

July 2017

Farm Plan Stories

Helen and Maitland Manning on their Otane property.

The Mannings

According to Otane farm owner Maitland Manning, we're all stewards of the land and we have to play our part in its health.

As a member of the Papanui Catchment Management Committee, he says he also feels a moral obligation to finalise his Farm Environment Management Plan (FEMP).

"I was already impressed with what local farmers have been doing. My farm has been leased out to the same people for the past 23 years. Involvement in the Papanui committee gave me the chance to have an outside look at what other people were doing."

Maitland and Helen own 44 hectares on Elsthorpe Road, just out of Otane. As well as holding positions with organisations such as Presbyterian Support, Family Works and the RSA, Maitland is a familiar face having served four terms on Central Hawke's Bay District Council until 2016.

Their Farm Plan was done by Peter Taylor from Catalyst Group - one of the regional council's approved plan providers.

"I heard him speak to the Papanui group and was impressed with him as a person. He was very pleasant to deal with. He was here for about three quarters of an hour and as the land is leased, he also went to talk to the leasee for things like stock numbers and fertiliser use."

Maitland says there were no real issues highlighted in the plan, which was a relatively simple one, given no streams run through the property. Stock water is sourced from a 142-year-old well from a natural spring and rainwater from the roof of the farm's eight-stand woolshed.

"The plan told me quite a bit about the land I didn't know, such as soil types and pasture condition, and confirmed for me that the leasee was doing all the right things."

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FARM PLAN
BEFORE MAY 2018**



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