THOMSONS CATCHMENT PROJECT

in three short years: 2022 - 2025

Connecting with the community and stakeholders

14 community events and workshops

Visits by Omakau, Poolburn and Clyde Schools, including 1 Aquavan visit, and 1 University of Otago container visit

259 Facebook posts

466 Facebook followers

4 MP visits (David Parker, Andrew Hoggard and 2 local MPs)

11 Newsletters

9 Factsheets

We hit the national stage in April with coverage in the **NZ Herald** and an interview with Nic on RNZ's **Jesse Mulligan show** following the Ballance Awards showcase win.

1 Otago Ballance Farm Environment Community Showcase Award in April 2025

30 News articles

Huge help from the community, including farmers, contractors, local businesses, Omakau School, ORC, DOC, Fish and Game Otago

Key milestones at a glance

5ha wetland constructed

1 viewing platform

3 information panels constructed along with a short 30m path

1 fish barrier installed on Thomsons creek

2 perched culverts to protect the central Otago roundhead galaxiid

1 QEII National Trust covenant established

390 trout removed and 2 perch from above the main barrier

5 native plant propagation workshops

52km of fencing along waterways completed, lifting protection from **87% to 96%**, with **$290,000** in-kind fencing support from farmers

50,000 plants have been planted in the catchment — **41,000 Carex secta** in the wetland, **3,200** on drier ground at the wetland, and the remainder elsewhere in the catchment

8 fulltime equivalent jobs

21 issued consents to cover the wetland, fish barrier, perched culverts and creek works

Our volunteers at work

Bird monitors have completed **13 bird monitoring rounds**

37 predators caught by the trapping team in 2025

Backyard growers are growing over **400 native plants** for the wetland

Omakau school has completed **34 water quality monitoring rounds** over 3 years with help from ORC and Enviroschools

95 drone footage sessions

43 committee meetings and countless volunteer hours

The money

Grants from ORC Ecofund, Otago Catchment Community (OCC), Bob Turnball Trust, Masonic Trust, Otago Central Rail Trail, ORC community grant consent processing, ORC fish barrier support, Project Gold DOC grant

$2.8 million spent over 3.5 years

THOMSONS PROJECT