



St Peter's Dairy Farm Environmental Education & Monitoring Project



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This project presents an opportunity to establish a demonstration dairy farm, environmental education and monitoring programme and wetland at St Peter's School, Cambridge on the banks of the Waikato River.

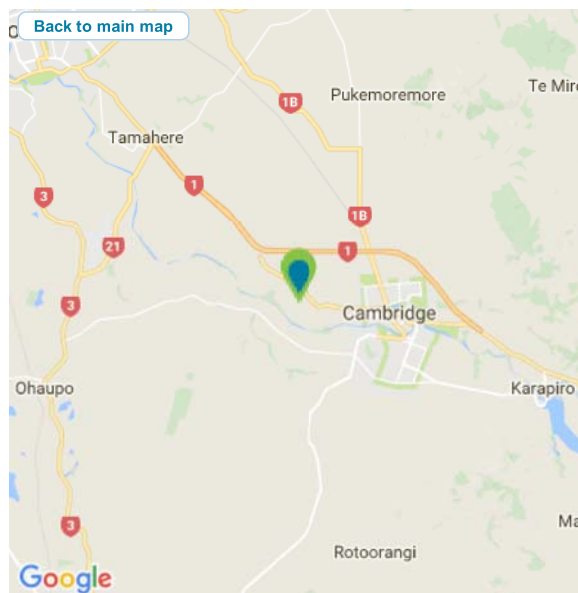
The purpose of the environmental education programme is to establish a baseline for pollutant levels, and then to demonstrate reduced nitrogen and phosphorus levels entering the Waikato River following the use of improved pasture and farm management practices and the diversion of farm run-off to the wetland. The programme includes: (i) measurement of groundwater flows and N & P transfers; (ii) measurement of N & P losses from an array of farm drains; and (iii) establishment of a new wetland and associated measurement of inflow and outflow N & P concentrations.

Importantly, the environmental programme would involve St Peter's students in sample collection, analysis and reporting.

The environmental education and monitoring programme will be established and supervised by staff from Lincoln University, Lincoln Agritech Ltd (based in Hamilton) and AgResearch (based in Hamilton).

As part of the sustainable management of the St Peter's dairy farm, a series of EcoBlitzes will be undertaken to document the biodiversity occurring in a range of habitats at the site. The surveys record biodiversity in a robust and repeatable way and are undertaken using modern, standard ecological methods so that long-term changes can be monitored. A particular focus at St Peter's will be to teach the students how to monitor aquatic and riparian biodiversity that indicates or affects water quality.

This project will contribute to the restoration of the Waikato River by recognising, measuring and avoiding adverse cumulative effects. This is a Waikato River Authority funded project (WRA 14-012).



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