve water quality. I involved a number of farmers from throughout the catchment and covering all land uses and together with a range of stakeholders we visited a number of properties across the catchment to discuss different issues and identified a range of practices to promote to farmers. This formed the basis of the catchment action plan and a further 3 year SFF programme. In 2015 the farmers formed their own Pomahaka Water Care Group and we have worked together since to improve good management practices in the catchment. This has resulted in improved nitrogen levels in catchment waterways, and now there is also improving phosphorus and E.coli levels.
14. In 2017 I gained SFF funding for a 3 year project to employ a Project Coordinator to support Southlands Farmer Driven Catchment Groups which now number 19 groups covering 70% of the province.
15. Key factors in the success of catchment groups is the farmer led approach with farmers talking to other farmers; independent facilitation, support and advice to prepare an action plan based on strategic thinking; and involvement of stakeholders. Many groups have focused on improving water quality by improving adoption of GMPs, but some have also included promotion of what they are doing and involving the whole community in their activities. Groups vary in size and the landowners identify their catchment boundaries based on the area they relate to. By working together across the different farm types farmers gain support and share information, learn from each other and strengthen community relationships.