



Coleridge Habitat Enhancement Trust

CHET Trust Meetings 2025 – Summary of Minutes

This is an update for the year 2025; this update incorporates the meetings that have been held during the year.

Projects & Activity:

1. Administration

- With the Local Body Elections completed and our Chairman Bob Mugford stepping down as Councillor for the Malvern Ward, Bob has also advised he is stepping down from CHET as a Trustee. Bobs experience, knowledge and commitment to CHET has been invaluable and will be missed. SDC will be appointing a new Trustee.
- In addition to Bobs departure, the CHET Secretary Judith Pascoe has also decided to take the opportunity to hand over her role. Like Bob she has been an integral part of the administration of the Trust and her contribution has been much appreciated.
- With Judiths departure, CHET is very pleased to welcome Yvonne Cookson to the Trust as Secretary.

2. Weed Control Work

- Applying for and receiving a grant from CHET enabled the BRFP (Braided River Flagship Partnership) to start control works in the Coleridge-Acheron catchment. Previously, the BRFP has not had the funding to be able to undertake any control in this area, but the CHET funding is earmarked for this geographical area. Expanding the BRFP control area to around Lake Coleridge also aligns with the Upper Rakaia Weed Strategy: 2023-2033.
- Control works in this area this season were primarily focused on the Ryton River. A large portion of the willow infestation along the lower Ryton River was drilled and filled by Downer, who also spent several days controlling general weeds in the riverbed.
- The willows around the Lake Selfe shoreline previously received comprehensive control, and follow up control was carried out to target some of the regrowth and a few uncontrolled trees. Further control of small, regenerating willows will require spray work next season, as drill and fill method is not efficient for smaller plants.

3. Trapping

- CHET has a small team of dedicated volunteer trappers who look after trap lines at Lake Coleridge Boat Harbour (David Murchison), Homestead Road Lagoon (Rebecca Rose) and Lakes Evelyn/Georgina and Selfe (David Anderson and Rosalie Snoyink).
- In addition, CHET and Manawa Energy run a number of trap lines up in the Harper Delta.
- Pests trapped include ferrets, stoats, opossums, rats, feral cats and hedgehogs. Unfortunately there are no shortage of pests to trap.
- In addition to these trap lines, CHET is funding the Craigieburn Trapping Alliance to install a new line of traps down the Acheron River from Lake Lyndon.

Newsletters and Good Reads:

Predator Free NZ – www.predatorfree.nz.org/about-us/contact-us/

BRaid (Braided River) – www.braidedrivers.org/news/

NZ Auto Traps – www.nzautotraps.com/

4. Aerial Pest Eradication

- CHET was pleased to help fund the aerial pest eradication project that was organised, financed and run by the Farms/Stations within the Lake Coleridge Catchment (with DOC shooting Peak Hill). Deer and pigs were targeted with over 600 animals shot on their properties.

5. Grebe Nesting Platform

- The CHET Grebe nesting platform was refurbished and repositioned at Boat harbour on Lake Coleridge. There is a healthy population of Grebes on the lakes but to date they have not used the platform.

6. Korowai/Tussocklands Park Operational Plan project

- The CHET Coordinator has met with DOC to discuss damage occurring to the Korowai Tussocklands Park (primarily 4wd access from the Lyndon Road) and the Lake Coleridge lakes.

7. Project Funding – Coleridge Habitat Trust

CHET has continued to support and fund the following projects:

LINZ

- Weed eradication for the Ryton River/Scamander Stream working from upstream extents, down.
- Willows Lake Selfe – LINZ to undertake a continuation of the willow control works that has been undertaken by CHET.

ECAN

- The ongoing weed control project for the vegetated river terraces of the Rakaia River - the key widespread weed species are sycamore, cherry, cotoneaster, and wilding conifers.
- Funding was approved for the ongoing weed control programme in the Scamander Swamp (Harper Road).

Wilberforce River

- CHET approved the development of a Weed Management Strategy for what are referred to as the Homestead Weeds (woody weed species) that have spread from the homestead plantings at Algidus Station (who have also provided funding for this project). A key outcome will be the **Prioritised control recommendations**, including an approach to management and indicative costings.

FUNDING NOTE: *CHET is not currently considering new funding applications as the amount of funding available is decreasing and the CHET priority is to maintain the gains that have been made with the various pest and weed eradication programmes/initiatives.*

8. CHET Field Trip

- A field trip was held on Friday 28 March. There was a great turnout with most Farms/Stations/Organisations involved in the Lake Coleridge Catchment represented, Site visits to the Ryton delta, Lake Selfe and Harper were undertaken.

CHET would like to thank you for your continued support and interest.

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