

SLIDE 1



Land Process - Peter Reynolds

Why we purchased this new property and the process involved to change it into a prime vegetable production unit.

We were able to purchase a 16 hectare farm with good soil type, contour and access to irrigation and stock water in 2003.

The farm on is on the Tutaenui Stream and adjoins a 50 hectare farm which we had owned since 1978

The new farm had only been used as a grazing runoff prior to 2003. There had been no fertiliser or lime applied in the previous 30 years.

There was a large amount of rubbish, old sheds, yards and junk scattered around the farm and on the banks of the Tutaenui Stream.

We set about cleaning up the new farm ready for cultivation for vegetable cropping.

The photographs above show the installation of a new concrete bridge to allow access to another 3 hectares across the stream.

After installing the bridge we formed farm roads to link to existing farm amenities.

We started cropping the land and applied lime and fertiliser as required for high yielding top quality crops of vegetables.

We used modern cultivation methods so as to enhance the soil quality and structure.

SLIDE 2



We cleared the noxious weeds and rubbish from the stream banks ready for riparian planting of native trees and shrubs.

An important job was to trim some original barberry hedges on the edges of the stream to form the framework of the riparian planting. These barberry hedges are still in use today.

We formed bunded headlands around the stream to stop any soil runoff entering the stream

SLIDE 3



In slide 3 the left photo shows the riparian planting becoming established after 2 years.

The right photo shows the riparian planting after 4 years and the silt buildup after a substantial rainfall event in July 2008.

SLIDE 4



Building Silt Traps

Slide 4 shows the construction of another silt trap in 2009.

SLIDE 5



Silt Traps in action

Slide 5 shows a silt trap before and after a major rainfall event. It can be seen from the right photo how the soil is dropped out of the flood waters if the silt trap is constructed correctly. The important aspect is to not have the inlet pipe and the outlet pipe aligned.

SLIDE 6 & 7



Machinery



Slide 6 and 7 shows some of the machinery which we use to form the bunded headlands, silt traps and general farm roading and drainage projects.

SLIDE 8



Ongoing maintenance

Slide 8 shows some of the extreme machinery we have employed to remove noxious weeds which continually invade the riparian plantings.

SLIDE 9



Slide 9 is a great photo.

It shows a mature planted stream bank, a well constructed silt trap, a well graded bunded headland, a healthy crop of onions and in the distance can be seen a contour drain above a gentle slope.

SLIDE 10



The End
Result

Slide 10 shows the great soil type and high value crops. In the distance can be seen the riparian planting and shelter belt which help in producing high quality crops in an environmentally friendly manner.

As a footnote I would like to add that this farm is recognised as one of the most environmentally friendly high producing vegetable units in the Franklin District. We have on many occasions hosted demonstration days for other grower and industry groups including Iwi, regional and district council officers and staff, ministers of the crown, and scientific research groups who have set up many trial sites on this property dealing with irrigation and fertiliser requirements.