

Boots on for planting

Carex put in as part of waterway-health project

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Local residents donned their gumboots and grabbed their spades to plant more than 600 carex plants on a Mid Canterbury waterway earlier this month.

They were helping out the University of Canterbury's team undertaking research into ways of improving the health of waterways in the lower Hinds area.

The planting was carried out on the farm of Warren Harris in Crows Rd, Coldstream and was part of the measures being taken to improve freshwater health and biodiversity.

Kristy Hogsden, a member of the Canterbury Waterway Rehabilitation Experiment — CAREX — team, said although the weather was cool to start with, it was good for both the plants and those planting them.

There were also activities for children, including a waterway scavenger hunt, as well as bugs and fish on display.

The CAREX project is testing practical tools to address aquatic weeds, sediment and nutrient management issues in lowland Canterbury, to improve agricultural



This way uphazard Seamus Reeves prepares to plant a carex plant on the banks of a stream at Coldstream.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

waterways.

The project is a collaboration with landowners, industry, government agencies and the community.

The research is funded by the Mackenzie Charitable Foundation.

It involves 23 landowners from Rangiora to Lowcliffe, more than 40 stakeholders and four councils, and covers 9km of waterways across 14 farms. So far, 14 in-stream tools have been tested, with more to be added.

Since 2014, more than 17,000 locally sourced native plants have been planted along the waterways in the project.

Improving waterway hazards

The community turned out to plant the banks of a Coldstream waterway (below).

