

Survey seeks visitor opinion

People out and about on tracks and waterways in Te Hoiere/Pelorus area will share their thoughts and feelings about these places this summer.

Chatting to visitors will be Chloe Price of Morphem Environmental Ltd and Heather Collins who leads community engagement for the Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project.

Visitor survey forms will be fed out through tourism businesses including accommodation providers, tour companies, hotels and cafés.

Frith Chamberlain, tourism representative on the Te Hoiere steering group, says visitors spend significant money in the area so it's important to understand their perspectives. People who return regularly can feel the same strong attachment to places as permanent residents.

"This will be a community-driven project, getting everybody to have a conversation without blame or judgement," says Frith who lives in Havelock and manages rental accommodation in private homes and baches for online booking businesses. Frith combines tourism industry involvement with freshwater lobbying experience. In 2017 she organised a Save Our Water rally in Blenheim and has opposed water bottling plants in Canterbury. "Like the air that we breathe, water is essential to life," says Frith.

Once the summer rush is over, the conversation will shift from visitors to people living and working in the Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project area.

This month Frith attended a "full-on" three-day facilitation course on how to guide community



Frith Chamberlain

groups towards a Draft Community, Tangata Whenua & Stakeholder Engagement Plan. A highlight was meeting farmers from Linkwater and Rai Valley and hearing them talk about what they were already doing to look after water and soil.

For visitor survey forms, contact Heather Collins
heather@heathercollins.co.nz

03 572 8876 021 264 9640

What's happened?

- Workshops to identify the purpose and role of the Project Governance Group and Steering Group (community members, industry representatives and partner agencies), November/December
- Ministry for the Environment appoints Morphem Environmental Ltd to guide aspirations towards actions for catchments feeding into the Havelock Estuary and Mahakipawa Arm through an Integrated Catchment Enhancement Plan (ICEP), November
- Farmer-led meeting with Marlborough District Council at Linkwater to identify water quality testing criteria and identify monitoring sites for the catchment, December.

What's happening?

- Visitor survey to reveal thoughts and feelings about Te Hoiere/Pelorus waterways
- Workshops for sub-catchment co-ordinators who will front community engagement
- Water quality testing

What's next?

- Workshops, drop-in sessions, gatherings, chats with people who live and work in Te Hoiere catchments