



Clutha Fisheries Trust Chairman's Report for the 2010/11 Financial Year.

It is again my privilege to report on another successful year of Trust operations and activities.

The Trust funds continue to be carefully managed. The Trust has ended the year with a deficit of \$44,534 after total expenses of \$191,068. The final end of year value of assets and investments stand at \$3,331,193. This is a fair reflection of the effects of a very difficult financial period.

During the year the Trust purchased an office building at 2 Ree Crescent in Cromwell. This facility is the new Otago Fish & Game Council field centre for Central Otago and Clutha Fisheries Trust base under a leasing arrangement. This further diversifies our investment portfolio. There have been no other items of capital expenditure.

There have been no changes in trustees during the year. Current trustees are Dan Rae of Bannockburn, Ian Cole of Wanaka, Dr John Jillett of Dunedin, Murray Neilson of Dunedin and Dr Gerry Closs of Dunedin.

The Special Tribunal hearing the WCO amendment in relation to the Nevis River recognised native fish habitat values and bio geographic river capture as outstanding values and recommended a complete prohibition on dams on the river. Their decision was subsequently appealed to the Environment Court by Pioneer Generation. The Trust joined the appeals and took part in attempts at mediation. Those attempts failed so the matter will eventually go to a full hearing before the Environment Court in the New Year. The Trust's view remains that the Nevis deserves to be protected in its natural state as a free flowing river because of its many outstanding conservation and recreation values and because hydro development is completely inappropriate in a setting of such high value.

Field Officer Aaron Horrell has had a busy year with involvement in projects including creel surveys on Lake Dunstan, Manuherikia and Nevis Rivers, ongoing investigations into public access opportunities on the Upper Clutha and Hawea Rivers and assessment of spawning runs on the Lindis and upper Clutha.

Our close working relationship with Otago Fish and Game Council and the Department of Conservation continued along with active liaison with Central Otago District Council and the Lake Dunstan Management Committee.

Again, I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their contribution over the year and Field Officer Aaron Horrell for his efforts. To the Otago Fish and Game Council, thanks for your support and co-operation.

In closing I would like to record the passing of one of our former trustees, Dr Bob McDowall. Bob's reputation as a leading expert on New Zealand's freshwater fishes throughout his working life brought him international recognition. He was also a forthright champion of freshwater fish habitats and did a great deal to help in their conservation through his publications and his advocacy. The Trust was indeed fortunate to have him as a trustee from establishment in 1992 until he retired in 2008

Dan Rae

Chairman
Clutha Fisheries Trust