
CLOSING COMMENTS

I have to say that this has been one of our best symposiums. The quality of delivery and ideas and the way you as presenters put your case with excellent slides demonstrates the depth of thought that went into the issues that have been widely traversed. I must compliment you on the clear delivery of scientific messages to the community by keeping the message relatively simple. 'Keep it simple stupid' for the layman. I have the same issue in board reporting. If you can get the message across simply it is amazing how you get the community engaged.

So I congratulate all the speakers and will not go through each one individually in giving a summary. We have a wonderful science community here and our society is there to promote and encourage your work and convince the politicians wherever we can that more money needs to go into science to achieve the challenges of the future.

We will put all presentations and comments from this symposium into a proceedings. We have found these to be invaluable and the hard copy in demand. They capture all those messages which would otherwise be forgotten and it will be an excellent reference on lake weed and wallabies for all stakeholders. If you want one, contact Ann. It is a big challenge for her now because she is going to take the information off the tapes and get it to book format, which takes about 3 months, but we feel it is well worth it.

I cannot go away without making a few observations. Yesterday it was clear to us that we need to have lake plans for each lake for invasive species. We have done nutrient plans for the lakes and were able to get the community and politicians engaged and that is why we have been successful as a community as we have had science behind us the whole way. It is clear that is the model that Central Government and Nick Smith all like to see. So if we are going to get anything done we need to put it into a plan actively worked through will all stakeholders including the scientists, socialise the plan, hear what the community's goals are, make sure we have the science, decide what action is required and who is responsible and obviously the funding. That was a really important point brought home for me yesterday on dealing with our invasive weeds.

There is no question from what we have heard the last two days that we need to focus on funding. There is clearly not enough in the LINZ budget of \$2million for all New Zealand for our invasive pests and weeds. So setting ourselves a plan and working altogether to achieve the outcomes that we want through a business case to the councils and central government is our challenge.

Another big message that came though is that our tool box is lacking. Endothall obviously was one which was talked about as a success story with hornwort and had an impressive record. Are we as stakeholders working together to get the appropriate consents for spraying invasive weeds?

Another key point was that exotic weeds can grow in any water quality conditions; they are not a function of good or bad water quality. It was a very solid message that Mary gave us enabling us to separate them in our minds. Two further messages were to keep invasive species out so we do not have to deal with them at all. But when they do come into lakes or waterways move on them fast and deal to them, rather than wait and see.

We learned today that forests are very complex. I enjoyed the Okataina papers and presentations; it has made it a lot more complex subject than what I thought before I came

this morning unfortunately. There are many factors that influence a forest, we understand that. We have not done any studies measuring the effects of browsing animals on water quality. I presume at some stage that will be looked at.

There is no question that sediment comes from bank erosion, landslides and storms yet exclusion plots did show that wallabies and deer do have an effect. Lake Okataina has shown signs of increasing phosphorus in recent years and a pristine lake at risk. There is no question that we should be get more action around and in that lake. Following the precautionary principles it is dangerous to simply do nothing, we need research urgently.

We heard about practical ways to reduce wallaby populations and at moderate cost. But we need to deal with the other pests, possums and rats, as well as they are all part of the cycle. The urgency and concern for wallabies is that they are very close to the main ranges and have a forest path up to the Coromandel.

We can all play our part as front line workers in keeping out alien invaders. The use of apps gives a far greater opportunity to get the community involved and modern technology allows us to take photographs to identify invasive species just by pointing your cell phone and it will come back and tell you there is a problem and we need to act. I do think that many in our community do not have a strong environmental view on the threats to the environment and the use of apps may well be an opportunity.

Perhaps every environmental asset needs a community group to take care of it. The Minister said that environmental reporting is coming around the corner. LWQS has always believed that we should have environmental reporting. By measuring the environmental impacts it would highlight the problems in the environment to the community.

Thank you speakers for giving us those messages, and many others, which will be recorded in the proceedings for posterity. Thank you for your attendance and all the time that you put into your speeches. For the chairs, thank you very much for giving your personal time and effort to conduct the meetings. I thought they all went very well; we stayed by and large within time and it was a very efficient meeting. For my committee, Ian, Don, Warren, Jim, Marcel and Ann, thank you for your support and all the meetings we had in planning. It takes an enormous amount of time in planning these symposia but it is very much appreciated.

Thank you Hilary, Diane, Ann and Brian for your support as 'go to' people to make each session run smoothly. Just a note for those speakers who seek reimbursement of expenses or costs, talk to Marcel before you leave and get his address to send your costs to him.

Thank you John Madsen very much for coming to New Zealand and sharing your thoughts. I know you had to get permission from the US Government to come. I hope you have a very good weekend fishing with Rohan on Lake Tarawera, but I can tell you Lake Rotoiti has much bigger fish, but anyway you prove us wrong. On Monday you are going to see the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and then we will take you to see Chris Battershill, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Chair in Coastal Science, based in Tauranga. I am told there is a very heavy weather event coming through so it may be that we will drive you up to Auckland so that the US Government cannot accuse us of trying to kidnap you.

John Green
Chair, LakesWater Quality Society